

Environment Committee - Meeting Minutes 9/9/20

Present: Lupe Castillo, Mary Britton, Joe Ring, Jon Urban, Britt Howell, Eric Amel, Aseem Gidwani (Divya Giwandi), Jennifer Michlitsch, Lydia McAnerney

Speakers

- Britt was key speaker about racism and the environment - at its heart, it is the people; Britt has a background in racial equity work
- Joe Ring - about Glenwood

Joe Ring - historic designation status in city

- Historic designation of PP neighborhood worked on for 25 years
- Glendale historic designation was on the back burner until recently.
 - owned by HUD (Feds) so any changes would take time
 - Invited by the community to build it in 1950's
 - Cam Gordon, after survey by Glendale residents, submitted the request for a designation to be done - now on hold in city council due to Covid issues but Historic Preservation Committee has voted to approve the designation
 - Plans in city housing dept. - still want dense housing development, diversity but suggested it be privatized with more dense and high rise buildings
 - Some issues add to difficulty of keeping it habitable - not handicapped accessible, much deferred maintenance - historic designation does not include funding for fixing these things
 - Joe suggests people need to communicate with city council via letters and showing up at the hearing to support this designation.
 - HUD is supposed to find a resident organization to work with - they are not doing it
 - Work with Community Organizing Committee of PPA has begun more communication
 - Defend Glendale Facebook page has information

Britt discussion - race matters to the environment

- Areas like Glendale should be included in all PPA activities; one neighborhood & one community
- Focus that we are all ONE neighborhood - not sub-neighborhoods; Britt called out that people say things like "Prospect Park and Glendale", as if they are 2 different neighborhoods.
- Britt - Glendale should tell us what they want/need us to do (Earthday for everyone)
- Mary suggests meeting with elders to ask what they want
- Communication needs to change - no more speaking for Glendale or rest of the community
- Question is how to bridge the gap
- Hope - authentic connections and getting people engaged; movement must include those who are affected. It's not about how many people are at a meeting but who
- Mary - suggested we think about all the ways we communicate
- Can't ignore ways to pull people to participate in advocacy for themselves and get them to show up.
- Jon - had issues with people of color (parents of soccer players) to showing up because of lack of trust
- Goal is for all residents of Prospect Park to step up and make an effort to know each other.
- Earth Day clean up could be focus point; reach out to get folks involved

Other topics

- Week in Oct - clean up do it virtually - our committee can make it happen.
- Create a Neighborhood asset map - can we develop this over time (Lydia volunteered to look into this)
- How to include Venture Academy
- Connect to fall bike ride
- Jennifer - Trees of Life project by Sarah Nassiff - we should get folks involved with this