

Board Members in Attendance: Heather Palmer, Anthony Sama, Jane Builder, Danny Zausner, John Wang, Jean Silva, Rich David, Andrea Hirsch, Patty Ornst, Andrew Hollweck, Edwin Wong, Jim Haddad, Michelle Stoddart, Zanib Ahmad, Phil Ballman, Jackie Langsam, Melanie LaRocca

Also in Attendance: Rob Carson, Stephanie Bohn, Liz Fallon,

Minutes:

Report from the Chair:

- Chair Danny Zausner convenes the meeting
- motion to approve the minutes. The minutes are approved with no objections.

Committee Reports

- Jim Haddad delivers the Governance Committee report.
 - nomination of Michelle Stoddart to the Alliance Board.
 - Jim discusses Michelle's accomplishments in her career and with her volunteerism.
 - Danny Zausner and Patty Ornst were also critical to bringing Michelle Stoddart to the Alliance.
 - Danny adds to the praise of Michelle and underscores the long time he's spent working alongside her for the betterment of Queens.
 - Patty also echoes the previous two testimonies and emphasizes Michelle's work as a citizen of Queens.
 - Vote to confirm Michelle's nomination: No one objects and all members vote affirmatively. Michelle Stoddart is voted onto the Alliance Board.
 - Anthony formally welcomes Michelle Stoddart to the Alliance. She expressed her gratitude and enthusiasm for the park.
 - Bylaw amendments.
 - Three proposed changes:
 - updating the procurement policies so that the Executive Director has more freedom to execute the Alliance's budgets without requiring full Board approval - raising the threshold for approval from \$10,000 to \$20,000;
 - removing the requirement that CD 19 has Board representation to accommodate redistricting
 - the final proposed change extends the term length for Board members to 3 years and create a class system so that the terms are staggered.
 - Jim collects the votes: 12 in favor. 1 opposed. The resolution passes.
 - Proposed meeting schedules for 2024.
 - Jim takes the vote on proposed meetings for 2024:
 - All are in favor, none opposed.

- The dates are confirmed and Anthony will circulate them to the Board as well as put them on the Alliance website.

Finance and Development Committee Report:

- Andrew Hollweck delivers the Finance and Development committee report.
 - Success of Evening Under the Sphere: The Alliance surpasses its fundraising benchmarks by 50%.
 - Current surplus in the Alliance's accounts: The organization seeks to increase spending relative to fundraising to ensure that this surplus goes to the park and community.
 - The Alliance is still in a very strong place financially and moving along with the adopted FY24 budget. Andrew wants to seek to expand the spending of the Alliance and increase its impact on the park.
 - Evening Under the Sphere.
 - overhead costs for the event remain low relative to the overall fundraising,
 - the net revenue was 89.2% of the gross revenue after expenses.

CAB Report:

- Jean Silva delivers the CAB report.
- Anthony attended the most recent CAB meeting to answer questions from the community.
- Stephanie Bohn, co-chair of the CAB, was honored at Evening Under the Sphere as part of the NYS Pavilion Paint Project.
- FMCP Conservancy was recently awarded a \$1,000 grant from the City Parks Foundation which they intend to spend on the park in coordination with Latisha Williams, deputy administrator.

Report from the Executive Director:

- Anthony discusses the successful summer programs in the park.
 - FMCP reached over 2,000 participants throughout the summer in its programs.
 - The volunteer initiative is expanding and the Alliance recently onboarded an Americorps officer who will be working on the stewardship program.
 - The Alliance is also funding maintenance operations in the park, especially with grass maintenance and seeding along with providing tools to its workers.
- The Alliance recently funded a new security gate and traffic bollards for the Queens Museum South lot. This will make park access safer and easier for pedestrians.
- the Alliance is funding a number of repair projects throughout the park, including dilapidated railings and lumber replacement on the Passerelle.
- Tide Gate Bridge replacement project. This is a major renovation in the park that is being accomplished with funding from a variety of sources, including federal government grants.