

**Manhattan Community Board 9
Executive Committee
November 14, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 6:39PM.

Agenda amended to add a Presentation from NCOs from the 26th Precinct, and to provisionally add an old business item for Padmore John to speak on the Census day of action. Agenda adopted as amended. Minutes from October meeting adopted.

Presentations

NCOs from 26th Precinct, Sgt. Henry Bautista

Sgt. Bautista spoke along with three officers who cover the three areas. NCO program helps to some extent investigate crimes and make arrests, and helps especially with 311-type complaints, e.g., noise complaints, drug and alcohol use that do not rise to severity of 911. Program in this precinct has existed for two years. Still working on getting the word out via word of mouth and email notifications and build-the-block meetings, including some at George Bruce Library.

Responding to question about opioid overdoses: precinct has not seen a spike in the 26th. Community members shared concerns about plans for new drug treatment facilities in the neighborhood.

Attendance Update, 2nd Vice Chair Victor Edwards

Per the by-laws a total of 7 absences (excused or unexcused) or 5 unexcused results in automatic removal from the board.

Jasmine Chavez had twelve absences since her appointment in April and apparently requested a resignation that was never received by the board office.

Jenny Garcia, 3 unexcused and 2 excused, was not present.

Rev. Georgette Morgan-Thomas, 3 unexcused absences, was not present.

April Tyler, 3 excused, 3 unexcused. In one case, an excused absence was requested. Working as a temporary paralegal, which involves long days, making scheduling unpredictable. Attends four standing CB meetings along with ad hoc events and meetings.

There was brief discussion about the by-laws provision to automatically remove a member after 7 absences, and the way that might disadvantage someone, like April Tyler, who has standing conflicting obligations, or a professional conflict, or sits on more than the usual number of committees, or who generally adds substantial value to the board's activities.

Chair's Report

Last night was excellent HDFC awards dinner: nice to spend time to celebrate victories. CB9 members have spent many hours fighting to preserve HDFCs. 501 W 143rd was building of the year: CB9 member Anita

Cheng accepted on behalf of her building and credited community help with keeping building an affordable option. Will Buckery and C. Virginia Fields also honored.

Budget priorities have been submitted. Incumbent on committee co-chairs to talk with agency contacts about whether priorities are included in mayor's budget, and if not why not, and decide whether to push Council to add them. District office has shared agency contacts and will do so again this year: need to stay on top of them to make sure priorities get funded. Borough President also has capital funds available: separate info sessions for schools and non-profits are upcoming.

In the near and medium term, Manhattanville will be source of a variety of issues before multiple committees: small businesses, street lighting, ferry service, Marine Transfer Station, Janus factory district coming online, privatization of NYCHA housing. Executive committee will be a place to share ideas and coordinate efforts. Chair will convene Uniformed Services, Land Use, and Economic Development specifically to discuss 12th Avenue. Ensure all major players working on concert with the same accurate information.

At General Board Meeting, Columbia will be presenting plan for "Site Zero" (former McDonalds at 125th/Broadway): 410 foot tower for student housing can be built as of right. Was intended to be a public school under CBA, but returned to Columbia by the city under Mayor Bloomberg. Next door factory buildings will be torn down to create University conference center and hotel.

Anthony Fletcher raised possibility of legal avenue to enforce obligations under CBA, that Columbia should construct public school space, if not at former McDonald's site, then at one of the other currently undeveloped plots Columbia owns. A discussion followed about the need for permanent space for CSS and TCCS.

Montefiore Park Plaza construction has begun: CB9 member Michael Palma was present for groundbreaking. Good model of communication with the community from Department of Design and Construction.

Treasurer's Report

Talk to Treasurer and District Manager about ways to use funds. New guidelines on how CBs are spending in light of other boards' questionable use of funds. System of laying out funds for CB events and getting reimbursed now needs to happen through city vendors – individuals won't be able to lay out funds and get reimbursed. Potential solutions could be getting local businesses to become city vendors, or finding a non-profit unaffiliated with the board to become a fiscal conduit, which often comes with an administrative fee. Boards will begin to get purchasing cards.

District Manager's Report

Yesterday was Census recruitment day. Over 20 people visited district office to register for jobs. Two finished previously started applications. Jobs pay \$25/hour. Does not interfere with income levels for purposes of government benefits.

Sad to announce passing of Jenny Benitez, volunteer who with her family created Jenny's Garden in Riverside Park.

Wednesday, November 20 is Holiday Lights. A few spots left to ride on the CB9 float.

