

Minutes
PS 166 PTA General Meeting
May 17, 2013

There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by the PTA co-Presidents.

PTA President's Welcome

The PTA Co-President, Karyn Gooden, opened the meeting welcoming everyone. \

Adoption of the March Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the minutes of the March 2013 PTA General Meeting was unanimously approved by the following resolution:

Approval of the Minutes

RESOLVED, that minutes of the March PTA Board meeting are approved.

Adoption of the April Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the minutes of the April 2013 PTA General Meeting was unanimously approved by the following resolution:

Approval of the Minutes

RESOLVED, that minutes of the April PTA Board meeting are approved.

After School Program

The search for a vendor for the PS 166 after school program is progressing well. Update will be provided when a vendor is selected.

Friends of PS 166 Fundraising

- Walk-a-thon is coming up. Begins at 4:30 in the playground with games and pizza.
- Auction was very successful. Grossed approximately \$130,000.
- Debra Roberts reported that Richard Rodgers' daughter donated 7 DVD's of his plays to the school.

Budget Presentation

Barbara Denham presented the proposed budget and went through the budget in detail. Discussion included an explanation of the new Teacher's College Reading and Writing Program, math coach, residencies and support for book purchases.

Playground Renovation

As discussion regarding the proposed safety renovation of the playground was introduced by the PTA Co-President. Ms. DiPasquale, presented a timeline of various important dates regarding the proposed renovation and announced that the timeline would be available at the PS 166 website.

Shula Warren from Councilwoman Gale Brewer's office and Rebecca Godlewicz from Scott Stringer's officer were introduced. Ms. Warren, explained that she hoped that the renovation would be a positive experience similar to what

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took place at Tecumsa/PS87 playground. She also explained that the Parks Department has staff dedicated to this project and is ready to move forward.

Ms. Godlewicz explained that the Parks Department is moving forward quickly and that the PTA membership would see plans for the renovation. She also noted that this was the first time that she had heard that there were parents who were unhappy with the proposed renovation. She explained that as she understands it the money for this renovation will not be available if the project is delayed. This assertion was questioned and she reiterated that this was her understanding. She committed to reaching out to the Parks Department to alert them to the need for plans as quickly as possible and that parents wanted to have input.

It was reiterated that Maria Jonsdottir would be collecting any design comments that parents wanted to have passed along to the Parks Department. She explained that she planned to compile them and send them in collectively.

Laurie Frey, made the following motion that was duly seconded, that a PS 166 playground committee composed of five members be formed to address issues with the playground, including sprinklers, snow removal, trees and any renovation. The resolution was not voted on at the meeting. In response to the motion, it was noted that the PTA executive board, an elected committee had been working on such issues for many months.

Many parents spoke and made comments including that there were concerns regarding the lack of community involvement and lack of a safety report, excitement about the renovation, safety of kids being a priority, preserving the special look of the playground, maintenance concerns with the Belgium blocks, impact of increased number of children using the playground, need for continued maintenance, concern regarding time it will really take for renovation, and question regarding whether current design is functional for a school playground.

Ms. Warren suggested that parents look at Tecumseh playground. She explained that they had projected a long timeline for that renovation and it was actually finished earlier.

A member of CB7 spoke briefly and stated that the community had been engaged appropriately. There has been back and forth and input from the community taken into account by the Parks Department.

Ms. Warren said she would try to arrange for the Parks Department representatives to attend a meeting at PS 166 to discuss plans.

Suggestions were made regarding how to address the rats behind the fence. Questions were raised regarding usefulness of the proposed chess tables and the asphalt surface.

A suggestion was made that the agenda order of future PTA meetings be switched so that the curriculum related items are not always in the beginning and the other issues such as the playground renovation can come earlier in the agendas.

Concern was raised regarding the space for nonathletic kids.

A comment was made that we are lucky that the Parks Department is letting us make suggestions at all.

Short Film

The screening of Michael Solomon's short film was delayed due to the late hour.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.