

Economic Development Committee

Manhattan Community Board Nine

Serving the West Harlem communities of Morningside, Manhattanville, Hamilton Heights and Sugar Hill

Savona Bailey-McClain, Committee Co-Chair; Nicole Monegro, Committee Co-Chair; Jane Arrendell; Arnold Boatner; Nikoa Evan-Hendricks; Carmen Morillo; Kimberly Cameron

Committee Meeting Minutes of November 1, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Committee Co-Chairs Nicole Monegro and Savona Bailey-McClain at 6:45 p.m.

Present: Savona Bailey-McClain, Nicole Monegro, Arnold Boatner, Kimberly Cameron, Mark Irgang, Evy Maier, Dr. Jill

Leave of Absent: Nikoa Evans-Hendricks, Jane Arrendell, Carmen Morillo

Guests: Dr. Jill

Presentations:

Dr. Jill, independent consultant for Columbia University, gave a Powerpoint presentation at the Committee's request on our rat problem in the district. She did a site between 150th and 152nd Streets between Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway.

The doctor sited how residents would come up to her and share that there was a severe problem. Dr. Jill could identify where rodents were lodging, the types of rodents that are dominating our community and how buildings were handling the problem.

Dr. Jill shared how she was going to contact the Health Department on what they could do better like having traps in storm drains and replacing baits in outdoor traps. The doctor felt that many of the buildings were doing their part but bungee like cords could better secure lids.

Dr. Jill strongly doubts that the rodents are traveling more than a couple of blocks so the Columbia construction sites are not factoring in the problem. She promised to go back at night to look at the problem and come back with some recommendations.

Discussion Items:

We have ten confirmed children for the Youth Forester Program. The time was pushed back to accommodate children who are in charter school. And the flier for the West Harlem Restaurant Hop was completed and distributed. Fliers were sent via e-blast by the Board staff, Harlem Pride (400 + members), Board members, churches and other neighborhood groups. This is a promotion and not an event. NYCEDC shared how our fall spotlights have met positive comments from NYC boat operators.

Updates:

Columbia University applied for the Mayor's applied science competition and the community didn't know. The site they were proposing is Manhattanville.

Stanford University also applied along with City College. If Stanford wins that would benefit West Harlem tremendously.

The Committee is still hopeful to find a candidate for a pop-up café and the Mayor's Office announced with Speaker Quinn a new retail initiative.

Governor Cuomo is about to announce grant winners for the ten Regional Economic Council and the Design Competition has a deadline in January. Approximately, 120 teams and individuals have expressed interested.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.