

# STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 19, 2015  
Broadway Housing, 583 Riverside Drive

## Attending Committee Members

## Guest

Victor Edwards - Chair,  
Linda Walton  
Joel Mentor  
Signe Mortensen

The meeting was opened at 6:45 by Chair Edwards welcoming all attendees but without a quorum. For the benefit of the guest the Chair provided a brief outline of the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) and the committee's current area of concentration: the Community Benefits Agreement.

### I. Updates

#### A. In-Kind Benefits

- Standing committees to identify areas in the CBA that they want to pursue through In-Kind benefits with the assistance of Columbia:
  - Committees still in the process of identifying these areas.
  - Member Mentor – can CBA funds be utilized to assist with historic parks in the area?
  - Member Edwards – probably not financially but possibly from an advisory perspective.
- Member Walton raised the question of who is responsible for developing this type of plan, the WHDC or the Board?
  - Member Edwards suggested that it could be done by both groups but it would be beneficial for the individual committees to identify areas that the committee's deemed of interest or concern to the community.
- Member Mortensen informed the committee that Art/s Culture committee had drafted a letter to be sent to the WHDC regarding the use of In-Kind benefits to obtain performance space at Columbia.
- Member Walton inquired whether there was a formal process in place to obtain space at Columbia. If not, she stated that Board should be a part of the process of provides some type of criteria to organizations seeking space at the university.
- Member Edwards stated that this was something that the committee could inquire with Kofi to obtain a clearer understanding.
- Member Walton asked whether the Board knew how In-Kind benefits were tracked.
- Edwards stated that according to the CBA a report should be provided from Columbia at the end of each year outlining the usages on In-Kind benefits. He further stated that he was only aware of two uses of In-Kind benefits thus far but would request a follow through the WHDC.

#### B. Meeting with Maxine Griffith – Columbia U. Exec. V.P Gov. / Community Affairs.

- a. Member Edwards explained that he had met with Ms. Griffith earlier in the month to follow-up on a series of outstanding questions that had been remained unanswered by the University for several months.

He stated that a formal written reply would be sent by Ms. Griffith which he would share with the committee upon receipt.

**C. West Harlem Development Corp.**

a. Connecting WHDC Grantees with CB9 Committees:

- Member Mortensen stated that there appears to be a disconnect between the CBO's receiving the WHDC grants and CB 9 Committees. She stated that several of the arts/culture groups were not aware of the CB9 Arts/Culture committee and often struggle to find participants for their programs.
- Member Edwards stated that he would revisit the distribution of the letter introducing CB9 committees to the WHDC Grantees with Kofi Boateng. The letter provides meeting dates, times and contact information for each committee. The letter was to be distributed to each Grantee at an introductory session with the WHDC.

b. WHDC Grants

- Member Edwards distributed the latest WHDC grant matrix indicating that 55% of the Grants were awarded to organizations outside of CB 9. He acknowledged that there good organizations outside the district but was concerned that residents of CB 9 were being effectively served
- Member Walton stated that the WHDC interim reports were utilized to monitor an organizations progress and funds are withheld for noncompliance.
- Member Edwards asked if the WHDC tracked the location of the participants in the Grantee's programs?
- Member Mentor stated that possibly a year-end report providing additional statistics including the number CB 9 residents served would be helpful.
- Member Edwards agreed and stated that he would inquire with the WHDC whether this report currently existed.

c. WHDC Reporting

- Several members inquire why more periodic reporting on WHDC activities were not reported to the general board.
- Member Edwards stated that he had invited the 2 CB 9 representatives to the WHDC to attend the SPC meeting and had suggested to the Board Chair that a WHDC report be a standing report at all General Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.