



Manhattan Community Board 9

Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville and Morningside Heights

Senior Issues Committee Minutes

November 12, 2013

Committee Members:

Ernestine Welch, Chair; Present; Anthony Fletcher, Present; Barbara Marshall, Present; Carole Singleton, Present

Public Members:

Wanda Capan, Excused; Laenoria Conyers, Present, Bessie Davis, Present; Cora Gilmore, Present; Ruth Miller, Excused; Inez Woodhouse, Excused; Lillian Doctor, Present; Nazareen Robinson, Excused

Other Attendees:

Yasmin McFarlane Vaughn, Quentin Fletcher, Iretha Fletcher, Michael Palma, Broadway Housing Communities, Ameenah Muhammad, Ana Ofelia Rodriguez, Broadway Housing Communities, Maria Walters, Patricia Orr, Verna Arthur, Department For The Aging, Sarah Martin, Grant Tenants Association, Anne L. Burley, Annie Payne, Shirley Saxton, Social Security Administration, Jennie Wade, Zonia Bucknor.

The meeting was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027.

Ernestine Welch, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m., welcomed everyone, and introduced the speakers.

The agenda was adopted as stated and September and October minutes were not accepted due to time constrain; it was agreed that if there are any corrections should be sent to Ms. Zita at board office.

Reports:

Broadway Housing Communities:

Michael Palma, Director of Housing stated that Broadway Housing Communities is pleased to announce the Sugar Hill newly constructed affordable housing locate at 404-414 West 155th Street. The building consists of 124 rental apartments, Sugar Hill Museum Preschool, an onsite early childhood education center, the Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling. Out of 124 apartments, 98 will be through New York City Housing Connect online lottery. Only one application should be submitted per household. There are two ways an application can be submitted, via mail or via online. To submit an application online go to New York City Connect website at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect; to receive a paper application by mail, please send a self-addressed 66 cents stamped envelope to:

Sugar Hill Apartments
c/o Broadway Housing Communities
10 Forth Washington Avenue, PH
New York, NY 10032

You can also download a paper application online at www.bhc.org. The application deadline is **January 3, 2014**. Please note **mailed applications must be postmarked by 11:59 p.m. of January 3rd, 2014**.

American Association for Retired People:

Brenda Gardner stated that what the health care law means for people 65 and older

- The law has new benefits and protections for Medicare recipients so that they can be confident and in control of your health care.
- It strengthens Medicare by including more preventative benefits, lowering the price of prescription drugs in the Part D; fighting waste, and fraud.
- While in the coverage gap, the health care law lowers prescription drugs costs, you will receive more than 50 percent discount on brand name and 20 percent discount on the generic drugs.
- Medicare now covers a yearly wellness visit and more preventative care such as cancer, cholesterol and diabetes screenings, immunizations, diet counseling and more.
- The Medicare Open Enrollment stays the same. You can change Medicare plan between October 15th and December 7th.
- The silver programs are geared for people who are not insured
- 15% is uninsured and 85% is insured.
- If you are under 64 you have many choices to purchase health insurance.
- For those who are not insured log to the New York State website, create a profile and you will be able to choose a health plan – platinum, silver and gold health plans are provided at an affordable price.
- Call 855-355-5777 for private health plans.
- Medicare is not part of the new Health Insurance Marketplace that starts in 2014.
- For Medicare coverage, visit www.medicare.gov or call (800) 633-4227.
- For more information regarding Health Insurance Marketplace, visit www.healthcare.gov

Social Security Administration:

Shirley Saxton stated that Emblem Health has an office located at 215 West 125th Street, and offers free informational classes to its members. She reported that if one has a Medicare Advantage Plan dental care is covered, and advised seniors to research health insurances and be informed customers. Most of the information is online at www.ssa.gov or www.medicare.gov

Manhattan Community Board No. 9

Reverend Georgiette Morgan-Thomas thanked everyone for coming and stated that the Senior Issues Committee is the most vibrant, active and informative committee. She urged seniors to continue with the good work, and acknowledged Ms. Welch's great leadership. She reported that she met with Ms. Margarita Lopez of NYCHA and others regarding the legal authorization to create a permanent Sadie Winslow Reading Garden next to the George Bruce Library, and noted that New York City Housing Authority has a five year plan to sell all of its open spaces to raised funds for the agency due financial strains. She added that in truly the already constructed senior reading garden is not legal, but recommended that Manhattan Community Board No. 9 write a letter to NYCHA acknowledging the constructed Senior Reading Garden and report that the construction has begun with the help of Grant Houses Tenants Association and other entity; request to put a removable plat with Sadie Winslow Reading Garden.

She reminded that the community should be ready and be accepting when NYCHA demands or request the land back, and remember that the Sadie Winslow Reading Garden was not a permanent structure.

Grant Houses Tenants Association:

Sarah Martin, President of the tenants association emphasized what Chair Morgan-Thomas said about thanking everyone for their continued participation in the Senior Issues Committee and stated that Sung Min Lee is an artist who did the artwork on the fence of the Senior Reading Garden. She also stated that Ms. Margarita Lopez gave the association permission to construct a garden with restrictions the following:

- No permanent structures should be placed.
- All non NYCHA residents should be insured to do volunteer work in the garden.
- NYCHA greening department will help with the maintenance of the garden.

Independent Community Artist:

Sung Min Lee stated that she holds a Master of Fine Art (MFA) degree, and was honored to be allowed to do some art work on the fence of the Senior Reading Garden. She reported that she has an art studio at the Chashama located at 461 West 126th Street. For all interested in viewing or buy her work should call (410) 868-6442 or send an email at cutemin76@gmail.com. For further information about the artist please log to www.sungminlee.com

Suggestions:

- Log to the Medicare website at <http://www.Medicare.gov> or call 800 MEDICARE or call 311 with any questions you have.
- Invite a Medicare representative to the next monthly meeting.

Adjournment: 1:15 p.m.

Prepared by: Hleziphi Zita, Community Associate