

Manhattan Community Board 9
General Board Meeting
November 21, 2019

As 26 members were present, there was a quorum and Chair called the meeting to order.

Many: To adopt the agenda – UNAM

CT/AT: To adopt the minutes of the October meeting with any necessary emendations - UNAM

Presentations

Update on Manhattanville Development Plan

Marcello Velez, Vice President, Manhattanville Development; David Greenberg, Executive Vice-President for Facilities and Operations; Shailagh Murray, Executive Vice President for Public Affairs, Columbia University

Gave a historical overview, stressing the space needs and the need to grow state of the art facilities; sought open rather than cloistered. Transparency. Discussed open square opposite woodland walk – will have benches [800 feet of seating with study lounge areas. It and the café will be open to the public. There was heated discussion re space for schools. Promised to send slide deck to CB9.

Re the McDonald's site: Demolition of adjacent property to begin 1/20, Excavation in 4/20 with completion in mid '22; will house 142 grad student and faculty apts in 30+ story building. This elicited an outcry from those who remembered that the site had originally been planned to house a school. CU stated that the DOE had stated that the site was not suitable for a school.

Community members raised questions and concerns about Columbia's lack of delivery on promises in CBA; writing a new CBA, or adding an MOU, to establish new commitments from the university; environmental impact studies; the effect of pollution from construction on the community; the interaction between construction traffic for the Columbia 125th plan and traffic from the UTS construction on 122nd;

The university representatives responded that the university has not done enough to communicate the opportunities it provides people, and to fully follow up on all the commitments in the CBA, about the building's LEED certifications (mostly gold, one platinum).

AM O'Donnell said that not turning the McDonald's site into a high rise was a precondition for the entire CBA. Columbia was describing wants, not needs: the mission of the university is not consistent with a need to build a hotel. The university paid to repair the 116th subway station for their 250th anniversary and can do the same for the 125th station. He committed to preventing a high rise from being built at 125th because the university has not kept its commitments and promises.

CM Levine said the community is besieged by overdevelopment, including two towers the height of Riverside Church. These out of scale developments have led to the long overdue action to rezone the neighborhood including a height limit. Gentrification is not a good thing for people who live in the neighborhood -- Tiemann and Claremont is a hotspot. Overcrowding at CSS is unacceptable, and will get worse with hundreds more families. Station at 125th needs new escalators and elevators. Construction jobs need to be local and union.

Porfirio Figueroa (Sen. Robert Jackson's office) read a statement. This property was not in the original CBA, and is being built as of right. Current plan will bring direct benefits only to the university. Need to work together with university to modify plan so it serves key community needs.

Darlene Bruce (AM Al Taylor's office) said we need more protection for people who own/rent; office sees people every day facing eviction. Need to sit down and help the community integrate into Columbia's plans.

April Adams from MBPO Gale Brewer's office said they have met with Columbia multiple times. Concerned about this project, and look forward to continuing the conversation.

Michelle Booker from Congressman Espaillat's office said that efforts to upzone or build out of context as of right is happening all over the district. Growing up in NYC, everyone could live here, which makes it special. Don't displace small business owners, caretakers, beauticians.

Chair's Report, Barry Weinberg

Last night's 125th Street BID holiday lights was a big success. MPBO hosting public hearing on religious institutions and real estate on 11/25 to address challenges local religious institutions are facing and also the burst of development on formerly religiously owned land. Census Employment Recruitment day was successful, and census is still hiring, with goal of 10-15K people in Manhattan.

Treasurer's Report, April Tyler

We have discretionary money from CMs Levine and Perkins. Committees should think about proposals for forums or events and send proposals to District Manager, Treasurer, and Chair. Money must be spent by end of June. Also think about projects to benefit the entire board.

District Manager's Report, Eutha Prince

National Action Network will be providing free Thanksgiving meals at House of Justice on West 145th street. WHDC holiday celebration and toy giveaway on 12/21. Free but tickets required, and for CB9 residents only.

WHDC, Patricia Johnson

WHDC holiday toy giveaway tickets can be obtained at WHDC office on 127th, or by calling WHDC office. Grant Houses had ribbon cutting for smart community initiative to broadcast radio and video. <http://www.ghcr.nyc/>. A cast member from the recent Broadway play *What the Constitution Means To Me* is a CB9 resident.

MBPO Gale Brewer's office, April Adams

Working with CB9 and local businesses to address problems on 12th Ave like the sink hole, poor lighting, and lack of parking. Come to hearing on Monday to share concerns about struggling religious institutions. CB applications are open for 4/1/20 appointments. Available online.

Public Session

Martin Collins

Uptown Arts Stroll poster contest is open and due 2/24/20. Cash prizes to artists from 135th to 220th total \$2500. Graphics will be used on posters, flyers, website for the event.

Martin Wallace, Subcommittee on Street Safety & Design

Visited the 14th street busway today. Prepare community for City Council's new streets master plan. These should help speed up buses in our community. Will organize more streets tours.

Andrew Shawhan

Neighbors are concerned about speed of traffic on Morningside Drive. Not enough places to safely and easily cross the street. Curb cuts only every couple of blocks. For 3 blocks, there are no curb cuts or painted crosswalks -- and cars often park where there are no curb cuts.

Ruben Rahman, Harlem Community Development Corporation

Located at State Office Building on 125th. Going to community boards to get to know what's going on. Lots of free programs available to community through Harlem CDC: for first-time home buyers; for entrepreneurs starting a new business; for businesses to get MWBE certification from the city; grant programs for non-profits, with the next cycle opening in January.

Elected Officials

Congressman Espaillat's Office, Michelle Booker

Congressman will be honoring veterans with a luncheon on 11/25 at State Office Building. Thanks to CB9 for submitting a nominee. Recommendations for military academies available for high school students. Sponsoring bill for \$2 million Small Business Administration growth accelerator fund competition, which passed the House.

Sen. Robert Jackson's Office, Porfirio Figueroa

Holiday party 12/11, working with Angeltree, to ensure gifts for children whose parents are incarcerated.

Action Items

Committee	Item	Vote (Y-N-A)
Housing & Land Use	1	35-1-0
Parks & Landmarks	2	36-0-0
	3	36-0-0
	4	36-0-0
Uniformed Services & Transportation	5	35-0-1
	6	35-0-1
	7	35-0-1
	8	35-0-1
	9	35-0-1
	10	35-0-1
	11	35-0-1
	12	36-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:24pm.