

Community Board 17
Housing and Block Association
September 4th, 2024

Attendance:

Carol Reneau
Leonie L
Marjorie Faison
Nicole Julius
Rodrick F Daley
175****31
7182****53
7183****41

The meeting discussed addressing the needs of aging populations, safety concerns, gas leak prevention measures, reporting illegal gas connections, requesting speed bumps, grants for retrofitting homes, support from block associations, and the benefits of creating a block association.

Carol Reneau and Nicole Julius are co-chairs of the housing and block association committee. The committee aims to address the needs of aging populations in the community, such as snow removal. There is a community board form that will be sent to block associations to gather information on their needs. An explosion on East 37th Street raised concerns about safety and the need for prevention measures. Gas leak tests are required for landlords and should be done as a preventive measure. The housing committee cannot ask the gas company to make checks, but individuals can contact the gas provider. Checking for illegal gas connections or alterations is not done by the gas company, but individuals can report concerns to 311 or the Department of Buildings. Private property rights limit the ability to check others' houses, but dangerous situations can be reported. The bar president's office is not the correct contact for the Department of Transportation. To request a speed bump, call 311 to get a complaint number and then notify the board. Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) offers grants for veterans and seniors to retrofit their homes. The block associations in Brooklyn have won awards for being the greenest and are willing to support the community. There are grants available for block associations and getting landmarked can protect against unwanted development. Creating a block association can provide opportunities for fundraising, purchasing equipment, and bypassing certain bureaucratic processes.

Action items

- Form a block association to address community issues and gather support for petitions
- Send the official form from CB 17 to all block association presidents and active members
- Connect with Rodney Bischott or Farah Louis to inquire about their snow removal services
- Share information about legal work being done by neighbors with the Department of Buildings to ensure proper notification is given
- Call National Grid or the gas provider to inquire about services for checking gas lines and connections
- Call the Department of Buildings to inquire about available services for gas leak testing
- Call 311 to report any dangerous or nefarious construction happening on neighboring properties
- Research the recent explosion on East 37th Street and gather more information about the cause and prevention measures
- Send Chair Daly something to ensure there are no legal issues with using whatsapp (Carol Reneau)
- Call the Department of Transportation to request a speed bump on Eastern Avenue

- Contact the transportation committee at CB 17 to submit an application for a speed bump on 39th Street between Foster Avenue and another location.
- Follow up with 311 regarding the request to fix the holes at the bus stop on Church Avenue and 39th Street.
- Discuss the possibility of still pursuing a grant for a shower bus with the previous chair, Miss Pearlean Fields.
- Follow up with Miss Fraser about the botanical garden (Rodrick F Daley)
- Confirm with Chair Daly about setting up a WhatsApp group for the block association (Carol Reneau)
- Email Miss Logan the information discussed (Carol Reneau)

With no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned.