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CUB9M
COMMUNITY BOARD #9, MANHATTAN

SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2010

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Ernestine Welch, Chair, Present
Excused
Cora Gilmore, Present
Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, Present

PUBLIC MEMBERS:
G. Marilyn Alexander,
Wanda Capan, Excused
Laenoria Conyers, Present
Bessie Davis, Excused
Ruther Miller, Absent
Virginia Lee, Present
Ruth Lewis, Dir. of
Amsterdam Adult Day
Care, Excused
Inez Woodhouse, Present
Vanisha Taylor, Excused
Nazarené Robinson, Present
Dothe Rudolph, Present

OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT
Miranda Murray, George Bruce Library

Emilo Perez, M.D., St. Luke’s Roosevelt
Florence M. Rice, Tenant’s & Landlord Rec.
Donita Hammock, Major Morris Senior Center
Norma Gomez, Jackie Robinson Senior Center
Zonia Bucknoz, Hamilton Grange Senior Center
Thaddeus Krupo, Morningside Heights Library
Sarah Martin, Grant Houses Tenants Association
Diana Coleman, New York Urban League

The meeting was held on Tuesday, September 7, 2010 at the George Bruce Library,
518 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027

Chair Ernestine Welch called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. and stated that
due to the library change of operation hours the meeting normal hour (10) had to be
changed to 11:00

A moment of silence was observed for Sophie Johnson and others who passed.

Agenda and minutes were adopted with any necessary corrections or additions.

Commentary/Suggestions:
• Continue plans at CB9 Health Fair with Amsterdam Nursing Home and
Amsterdam Adult Day Health Care Program.
• Follow-up on quality of life improvement at Jackie Robinson Senior
Centers (Grant Houses)
• Continue advocacy on Senior Centers remaining open and improvements of
services.
• Follow-up on adequate safety services for seniors in completion of street
pavements and bus stop shelters at 145th Street and Amsterdam Avenue and
152nd Street.

SERVING HAMILTON HEIGHTS/MANHATTANVILLE & MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS
SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE
Page 2. Tuesday, September 7, 2010

- Seek direct Hotline to the Mayor’s Office Community Affairs Office and request an assigned representative to CB9.
- Follow-up on survey of high food prices and poor quality foods in our area.

Update/Report:
Miranda Murray, Senior Librarian, George Bruce New York Public Library
- Budget cuts were reduced from 37 to 10 million due to assistance of 130 thousand New Yorkers who participated in the letter drive to elected officials to stop the budget cuts.
- Hours of operation have been reduced from 44 – 42 hours a week at the George Bruce Library
- See attached Library Schedule for Manhattan branches.

Donita Hammock, Director, Major Morris Senior Center
- Major Morris received discretionary funds to continue providing regular Senior Services.
- Seniors still continue to partake activities at the center.
- Preparing a proposal to have a food program contract with DFTA.
- Started physical activities to motivate seniors
- Funds are needed in order to repair building violations.
- Center has a housing program sponsored by Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) catchment area is from 133rd to 155th Streets.

Diane Coleman, Financial Literacy Director/Fair Housing Program Counselor Urban League
- Urban League has a housing program sponsored by Department of Housing Preservation and Development to offer legal assistance e.g. evictions, leases, repairs etc.
- Need partnership with other agencies and organizations in the community.
- Reached out to Senior Centers about the services Urban Leagues is offering.
- Urban League is located at 204 West 136th Street, 212-926-8000 ext. 147.
- Computer Technology Lab is located at the Renaissance High School; operating hours are from 3:00 – 8:00 P.M.
- The center has 30 computer terminals and offers basic computer skills.

Old Business: Senior Garden
- Sarah Martin, President of Grant Tenants Association requested to file an application with NYCHA to establish a Basic Green garden at the site next to the George Bruce Library. Commissioner Lopez approved a basic green garden for this site at an earlier date.
- It was agreed that committee meet with John Cannizzo and Robert Benetton of Horticultural Society before requesting another meeting with Commissioner Lopez.

Announcements:
- On 8/21/2010, a Memorial Event was held for Sophie Johnson, former long term CB9 Board Member and later many years as Public Member of Senior Issues Committee.

Action Taken:
A recommendation will be presented to CB9M Executive Committee for Senior Issues Committee to meet at the George Bruce Library at 11:00 A.M.

Adjournment: 12:30 P.M.
The next meeting will be held on October 5, 2010, George Bruce Library at 11:00 A.M.

Prepared by: Hlezphi Zita, Community Associate