

LENOXFIVE 127 BLOCK ASSOCIATION

June 14, 2016

General Meeting Minutes

1. Compost update from Vanessa Ventola of the NYC Compost Project
 - a. Workshop June 23rd at community church on 35th Street
 - b. Soil Health workshop June 25th @ the Low Line on Essex
2. Announcements
 - a. Thursday 6/16 – 7 PM 32nd Precinct community council meeting
 - b. Saturday 6/25 – Love your block beautification day
 - i. By then the tree guard should be in
 - ii. On 6/25 we can mulch and aerate the rest of the trees on the block
 - iii. Meeting will be from 10 AM – 12 PM.
 - iv. We will have shovels, rakes, gloves, bags from the Dept. of Sanitation
 - v. If it's not a nice day we will have a rain date on the following Sunday
 - vi. Flyers will be posted this week on the trees about the 6/25 Beautification day
 - vii. Question: Who owns the trees? The city owns the trees.
 1. Shawn Hill – 22 E 129th Street – Licensed citizen pruner and can legally prune trees. Everything outside of your property line is managed by the Department of Transportation and is owned by NYC.
 2. The NYC Parks Department owns the trees and the tree holes (but not the sidewalks).
 3. If you touch a street tree, you are violating NYC Parks rules and you can be fined. No one is allowed to touch the trees except Parks Department or licensed individuals.
 4. If you see a dangerous tree / some sort of safety issues or any issues, you should contact 311 and put in a request.
 5. Tree guards should be open at the bottom
 6. Do not build up the soil
 - viii. Question for Shawn: There is a tree branch that should be pruned in front of #65
 1. Shawn has agreed to give his phone number and says he will take care of the problem. – tetshill@gmail.com
 - ix. Question for Shawn: How best to take care of trees during the winter with snow/salt?
 1. In the autumn, put new mulch around the tree. After the snow and ice melt in the spring, get rid of the old mulch because it would have absorbed a lot of the salt
 - x. Question for Shawn: What are the rules around tree guards?
 1. Technically you have to give a design to the Parks Department, but in his experience he finds that they turn a blind eye

2. You're not supposed to have them lower than 18"
 3. Not supposed to have pointy tops
 4. Ideally, DOT wants the tree guards to be open to the street so they can move their grinders into the tree pits to grind away old stumps from dead trees.
- xi. Question for Shawn: What can we do about roots that are coming to the surface?
1. If it's in the tree pit, more soil should be added so that the roots are covered
 2. If it's tearing up the sidewalk, there really isn't any good solutions but you should contact one of the concrete companies who can expand where the tree pit is.
- c. Wednesday 7/6 – 6 PM – CB 10 Meeting 2nd floor art gallery of the ACP State office building (163 West 125th Street)
- d. Tuesday 7/12 – Next LenoxFive 127th Street Block Association meeting
- e. Saturday 8/27 – West 126th Street Block Party (between Lenox and Fifth)
- f. Community Liaison Committee Chairperson needed
- g. Membership Report / Membership Dues
- i. We sent out an email blast a couple of weeks ago, and we are asking again here to make sure you can renew your annual dues. The dues are \$25 / year.
 - ii. Question: Is there going to be a block party this year?
 1. No, we don't have enough money for a big block party plus the grant that we applied for didn't come through. We need more time to apply for the permits, too.
 - iii. Question: Anyone in the community can volunteer to help with the block party?
 1. The money comes from the CB's, the politicians. Each precinct only allows one block party / weekend. Kathy will take the lead on organizing the block party
 - iv. Question: Are we expected to donate for the 126th Street donation?
 1. Michael will ask Karen Shelton to find out what they need, if anything.
- h. Guests and New Neighbors
- i. Romain and Liza in #6
 - ii. Rev. Collins – Joined the BA last year but hasn't been able to make many meetings. She is here because a flyer was inserted under her door.
- i. Ms. Ruth who had her Birthday party last week has given the BA a thank you card and has also prepared lollipops for the dads and kids who are at the meeting.
3. Membership Report
- a. We are still trying to map the block, making progress.
 - b. Most brownstones are done, but in #65 still a lot of blocks.
 - c. We are looking for building captains to help slip flyers under people's doors in the larger buildings and also pass out surveys so we can find out more about the people on our block to help them.
 - i. #28 – Kathy has volunteered

- ii. #65 – Marta and Donna have volunteered
 - iii. #79 – Kimberly has volunteered
- 4. Treasury Report
 - a. \$2,027 in our account
 - b. Four members renewed in the month of May
 - c. More renewals coming in the month of June, if you haven't renewed please see her after the meeting
 - d. Katharina has not created a database, but last year's data is not easy to do.
 - e. Question: Of the \$2000 we have, what percentage is dues and grants?
 - i. She does not have the breakdown right now
 - ii. The grant money came in and out last month
 - iii. So most of the money we have is carried over from last year
 - f. Question: when are dues due?
 - i. June
- 5. Sanitation/Beautification Committee
 - a. Already spoke about before – event is on the 25th.
 - b. We are hoping the tree guard will have been installed already and that day we are getting a bunch of compost getting delivered
 - c. We will be cleaning around the trees, aerating the soil, putting compost and mulch in, and hopefully we can plant some flowers if we can get some flowers donated
 - d. Plus cleaning up around the block in general with our bags and shovels and gloves
 - e. Question: Do we need to bring anything?
 - i. No, just yourself! Dept of Sanitation is supplying most of the information
 - f. Question: Can we get more T-Shirts?
 - i. We have had two people ask us about t-shirts tonight. The logistical challenge we are having is that we need a good quantity of t-shirts so the price is low enough.
 - ii. Marilyn will bring her extra shirts to the next meeting
 - iii. We should market the T-shirts in the email so we can get rid of them
 - iv. Katharina will look into make a small order of T-shirts
 - g. Question: People are throwing garbage into #65 We would like it to stop
 - i. The BA is to send out an announcement to ask people to stop throwing out trash at #65.
 - h. Question: Has anyone asked the vendors to donate to the beautification?
 - i. We will try to ask them to help provide food/drinks for the event
- 6. Farm Report – Tal could not make the meeting and will report next week.

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

Tuesday, July 12, 2016