

May 17, 2016

General Membership Meeting Agenda

- I. Announcements
 - a. Rev. Williams Announcements
 - i. Tonight is a celebrating tonight for a special person – Mother Evans. 88 Years Old. The BA sang happy birthday and Miss Ruth blew out the candles!
 - ii. Thursday 5/19 - 7:00 p.m. - 32nd Precinct Community Council meeting @ Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Community Center, 34 W 134th Street
 - iii. Wednesday 6/1 – 6:00 p.m. - CB 10 Meeting - 2nd floor art gallery of the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building (163 West 125th Street)
 - iv. Wednesday 6/8 - 6:30 p.m. - 28th Precinct Community Council meeting – at Touro College – entrance on West 124th Street (between 7th and 8th Avenues – 4th Floor)These meetings are good to go to especially the Community board 10 meeting which can be of interest to a lot of people.
 - b. Next BA meeting will be Tuesday June 14th (usually the 2nd Tuesday, this month is an exception)
 - c. We need a Community Liaison Committee Chairperson
 - i. This is our person who helps with outreach to the rest of the community outside of our block. Does anyone want to volunteer?
 - ii. Q: Is there a committee or is there just one person?
 1. There is a committee, but we just need someone to chair it.
 - iii. Q: Do you have to do a lot of writing or is this more of a PR thing where you can show up / meet people?
 1. No, it is more of a matter of representation and help distilling information from the outside meetings to present at our BA
 - iv. Q: Would you be open to a co-chair?
 1. Yes.
 - d. Flower Vandalism – 126th Street
 - i. Karen Shelton the BA Pres on 126th Street let us know that many flower plantings on the street were up rooted and they were looking at camera footage to see if they can find out who did it.
 - ii. What they did is have a replanting on the block, and last Sunday they made it happen. Chris Wilson and others from our BA went and helped to replant the flowers.
 - iii. If anyone sees this happening on our block please don't hesitate to reach out to us.
 - e. New Guests / Neighbors
 - i. Caleb – 2056 5th
 - ii. Elena – 2056 5th
 - iii. Philip – 79 W
 - iv. Claudia – 14 W

- v. Donald – 81 W
- vi. Michelle – 12 W
- vii. Cassandra – 15 W

II. Membership Committee – Marilyn

- a. Still mapping the block to figure out how many buildings / units we have
- b. We have names/addresses for a lot of people, but we need apartment numbers so we can communicate w/ mail
- c. We want to better serve the people on our block in particular the seniors and the HS students – especially for volunteering opportunities
- d. And HS Seniors – we have found \$6000 worth of scholarships that can go to the people on our block and this is just one of the reasons why we want to do this so we can serve us better
 - i. Please have any HS seniors that you know get in touch with the BA so we can help give them the opportunity
- e. If Marilyn sends an email to help out w/ buildings she wants to please have your assistance
- f. Also, looking for people to help flyer inside buildings
- g. Marilyn looking for building captains for these tasks.
- h. Q: How does the student get the scholarship?
 - i. Not sure, need to check the application
- i. Q: Do you have a Website so we can find the website?
 - i. That's a good idea. Take a look @ the agenda for our email address and web address. The scholarship app is not on the website and we will try to get it up there. In the meantime, email the BA and we will get you a copy of the application directly.
- j. Q: Do you need to live on the block to get the scholarship?
 - i. No, just in the Mount Morris Park Historic District (We think!) Need to check the application

III. Treasury Report – Katherina

- a. \$1,900 in our coffers which is down from paying for the tree guard.
- b. We have some income from new members which is great
- c. We sold our last sweatshirt!
- d. If you want to be a member, it's \$25 / year and we are available to take cash / check today.

