



BLEECKER AREA MERCHANTS' & RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
215 Thompson Street, Box #337, New York, NY 10012

Merchant Chair
Treasurer

Sam Jacob
Russell Blount

Resident Chair
Secretary

Shelly Warwick
Mark Fiedler

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BAMRA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Wednesday, June 6, 2018
Community Room, 505 LaGuardia Place – 6:30 pm

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:46 p.m.

The agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

The minutes of the May 2, 2018 general membership meeting, which have been made available on the BAMRA website, were approved by unanimous vote. Going forward, each general membership's minutes will be distributed electronically on the BAMRA website in advance of the next meeting, saving much paper.

Treasurer Russell Blount reported that BAMRA's bank balance as of May 2, 2018, was \$33,849.59. Expenses this month totaled \$905.55. Income was \$150.00, consisting mostly of member dues.

Resident Chair Shelly Warwick reported on two highly successful events in the past month. The dessert crawl, on May 9, had 9 merchants and about 25 people participating. Shelly suggested that next year's event could be expanded into a "nosh crawl" (or "A Taste of the Village"), with non-dessert items such as somozas or cuchifritos. The learn-to-ride-a-bicycle event, on May 12, had about 10-15 children participating; by the end, only one child could not ride without training wheels. (And one *parent* had a meltdown, having been warned not to hold the child's handlebars.) Thanks are due to Terri Cude for organizing this event.

Also noted was the passing of Mrs. Raffetto, the matriarch of Raffetto's pasta shop on Houston Street, who have supported BAMRA since its inception. (Since the funeral has already taken place, it is too late to send flowers.) A motion was made, seconded and unanimously adopted to donate \$100.00 to a charity of the family's choice. Resident Chair Sam Jacob agreed to ascertain which charity.

Office Robert Jackson gave the NYPD 6th Precinct update. He noted an 8% increase in overall crime compared to this time last year, and a 37% decrease in street crime, possibly due to the NCO program. Theft of unattended property in bars and restaurants remains a problem; he also noted theft of packages from building lobbies and suggested that residents exercise more caution in letting people into their buildings, whether buzzing them in or leaving the building. (This will necessarily involve some rudeness.) Other problems were also noted: skateboarders taking up sidewalk areas, endangering pedestrians; and homeless people defecating in public. The NCOs have reached out to

some of these people. Also noted was an apparently habitual lack of follow-up by NCOs to residents' complaints beyond a single email response; it was explained that the NCOs are still "working their way into" their jobs.

Our first Build The Block meeting, sponsored by the NCOs for our sector of the 6th Precinct, is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the Little Red School House. Merchants and residents are encouraged to attend. (Information is available at <https://buildtheblock.nyc/>, and fliers will be provided at our next general membership meeting, on June 6.)

This year's LGBT Pride parade on June 24 will have a new, shortened route, beginning at Seventh Avenue and 16th Street, continuing east along Christopher and 8th Streets to Fifth Avenue before heading north along Fifth Avenue and concluding at 29th Street. It was noted that Washington Square Park may once again fill up with people dropping out of the parade.

There were no new liquor license applications coming before the SLA Licensing Committee of Community Board 2 Manhattan this month, and only two renewals: Old Tbilisi restaurant, at 174 Bleecker Street, and the AIA (American Institute of Architects) Center for Architecture, at 536 LaGuardia Place (which holds events from time to time with wine and, presumably, cheese). No one present moved to have the Committee review either of these applications.

Next was a presentation about Haven Green, a new 122-unit, LBGTQ-friendly, 100% affordable senior housing project in Little Italy, by Peg Sipe, a community planner with Habitat for Humanity, and Brigitte Blood, Community Engagement Manager of RiseBoro Community Partnership, both of which organizations are involved in the development. 30% of the units—a mix of studio and one-bedroom apartments—will be set aside for seniors who have been homeless. Eco-friendly features of the project will include rainwater harvesting, passive solar energy, and an 8,000-square-foot publicly accessible community open space—the last of which will be the subject of a series of open design workshops, this coming fall, with the landscape architects (who are still to be named). More information is available at <https://www.havengreencommunity.nyc>. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2019, with leasing of apartments and community spaces expected in the summer of 2021. A more formal presentation will be made to the Land Use & Housing Committee of Community Board 2 Manhattan on Monday, June 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the NYU Silver Building.

As Brigitte Blood explained, RiseBoro Community Partnership develops, owns and maintains "deeply affordable" housing projects for marginalized populations in every borough except Staten Island.

Haven Green will require residents to have a maximum of 60% of Area Median Income, according to an admittedly complex algorithm. As this project is being built on the site of an existing community garden (on city-owned land at Elizabeth and Mott Streets), it has met with considerable community opposition, although it will incorporate a community open space. A lottery will give preference to residents of this neighborhood. (The speakers were reluctant to quote specific figures for either rent or income requirements, but did state that rents will depend on income.)

Resident Chair Shelly Warwick noted some upcoming events:

The Washington Square Music Festival will present a concert in Washington Square Park each Tuesday evening in June; BAMRA has two reserved seats, which will be available on a first come, first served basis. (The first concert took place last night.)

The NYPD “Build the Block” meeting noted above will take place Wednesday, June 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the Little Red School House.

The NYPD 6th Precinct Community Council will meet Wednesday, June 27, at 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Pompeii Church.

BAMRA’s street fair will take place on Saturday June 30.

Problems were noted with noise from garbage trucks. (As well as a scandal in the private carting industry involving forced “sweetheart” union contracts and the Genovese crime family.) It was suggested that merchants coordinate waste pickups, but also to avoid enabling a monopoly.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

To-do list:

[Empty. See you in September!]