

Community Board #9 Manhattan

16-18 Old Broadway

New York, New York, 10027

General Board Meeting

Thursday, November 15, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:45PM. At this time a quorum was not reached. The Borough President's office related that there were no RSVP's for community board nine for the community board reception. Ms. Saxon gave the telephone number and website for reservations for the Community Board Reception Textile recycling is happening in East Harlem. Immediate assistance is available through the BP's office for Sandy Victims. Community Board application letters have been sent out for re-appointment. She related that the BPs office is conducting a food drive for Hurricane Sandy victims.

Ms. Rocker spoke on the sewage situation at Riverbank. The Hudson River Foundation has 1.2million dollars available for Board nine programs. She urged residents to apply. The next meeting will be January 7th. The Friends of Riverbank Park held a Urban League College fair and it was well attended. She reported that the waste that sewage plant was cleared in six hours by DEP and other agencies at the plant. Ms. Rocker invited anyone to donate blankets and food to Riverside Church for the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

At 6:45PM the role was called again. We did not have a quorum. Dr. Matthew Cordalo an Advisory Board member of New York AREA and former CEO of Midwest ISO, transition expert presented "How New Yorkers Receive Electricity". He spoke of the different types of energy producers, solar, nuclear and wind. NY is zone J and 31,000 watts of power are delivered to the State with New York City and Long Island receiving 50% of that power. Discussion followed concerning the transmission lines and the National Grid. He related information concerning coal fire electricity. Nuclear and Hydro electricity.

AB Indian Point sits on a fault. Yucca Mountain facility is 100 miles in the middle of the Mojave Desert but people are fighting to shut that down because it takes thousands of years for plutonium to degrade and no longer be harmful to humans and then you have to have serious weapons to keep the bad guys from stealing it. If you generate that kind of stuff I don't see how you can call that clean. The by-product of Indian Point it totally unclean. Where do you put it? Why do you call it clean?

Mr. Codalo One of the advantages of nuclear power is the solid waste. Ninety seven percent of that is recyclable. They adopted a policy in the United States not to reprocess nuclear waste. In France they do.

Mr. Obie B One of the things that you spent twenty minutes discussing transmission and this is important to this community. This community, Washington Heights and inwood , West Harlem has suffered more black outs and brown outs never due to transmission. Transmission has never been our problem. The problem in the Edison system which is built up of 38 networks is faulty distribution

networks. Ours is the most antiquated in the city. It is important for us to know where this transmission comes from but for this community it means very little if this electricity is not distributed to our constituents in a safe way. It is important to note that for you it has never been a problem. There are two systems, a transmission system and a distribution system. Our elected officials should help improve our distribution system. Why don't you talk about the distribution system?

Mr. C. Con Edison needs to address the distribution system. I am not a part of Con Edison.

WS You said there is excess power upstate why don't you bring a transmission system down the NY state thruway? You can bury it in the middle of the highway.

Mr. C That is one of the things on the table.

OB Just last year right down Broadway Con Edison built a state of the art 375mega watt transmission coming down Broadway. Of course, it doesn't do us any good. But we do have a major transmission line that was built and completed by Con Edison.

AB What if Indian Point two went down?

Mr. C It probably wouldn't matter because the load was so low that it could be taken up by other sources.

Jl In your presentation you have information for NY energy demand profile from 200, can we get more updated information? They haven't released any more information.

Mr. C. This is information from the highest demand date.

Jl So it is higher now. Why is it lower now?

Mr. C That is cause of the demand being low and the weather.

Jl So people are actually using less?

Mr. C. well that varies from time to time. That can change in the summer.

LE You should never let take advantage of a disaster. The reality of it right now is the federal government and the Governor will be looking at rebuilding this grid. Now is the time for this community to step up and have their voices heard and make sure that they are at the table and be sure that these issues are a part of the in the future rehabilitation. This is an opportunity, as tragic as it is, looking at fixing New York right now we need to make sure that our voices are heard and demand that this community and Washington Heights and other communities be a part of that.

Chair People don't even understand where the energy comes from and so this is the first step of at least educating. Some of us do know but many do not. So we have to now step up as a district and begin to talk about it. This is the time. We have to not have to be frightened to death as to whether or not we are going to be blacked out or brown out.

JC Are there any records to show that the New York City energy code has made a difference with flows of electricity with the revised code how to use maximum one office per foot for apartment or homes ?

