

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday March 27, 2014
Broadway Housing, 583 Riverside Drive

Attending Committee Members

Victor Edwards Co-Chair, Arnold Boatner, Harriet Rosebud, LaQuita Henry, Catherine Abate
Other Attendees: Sabine Franklin - Councilman Mark Levine office

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. with a quorum. The minutes and agenda were adopted with requested additions to the agenda by Catherine Abate.

Member Edwards provided a review of the goals and current activities of the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) for Sabine from Mark Levine's office. It was noted that Columbia has still not confirmed that a representative would be present at the CB #9 Youth Expo (4/26/14) despite numerous outreaching to their offices. Member Abate suggested that CB #9 Chair contact Columbia directly to assist with this issue.

Update

Columbia – Member Edwards informed the committee that he was still awaiting a response from Columbia's Victoria Mason-Ailey on several educational program items. He also noted that a full evaluation of all the Columbia educational programs from the YEL committee was needed.

WHDC - Catherine Abate read a DNA Info article regarding the WHDC, which noted that the next round of grant making would not be as "liberal" and would focus on several key areas (education, health, workforce development and affordable housing).

Harriet Rosebud stated that the new direction by the WHDC would potentially leave out many of the arts organizations from the funding. Member Boatner suggested that the applicants obtain assistance from grant writers to incorporate items applicable to the new focus. Member Edwards continued by stating that the selected areas (health, education, workforce development and housing) were areas in dire need of assistance in CB #9 but, that the arts should still be included. Member Rosebud stated that many of the arts organizations provided new educational and learning experiences (e.g. Opera) for the community. Several members echoed earlier comments that the arts applicants would need to incorporate a component from one of the new focuses areas to improve their chances of being approved. Suggestions were provided including musical events that include a health screenings or educational outreach.

It was noted that the CB #9 was not receiving regular updates on the WHDC activities from the assigned Board members.

Database - Arnold Boatner informed the committee that the Economic Dev. Committee has an intern that is working on a database that could be useful to several committees.

Reports- No committee reports presented. Member Edwards stressed the fact that to move forward committee's must review the Columbia website and come prepare to report on their findings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.