



Website: <http://www.oakwoodheightshoa.org>
 FaceBook: Oakwood Heights Homeowners Association
 NextDoor: Oakwood Heights

MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES – 1/26/20

Meeting Information			
Start Time:	4:00 PM		Facilitator(s):
End Time:	5:30 PM		Axel Ebermann
Minutes Taker:			
Lyndia Hayden			
Meeting Attendees			
Dan Aronson	Hazel Hunt	Bennet Nu	Guest: Derrick Thompson, City Council
Jacqueline Brathwaite	Edith Jenkins	Andrew Peddie	
John Brathwaite	Ted Jenkins	George Renwick	
Andre Butler	LaVerne Johnson	Andrea Rogers	
Angela Chi	Fiorella Kelley	Fred Schiller	
Marvin Church	Dionne Lewin	John Conrad Ste Marthe	
Jane Curtis	Jean-Benoit Le Luduec	Jenny Toomey	
Axel Ebermann	Joyce Lin	Zaman (Roy) Wilson	
Lyndia Hayden	Melanie Martin	Steve Young	
Randall Hayden	Hysa Moultrie		
Topics	Discussion highlights		
Special Guest, Derrick Thompson, City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councilman Thompson’s term began on January 1, 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phone number: 914-840-4024 ○ Email: dthompson@cmvny.com • The City Council works collaboratively with the Mayor and Comptroller. There is an initiative to develop a Comprehensive Plan, which will be a framework to the City’s vision, zoning expectations and a guideline to fix decades of neglect in infrastructure and processes. Members recommended that the 2014 plan be reviewed and leveraged instead of starting from scratch, especially since it included input from the community. • He is the Chair of HR. This is the link to view the other Council members, their area of responsibility, contact information and term expiration dates. He would also like to add pictures in the future -> http://cmvny.com/city-council/. Three Council seats will be open in the 2021 election (Janice, Marcus & Delia). In addition, the Comptroller’s position will be open in the 2021 election. • He reminded the members that Mount Vernon is a large city with 77k residents. Although it sounds like a substantial amount of money is collected from taxes, it is budgeted for 16 schools (the average number of schools/per town in Westchester is 3). • The budget that was recently passed includes 1.97% increase in taxes, partial payments for those on fixed income, and raises for Commissioners in order to retain qualified individuals. 		



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<p>Special Guest, Derrick Thompson, City Council (cont'd)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the initiatives that the City Council is involved in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase transparency with tax assessments for businesses ○ Online accessibility to pay taxes and other payments ○ Charter Revision Commission meetings - a long process that requires a diligent and rational thought process for proposals/decisions ○ Working with DPW on the sewage system to fix the sidewalk and potholes, and to control the infestation of rats and raccoons ○ Fining landlords who convert to multi-family or multi-room homes; encouraged members to report: 'If You See Something, Say Something' • Feedback based on questions addressed to Councilman Thompson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If neighbors see postings on trees or light posts about buying homes for cash, they should tear it down. One neighbor recommended that the City look into a Cease and Desist program that prohibits unwanted solicitation -> https://www.dos.ny.gov/licensing/ceaseanddesist/ceaseanddesistFAQ.html ○ Citizen Tree program should work with Councilwoman Delia Farquharson ○ He is unfamiliar with the Urban Renewal Agency corruption issues. It was mentioned that a decision was made to freeze activities at this time. He will find out who are the Board Members and report back to Axel and/or Jane. ○ He agreed that Public Relations efforts are necessary to improve Mount Vernon's reputation. Other cities and towns in Westchester have issues that are not published by the press.
<p>Membership Fees/ Financial Accounting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual membership fee of \$25 per family is due. Many members gave Dan their dues. Payment can also be mailed to the following: Oakwood Heights Homeowners Association Attention: Dan Aronson, Treasurer 490 East Prospect Avenue Mount Vernon, NY 10553 • A new format is in process to display the expenses and ending balance, including the dues that were collected at the meeting. It will be sent at a later date.
<p>Block Captains</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block Captains are a great source for their immediate neighbors. They can identify issues and concerns, and facilitate neighbors getting to know one another. They can notify the Officers when new neighbors move in, about abandoned properties, relay complaints to the Officers, and keep their block up-to-date on meetings. • We're looking for volunteers for Darwood Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, North Columbus Avenue and Willard Avenue. A meeting with Block Captains will be scheduled in early Spring.



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<p>Department of Buildings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently one (1) Building Inspector. As a result, there is a backlog on permits and inspections. We are gathering a list of issues to discuss with the new Building Commissioner and encourage everyone to provide their issues that need to be addressed. • We will continue to be diligent about any landlords participating in the NYC has a Special One-Time Assistance (SOTA) program, which was rumored for 321 E. Sidney Avenue. • When the new Commissioner is announced, we will discuss the strategy for abandoned homes.
<p>Proposed topics or guest speakers for future meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Care/Maintenance • Charter Revision Commission • Mount Vernon Hospital • Potential Guest Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Architectural Review Board ○ Police Department ○ DPW Commissioners ○ Department of Buildings Commissioner
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 29 (Host: TBD) – general meeting • May 31 (Host: Axel & Angela) – social event • August 30 (Tentative date for BBQ on Oakwood Avenue) – social event