MR. C. I think there is. It definitely has an impact. In fact some agencies chart the value of measures such as this as well as most energy conservation and efficiency programs.

Chair For those board members who are interested we can set aside a time, maybe with the Health and Environment committee to have a very astute person to come and present to us exactly what the effects of the tsunami were and how it affects Indian Point. Jamal, can we set that up in the next couple of weeks. We will have a very comprehensive report at the next Health and Environment committee meeting.

We have a quorum now. We are going to call the meeting to order. The Assemblyman Denny Farrell has another meeting. This was very important. Years ago in the forties and fifties they said we would be able to bring in electricity from anywhere and if we do, we would never have to worry about it. The lights went down in Cleveland and we went down three hours later.

Chair Can we get a motion to adopt the agenda? I do see some errors. Is see that it lists the Treasurer as AF and there are some others? Can we get a motion to adopt the agenda with necessary corrections? Transco cancelled and I have been talking with Obie B and he has been the voice of this community in the process that we were not involved in so he agreed to come tonight. Transco's engineer had to be out of town and so OB will speak tonight. We will have discussion tonight about the gas meter station on 134th street. In the minutes there are some corrections I think it said Broadway Housing did not answer and they did answer. I have a statement that we will share with everyone so can we get a motion to adopt the minutes with the necessary corrections, so can we get a motion to adopt the minutes with the necessary corrections.

So moved.

Chair Let the secretary know of the corrections. I do not have a report in the packet because I have been involved with the efforts to help with the Sandy relief efforts. It is worse than you can imagine. I want to thank those of you who have contributed. People have been so appreciative of the flashlights and blankets. We have been going out to Far Rockaway to help with the efforts to help those who are in need. The redistricting hearing, working with Broadway housing, the ribbon cutting at City College, meeting with the WHLDC to try to give input regarding the forum and then participating in the domestic violence conference and the 30th precinct community council and clergy meeting preparing to move forward to with some strategy to eliminate the crime amongst the young people in our community. Broadway Housing did respond in writing and I will make sure that everyone gets a copy of the letter.

The chair read a letter from Broadway Housing dated 10/23, concerning construction. There were no members from the community (except board members) at the meeting.

BM They did come to the meeting and give an update.

PJ said that construction issues were abating.

VG There was a question in the presentation that there would be a look at surrounding structures for any structural damage that might have been caused and we have not gotten a report back on that.

NM They said there was a monitor and that there was no structure damage. There is a full time monitor checking at different times of the day regarding any structural damage and noise level and everything was okay. None was reported.

VG Who reported there was no structural damage?

CM It is actually by law there has to be an independent full time environmental monitor at different times of the day and there was none reported.

Chair They will be coming at regular intervals. We will ask them to come back and address that a little more specifically.

VG I would suggest that for our record that we have a written document when that statement was made and that we have a written document then if the dept. of buildings has signed off on it we should have a copy of that document as well for the records.

Chair We will check and see what information the dept. of buildings has available.

BM For last month nobody had any questions about the budget. They are no guarantees about the next fiscal budget.

IS there a surplus for the end of the year?

Chair What we intend to do is come the spring the projection will be clear and we can look at what we intend to do. Typically we will look at supplies. That becomes clearer about March. If committees have projects they should let the District Manager know and we will look at allocating that money to them.

EW They have to have a budget.

Chair Our District Manger had a family emergency and will be out of the office for about three to four weeks. We are working to set up some tasks to see that Zita and Ray are handling some things and I am checking with them a little closer. Last month people were concerned about the 134th street meter station and I have indicated that OB had spoken to me and have been giving me great information which enabled me to know who to contact at Williams Transco. They will still send their engineer to meet with us. So OB has been a part of this process and he can speak to it and so he will be able to speak to us about it.

OB Presented information about the 134th street Meter station. He has been working with Councilman Jackson to review this process and report. He filed response to Washington with the Federal commission where he expressed his concerns. Certainly in this area they are going to do excavation and construction. Our distribution system is 100 years old. When they put the system in it

was faulty. He met with engineers to go over permits. He sat down with Con Edison and engineers. They want to modify this low pressure station to a high pressure station. Times and dates of meeting are available in Councilman Jackson's office. Transco has to produce an environmental impact statement which was done on August 1st which was supposed to clear up some issues. You have to make sure it is done correctly. There are thirty days to review this study and report. It should be made available to the community for input and discussion.

