

Members' Meeting
January 23, 2025, 7:30pm
Zoom

Welcome / Approval of Minutes (7:30 - 7:35)

There being a quorum (attendance noted in Exhibit A), the meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm.

MY welcomed all those attending.

Approval of minutes – motion made by MB to approve the minutes of the September members meeting, FM seconded, and unanimously approved.

Recruitment Activities / Dues (7:35 - 7:40)

MY discussed the need to continue to do outreach activities. There are currently 31 members, the peak in the last few years being membership being 45. The basic recruitment strategy was discussed, for any member to talk to anyone and everyone.

Survey and Feedback (7:40 - 7:50)

PB discussed the recent survey, emphasizing that it takes only a few minutes to complete the full survey, and that having feedback is important on the various issues covered – the preference for meeting in person vs zoom, etc.

Communications / Website (7:50 - 7:55)

JS gave an update on the major project of the redesign of the SMRA website – to refresh its appearance and content, include some interactive features, and ultimately becoming a gateway to communicate.

Ideas of having guest speakers at future meetings to encourage interest were discussed.

ZT suggested smaller events, gathering in houses, storytelling, etc., and also having an SMRA “stand” where printed materials could be made available at a fixed location.

NL suggested using WhatsApp to communicate.

Block Captains (7:55 - 8:05)

LP sent out a plea for volunteers since not all blocks covered, and reviewed block captain duties, primarily to distribute flyers for future meetings and events.

Social Activities (8:05 - 8:10)

ZT noted interest in organizing a spring block party. FM made a suggestion of hosting a backyard Bbq. VP suggested a Mix and Mingle, and AB suggested a potluck.

Financial Report (8:10 - 8:15)

MH noted that the SMRA spending to date has all been within the annual budget previously approved. And noted the current cash balance at \$3,439.

Neighborhood Issues (8:15 - 8:50)

- Speeding Vehicles

MB reported on meetings with representatives of the 70 Precinct regarding the issue, the in person meeting at the VL/PM residence, at which the police were wonderful and cooperative. Following the meeting, the culprit was spoken to, and subsequently the offender was arrested, and his car impounded. This favorable progress on this issue was noted.

- Daylighting

Reviewed draft letter to Council Member Louis to support her proposed legislation that would impose universal daylighting in New York City and require the installation of physical barriers to prevent parking within 20 feet of all corners. Extensive discussion ensued covering the conflicting priorities of public safety and parking accessibility. Very significant debate about the issue was had, registering strong support and opposition to both priorities.

There was a vote to table any action on this issue to allow for further discussion.

Having used more than the time allotted for this issue, and more than the time scheduled for other agenda items, it was agreed to defer the remaining agenda items to a future meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:14PM.

EXHIBIT A

Attendance – SMRA members

1. Fred Martens (FM) and Anne Dette (AD)
2. Virginia Levie (VL) and Peter Maloney (PM)
3. Bob Newman (BN)
4. Richard Silverman (RS)
5. Mark Young (MY) and Zoe Timms (ZT)
6. Monica Beyer (MB)
7. Pam Brown-Laurenceau (PB)
8. Charles Breland (CB)
9. Steve Hirschhorn (SH) and Linda Polsky (LP)
10. Vinit Parmar (VP)
11. Diane Rienhart (DR)
12. Jack Newsham (JN)
13. Alexandra Baltzaruk (AB)
14. Eva Bogasky (EB)
15. Nadine Locke (NL)
16. Julianne Hirsch (JH)
17. John Stislow (JS)