

Manhattan Community Board 9
Executive Committee
August 9, 2018

Meeting called to order at 6:45pm. Agenda and minutes adopted by a voice vote.

The Chair announced that 730 St. Nicholas Avenue will not be used as a methadone clinic. The 147th street block association is to be commended for their efforts, and the combined effort between residents, elected officials, city agencies, and businesses to rally around this important issue. Argus has been doing good work in community but we felt that was not the right use for the space.

Presentation: Julia Boland, Morningside Park Conservancy

The conservancy was just formed. The City Gardens Club of NYC raised \$150K to renovate and replant the area around the pond. Ms. Boland has been living in Harlem since 2004 and has an 11 year old son who grew up here; as he was growing up, they spent a lot of time in playgrounds in Morningside Park.

Ms. Boland, a real estate broker, felt this was a meaningful way to give back to the community because everyone uses the park and the entire community feels collective ownership over it. Staff has observed that more people are picking up trash.

She is cognizant of the need to work alongside Friends of Morningside Park and not to compete for funding, and has met with Brad Taylor, president of Friends of Morningside Park. The Conservancy plans to tap into a new and different fundraising base. The Conservancy has filed for 501(c)3 status and has formed a board. They are already organizing events like an Easter egg hunt and tree lighting.

In the discussion that followed, Brad Taylor said that he did not see a reason these could not be one organization. Dan Cohen, a board member of both CB9 and Friends of Morningside Park, said he was supportive of anyone wishing to raise more funds for the park, but personally disagreed with the decision to form a separate organization.

Discussion: Preliminary Staff Report of the New York City Charter Revision Commission

The Chair described one of the proposed reforms in the report: to impose term limits on Community Board service. The prospective limit would be two five-year terms.

Carolyn Thompson said that it does not make sense to impose term limits because this is a volunteer position, so if people want to continue to serve, they should be allowed to.

Maritta Dunn said the bigger problem is with training and preparation for Community Board members, as evidenced by the dysfunction of several boards. They should function like little City Halls, even though they serve in an advisory capacity.

The Chair brought up the importance of institutional memory for the successful operation of Community Boards. In several cases, long serving members of CB9 have provided much-needed context to current relevant discussions.

Alec Barrett said that it is important to have a mix of people with fresh perspectives and people with longevity and experience on the board. For example, the Columbia Community Benefits Agreement is now over ten years old, and that is still a very current and relevant issue for CB9.

The Chair said that a bigger challenge for the board is getting board members who will actively participate rather than just showing up. Many people who show up at meetings but do not otherwise contribute get reappointed. He would like to see the Borough President's office consult more closely with the Chair and committee chairs when deciding reappointments to maximize the number of active volunteers on each board.

Further discussion ensued about other reforms that might benefit the community boards, including the establishment of additional funding sources, a more formalized recruitment process for new board members, and a survey of other community boards to look for best practices.

Treasurer's Report

The City Council gave a one-time allocation of \$42,500 to each Community Board for OTPS expenses. We hope to have personnel budget increased, or at least maintained, in line with cost of living increases. Council Members have also allocated funds: \$7,500 from CM Levine for programming and \$5,000 from CM Perkins.

District Manager's Report

The office received an advisory from the Parks Department and Health Department that dog owners in Central Park should keep their dogs on a leash. Especially during dusk and dawn, loose dogs are vulnerable to raccoon attacks. Of 85 sick or dead raccoons collected by the Parks Department, none tested positive for rabies, but attacks are still a risk.

Ed Pincar, Jr. was appointed Borough Commissioner for DOT. The District Manager and chair of Uniformed Services and Transportation will meet with him in September.

The Borough President wrote a letter to Columbia and DCAS about the CB9 office. The city is looking to sign a lease for a new CB9 office from Columbia property by October 2018.

CB9 is cosponsoring the NYPD annual Back to School event on August 23rd.

Committee Reports

Arts & Culture

The committee had a conversation with Harlem Eat Up to better understand their programming. The organization provides opportunities for local artists and should communicate more about ways they can support the community.

