**Community Board 17**

**Parks & Beautification Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 6, 2022**

**Present: Excused:**

Berlotte Antoine Ann Hudson

Audrey Henderson

Ryan Wharton

Jorge Tait

Frederick Watson

Karlene Gordan

Jackie Williams

Brie DaCosta

Ricky DaCosta

Joseph Cobourne

Rae Beth Maye

Linda Turner

Adele Bennett

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The **Parks & Beautification Committee Virtual** meeting was held on **Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 7:30pm.**

**Ms. Berlotte Antoine** called the meeting to order 7:35pm.

**Roll Call**-Berlotte Antoine, Audrey Henderson, Ryan Wharton, Jorge Tait, Frederick Watson, Karlene Gordan, Jackie Williams, Brie DaCosta, Ricky DaCosta, Joseph Cobourne, Rae Beth Maye, Linda Turner, Adele Bennett

**Ms. Antoine** said she is the new Chairperson of the Parks & Beautification Committee and a new Board member. She is a propionate of working together and the Chair of Sanitation wants to collaborate, and she hopes they can work together. She cannot wait to have a good working relationship with the members.

She asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2022 meeting?

**Ms. Jackie Williams** made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2022 meeting.

**Ms. Brie DaCosta** seconded the motion.

**Ms. Antoine** asked if there were any unfinished business to discuss?

**Ms. Williams** said they had a beautification project in Paerdegat Park in June. A lot of people came out to work on that project and she is really disappointed and bothered that all the efforts and resources that went into beautifying the park was all for nothing. There was limited upkeep with the watering of the plants and now, it looks like plants were never put there. In the future, when they have a beautification project, there should be an established plan and it should be followed through and the care is given, so it won’t be a waste of time and resources.

**Ms. Antoine** said she will take note of that and follow up with her.

The new business is the Tree Lighting Ceremony and it is something the committee has done before, and she has heard beautiful things about it, and she would like to continue the event.

Her goal is to bring more events to them and other things that they can do. Since December is nearby, they need to start talking about this now and then they can move to any other projects they have.

First, she wants to vote on a date for the Tree Lighting Ceremony and then form a subcommittee of 3 people to work on this project. They can give their ideas to make this happen and some of them worked on this project before and they know what to do. She was thinking to have the event on Friday, December 16, 2022 at Paerdegat Park. She asked if they have any other ideas for a date?

**Ms. Audrey Henderson** said a Friday night would be better because of the other events people would be going to.

**Ms. Rae Beth Maye** asked if they will be doing caroling?

**Ms. Williams** said in the past, they did do caroling.

**Ms. Karlene Gordan** said the date is fine. She asked if any Churches would be invited or will they take care of that?

**Ms. Antoine** said she will send a letter to the Churches and the subcommittee can help with that. Whoever they think is necessary to invite, they will be invited.

**Ms. Maye** asked if there were a rain or snow date?

It was mentioned that there are no rain dates given for these events.

**Ms. Antoine** said the next agenda item is the formation of the subcommittee. She will need 3 or 4 people for the subcommittee. She heard the beautiful things they would like to see happen and she is in favor of working together with people. Mr. Joseph, the Sanitation Chair, will definitely be a part of it because of their working relationship. They need to talk about what they are offering, the gifts for the children. They need a list of the merchants and she needs their help, because she cannot do it alone. She asked who would like to be a part of the subcommittee?

**Ms. Linda Turner, Ms. Karlene Gordan, Ms. Jackie Williams and Mr. Joseph Cobourne** said they would like to be a part of the subcommittee.

She will make a report at the General Board meeting about what is their next steps. Since it is already September, their time is limited to put this event together. If anyone else wants to join the subcommittee, they can send her an email. They have the date and the subcommittee members.

She wants to open the floor for any feedback they may have, what is their goal and what would they like to see happen.

**Ms. Turner** said she would like to partner with Mr. Wharton to figure out a way to upgrade their basketball courts, not only in Tilden Park, but around East Flatbush, within the district. The children like to play and they should have the proper equipment. For all these years, they have not been able to get that done. She wants to work with him to see what they can do to get them upgraded.

**Mr. Ryan Wharton** said he would be interested in the playground development that Ms. Turner was speaking about.

**Ms. Antoine** said she is taking notes and will follow up on that and move forward and set up the agenda. She will contact the Youth Committee to see if they can work together. At the next meeting, she will see if there is anything she can share with them.

**Ms. DaCosta** said speaking for her husband, he wants to be a part of the group working to make sure they are doing what they can to get the redevelopment in the parks.

**Ms. Antoine** said the goal of this committee is to maintain their beautiful parks and neighborhood. They need to see what needs to be done and how they can do it. They can let her know what needs to be done and she can reach out for the committee.

**Ms. Audrey Henderson** asked if they can email her to let her know what they would like to happen. It was mentioned by Ms. Williams about the beautification of the park that was done in June, and now, there seems to be no evidence of it. If this is something they can do again and make sure that whatever they plant, there is upkeep of it.

**Ms. Turner** said the problem was the Park’s personnel did not water the plants and they just dried up. They need to figure out a way to get them to water the plants once they are in the ground.

**Ms. Williams** said there seemed to have been a breakdown in communication with limited follow up. All the money spent for the plants and the time put in to beautify the area, was for nothing.

**Ms. Antoine** said they have a subcommittee for the Tree Lighting Ceremony, and she would like another subcommittee to look into these issues and she will follow up with them to work on that. She does appreciate all of their input because this is exactly what they need.

**Ms. DaCosta** said she would like to offer her help with the subcommittee in regards to the upkeep of Paerdegat Park and also the beautification of Tilden Park. It was disappointing to hear that the plants were not watered, and it makes her concerned about the beautification of Tilden Park.

**Ms. Antoine** said she thinks it is great that people want to volunteer their time to work on those two big issues.

The subcommittee will meet before the General Board meeting to discuss what they need to do moving forward and she can make a report at that meeting.

**Mr. Jorge Tait** said he would be willing to help the Chairperson with whatever he can, and he wants to be a part of the committee.

**Ms. Antoine** asked if there were any other issues to discuss before the meeting is adjourned? Having heard none, she asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting?

**Ms. Williams** made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Ms. Turner** seconded the motion.