

Senior Issues Manhattan Community Board 9

Date: April 2, 2024

Time: 11:00 AM

Location:

Attendees: Hon. Walter T Alexander; Co-Chair Hon., Hon. Lydia Gerson; Hon. Carlton Davis; Hon. Patricia Caldwell; Hon. Francina Wearing, Hon. Liz Eastman, Hon. Patricia Watler-Johnson; **Attendees:** William Hamer, Advocacy for Seniors; Wendy Wong, NYC Aging-Silver Corps; Richard Altman; John McGregor; Lili Lopez; Tony Gonzalez; Anthony Fletcher; Will Haggis (George Bruce Library); Patricia De Vone (sp?); Pat Lewis; Eutha Prince (MCB9),

- I. **Call to Order** Quorum established at 11:04 a.m.
- II. **Adopt Agenda** Chair Alexander asks for a motion to accept the agenda for this month's meeting. Carlton Davis accepted; Lydia Gerson seconded.
- III. **Adopt Minutes** Lydia Gerson made a motion to accept the Minutes; _____ seconded
- IV. **Presentations/Updates/Discussions**
 - a. *Wendy Wong, Director, Silver Corps Program*
 - i. Silver Corps is a NYC Initiative ; funded by Americorps
 - ii. It serves adults 55+
 - iii. The program tries to incorporate the idea of volunteerism and skills development for a return to the workforce
 - iv. The NYC Dept. Of Aging offers several other programs to assist older adults to return to the workforce:
 1. Older Adult Employment Program
 2. Silver Stars
 3. Civic Engagement Employment Service (ReServe)
 4. Foster Grandparent Program
 - b. *Diarah N'Daw -Speech, Art MattanFilms*
 - i. ArtMattan films is based in Harlem
 - ii. Distributor of films that focus on the African Diaspora
 - iii. Shown during an annual Contemporary African Diaspora Film Festival in New York
 - iv. Interested in starting a senior program in Harlem with films that would be appropriate for older audiences
 - c. *William Hamer, Executive Director, Harlem Advocacy for Seniors*
 - i. Program started in 2011
 - ii. Funding from City and State
 - iii. In 2016 Program became a 501 C 3 Not for Profit Organization
 - iv. Engage and Empower Older Adults in Harlem
 - v. Not a Center--Take Services to Where Seniors are

1. Considerable success in taking programs to sites in Central & West Harlem
 - a. Education programs on entitlements and benefits
 - b. Fitness & Exercise
 - c. Computer classes
 - d. Movie Nights
 - i. Some sites are 33-33 Broadway, Philips Senior House; Fred Samuels development
 - e. Monthly meetings at the Kennedy Center
2. Cohort of Interns from Hostos and Lehman provide assistance with the program
3. Program would not be possible without the cooperation of tenants and management of the sites utilized
4. Addition of Activities such as play-going musical events, museum visits
- vi. Harlem Advocacy was approached to create another program in Central Harlem
 1. Conducted a Research Survey of the Central Harlem Community to apprise the needs of the senior population
 - a. 400 Surveys were Completed
 - d. *Memorial for Irene Zola*
 - i. April 4th @ 2:00 p.m.
 - e. *Will Haggis, George Bruce Library*
 - i. Library reopening on April 15th
- V. **Old Business** None was submitted at this time
- VI. **New Business** Chair Alexander announces that on May 10th at The Forum on 125th street at 11:00 a.m. the Senior Action Committee will host the 2nd Annual Senior Resource Fair
- VII. **Adjourn** Lydia Gerson made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Pat Lewis at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lydia Gerson