



November 15, 2016
General Membership Meeting Minutes

1. Announcements

- **Prior to announcements**, a photo was taken with the Veterans
- **Thursday 11/17** - 7:00 p.m. - 32nd Precinct Community Council meeting @ Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Community Center, 34 W 134th Street
- **Harlem Grown Winterization event this Saturday at the farm** – planting spring bulbs, cleaning up, etc. There are flyers available to take and they are looking for volunteers from 11 AM – 2 PM on Saturday Nov. 19. RSVP requested.
- **Wednesday 12/7** – 6:00 p.m. - CB 10 Meeting - 2nd floor art gallery of the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building (163 West 125th Street)
- **Wednesday 12/14** - 6:30 p.m. - 28th Precinct Community Council meeting – at Touro College – entrance on West 124th Street (between 7th and 8th Avenues – 4th Floor)
- **Tuesday, 12/13** – Next LenoxFive 127th Street Block Association Meeting
 - Neighborhood Coordination Officers from 28th & 32nd Precinct will be attending!
- Membership Dues
 - Katherina is available to take payment via Square, Credit card, cash, or Check.
 - Annual fee is \$25. It goes from January 1st – December 31st (Calendar year).
- Guests and New Neighbors/Sign-in Sheet
 - Two folks on the block that ran the marathon: Derrick who is here tonight and Allison. It was great to see them at the 21 mile mark!
 - New guests: Derrick – moved to block two years ago. Desert storm vet, and social worker. Lives in #81. Wants to be a part and help the community.

2. November 1, 2015 Lenox Five 127th Street Board Meeting Recap – Michael

- We are trying to create more events for the block
- Want to target another two clean-up events for 2017 (Spring and Fall)
 - Plant flowers, sweep, clean up trash etc.
 - Sanitation and Beautification committee will be helping to organize.
- We talked about asking for more volunteers for Flyer distribution monthly, Saturday before the meeting.
 - Also need volunteers for building captains who are willing to help distribute our flyers inside of the buildings.
 - Permanent volunteers can see Marilyn after the meeting
 - Need volunteers for two buildings we don't have captains for: #81 and #56
- Also need volunteers to attend the precinct meetings and CB10 meetings. The board has talked about sending a representative once a month but we can use more help. These meetings run about 1-2 hours and they contain a lot of great information.
 - Mike mentioned that these meetings are recurring so you can get them on your calendar very easily.
- We talked about Block Party Planning
 - We obtained a lot of great information from Karen Shelton on 126th Street
 - We have to plan ahead of time (permits from NYC, CB10 approval, etc).
 - We are looking for a point person to coordinate the block party.
 - Kathy volunteered to lead that block party
 - She mentions we need a noise permit and a street closing permit. Each

are \$40. We get the applications from the precinct and we need two possible dates and then we file them online. The best time to do this is January, because everyone is putting their applications together now.

- By Jan 2nd we should have our dates submitted.
- Nikko: Also should reserve sound equipment from the city for the dates submitted.
- John (#50) raised concerns about making sure we are able to do this considering the RFK bridge traffic.
- Mike (#5) has volunteered to take care of the permit application for the 32nd Precinct
- Kathy (#24) will take care of the permit for the 28th Precinct

- There is demand for the BA-branded T-shirts and Hoodies and we are planning on ordering a bunch.
 - Mike (#5) suggests using a google form to make the ordering process easier
 - Mike has volunteered to help Katharina with the Google Form.

3. 28th Precinct Meeting Recap by Mike Ellis

- Mike and Marilyn went to the meeting last week
- Primary topic was the review of the NCO (Neighborhood Community Officers).
- Our block is unique because our block is divided between two precincts (28th and 32nd)
- The 32nd Precinct meeting coming up is the third Thursday of December.
- The NCO Program is the newest way the city is putting the police officers into the community. Giving the community a face to the NYPD and someone the community can reach out to specifically.
- We are sector-D in the 28th Precinct. The NCO Officers' names are Tuesday and Davis.
- In precinct 32 are Officers Canavan & Divesky (sp?)
- We have invited these officers to come to our next General meeting to meet the block.
- The NCOs are not a substitute for 911. You should still call 911 in an emergency.
- NCOs are for recurring issues (perhaps drugs, public urination, littering, etc) and you can call them and tell them about these issues.
- Mike to share phone numbers for the 28th NCO's.
- **Board should make a follow up e-mail about the contact information for this program and place on the LenoxFive website.**

4. Treasury Report – Katharina

- We are having a steady flow of income by increasing membership. Currently at 41 paying members
- After expenses we are now at \$1,761 in our bank account cash reserves

5. Social Committee - Katharina

- Recap of Oktoberfest
 - This was a great event on October 11th. Thank you for everyone for coming out. There were actually 29 people who came out including two new neighbors.
- December meeting/social
 - There will be food at the next meeting – December 13th. This is our December holiday giving event. Light beverages and snacks provided. Toy Drive will also occur for everyone to donate toys to the 28th Precinct.
 - Bring new children toys or clothes to the meeting, gift cards also welcome.
 - Gifts for kids between 5 yrs – 12 yrs needed. Wrapped or unwrapped. They will go to the 28th Precinct and will be added to the toy drive event which will occur on December 15th.
 - This is a great opportunity for us to enjoy each other and also bring joy into other homes.
 - The 28th Precinct is also looking for teens between 12yrs – 16yrs to help chaperoning, setting up the event, and help with wrapping gifts.
- Harlem Grown Gala on November 29th still has tickets available. The gala is \$100 online or \$125 at the door. It's a bigger investment, but this is a very important part of our block. Gala will be held at The Harlem Stage House with a special performance, food, dancing, and all are invited.

