

**Community Board 17
Virtual - Block Association Meeting
September 22nd 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Attendance:

Darryl Holllon
Leonie Logan
Natalie Ferguson
Jeanick Williams
Edwine Joseph
Andre Beckford
Freda Williams
Allyson Martinez
J.L James
Nocole Reece
Edwine Joseph
Regina Lindsey

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting of the Block Association Committee was called to order by the Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Natalie Ferguson.

Roll Call

Ms. Ferguson welcomed everyone and asked those present to introduce themselves.

Approval of Meeting Minutes - Tabled

Chairperson Report -

The Chairperson thanked the members for attending the meeting. She informed them, she is new to the Board and position as the Block Association Chair. She expressed her excitement to be part of the association as a resident of the community and as someone who works in the community at Downstate Medical Center as an Assistant Director of Nursing. She is passionate about health care and the disabled communities.

She said she has some ideas on how she would like the Committee to move forward however, she encouraged members to participate in other committees and to share their Ideas and concerns for her to incorporate into her vision for the Association.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – Setting the Agenda for future meetings

Suggestions:

Natalie Ferguson:

- Work in collaboration with Sanitation
- Helping the Elderly
- Community Outreach -Breast Cancer Awareness
- Educate the community on their rights and available resources

Leonie Logan:

- Set aside a day and close off the street for the children to have fun on the block.
- Due to 80% seniors on the block, the emphasis is placed on resources, and quality of live issues.
- A contractor was hired to clear the snow in front of residents home during the winter months, and the homeowners pay. Would like suggestions on snow cleaning companies.
- Requesting 4 way stop signs on the block Glenwood from Albany to the junction, and the same for Farragut road.
- Transportation needed to transport the seniors to vote

Edwine Joseph

- Have a mixed group with a young population
- Cars are not moved
- School buses parked on the street
- Street light not working – unsafe for the block
- 37 Street and Avenue is dangerous – needs a stop sign
- Need assistance and guidance with the Block Association

Allyson Martinez suggested getting in touch with the Councilmember's office regarding the snow removal. Ms. Martinez also suggested getting in touch with the Neighborhood Coordinating Officer (NCO) to provide support, and talk to neighbors or businesses that has cars parked on the street.

There is also a link on the Department of Transportation's Website to report the street light outage and other complaints.

Jeanick Williams

- Assist the elderly with voting
- Community Outreach in October- especially breast cancer awareness and the importance of cancer screening.
- The impact of having a block association on the Block and it's purpose.
- Educating residents about available resources
- What can be done regarding the investors taking over the community

Andre Beckford

Mr. Beckford thanked everyone for attending, He said he is encouraged, residents are ready to commit to improve their communities.

Mr. Beckford requested a copy of the names of everyone attending the meeting. He also requested a mission statement of vision of the committee so that members can collectively work and devise a mission and vision.

The theme across the board is social services, sanitation, transportation, city services, public health, public safety and other items and the one thing lacking is the black and brown communities represented in a unified voice, also need to find out how to encourage or persuade people to improve their quality of life. He also encourage residents to contact 311 and also contact their elected officials.

Allyson Martinez

Ms. Martinez officially introduced herself as the CO-founder of a non-profit called Brooklyn Level Up. She said she started as a coach on the Land Use committee in 2017 and that led to supporting the community and working towards the Community Land Trust and supporting small businesses in the community. One of the projects currently being worked on is NYC Civic Engagement Commission project, which calls for City wide Participatory budgeting which relates to Expenses, and how the city spends its money.

Ms. Martinez said she would like to work with the committee on ideas visioning sessions between now and November 9th, if it's something the committee would be willing to do. She said opinion of the community matters, and they have to pull resources and knowledge together to make sure the right decision are being made so people can stay in their community and the quality of live is what they want it to be.

J.L. James

Ms. James introduced herself. She is Chair of the re-zoning Committee. She extended an invitation to everyone with an interest in re-zoning to attend the virtual meeting scheduled for September 27th at 7:30. Residents can contact the Board's office for more information.

Ms. Ferguson thanked all the members for their input. She said the residents have to work towards the changes they want in the community. She told the residents she has a special needs child and has been advocating for him. As a nurse, she also advocates for her patients and she intends to bring the same passion and zeal to the committee and work as a team, for the success of the committee. She's also pleased to know other nurses sit on the committee.

Ms. Ferguson said she would like to get the youths involved, she will think of the mission and vision statement for the committee

Complaint:

Edwine Joseph asked about a neighborhood pharmacy. The Pharmacy on Avenue D closed and the elderly population do not have a pharmacy near.

Ms. Fraser said she has been in touch with Councilmember Farah Louis regarding the pharmacy. She said the Councilmember spoke to the CEO of Pathmark and they were scheduled to continue the conversation.

Ms. Fraser also encouraged everyone to participate in the Capital and Expense Budget process. She said residents should have received in their email a request to submit the three pressing issues and what Capital or Expense projects they would like to see the Board undertake.

Adjournment:

There being no further questions or issues to discuss, Ms. Ferguson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Andre Beckford made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Leonie Logan second.