

Manhattan Community Board 9

~~Exec~~ Board Meeting

January 9, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:42pm. Agenda and minutes adopted.

Chair's Report

Lots of open issues with opportunities for cross-committee collaboration around 125th street McDonald's site, 12th Avenue corridor.

Board is diverse by design and different points of view are expected. Disrespect of fellow board members not tolerated; assume the best intentions of others board members.

MBPO's second hearing on Religious Facilities at Harlem Hospital on Jan. 14.

Seeking meeting with NYPD and DA's office about investigation into Tessa Majors murder.

Talking to Department of Homeless Services about encampments in neighborhood. Relationships with outreach workers increases likelihood that homeless individuals will enter shelter meeting their needs.

District Manager's Report

Office relocation moving forward. Rep. Espaillat hosting state of the district event on Jan. 30 at I.S. 218.

Treasurer's Report

Report on discretionary funds from last year forthcoming following meeting with Rev. Morgan-Thomas. Deadline to apply for discretionary money: Jan. 31, 5pm, to Chair, Treasurer, and DM.

Committee Reports

Senior Issues, AF

Senior attendance is down. Eventually hope to alternate meeting locations between Hamilton Grange Library and George Bruce Library. Attendees prefer Tuesdays for meetings.

Parks & Landmarks, AC

Playground 125 (123rd and Morningside Ave.) will be redesigned: tennis court, soccer field, play area with fitness equipment. Discussed lighting and NYPD activity in Morningside Park since incident. Plan for new flood lights inside park. Field house at north end of park to become substation for PEP officers.

Health & Environment, MAF

Precincts provided reports on opioid usage and overdoses, which are down. Department of Health and NYPD numbers show no catastrophic epidemic in our district.

Economic Development, MD

Recognizing family-run business in community for 100 years, and starting to recognize others for 35+ years. Sugar Hill, a 4th part of CB9, should be included on CB9 literature. First Macy's parade started on Convent Avenue.

Arts & Culture, DH

Vy Higginsen presented on vocal therapy work in schools, also offering adult programs. J. Varela, artist with pop-up gallery across from City College, looking for information. Need for affordable space for artists – possibility for art/performance space from Columbia, which is part of CBA.

Strategic Planning, VE

Reminder that CBA is available to be used, and that time is ticking. Suggestion of economic incubator in Janus space.

Uniformed Services & Transportation, CT

Calls to DOT regarding M100 bus and 12th Avenue. Subway at 137th and Broadway getting an elevator.

Housing, Land Use, Zoning, AT

Public hearing at City Council on Intro 783-A to amend Local Law 64 (exempt HDFCs from housing portal).

Youth, Education, Libraries, SW

Plan Spring resource fair. Meeting on Imagine NYC Schools – plan for new high school in District 6. Investigating overcrowding at PS125/Ralph Bunche – need testimony as well as Blue Book numbers.

Presentation

Detective Jason Harper, 26th Precinct

Homicide on Wednesday, December 11 in lower part of Morningside Park. One 13-year old arrested. Two suspects taken into custody but not charged. Discussions with Borough Park Commissioner and Public Safety at Columbia to coordinate allocation of resources. Plans for better public dissemination of information – Columbia will put out newsletter for student population including information put out by 26th precinct on social media. DOT will replace lights in all parks and clear some growth to improve visibility. Flash cameras can alert people to park closing.

For the time being, increased uniform presence and flood lights in Morningside Park. Cameras in St. Nicholas Park help as crime deterrent and investigation tool. Plans to add 2 at strategic places in Morningside Park.

Discussion and questions followed about general safety measures in CB9 parks and specific investigation into this homicide, including the department's practices with respect to interrogating minors and making information about investigations public.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.