

Note to OHP Residents on Neighborhood Committee

We are writing to introduce the OHP Neighborhood Committee which was formed by the Board of Directors in April of this year. We have two responsibilities, 1) to monitor and influence local development that impacts our building and 2) to engage with the community on neighborhood issues that impact all of us.

1) Monitor and Influence Local Development

Mission Statement:

The residents and board of One Hanson Place support thoughtful local development that reflects the historic character of the neighborhood, doesn't overwhelm our infrastructure (such as transit and schools) and respects the historic importance and landmark status of One Hanson Place and the neighborhood itself. Specifically, we are keen to preserve the building's silhouette from as many vantage points in Brooklyn and Manhattan as possible. The 1977 Landmark designation for The Williamsburgh Savings Bank emphasized and focused on its place and impact on the skyline: "The setback, the most striking feature of the building, enhances its soaring height and gives distinction to its silhouette."

To that end we plan to:

- Monitor local development including changes in ownership and zoning
- Maintain close contact with all relevant state and city government agencies.
- Join and attend relevant boards and local committees (Metro Tech Bid, Community Board 2 - Esp Land Use Committee, Planning Board, Downtown Brooklyn Partnership) that deal with local development
- Monitor developer plans for lots that impact our local neighborhood
- Provide input and information to developers and relevant boards on plans for development
- Reach out to the community to coordinate response to local development
- Keep the residents, board and management of OHP updated and informed, soliciting help and connections when needed

2) Engage the Community on Issues that Impact all of us

Mission Statement:

The residents and board of One Hanson Place strive to be good citizens in our community. We look to engage with local boards, action groups and city organizations to represent our residents and provide leadership and input on issues that impact all of us.

To that end, we plan to:

- Work with organizations like Fort Greene Park Conservancy to support our local neighborhood
- Engage on issues like pedestrian safety and street improvement in our neighborhood. Some examples are the food trucks and traffic issues on Hanson Place in front of our building and working closely with the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership on street cleaning and safety.
- Engage with our neighbors on issues that impact us all.

How we are operating:

We are a committee of eleven people (see names below) who are volunteering our time. We meet once a month to discuss specific issues and move areas forward. We communicate regularly with the board and building management. We also plan to communicate regularly with the resident group through the Google email group, email through FSR, as well as by posting information on the OHP Website.

How to get more information:

Please visit the OHP Website <http://onehanson.org/ncdocs.php> This site has detailed information about what is happening on local lots around our building. We focus on facts, but also address rumors and concerns that people have. While we cannot predict what will happen, we can be informed and have as much influence as possible by addressing issues early with developers and planning committees.

How to contact us:

We have an email address ohp.nsc@gmail.com Feel free to email us with questions or information that you learn about local development and issues.

What we need from you:

We want the building to be involved, so we will be asking you from time to time to provide contacts, attend meetings and give feedback. We will communicate monthly our updates and opportunities for involvement.

1. Please complete the [Historic Districts and Urban Life Survey](#) by September 30. Researchers at Columbia University are studying the role of historic districts in New York City's urban life. As part of this research project, they are conducting an online survey to better understand how different New Yorkers value the social, environmental, and economic aims of historic district preservation.
2. Brooklyn Flea Liquor License Meeting - Brooklyn Flea has applied for a liquor license. Given the positive past experience we have had with Brooklyn Flea, the committee does not see an issue, however, we are sending one representative to the meeting. If you are interested, please also feel free to attend the CB2 meeting, September 7, 6:00pm, Brooklyn Heights Hospital in the first floor dingy room.
3. Contacts - If you have any contacts that you think might be useful such as developers, city officials, or community leaders, please email us at ohp.nsc@gmail.com.

In the future, we may ask residents for help in writing letters to local politicians, appearing at community meetings and participating in neighborhood outreach endeavors.

What comes next:

We have now formed and organized ourselves to address our responsibilities. We will continue to update the website with new info as we receive it and will also proactively communicate to the board and residents if there are important developments.

Thank you for your support,
OHP Neighborhood Committee

Lisa Vehrenkamp
Marisa Office
Dashell Flynn
Ludlow Beckett
Peter Vadnai
Karen Saah
Rick Aronstein
Norman Ryan
Claude Hersh
Susan Spiller
Charles Cohen
