

Manhattan Community Board 9  
June 11, 2020  
Executive Committee

Meeting conducted over Zoom.

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm.

Agenda adoption moved AT, seconded MAF. Minutes adoption moved VE, seconded DH.

### **Presentations**

#### **Khadijah Abdurahman and Maurice Dowell, We Be Imagining podcast/American Assembly**

Affiliated with Columbia University, broadcast on WKCR. University looking to create information network and ways to be in public conversation with the community and not just come to community when they need something. Lots of public programming planned before Covid.

Research focus on research analytics and the public sector -- algorithms used with/for non-profits, circumventing democratic process. Other projects/programming include Black Siren Radio. WKCR has had a lot of historical and cultural significance. Looking for ways besides Zoom to be online -- example of Hitchhiker Chrome plug-in for online performance art.

No specific request, but looking to engage with the community and find relevant and appealing topics for discussion on the show.

Committee members made suggestions for topics for discussion on community radio.

#### **Chair's Report, BW**

Recent conversations with DOE, and 30th Precinct - virtual town hall with Capt. Soto this past week. Important to talk about what policing in our community looks like. Looking to replicate with 26th Pct.

Time for reimagining what our society ought to look like. Why did we fail badly at handling pandemic, and how do we deal with institutions with systemic racism built in? Why doesn't our neighborhood get money for economic development, and why are we met with skepticism when we try to hold a powerful institution to promises they made?

Lessons for making our meetings more accessible for those who can't attend in person -- our job to involve everyone with a stake in the future of our neighborhood.

#### **Treasurer's Report, AT**

Funds committed but not yet spent: supplies, renewing service contracts, and A/V equipment to equip new offices to better support future remote-friendly meeting, and headsets for real-time translation. Committee chairs should call City Council to ensure CB funding not taken out of budget. CB are a source of innovation for local problem-solving. Small amount but important to our community.

#### **District Manager's Report, EP**

Don't forget to fill out census -- some board members have responded that they already filled it out. CB9 collaborating with Riverside Church on new coronavirus nasal swab and antibody

testing site: June 16 to July 11, T/W/Sa 9am-5pm. Some committees meeting over summer: review CB9 calendar for calendar dates.

AT added reminder to tell your networks to fill out the Census!

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Economic Development & Harlem Piers, Joyce Adewumi**

Trying to get a list of local businesses to assess needs during pandemic. Thanks to Victor and Quenia Abreu for helping get in touch with local electeds and businesses. Connecting businesses to services available to them. Get in touch with other CBs to understand what they're doing.

#### **Housing, Land Use, & Zoning, April Tyler**

Resources for small homeowners and HDFCs, which aren't written into assistance. Hopefully will not have regularly scheduled meetings this summer. Will be meeting with developers to stay on top of projects. Trying to get Childs Memorial site (working with WHDC, CM Levine, MBPO) to be permanent affordable housing, not a shelter. Hold a community webinar on June 22nd to discuss. Monitoring legislation affecting HDFCs.

#### **Health & Environment, Miriam Aristy-Farer**

DOH attended last meeting to update on Covid. Department is shifting to address health equity and address disparities, looking for support on how to do in community. Local priorities: asthma, hypertension, diabetes. Figure out how to reach people on those issues. Also gave update on overdoses/addiction. Smoke-Free NY (helps buildings go smoke-free) also presented, looking for buildings, block associations, community members to help draft policies. No word from OASAS. Argus breaking ground on 145th street methadone clinic. Committee will meet over summer.

#### **Landmarks & Parks, Anthony Carrion**

Petition for Play Fair campaign to enhance budget for parks in NYC; dept facing 100s of layoffs. Committee's Omission Project, historic preservation effort to revisit history of monuments/statues, and recognize important local historic figures like Jenny Benitez. Street photography component, with a local photographer offering lessons this summer. LPC will amend (on paper) location of Hamilton Grange historic designation following its physical movement ten years ago.

#### **Senior Issues, Martin Wallace/Anthony Fletcher**

Addressed budget concerns with Sen. Jackson's office. NYCHA raising rent; need to secure funding to offset increase. Questions about whether meals programs and city food czar will continue after crisis. Concern about budget: both possibility of city funds to close families' budget gaps for NYCHA rent increases, and maintenance of senior center services after reopening can begin. Plan to meet over summer. Working to collect contact information in preparation for future crises. Held warm remembrance of Earnestine Welch.

#### **Arts & Culture, Harriet Rosebud**

Concerned about artists' housing and employment issues. Summer projects: create an action video of artists; letter-writing campaign to members of Congress to ensure artists' voices are heard; work on letter of support for Rep. Espaillat's plan including support for artists.

#### **Youth, Education, Libraries, Shaneeka Wilson**

Monthly meeting will take place next week. Meeting with Deputy Chancellor of DOE about CSS. Need to push for resources for schools in face of budget cuts. Goal is to improve physical conditions of school while community benefits agreement is in effect.

### **Uniformed Services, Pat Johnson/Carolyn Thompson**

Spoke to DOT about Citibike. Not meeting over summer. Two liquor licenses approved. Buses were not going into Riverbank State Park during curfew. Successful town hall with Capt. Soto last week. Shooting in 26th a few weeks ago.

### **Strategic Planning, Victor Edwards**

Distributed hand sanitizer and masks with PWJ and Sen. Jackson. Attended food distribution for seniors at Grant Houses. Many people were lined up well in advance; shows demand and need. Committee meeting next week: reentry program for those returning home to Manhattanville and Grant Houses. Talking to YEL about lack of SYEP this summer and problem of 70K idle youth this summer. Time for businesses to put money up to sponsor summer jobs so program can continue.

### **Action Items**

1. Resolution on interest rates for homeowners (HLUZ): passes 18-0-0-0.

### **New Business**

1. MW: CB9 member was arrested while peacefully protesting during the curfew, and spent the night in jail. Will prepare a board reso to address inappropriate police response.
2. AC: repeal of stock transfer tax rebate. Letter to Gov. Cuomo to hold onto those taxes that have already been collected, and spend them on important local needs:  
<https://www.neweconomynyc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/STT-Coalition-Letter-5.28.20.pdf>

Meeting adjourned 8:42PM.