

Manhattan Community Board 9
General Board Meeting
September 19, 2019

The meeting was called to attention by Chair at 6:39 PM.

Meeting is held at the Forum at Columbia, new part of Manhattanville expansion. Columbia University President Bollinger welcomed and addressed the Board and fielded questions from the audience. Had been at CU in 1968 and had been struck by the tensions; he wanted to do something about it. There are no walls in the expansion; openness; views to the river. We must be continuously alert to keep us open.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM. Tonight's agenda and June meeting minutes adopted.

Presentations

Dreamers Academy Steel Pan Drum Program, Earl Weathers, Executive Director

Arts & Culture committee co-chairs Harriet Rosebud and Daria Hardeman introduced the group. Youth program housed in Grant Houses whose mission is to give people access to music. As an after school program, partners with local schools, Grant and Manhattanville Houses, and community centers.

A five-person band played accompanied by dancing from Dances for a Variable Population.

PA'LANTE Harlem, Elsia Vasquez, Founder & Executive Director

Grassroots tenant advocacy organization that has been around for 10 years. "People Against Landlord Abuse and Tenant Exploitation." Ms. Vasquez came to the board requesting a letter of support in 2009 when the organization was starting. Now a WHDC grantee, funding home ownership program.

Assisted over 1000 direct clients to date. Every Saturday, provide legal advice and representation to people facing eviction. Several buildings in CB9 are on worst landlords list in NYC. Represents tenants in TPT and TIL program. Now assisting people to become homeowners. Have assisted HDFCs.

Many TIL buildings are in CB9. Request an even larger commitment from WHDC to help home ownership program. Currently has \$19,000 grant. Ms. Vasquez fielded questions from the audience.

Reports

Chair Barry Weinberg

In addition to his written report, the Chair reported on discussion from the Borough Board meeting: the start of the FY21 budget cycle is upcoming, construction exploit the mechanical void loophole, 2020 census grants have been distributed from the MBPO. Morningside Heights

Community Coalition is meeting tonight to pressure the City Council to undertake a rezoning of the neighborhood, despite a recent second rejection.

Treasurer's Report, Asst. Treasurer Jonathan Thomas

Imprest balance of \$726.40. CB has been awarded \$42,000 from the city and \$12,000 from CM Levine.

District Manager Eutha Prince

Upcoming public hearing for the FY21 budget to set capital and expense priorities for the coming year. Thanks to Columbia for hosting us this month.

MBPO, April Adams

On October 15, "public charge rule" change takes effect: public benefits could be denied on the basis of immigration status. Awareness events are ongoing. Multiple City Charter revision proposals are on the ballot in November, including changes to ULURP, ranked choice voting, and NYPD CCRB. Information sessions will be held throughout the fall. Love Your Block grants up to \$1000 are available for block clean-up or beautification.

Pat Johnson, WHDC Board Member

First annual Harlem Jazz & Music Festival was a resounding success. Flyers for WHDC and Columbia's Pathways to Success program for careers in the construction industry; information sessions will be held at Grant Houses and WHDC training center. Migdalia Rodriguez left retirement to start working again with WHDC for three years, especially in collaboration with the CB9 Arts & Culture committee, and Ms. Johnson thanked her for her work.

Public Session

J Martin – Green

Did not fill out form

Announced event around "I am not your Negro"

M Camp: Citizens Committees

CCNYC Grants; see Citizensnyc.org

Left fliers at back table

N Torres: Shop Healthy Harlem Program

Shop Healthy Harlem is a Dept of Health initiative now working in the 10030 zip code

S Fitzgerald: Neighborhood Screening of "Eyes on the Prize"

A screening of the 14 hour documentary which will take place in George Bruce Library.

Dates Sat afternoons from 1:00 – 4:30, starting 10/12

C Salto: Pathways to Apprenticeship Program

Announced a new cohort starting in collaboration with WHDC for construction jobs
Left fliers on table in back of the room

E Brown: Play Lord! Just one more chance

"I am here on behalf of Ananiah Production. We will be putting on a show, Lord, just one more time at Oberia Dempsy on 11/2. How she overcame sex abuse, and drugs. Price \$20. Left fliers on table at rear of room.

M Dunn: Shared history of interactions with CU

Recognized J Reyes Montblanc and P Jones

P John

Thanks to CU and E Prince for getting us access to the Forum
There will be a meeting of the community and officials 10/5 from 11 – 3 PM to help select from the four finalist artists; we want input. Will have flier for CB to distribute.

Elected Officials

Rep. Espaillat, Michelle Booker

At the first annual Harlem Jazz & Music festival, Rep. Espaillat honored several individuals for their contributions to the arts. Offering applications for military academies for high school seniors. Fighting for sustainability of employment in community, working with colleagues in the region and with American Airlines and union to keep jobs in NYC area. Held a job fair this summer in East Harlem with 300 participants and 30 employers. Introduced bill to help high school students start on college to close the college completion gap, and a bill to prohibit funding for Confederate symbols.

State Sen. Robert Jackson, Porfirio Figueroa, Director of Community Affairs

Upcoming on September 23, criminal justice liberation resource fair for people who have been disenfranchised and incarcerated to teach how to expunge and seal criminal records. Unveiling vision for public school education at Boys and Girls Club of Harlem. Event showcasing opportunities for people 55 and older looking for jobs.

Assm. Al Taylor, Darlene Bruce

Encouraged folks to look at flyers with information on new legislation making changes to housing. Legislation recently signed by governor mandates Epipens at daycare centers to save children who experience allergic reactions. September 25 and 26, job fair for 2020 census opportunities. Relief drive for victims of hurricane in Bahamas. September 21 carnival day. Gave away 4,000 backpacks with supplies at the start of the school year. Interested in legislation to stop loss of affordable housing in the community.

CM Mark Levine

Despite recent setback, Morningside Heights rezoning still an option thanks to Speaker Johnson speaking with the Mayor and committing to use Council resources rather than landmark commission. Council Health committee, which CM Levine chairs, is dealing with Juul and vaping. Council is working to ban fruit flavors which encourage teens to start a habit (in contrast with adult smokers who use vaping as a step down to try to quit.)

Action Items

Action item 1 on Marine Transfer Station from West Harlem Piers and Economic Development committee. Friendly amendment incorporated. Motion to table did not carry (7-28-1). Resolution did not receive a majority of members present (18-11-8).

Action item 2 on Tenant Protection Act from Housing and Land Use, adopted (34-0-3).

Action item 3 on TPT from Housing and Land Use, adopted (37-0-0).

Action item 4 on Dreamers Academy Steel Pan Drum Program from Arts and Culture, adopted (37-0-0).

Action item 5 on renovation at 398 West 145 from Parks and Landmarks, adopted (37-0-0).

Action item 6 on Harlem Meer and Lasker Pool/Rink from Parks and Landmarks, adopted (37-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alec Barrett, Secretary

Ted Kovaleff, Asst. Secretary