

Manhattan Community Board 9
Executive Committee
August 13, 2020

Chair BW called meeting to attention at 6:43 PM to begin discussion. Chair BW called meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Agenda adopted. Minutes adopted.

Discussion items

FY22 Budget

Budget consultations for FY22 will be conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams. Budget situation more dire than any time since financial crisis. Layoffs forecast to start in October. Could change if federal aid materializes, but not counting on it. Committee co-chairs should plan to attend. Back up budget requests with data. Identify infrastructure investments and contracts to non-profits. Fundamentally about expenses, capital likely to face greater cuts.

Policing

Follow up on 26th Pct town hall. Plan for September: want opportunity to have honest conversation with youth in neighborhood about policing. Efforts on re-entry programs subsequent to mass arrests five years ago to prevent gun violence that has increased across the city. Encourage NCOs to conduct walking tours of neighborhoods instead of build-the-block meetings. Facilitate de-escalation of minor violations like cookouts and being in parks after hours due to need for social distancing.

Homelessness and vagrancy also on rise; doesn't warrant police response but does require city and non-profit response.

COVID reopening

Columbia held a virtual town hall last week. President Bollinger has not officially announced final decision (expected next week) but there is widespread concern about their plans. Peer institutions like Princeton have walked back initial reopening plans. Columbia intends to follow best practices around cleaning, ventilation, distancing, etc. Under best of circumstances, teenagers coming to New York from around the country, living away from home, on top of the ordinary pressures of college and young adulthood, would be under duress. Columbia could be setting themselves up for difficulties. Neighbors concerned about off-campus students.

K-12 reopening also challenging, including because some teachers are reluctant to go back to work, and are encouraging parents to send children to school remotely. Reach out to teachers to find out what their plans are.

Chair's Report

Fairway on 12th avenue closed. Shop-Rite bought the parking lot but not the store itself. Viability of store depends on parking: it's right between highway on and off ramps, and adjacent to bike path, but not major foot traffic destination. Trying to ascertain Shop-Rite's plans. Lot may have been used for illegal vending, and has been chained shut.

Talking with tech consultants about new office space to outfit teleconference compatibility. Committee meetings will be able to happen in conference room, but not full board meetings. Space for public computer terminals, waiting area, workstations. May move in by spring 2021.

Congratulations to Eutha on new grandchild. Currently on vacation; thanks for her diligent work for the CB.

Discussion about parking spaces loss due to street side dining, and ways to reclaim spaces from institutions that are currently not in operation.

Community meeting on RKO Theater redevelopment left many unsatisfied with proposed plans; owners have not been cooperative. Some parts of exterior are landmarked; some parts, but not all, of interior and exterior are worth preservation.

Community is doing relatively very poorly on census response. Encourage neighbors to respond, and communicate consequences to federal funds if we are undercounted. Opportunity to use outdoor dining, lines outside grocery stores, health clinics, etc. to communicate with people.

Treasurer's Report, April Tyler

Report distrib. Budget OK; spent monies on video equipment for all types of communication and the new office for mtgs.

Committee Reports

Health:

Smoke Free will present at next mtg
Problem of noise; must bring it down; need to work with the community
Cannabis reso to come; there must be local opties here
Must have social distancing at 154th and Bway

Parks/Landmarks: AC

Working with Parks Commission on how Morningside Park is used
VE: need more tables, noting the prob of social distancing
Re: kayaking; was advised to contact S Bailey McLain.

Seniors: AF

Met with West Harlem for Seniors about how the pandemic impacts our community Seniors can apply for air conditioners: We must get the word out.
We must continue the food programs after the end of the pandemic

Unif Svs/Transp: CT

We have requested the removal of several CitiBike stations, but they are ignoring us
TK brought up a local complaint about Pisticci taking away parking spaces for outside tables.
VE: suggested that we might try to get Manhattan School of Music to relinquish some of the spaces they got [don't believe they ever came before the Bd on this]

Arts and Culture

Re the Music Festival: We didn't know about this till very recently. We should have had a say in the performers. There was a lengthy discussion re the \$100k from WHDC: how much money went to W Harlem artists. CB9 people should have had input.

AF: Need to send a letter to WHDC re this for next year's planning and also to request an accounting for how the \$100k was spent.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A Barrett T Kovaleff
Secretary Asst Secretary