IV. Sanitation & Beautification – Sandy

- a. We applied for a \$1,000 "Love your block" grant late last year, and we are planning a tree rescue on the block. So we targeted the tree in front of the church, and the first most important thing is to get a tree guard for the church. So we ordered a treeguard through the NY Tree Trust which is part of the parks department, and they gave us a great discount (\$850)
- b. With the rest of the money for the grant we will get some other items to improve the tree (maybe flowers etc)
- c. We want to have a quarterly cleanup event – the next one we are thinking June 25th (The last Saturday in June)

- d. Another benefit of winning the grant is that we get free mulch, and we can use that day to mulch the trees that need + a general cleanup of the block
 - e. We also applied for another grant (\$3000 grant) the neighborhood grant, but we did not get it this year. We were told we had a strong application but it was an unusually competitive year. They are giving us tips to help improve the application. We can leverage the work we did this year to help us make it happen next year.
 - i. We had a bunch of activities and things planned, all centered on the Park, but the park is a little behind schedule so in a way it's working out OK. We can have more time to plan for this for next year which applications are due in January 2017.
 - f. MMPCIA has a "Park Day" on Saturday from 12-3 in Mount Morris Park. It's about planting and cleaning up the park
 - i. There is also a show of sculptures in the park (about 40) so if you go over there, you can see them. Susan Stair (member of the BA) has a sculpture in the SW corner of the park
 - ii. Also on this day there will be events for kids
 - iii. Sandy urges the BA to follow the MMPCIA on Facebook
 - g. Q: Does the BA help to take care of Parking disputes / construction disputes etc?
 - i. Yes, but not Sanitation & Beautification
 - ii. We have priority w/ the city (by winning the \$1000 grant) to get help from the city for Dept. of Sanitation, Transportation, Parks, etc with priority help
 - h. Q: Does the BA use our local people to help apply and use grant money?
 - i. Yes but this year we were very rushed in the application process (we only had one month)
 - ii. We had planned to use a lot of local help w/ the recent neighborhood grant we applied for, we even surveyed the block to get input and volunteers
 - i. Q: What about the plant in front of #50?
 - i. The city came to install the tree, but they forgot the tree!
 - j. Q: For the cleanup day do we need to bring supplies?
 - i. Yes bring a few but we will also have a few from the Dept. of Sanitation. We will be able to give a better update on this at the next meeting
- V. Farm Report – Tal
- a. Ruby – in charge of the 127th Street Farm – is not at the meeting but she is here fairly often and she is in charge of the farm.
 - b. There is an art installation in the park right now plus a nice structure inside the park with a few pea pods getting planted in it. Right now open during the weekend for a few hours, and on Wednesday evening for a few hours
 - c. Harlem Grown making sure there are no sink holes in the property
 - d. Harlem Grown has an impact farm made of shipping containers which is going to produce a ton of green vegetables which will be giveaway to the families that work on the farm
 - e. There will be an opening event for the Park
 - i. Lisa – BA Member is the new head of Marketing & Communications from Harlem Grown

1. The opening event should wait until the park is completely 100% ready, which is probably going to be around the late summer (Late August maybe).
 2. The annual event is already slated for the first week in December
 3. If you are a volunteer w/ Harlem Grown, or if anyone would like to help volunteer to open the park up, or work on the annual event in December, please get in touch with me through the BA email and I promise it will be fun!
 4. We are a little bit behind, but it is a good behind!
- f. Good things happening : We have ownership of the property, raised beds have been installed, grass is getting planted, we had a successful compost giveaway, Benches are planned to be installed
- g. Starting June 1st, we will be collecting compost on Wednesdays between 8 – 11
- i. Food scraps like banana peels, orange peels (only spoiled fruits and veggies)
 - ii. This is put into a pile of dirt/leaves/worms and is it turned into dirt that is very nutrient rich
 - iii. We will make sure to put this on the Website and perhaps put up a flyer
- h. There will be set volunteer hours, and we will email this out to the group when that is ready
- i. Q: When will the benches be available?
- i. Depends on the safety test. Probably sometime this Summer
 - ii. This is all Phase 1 – Phase 2 for next year will be a much bigger build out
- VI. Sign-in Sheet
- a. Since we started the meeting a few new people have come in
 - i. Added them to the new members section above
- VII. Birthday Celebration!