

11/11/23 Block Association Meeting Minutes

Present: Janice Harrison, President, Tomi Marshall, Vice President, Janet Adkins, Secretary, Lorna Hylton-Webb, Hazel King, Sylvia Doyley, Clarence Rodrigues, John Grimes

Janice opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all. Each board member then briefly introduced themselves.

As President, Janice shared the mission she has for the block association. It is to promote harmony, quality of life, safety, engage neighbors, beautify the block, strive to meet needs and for all to come together as one strong effective voice so that meaningful changes can occur. Committees are one way we can work together to help achieve the mission of the block association. All were encouraged to participate and to voice their ideas/concerns.

Janet spoke more about committees which consist of small groups (3-5 people) that come together to work on common goals, interests and projects. Three committees discussed were:

1. Block Party Committee - this committee would plan, organize and design what that next block party looks and share the work and responsibility involved.
2. Social Committee - this committee would periodically plan fun activities to promote friendships and community (book club, game night, potlucks, street-wide stoop sales, breakfast/coffee meet-up, dinner out, etc.).
3. Safety Committee - Tomi shared that this committee would regularly patrol the block and report any suspicious activity to the police (vs. play Rambo). Some safety tips suggested were to keep your stoop lights on at night, communicate with neighbors, be the eyes and ears of the block and kindly look out for each other's packages left on stoops.

Janet discussed block association dues of \$40 per year to cover the cost of the following: 1) LLC, 2) setting up a website and monthly maintenance, 3) printing and paper costs, 4) small condolence gift (card, flowers) for anyone who lives on the block that passes and 5) other miscellaneous costs that committees may incur (requests should be submitted to the board). Block association dues are separate from any dues needed for a block party. Janet and Tomi plan to set up an East 55th Street Block Association bank account and will manage funds.

Janice encouraged all to join/like our facebook page to keep abreast of upcoming meetings, information and the progress of on-going concerns (ie., a request has been made to DOT to repair the street at the corner of E. 55 and Ave N). The block association will meet quarterly on the 2nd Saturday of April, Aug. and November at 6:30 pm. Committees will meet as often as they deem necessary.

Community Board 18 and our local 63rd Precinct have been notified that the East 55th Street Block Association has been established - all are encouraged to attend community board and precinct meetings so we are aware of what is happening in our community and our voices can be heard.

Questions and comments raised during open forum:

When was the block association formed? (October 2023); How many members are there? (only the 3 board members so far - we are starting small and with time hope to grow as we spread the word among our neighbors); Does the block association only extend between Ave M and N? (yes, but we hope to expand it in the future as interest grows; we hope to get a block association flag in the future to promote awareness and membership); How do you reach someone on the board to notify them of an issue/concern? (communicate via email and we will look into having a phone number available as well); Are we aware of the Mill Basin Civic Association (yes, we hope to work with them as needed). An interest was expressed in a "Know Your Neighbor" get-together, the board was commended for their work thus far and, the idea promoting safety on the block/neighborhood was appreciated.

At the end of the meeting 3 people officially joined the block association and paid their dues; 1 person will do so in the next few days.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Adkins