Committee Reports

Senior Issues, Anthony Fletcher

Attendance is low: competing with senior lunch times. Public library offered to continue holding meetings at 12pm on Tuesday or 11am on Wednesday, which would allow higher attendance. Committee will vote on that question in December. Officer Clifford spoke about senior crimes.

Parks & Landmarks, Jonathan Thomas and Anthony Carrion

Three letters of support coming before General Board meeting. Updates include renovation of Jacob Schiff, Morningside Park field re-sodding has started. Latter may cause conflict with Harlem Eat Up, so looking to proactively talk to Parks Department and Arts & Culture and Economic Development to find a solution. Letter forthcoming on ADA ramp at 380 Riverside at 111th, a landmarked building.

Youth, Education, & Libraries, Shaneeka Wilson and Deirdre McIntosh-Brown

Columbia University's Henry Danner (Director of Youth Initiatives, Office of Government & Community Affairs) spoke about community youth initiatives. Did not get details on numbers and results that committee hoped for. Program needs help contacting community and school leaders to increase their presence. List of recipients of Thompson-Munoz Scholarship to attend Columbia (for uptown students) was missing a few major local high schools: committee will follow up: they may not be promoting this to local public high schools when they visit to promote their programming. Many recipients are graduates of independent schools.

Meeting House after school program helps students with difficulty making friends (especially bullies and bullied) to help them reevaluate their choices and assimilate into healthy social culture.

Uniformed Services & Transportation

Various licenses and renewals have been approved by precincts.

Housing & Land Use, April Tyler

Task Force on TV and Filming submitted letter to Commissioner in Mayor's Office of Film & Entertainment asking for moratorium in certain areas of CB9: 6 months of no filming, primarily in Hamilton Heights/City College area.

Law passed last year would require landlords of new construction/renovated houses, when units become vacant, to keep them rent stabilized. Many are being illegally turned to market rate. HDFCs also have to put new apartments into HPD lottery, which get thousands of applications, with penalties for failing to handle the applications. Intended for landlords but have negative effects for shareholders. Intro 1783-A now before Council thanks to CM Levine to exempt HDFCs.

Proposed development on 142nd and Riverside – a vacant lot at the corner and demolish three townhouses. Have asked for a variance but developers are harassing tenants. Letter will ask for remedies and halt permits until issue is resolved.

Arts & Culture, Harriet Rosebud

Sugar Hill Museum of Arts and Storytelling came to committee. Answered question about what it takes to be an artist in residence. Worked with a number of organizations that are WHDC grant recipients, pushing them to focus more on serving people of CB9, and other committees should do the same. Children's Village at Harlem Holiday Lights is next Wednesday, November 20. About 12 community organizations participating.

Economic Development & West Harlem Piers, Maritta Dunn

Committee will visit Janus Factory District site. New committee members are active participants.

Strategic Planning, Victor Edwards

DA granting \$3M arising from 2014 NYCHA raid for community restoration project to Osborn Association, Living Redemption, and Taylon Murphy's organization. Focus on capacity building like job training, especially for those moving back into NYCHA.

Health, Miriam Aristy-Farer

Two presenters this month: WHDC recipient Broadway Soup Kitchen on 112th and Lotus Health & Wellness, Melissa Solomon, on 126th and Amsterdam. Lotus is an HIV treatment/wellness center. Received large grant from the state, but have not yet determined exactly what they are doing yet. Potentially including full family treatment facility, hospice care. Goal is apparently 5,000 visits per day.

Action Items

All letters will go before the full board.

New Business

Letter requested to Council Speaker and CM Levine in support of timely full rezoning of Morningside Heights. This is a standing position of the full board and the Chair will draft a letter reiterating the board's position. Goal is to prevent rezoning from getting sidelined by the budget process.

Health committee requests a temporary co-chair while Edwin Torres is on LOA for his academic work.

Anthony Carrion shared information from a climate change panel at Columbia. By 2100, sea level rise will reach 2 meters over current level. Storm surges on the scale of Hurricane Sandy will be more common. Sea walls are largely short-term solutions and may have negative externalities. This poses a particular threat to Manhattanville and the 125th street corridor, which have no natural barriers.

Returning to the question of attendance and absences, the Chair suggested a motion acknowledging the by-laws and the dilemma of board members who sit on more committees not being allowed any additional absences, and expressing the board's desire to make this easier for those board members. Anthony Fletcher suggested whether we should go into Executive Session and waive application of that by-laws provision. Because no board member who wishes to remain on the board is at risk of automatic removal, the issue was set aside for a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.