



**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, March 7, 2018
Community Room, 505 LaGuardia Place – 6:30 pm
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:48 p.m.

The agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

As Recording Secretary did not bring the minutes he had prepared from the February 7, 2018 general membership meeting, it was agreed that he would send the minutes by email for member approval.

Resident Chair Shelly Warwick reported that she had looked into the possibility of BAMRA opening a Google Voice account, but found that it was not a viable option, as the account must be linked to a single cell phone account, to which Google Voice sends a text each time a message is received: it will not enable callers to reach BAMRA in real time, or multiple people in BAMRA to receive calls or messages. Accordingly, a cell phone account is still being considered.

Resident Chair Shelly Warwick reminded members that annual dues are now due, particularly in light of the upcoming dessert crawl.

Neighborhood Coordination Officer Emily Simon of the NYPD 6th Precinct gave the precinct update. With regard to the delivery people congregating outside By Chloe at the southeast corner of Bleeker and MacDougal Streets, it was noted that such gatherings are not illegal as long as they are not blocking the sidewalk. (One member pointed out that they occasionally “consume substances that should not be consumed in the street.”) Preparation for St. Patrick’s Day was also discussed: officers from outside precincts will supplement local forces. It was also noted that the temporary police installation in Washington Square Park, with its bright lights and loud sounds that have been of concern to neighbors, has been removed. (The police continue to patrol the park.)

Treasurer Russell Blount report that BAMRA’s bank balance as of March 7, 2018, is \$36,561.51, counting new dues and three checks: a \$1,400 donation to Visiting Neighbors, and reimbursements of \$33.47 to Shelly Warwick and \$33.00 to Jennifer Cline.

Resident Chair Shelly Warwick noted once again that the BAMRA by-laws require that the executive board be made up of equal numbers of merchants and residents, and that the board is currently short of merchants.

Next was a presentation by the owners of Tippy Shanghai Restaurant in support of its application to the State Liquor Authority for a full on-premise liquor license at its new restaurant at 228 Thompson Street (the former location of The Dove).

Next was a presentation by the owners of The Red Lion at 151 Bleecker Street in support of its application for modification to revocable consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café: they are adding two seats to existing tables on the Bleecker Street sidewalk and replacing all tables and seating on the Thompson Street sidewalk with an access ramp.

Regarding Tippy Shanghai, a resolution was proposed, seconded and adopted in support of their application, on the understanding that the establishment will operate in accordance with the following stipulations agreed to by the applicant:

- No illuminated signage
- Closing daily by 11 p.m.
- No more than one television screen
- No open windows
- No live music, no DJs

The vote was 10 in favor (2 merchants, 8 residents), 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 0 recusals.

Of the three current liquor license renewal applications to the State Liquor Authority, Resident Chair Shelly Warwick noted that she had included one of them—the full-liquor-license renewal application of Village Lantern, at 167 Bleecker Street—on the agenda because of BAMRA’s previous problems with that establishment and the desire to confirm with the membership that those problems are well in the past. (It was so confirmed.) It was unanimously voted (without the need for a resolution) to support all three applications (the other two being wine-and-beer renewal applications for Fukurou, 87 MacDougal Street, and Pommes Frites, 128 MacDougal Street).

Regarding The Red Lion, a resolution was proposed, seconded and adopted in support of their application, on the understanding that the establishment will continue in its current method of operation. The vote was 10 in favor (2 merchants, 8 residents), 0 opposed, 1 abstention, 0 recusals.

Concerning BAMRA’s purchase of trash cans for the neighborhood, Secretary Mark Fiedler reported that he had submitted BAMRA’s application for a tax-exemption certificate to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. Members noted the recent theft of such trash cans from another neighborhood (using a forklift); it was generally felt that the benefit of such trash cans outweighed the risk of their being stolen.

With regard to the upcoming dessert crawl/membership drive, scheduled for next Monday, March 12, Resident Chair Shelly Warwick reported that she had secured commitment from about 10 participating merchants, but in the absence of renewing members, “it doesn’t make sense to have a dessert crawl for 10 people.” She proposed that a flyer be prepared tomorrow. Participants so far include Le Souk, Falucka, Caffè Reggìo, Porto Rico Importing Co., and Carroll Place, Manousheh and Ahimsa.

Community Board 2 chair Terri Cude reported that the upcoming paper (5th annual) shredding is scheduled for April 21, the Saturday after income taxes are due, in front of Morton Williams Supermarket. NYU has offered to co-sponsor the event, footing a

significant part of the cost of this event, which is \$450 for 2 hours. As CB2 chair, Terri is enjoined from negotiating with NYU, but it is likely that NYU will pay the full cost of a two-hour event or half the cost of a four-hour event. (505 LaGuardia Place and Washington Square Village have each contributed \$100 to past shredding events.) It was generally felt that a two-hour event would be preferable, in light of the noise generated by the shredding truck. It was also noted that NYU plans to hold its own shredding event in October, likely in another part of the Village. The 6th Precinct of NYPD will be present to provide a sense of assurance regarding people's private papers. Terri also noted that she had spoken with the office of New York State Assembly member Deborah Glick, who had sponsored their own shredding event last year in the same location, three days after ours, and she was assured that their event would be farther away this year. A general agreement was reached that BAMRA and NYU should each sponsor its own shredding event this year.

Terri also spoke about the upcoming learn-to-ride-a-bicycle event, scheduled for April 29, a week from the shredding event—with attendant concern that we have enough people from BAMRA attending both events. Accordingly, it was generally agreed that it would be better to schedule this event for a later date.

Finally, Terri reported that the New York City Fire Department offers community members free training in hands-only CPR. This is offered only up until 6:30 p.m., so perhaps it could be held in conjunction with a BAMRA general membership meeting starting at 6:00. It could also be held in conjunction with a NYPD event offering the registration of personal electronics (which latter event “dovetails really well with the shred.”). It was also noted that such an event would also be a good occasion for neighborhood residents to meet their local (Community Affairs and Neighborhood Coordination) police officers.

Resident Chair Shelly Warwick proposed the formation of a committee for a BAMRA restaurant week to be held next fall. Her vision for this is primarily a “neighborhood attraction” rather than a BAMRA-only event, to feature and enhance the visibility and vitality of the neighborhood. She also proposed that BAMRA issue membership cards, as some merchants are interested in offering discounts to members. (“Why should only the NYU students, who make our lives miserable, get the discount?”) It was also proposed that we coordinate who will contact each merchant, to avoid duplicating efforts.

Shelly also reported that 10 or 15 merchants have responded with dues to the appeal she sent out last week. She also reported that she is working on various improvements to the BAMRA website.

Ray Cline reported that State Senator Brian Kavanagh is holding a public information meeting on gun violence and other concerns on Sunday, March 18, at Gibney Dance.

Shelly Warwick also mentioned a bill, backed by the League of Women Voters to establish early voting in New York State, and urged people to contact their elected officials to support this bill.

Ray Cline reported that the Village Reform Democratic Club is holding an event tomorrow evening, March 8, with candidates in the upcoming Democratic primary election.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

To-do list:

Send out the minutes of last month's general membership meeting for member approval.

Prepare resolutions for Topsy Shanghai and Red Lion.

Further work on dessert crawl and Greenwich Village Restaurant Week.

Follow up on shredding and bicycle events, as well as proposed CPR and electronics registration events.