

Manhattan Community Board 9  
Executive Committee Meeting  
October 10, 2019

6:39PM meeting called to order. CT moves to adopt agenda, GMT seconds. Adopted. CT moves to adopt minutes, TK seconds. Adopted.

### **Chair's Report**

Budget: Oct 31 deadline to update district needs statement, updated capital budget priorities for FY21. MBPO feedback that CBs don't update their statements – account for priorities that have been funded. Use DCP's Community Profiles tool online. CB9 hearing on Oct. 28 at 6:30pm.

City Council supports Morningside Heights rezoning study and is willing to spend funds to conduct rezoning study, which DCP refuses to do.

Concern about anecdotal data re: homeless encampments, and drug and gang related shootings. Met with Inspector Soto from 30<sup>th</sup> precinct, which will work to maintain relationships with those on the block. Lack of consistency by city in dealing with homeless encampments: cleaning at 138<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Ave was conducted but individuals moved belongings back soon thereafter. Relationship building between case workers and homeless individuals is essential. Concerning trend could lead to backsliding residential appeal and safety in our neighborhood. Essential to build supportive housing for formerly homeless.

TheCity.nyc published an article accusing CB9 of giving funds to a non-profit run by a board member. The board did use a non-profit as a fiscal conduit to purchase school supplies for an annual back to school event, per guidance from the MBPO from FY2013. The story is regrettable and reflects poor editorial standards. Chair plans to put a statement on CB9 website and speak privately with the site's editor.

A discussion ensued among committee members. Anthony Fletcher, recent former Board treasurer, pointed out that the Treasurer does not make payments directly, and that the CB has no direct knowledge of when/whether the payments are issued. The Chair intends to receive written COIB guidance for the future.

Exec committee passed a resolution on community voices sitting on TPT Task Force; CB9's April Tyler was appointed to the task force, along with another community member.

### **Presentations**

#### **Borough President's Office, Rosie Mendez, Director of Community Affairs**

MPBO requests a resolution in support of Monumental Women: a statue to sit in Central Park on Literary Row of Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Public Design Commission will take up the proposal on October 21. CBs around Central Park are

being asked to weigh in. The design has gone through a round of revisions to focus on these three women.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Report is provided in packets.

### **District Manager's Report, Eutha Prince**

List of budget priorities is provided for the Board to identify their top priorities. Draft calendar for November and December is provided; worked to accommodate holidays including Election Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

CB9 invited by the City to groundbreaking at Montefiore Park Plaza, Oct. 23 at 9am, Hamilton Place and 138<sup>th</sup> street. A board representative is invited to speak.

CB9 asked to cosponsor DOT Bike Share information sessions about northward expansion. Also asked to cosponsor CB8's Charter Revision Town Hall, Oct. 24 at High School for Art & Design.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Uniformed Services, Carolyn Thompson**

Spoke about meters on Amsterdam and road safety at 145<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, near PS153. Plan is to put a curbstone at the corner, replacing plastic bollards. Committee does not agree with the DOT's assessment that redesign at intersection is relevant to safety of school, which is closer to Amsterdam.

Board member gave thanks for Eutha for helping to reclaim parking spaces being illegally held by construction company on Amsterdam.

#### **Senior Issues, Anthony Fletcher**

Appeal for more CB members to be assigned to the committee. Encourage seniors in the neighborhood to attend, and ask George Bruce library to allow committee to meet at 11am rather than noon (when it opens) due to conflict with lunchtime at senior centers. Related issue of budget cuts affecting library hours. May need to consider other meeting space.

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

Holiday Lights Children's Village planning is underway. Community partners have signed on to assist. Will be held at Harlem Commonwealth Council. Requests board members assistance.

New project from BID for collaboration between arts & culture CB9 and CB10. Looking to rival Windwood Walls in Miami. Pilot will involve one artist nominated from each committee. Second phase will be a Harlem artist, then national, then international.

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

Suggestion for future budget discussions: committee sent out a SurveyMonkey survey to collect committee members' priorities, saving time on discussion. Another board member recommended Google Forms, which is free.

### **Economic Development & West Harlem Piers, Maritta Dunn**

Sent letter to 125<sup>th</sup> Street Duane Reade regarding blocked window that creates a safety hazard by making it difficult to see in from the street.

Thanks to new committee members who have stepped up with giving their time. Marine Transfer Station still a topic of discussion. Local elected officials surprised that last letter of support was voted down. Revised letter put forward with strong request for approval. MBPO supports the idea and offered to convene meeting to discuss. Board chair recommended involving WEACT, being sure to incorporate amendments from previous versions, and reframing the resolution to support an open RFP process rather than supporting a single company's proposed plan.

### **Health, Edwin Torres & Miriam Aristy-Farer**

Long discussion on methadone clinics and disproportionate representation in Harlem. Concerns other committees because investments in schools, libraries, community spaces, etc. are affected by opening of clinics. Every committee needs to be alert to influx of clinics: BID, electeds all support moratorium.

Additional risk for pharmaceutical companies to benefit from treatments that are not in best interest of clients. Call for local universities to conduct research on modern efficacy of treatments and look for alternatives to methadone.

Looking to collaborate with Senior Issues committee.

### **Housing & Land Use, Barry Weinberg**

HDFCs, foreclosure and local law 64 requiring online portal to create a lottery system, imposes fines for failure to respond to applicants. Talk on TV and Film moratorium. MHHDC gave update on rezoning work. Passed DDC resolution to be voted on next week. Look out for shoddy construction and referrals to DA's construction fraud task force, especially HPD-subsidized projects.

### **LGBTQ Task Force, Barry Weinberg**

Film screening on James Baldwin, I Am Not Your Negro, at the Chipped Cup, with discussion following. Discussion of budget priorities.

### **Census, Barry Weinberg**

Columbia will hold Census employment fair to sign up individuals to work Census jobs. Human Resources Administration advised that income from temporary Census jobs will be exempted from budget calculations affecting cash aid and other benefits. In January 2020, Columbia will

hold informational panel on importance of responding. Will encourage local organizations to apply to funding from Complete Count Fund to target undercounted census tracts.

### **Action Items**

Action Item 1 re: DDC pre-project stakeholder meetings for water shutdowns, traffic changes, etc. Resolution was unanimously recommended for adoption.

Action Item 2 re: Monumental Women. Unanimously recommended for adoption.

Action Item 3 re: Marine Transfer Station. Discussion concerning opening up bid process rather than recommending a single vendor in our letter. Vote to recommend letter for adoption with corresponding changes passed 12-1-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.