

**SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2012**

Committee Members:

Ernestine Welch, Chair, **Present**; Tiffany Alston, **Present**; Anthony Fletcher, **Present**,
Carole Singleton, **Present**; Gladys Tinsley, **Present**

Public Members:

G. Marilyn Alexander, **Excused**; Wanda Capan, **Excused**; Laenoria Conyers, **Present**; Bessie
Davis, **Present**; Ruther Miller, **Excused**; Inez Woodhouse, **Present**;
Nazarene Robinson, **Present**; Cora Gilmore, **Present**

Other Attendees Present:

Jully Merino, Columbia University, Alicia Barksdale, Florence Rice, Lucille Brodie, Anna,
Verna Arthur, DFTA, Miguel Pagan, Columbia University, Transportation Office, Iretha
Fletcher, Quentin Fletcher, Zonia Bucknoe, Alpha Sesa, Dothe Rudolph, Sarah Martin, Grant
Houses Tenant Association, Annie Payne, Victoria Mason-Ailey, Vinella Henry, Margaret
Collins, Ginia Addo, Judge Landers, Vicky Gholson.

The meeting was held on Tuesday, October 2, 2012 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.

The agenda was adopted as stated and the minutes were accepted with any necessary corrections.

Reports:

Columbia University Office of Community and Government Affairs/Community Shuttle Bus:

Victoria Mason-Ailey stated that the Community Shuttle Guide is a work in progress and wanted to share with the committee, brought a draft of the shuttle guide. Miguel Pagan reported that the Columbia Community Shuttle bus service during the academic session (fall) the bus service will increase to 3 buses and in the summer time the bus service will be reduced to 1 bus. The bus will be branded with Columbia University written on the side of it. If the bus has to be repaired the same bus will be replaced without branding of Columbia University on the side of the bus. The bus drivers are told to look for people on the side at all times. The shuttle bus is ADA accessible and a human or canine [for the blind] companion is allowed. Columbia University is funding the bus program from a state grant. The shuttle bus will be identified with different colors according to the route [green; blue and red] 165th Street and Broadway is a new added stop. The shuttle will always on time check the time table schedule.

How to identify the Columbia University Shuttle Bus

- At 96th Street the stop is next to the MTA stop, therefore check the map which will show the Columbia University [CU] stop and a time table that shows when you arrive from each stop. The green shuttle buses go to 96th Street southbound and turn around at 96th Street going Northbound Harlem Hospital Center. For the West 116th and 125th streets destinations you have more options to take red, blue or green shuttle buses.
- The Columbia University Newsletter is produced by Office of Community and Government Affairs.

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Department For The Aging:

Verna Arthur reported that the proposals for Innovative Senior Centers are completed and now DFTA has 10 innovative senior centers and 245 overall senior centers in the city. The census shows that from 2000-2010 there is an increase in senior centers and more services are needed. The senior centers will issue identity cards that will allow seniors to swipe to track activities that seniors are engaged in. The state and the city are investigating social day care centers that are not providing services promised to seniors. The Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) will enhance 22 senior centers by upgrading classrooms in the computer lab, installing new computers and establish broadband for the internet to provide computer classes and funding is coming from the stimulus funds. In this district both Jackie Robinson and Randolph Senior Centers are involved in this program. On September 4th a Taxi and Limousine Program wheelchairs accessible program was launched for trips originated in Manhattan go into other boroughs including Westchester and Nassau County, this is a pilot program and will be extended to other boroughs. SPARKS Senior Partner with Artist it is a citywide program funded by DFTA working together with the Department of Culture. This program will match 47 artists to 50 senior centers to provide art services and artist will utilize space in senior centers to exhibit their art in return of services. DFTA is scheduled to get an eight (8) million budget cut and ten (10) million next year.

Update:

Senior Reading Garden:

Sarah Martin reported that on September 20th the Senior Garden was completed with the help of volunteers. New York City Housing Authority will be contacted to approve the garden as it is; the committee should bear in mind that NYCHA could stop or modify the garden due to the agreement

Announcements:

- The George Bruce Library is offering free of charge Money Matters series October 4th, 11th, 17th, and 24th.
- October 2nd the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation present community meetings/briefing on North River Sewage Treatment Plant at Riverview Towers, Community Room, 626 Riverside Drive (139th Street), 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- October 4th Senator Bill Perkins will hold a Town Hall Meeting on Solitary Confinement in New York. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Building, 163 West 125th Street, 7th Floor, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- On October 15th at 4: 00 p.m. the George Bruce Library is offering a special program for children “Chinese Ribbon Dance Workshop.”

Suggestions:

- More stops are needed for the Columbia University Shuttle routes on northbound and southbound to Harlem Hospital Center [George Bruce Library; Manhattanville Post Office]

Adjournment: 1:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Hleziphi Zita, Community Associate