Youth, Education & Libraries

The committee has been meeting with representatives of the proposed Polyphonic Charter School. The committee would like to get a little additional information from the school about working with the community before sending to the letter.

Parks & Landmarks

The committee will have a meeting with WEACT to find out how they can work together to help support two community gardens in CB9. The committee is also continuing to hold conversations with Harlem Eat Up about supporting the park and the community.

Housing

The September meeting will be dedicated to pending developments in CB9. The last meeting of the NYCHA forums with CB7 will be held in September.

Economic Development

The Columbia CBA currently provides for parts of the West Harlem piers that will eventually run out. An organization is interested in developing the Marine Transfer Station at West Harlem piers. The committee got an NYC EDC study that recommended letting the station sink into the Hudson. The committee is meeting with the organization and Department of Sanitation later this month.

Uniformed Services & Transportation

The committee is looking into an incident involving the police response to a group of residents setting off firecrackers on 135th street on July 4th. The police responded to noise complaints but acted in a way that residents felt was too heavy-handed for an annual event.

Strategic Planning

The committee is talking to Columbia about issues around incarceration. The committee chair would like to find ways for people coming out of prison to be trained in new skills, and to increase the number of local residents employed on the construction project.

New Business

A group of community members came to thank the board for their work and let the board know about the effort to preserve the temporary dog run at 142nd street and Riverside Drive.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alec Barrett
Assistant Secretary

GEN BD MTG

6/21/2018

INITIALS

		Roll 6:45	Reso 1	Reso 2	Reso 3	Reso 4	Reso 5	Reso 6
J ADEWUMI	JAD	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
W ALEXANDER	WA	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A BARRETT	ABA	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
M BEST	MB	P	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
A BOATNER	AB	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
D MCINTOSH-BROWN	DM							
M CAINES	MIC	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
M CAMP	MC							
A CARRION	AC	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
D COHEN	DC							
M HARDEN-CORDERO	MHC	7:15	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
C CROWDER	CC							
M CUMMINGS	MAC							
M DULA	MD	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
M DUNN	MDU	6:55	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A D'SOUZA	AD	EXCUSED						
V EDWARDS	VE	P	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
M ARISTY-FARER	MF	7:30	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A FLETCHER	AF	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
J GARCIA	JG							
J MARTIN-GREEN	JMG							
D HARDEMAN	DH	7:00	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
L HENRY	LH	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
P JOHN	PJ	6:50	Y	Y	Y	ABS	ABS	Y
P JOHNSON	PAJ	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
V JONES	VJ	P	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
T KOVALEFF	TK	P	Y	Y	Y	ABS	Y	Y
P LEWIS	PL	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
W LI	WL	LOA						
T LUMLEY	TM	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
J MENTOR	JM	6:50	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
I MERCADO	IM	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
K MILES	KM	7:30	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S MORTENSON	SM	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
M PALMA	MP	EXCUSED						
A ROBINSON	AR	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
H ROSEBUD	HR	P	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
C SINGLETON	CS	LOA						
N SMITH	NS							
W SOUTH	WS	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
G MORGAN-THOMAS	GMT							
J THOMAS	JT	7:00	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
C THOMPSON	CT	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
E TORRES	ET	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
A TYLER	AT	P	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
M WALLACE	MAW	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
B WEINBERG	BW	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
J WEINSTEIN	JW	P	Y	Y	Y	ABS	Y	Y
M WELLS	MW	7:30	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
S WILSON	SW	P	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
TOTAL		28	37-0-0	37-0-0	37-0-0	27-7-3	36-0-1	37-0-0

Note: Full reso texts attached

- Reso 1 NY State Assembly Bill A4003 to eliminate 4 yr lookback
- Reso 2 NY Bill A741: to cap rentraises after preferred tenant vacates
- Reso 3 M1 Hotel Text Amendment
- Reso 4 Ltr Suptre Rear addition @ 435 W 147 Street
- Reso 5 Ltr Sup re Stairwell at Sakura Park
- Reso 6 Ltr Supt re Designated and restricted curbside parking at 420 W 145 Street