

# LenoxFive 127<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association

## General Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2015

As “Caretaker” of the BA, Marilyn Byrd called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Minutes from the previous meeting, which were included in the Meeting Reminder email blast, were not read but unanimously approved.

### 1. Announcements

- **Wednesday 11/11** - 28<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting – 6:30 p.m. @ Touro College – entrance on West 124<sup>th</sup> Street (between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor)
- **Thursday 11/19** - 32<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting @ Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Community Center, 34 W 134th Street
- **Thursday 11/26** – THANKSGIVING – Both Harlem Grown and Mt. Zion Church will be hosting meals for those in need. Please contact them if you would like to volunteer
- **Wednesday 12/2** – CB 10 Meeting - 2nd floor art gallery of the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building (163 West 125th Street)
- **Tuesday 12/8** – LenoxFive 127<sup>th</sup> Street BA
- **Wednesday 12/9** – Harlem Grown Annual Holiday Fundraiser (\$75 online; \$100 at the door)
- **Tuesday 1/12** – LenoxFive 127<sup>th</sup> Street BA – Clyde Williams, Candidate for Congress will be our guest – **SAVE THE DATE**
- **T-Shirts and Zip front hoodie order** - Online order capabilities will be live in the next couple of weeks. The hoodies are more likely to be priced at \$25, which is a bit higher than we had originally thought.
- **Guests and New Neighbors** – John McGuinness of #5 and Fallon Carter of #1
- **Achievements**
  - Trick or Treat – list of safe places distributed
  - Love Your Block Grant submission completed

2. **Treasury Report** – Marilyn reported that between our bank account and PayPal account the BA has approximately \$1430 in the treasury.
3. **Farm Committee Report** – Tal reported that there is a hitch in the progress of HG taking over the Farm property from Abyssinian Development Corp. (ADC). The City originally planned to cancel the tax liens against the property and turn it over to HG free and clear, but that is now not happening. ADC has had some pretty bad media coverage recently and the City now doesn't want to be seen as helping them. The Farm Committee (FC) will continue to work with the City to see if we can resolve this issue.

In the meantime, the FC will organize a petition indicating the neighborhood's support for Harlem Grown's ownership of the property rather than have the property sold in a foreclosure process. The FC will reach out to other BAs in the neighborhood to join us.

The FC will also be reaching out to politicians. Anyone with political connections was encouraged to step forward.

The FC is also focusing on fundraising and development and requested that our BA make a token donation to HG to show that our BA supports HG's presence on our block and in our neighborhood.

4. **Sanitation/Beautification Committee** – Michael reported that the S/B successfully completed and submitted the \$1000 Love Your Block Grant. If we win the grant, the money will go toward a “tree guard” for the tree in front of the Mt. Zion Church. The guards are approximately \$800 each, so the remainder of the money would go toward any measures necessary to preserve the tree, which is currently in distress. This is considered a pilot project and, if successful, a platform to extend the project to other trees on our block. **The grant will be awarded on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

The S/B is planning a Spring Clean Up event some time between March and May. They will also plan a Beautification Event Work Day in April or May.

Finally, the S/B will be applying for the \$3k Love Your Neighborhood grant, which is due in January.

5. **Social Committee** – Lisa reported that the SC will be hosting a holiday social following our next BA meeting on 12/8. Because of this, **our next meeting will be ½ an hour earlier at 6:30 rather than 7 p.m.** Please make a note of this.

The BA will be funding the social, and Lisa suggested any neighbor who wants to contribute their own homemade treats, please contact the BA at [LenoxFive127@gmail.com](mailto:LenoxFive127@gmail.com) so she can coordinate those efforts.

Lisa then asked for volunteers to join the SC, as Alicia Scotti has taken over the chairperson role for the Community Liaison Committee.

6. **Web Committee** – Olu reported that the WC will continue to support committee initiatives such as polling (T-shirt design); online petitions (Farm Committee) etc.

Olu then described and clarified the difference between our Google Group and our Website in terms of what neighbors can expect to be posted.

- ❖ The GG is a closed group (for BA neighbors only) with open communication. It is not moderated. Announcements of events pertaining to neighbors' personal interests (such as exhibitions, performances etc.) should be posted to the GG.
- ❖ The Website is moderated. All events held on the block or community events such as police precinct events will be posted on the Web site.

It was suggested that our Website include a blog roll of other BAs in our neighborhood.

7. **Nominations** – After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the majority of the BA work would continue to be done through the committees and that the Board would facilitate and coordinate that work.

The following people came forward to run for Board positions:

President – Mike Benavides

Treasurer – Katharina Wilson

Secretary – John McGuinness

Sargent at Arms – Fallon Carter

It was also agreed that if anyone else is interested in running for a Board position, we will be accepting those self-nominations at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.