

Meeting Minutes
Manhattan Community Board 9
Executive Committee
December 13, 2018

Meeting called to order at 6:51pm.

Adoption of agenda moved (VE) and seconded (AF) and approved. Adoption of minutes moved (JA) and seconded (VE) and approved.

Chair's Report

The Chair, Padmore John, opened the meeting with a reflection in the past year and planning for the year ahead. He spoke about the planned implementation of term limits as passed by referendum in November 2018. For terms starting April 1, 2019, the clock starts ticking on 8 year terms ending in 2027. For terms starting April 1, 2020, the clock starts ticking on an 8 year term plus a one-time two year extension, ending in 2030.

The Chair asked each committee to report on the Civic Engagement Commission's proposed activities in order to preempt problematic actions or resolutions by the commission by the end of January. The commission is in the process of defining their scope, rules, and procedures.

The Chair spoke about plans to replace the statue of J. Marion Sims at 103rd and 5th Avenue. The city Department of Cultural Affairs is soliciting input for what should replace it, including subjects, artists, and concepts.

Attendance Update

The first Vice-Chair, Victor Edwards, gave an attendance update. Six members had missed enough meetings to be up for review.

Pat Lewis, not present, spoke to Victor Edwards and explained that she had a medical absence. The committee voted unanimously for her to remain.

April Tyler explained that her absences were due to an anticipated yoga teachers' retreat and paralegal temp work which is harder to plan. Unanimous to remain.

Rev. Georgette Morgan-Thomas explained that her absences were due to illness, travel, and deaths in the family. Unanimous to remain.

Antonio D'Souza, not present, told Victor Edwards that he intends to resign. A motion to allow him until February 1 to submit a letter of resignation, otherwise be removed by the committee, was adopted by a vote of 6-4.

Chaya Crowder, not present, had not communicated her intentions or reasons for absence. The committee agreed to follow up with her one final time before voting on her review.

Jenny Garcia was not present when the discussion came up, and the committee agreed to follow up with her. She later arrived and explained that she did not know that she was required to attend the Health Committee. She explained that she values being on the Community Board because she shares information with her neighbors.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Anthony Fletcher, reported an imprest balance of \$549. The budget spreadsheet was unavailable at the time of the meeting. For committee expenses he asked that vendors invoice the city or that committee members lay out funds and submit for reimbursement.

District Manager's Report

The District Manager, Eutha Prince, reported two positive budget allocations from the City OMB for our neighborhood: \$496K for exterior lighting at Grant Housing and \$750 for cultural center capital improvements at Riverbank State Park.

Committee Reports

The Housing committee reported 15 new developments in Morningside Heights and 12 between 125th and 155th, which pose the potential for demographic change in our area, including one at 12th Avenue at 135th, a very narrow flat iron-shaped building, where a commercial deal fell through. She also spoke about a proposed moratorium on filming in the neighborhood, and encourage residents to call 311 in order to document their grievance.

The Parks & Landmarks committee spoke about a proposed concession at 112th and Morningside Avenue, for which an RFP is going out shortly. They spoke about the controversial dog run at 142nd and Riverside, which neighbors want gone and local dog owners want to keep.

The Arts committee announced that the George Bruce Library will be installing tracks for paintings to be displayed, and until they are installed, art can be displayed on shelves. They brought up the use of public schools as rehearsal space for local artists, and reported on the successful Children's Village at Harlem Lights, including many organizations with WHDC grants.

The Senior Issues committee is working with Healthy Living to teach forms of exercise other than walking/running to seniors. They spoke about problems at Manny Wilson Towers, where issues with management led them to convene a meeting with the building president.

The Education committee reported on meeting with Neighborhood Charter School, which is consolidating its three campuses into a new privately owned building on St. Nicholas Avenue that will open in July 2019, and with representatives of the Connecting Youth Initiative at Columbia.

Action Items

A letter to LendLease was adopted unanimously following a motion by VE and second by GMT.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm by a motion from AF.