Chair Our Chair for Health and Environment is here so hopefully he will be able to make some summaries for us.

CS Could we get a copy of the impact statement?

BT We have seen the architectural design

Chair Would you get back to Ray about that?

OB It is an impact study about 1000 pages maybe about 300 pages are about this project.

Chair OB can you give us a summation of some sort. Can you take out those parts which concern us?

OB What I would like to share with you is my biggest concerns about the project.

BT I would like to thank you for your work. Obviously you put in a lot of time with this. I was wondering, was our committee involved in any of those discussions?

Chair No. I was at a board meeting and this was going on and OB had said to me that those gas lines were over 100 years old. OB has been involved with this from the beginning. How we got out of the loop I don't know but, once I found out I immediately made sure we were back in the loop.

BT As you said you had some comments early on and submitted those, I should think that our community board should also submit something at that point. Also, you said the impact statement was submitted August first and we had thirty days to respond to that and that has expired. Now you are talking about we having a month is that some sort of formal.

OB Yes, from the time they file their application there is a 90 day process. So you file, I expressed my concerns about the project negative and positive and you go back and forth and at some point they get permission from the Federal govt. to do it or they don't get permission. You pick out the pertinent issues and concerns you have because this will be the first high pressure gas plant in this community.

BT It would be very useful if we could see some of those comments that you sent in.

OB Actually, Nicole you have the docket number and this stuff is on line and you can see some my concerns and some of the things I asked them and how we are going to deal with certain issues and things that are really concerned with.

Chair Would you want to give Brad the address to be able to get that information?

OB Yes

Chair This was sent out a month ago but we will re-send it.

OB My comments will be when they actually file for the project. When Councilman Jackson gave me the initial proposal I responded. I responded to the Federal Regulatory Commission. I have a copy of our last meeting and some of my concerns. Asbestos was discussed and the abatement of it. You can get it from Councilman Jackson's office.

AT A suggestion if there is a capability of scanning the smaller documents maybe the Board can scan those and e-mail those and send us the links to get the information.

OB I am here representing the Councilman and I think you can contact his office.

Chair I will reach out to the Councilman's office and ask him if they will release the information.

NM Instead of having a Health committee meeting I think we should have a bigger meeting with the community so they can be aware of what is actually going on.

OB What is happening is Con Ed no longer wants to make electricity, they want to distribute everything. They are saying I will sell you this plant and I am washing my hands of it. Therefore, if I have issues I go to the Con Ed and I say look this is the problem. These people are from Texas. When you have a high pressure gas plant you have gas line that need cathartic protection. They coat the lines and feed them electricity to protect them underwater but it has to be monitored so if Con Ed is not doing this, who is doing it? They are in Texas who is monitoring it. You want to know who is responsible for certain things. You are not going to be able to run to Con Ed with some issues.

Public Session

Dr. Haque requested a letter of support for a visa waiver for Dr. Carol Tunney.

AT Prince Hall Temple on 145th street and they are doing a community Thanksgiving from 12 to 4PM. Re-districting commission had their last meeting and the revised maps have been made. A couple of cuts were made but the community board in district 7 is intact from 96th to 155th street. She has an analysis of demography and she will give copies to the Chair.

AB Liaison for Assemblyman O'Donnell reported on the Health Fair November 3. They are offering free flu shots at the Ryan Center on 97th street. They have a legal clinic on Thursdays for tenant issues at 104th street, the community office.

JC Re-zoning it was rescheduled twice I was wondering whether there is a date?

CO Representing Assemblyman Keith Wright. Hurricane Sandy – there was an emergency site for displaced persons at CUNY. They had space for 150 people. Lots of trees were down and the Parks Department Steve Simon was called and they responded quickly. Uptown cares was helping with

donations for Sandy victims. Unlicensed vendors. They are working on getting licenses for persons in West Harlem because there is a long waiting list for street permits.

CT `There was meeting with the 30th precinct and unlicensed vendors concerning their street activity.

A vote was taken on a letter of support for Dr. Carol Tunney 25 Yes, 2 abstain

A vote was taken on the merger of landmarks and parks 14 yes, 10 no, 2 abstain

By Laws committee Larry English , Chair, L. Walton, J. Nelson, N. Monegro, H.Rosebud.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Singleton