6. Sanitation/Beautification Committee - Sandy

7. Membership report – Marilyn

- Christmas Wreaths
 - If you would like to buy a Holiday wreath (\$5 - \$45) or so. They will be sold at the Baptist Church on 126th and Lenox. Marilyn / the BA will be sending more information about this event.
 - Flyers available at the front of the room before you leave.
 - Rather than buying from the vendors on the street, which is fine, you can help our neighbors instead.
- Food Baskets

- Last year the 28th Precinct did food baskets for senior citizens.
 - If you know of senior citizen in your building (should be on the south side in the 28th territory) please email the block association with their name and building number so we can register them to receive a food basket this year.
 - There is no limitation.
 - Teenage Volunteers needed on December 15th at the 28th Precinct
 - We are trying to segment parts of our membership so that people can get to know each other and connect.
 - If you are a parent of a teen, this (Volunteering at the precinct) would be a great way for them to get community service requirements and a great way for LenoxFive
 - Please email the block association if you can help organize
 - Permanent volunteers for flyer distribution
8. Harlem Grown Gala - Lisa Carvalho - Tuesday, November 29th - 7-10PM
9. Meet the Vets!!
- Gabriel Marino (ARMY)
 - Gabriel joined in 1980. Second generation military and in the army for 24 years.
 - Went back into Afghanistan on October 13 2001.
 - Has his degree and is also attending law school
 - Is proud that he has learned to survive in any environment
 - He would like to make sure everyone knows about
 - 22 Too Many
 - Wounded Warrior Project
 - Mission 22
 - Boots Campaign
 - Giving back is so important and it's a big part of Gabriel's life
 - Caleb Weiss (Marine)
 - Served from 2003 – 2015 (7 years active duty)
 - Stationed in Hawaii
 - Served three combat tours (Afghanistan twice and Iraq once)
 - Infantry and reconnaissance
 - Why did I join? 1) I always felt a sense of duty and to give back to my country. My father and grandfather served and for me it just clicked. 2) I was able to get my graduate degree due to the post 9/11 GI bill (supported in part by IAVA)
 - What changed? The dollar amount being given and also the rule that you could not pass down your benefits to children / family members.
 - Kathy: What do you think is the biggest challenge facing the vets coming back from overseas?
 - Difficulty dealing with the cognitive dissonance of the reality of being in combat and the reality of being at home.
 - Part of the issue is the fact that when you come home, you can be home in 36 hrs. But we really need more decompression time.
 - Adjustment time needed is a big issue. It is very difficult to adjust back to living in a normal life.
 - Kathy: Do you think there should be a debriefing / desensitizing period prior to going back home?
 - Yes – the military has taken steps to make sure people are ready to go back home. There used to be surveys, then there were interviews, then in 2008 it became three interviews. I haven't been in since 2008 so I'm not sure what they are doing now.
 - The Military does a great job at building you up to be a combat warrior but does a terrible job at helping the soldiers come back into society.
 - Bryan McCay
 - Veteran of the Vietnam war
 - When I graduated high school I was inducted in to the US Army. He asked for a deferment but they only gave him 6 months. At the time is was early Vietnam. He wasn't interested in joining the ARMY so he saw the Airforce recruiter and asked to be a photographer or firefighter. Ended up being an aerospace munitions specialist.
 - Got sent to Glasgow, Montana on a B-52 base. Bryan was a defense command. Being in Montana during the winter is not a place for a young man from Southern California!
 - Ended up in Tampa on training and in December 1967 went to Vietnam for a year
 - For the rest of his two years in the air force he ended up in the Mohave desert

- loading bombs on practice planes for people making training exercises
- He would like to back to Vietnam now that it has been 50 years so he can see where he was stationed and also visit China Beach where he would sleep almost every day since sleeping in the barracks was too hot!
 - Butch Baird, Jerry Klum, Horace Nelson are three vets who are not here tonight
 - John Hoatard – Vietnam vet from 1971 – 1973 with the NSA. He worked as an administration officer and eventually got a master's degree and now is a practicing psychologist.
 - Donald Trent – Marine from 1983 – 1987. Ended up in Infantry (machine gunner). After his four years he got out. He was very proud to serve his country. When he left, he ended up learning a lot about the world and other countries and has taught him a lot about his life.
 - Derrick Keiser (sp?) – 1988 – 1993. Got into the military after attending college. Was stationed in Germany from 1988 – 1990. He came home in 1990 and was stationed at Fort Drum. Deployed to Kuwait in 1991. He was not sure at first what it meant but when he arrived at the airport, reality stated to sink in. It was a very scary experience, but he grew from it. Also agrees that there should be a transition period between combat and civilian life. He didn't have that. Derrick received his degree under the Montgomery GI bill and now is at Leighman finishing up his master's degree in social work. Currently working as a social worker with people who are undergoing substance abuse therapy. He has a big German Sheppard and you may see him giving him a walk around the block. Derrick wants to become a member and do what he can do to help.

The next LenoxFive 127th Street Block Association meeting will be: **Tuesday,**

December 13, 2016

Email us at: LenoxFive127@gmail.com or Visit our Website at: LenoxFive127.org