

Minutes for the Senior Issues Committee Meeting
February 4, 2020

Meeting called to order at 12:22pm. In attendance is co-chairs Martin Wallace and Anthony Fletcher; and committee members Marti Cummings and Walter T Alexander. There were 17 seniors in attendance.

Agenda:

I- Lyle Blackwood, Borough Planner/Community Liaison-Department of Transportation
Issues regarding CB9

Q-Sidewalk grates/holes in the sidewalks which are dangerous

A-It is the primarily the responsibility of the building owners to fix their sidewalks and grates. If not, they can be fined. Let DOT know exactly where the issue lies.

Q-Bicycle riding on the sidewalk

A-DOT has to rely on the local precinct to enforce the laws. Street cameras have been helpful.

Q-Do the bus drivers know where the curb is?

A-Also falls under the local precinct and the MTA

Q-Delivery trucks parking illegally blocking the bicycle lanes and buses

A-Concerns will be relayed to the MTA

Q-Who controls the street traffic lights? They appear to be too short

A-DOT will investigate the lights on a street by street basis

NOTE: Our committee works with the DOT and Lyle to check timing of the street lights in CB9. Seniors are encouraged to call 311 to alert them of potential issues with the timing of traffic lights and/or write to the Borough DOT Commissioner as well as local elected officials

Q-Updates on the Manhattan bus re-design?

A-When MTA is finished DOT will get updates to share with us

Q-The traffic light at 145th Street/St. Nicholas needs to be checked

A-Added to the DOT check list

Q-Bus wait times?

A-Is the responsibility of the MTA

NOTE: Marti suggests bringing in the MTA reps to talk to the Committee, with the possibility of having multiple agency representatives at one of our meetings. We will confer with CB9 President and the District Manager about this.

Q-What happened to the bus stop platform at 125th St/Lenox Av?

A-It was a pilot program. DOT will investigate why it was removed

NOTE: Enforcement usually works best when they are in the vicinity of the violation. Even then it doesn't always work!

Q-Bus lanes in CB9-what is DOT's input in this process?

A-Mr. Blackwood will get back to the Committee regarding this issue

II- Ron Bruno, Executive Director, Morningside Retirement & Health Services
Website: www.mrhsny.org (212) 666-4000 100 LaSalle St

For Black History-February 26, 2020 @7pm-showing Toni Morrison movie-free

Q-Please be more aware of the times of your events. 7pm at night makes some seniors nervous about traveling late at night.

A-We will be more mindful of this in the future. By the way, that same Toni Morrison documentary will be shown this Saturday (2/8/20) at 2pm. For the next three Saturdays, films regarding Black History will be shown as well for \$1

NOTE: Please utilize public libraries and community centers for daytime events also.

III- Verna Arthur, Department of the Aging Representative

Brought news regarding Alternatives in Senior Housing-Manhattan brochure. She also spoke about the Home Sharing Program run by the DFTA, a program that matches seniors with other seniors to share apartment costs as well as for friendship.

Q-Can DFTA send a representative to the senior centers to let the seniors know what other housing options available? Some of the seniors at my center are living in poor housing conditions and could use other affordable housing options.

A-A representative can be sent to the centers upon request and availability.

NOTE: A grant request has been proposed to have a housing forum regarding affordable housing. However, we are dealing with the recent fire in Chinatown which has stretched our resources. Please give us some time to help them. A note to the Senior Issues Committee in CB9: Please attend the upcoming Budget Proposal Hearing! We need to have our concerns shared!

IV- Drew Berner-Hamilton Grange Library

Moving our meeting to that library cannot happen until May as we use the library for AARP Tax Prep. So far there are no conflicts with us meeting there. He will get back to us as he gets updated information. Thus, we will be meeting at the George Bruce Library at 12 noon for March and April.

NOTE: Senior notices did not arrive by email. Anthony states he will ensure that notices will go out via phone and email in a timely fashion. He will approach CB9 office chair and district manager to arrange for supplemental meeting notification.

Q-What happened that the mailings did not come out in time?

A-Due to the loss of the community liaison there have been mistakes on the calendar.
Hopefully communications will get better.

NOTE: Senior Committee will request District Manager Eutha Prince to address the body about the removal of the Community Liaison.

V- Fiscal Year 20/21 Budget Hearing February 24, 2020-Public Hearing-Three Proposals

1-Request #5-Request to renovate/upgrade NYCHA developments

Answer-Significant funding will be needed-CB9 answer-FIND THE MONEY!!!

Funding for: Elevators, Mold (Manhattanville), fix leaking roofs, leaks at senior centers

2-Request #6-Provide more housing like 202 Program-last held by HPD for seniors

Depends on federal funding-CB9 answer-PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIES, VOUCHERS, AND TAX CREDITS/SUBSIDIES (HPD)

NOTE: Increase funding for senior home assistance programs to provide no/low interest loans for seniors that have homes (HDFC's)!!! CB9 Answer-HPD Agency will resolve this issue within existing resources. Expand Home Sharing Program (already in existence). Also, improve wellness, health, and social welfare services.

Meeting adjourned at 2:41pm