

Manhattan Community Board 9
Executive Committee
December 10, 2020

Called to order at 6:35PM.

TK, MD move/second to adopt agenda. Minutes adopted after brief discussion of attendance records.

Chair's Report, Barry Weinberg

High COVID cases. Local zip codes surpassed by other zip codes, so we've fallen in relative rankings, but not because cases have dropped.

Indoor dining and non-essential businesses may be asked to closed. Testing & Tracing will be presenting biweekly to CB. Thanks to Health committee co-chairs for keeping on top of this.

DOH has opened testing locations in our area. 21 Old Broadway site has been handling a lot of cases.

Budget shortfall means cuts will cascade to city and neighborhood, even if state taxes are raised.

Eviction moratorium has ended. Evictions being carried out based on judgments that happened before pandemic.

City tax lien sale includes 9 properties in CB9. Board office working to let residents know. Most owe back taxes; two owe water and taxes. One single-story commercial; others multi-family residential rentals. City council renews the laws every 4 years, and is considering any COVID carve-outs.

Communicating with WHDC search committee via our rep Pat Watler-Johnson about qualities we want.

GBM maybe also have resolution on zoning for coastal resiliency.

Treasurer's Report, April Tyler

Present ideas for community outreach. Committees should propose meetings by January general meeting. Ideas included webinars, health walks. Stay tuned on city council renewal of tax lien rules.

District Manager's Report, Eutha Prince

Wellness walk tomorrow 1pm-4pm. Setting up at Grant Houses. NYC Testing & Tracing providing PPE.

Congratulations to April Tyler on recognition at recent HDFC event.

Committee Reports

Arts & Culture, Harriet Rosebud

Partnered with 125th street BID on Harlem Children's Village. Looking into issues related to Harlem International Music Festival. Request 25% featured artists from CB9, promotion for local restaurants, and programming around local history, financial literacy for artists, among other topics. Should be a source of economic development; local businesses should benefit. Proposal was requested by WHDC in response to negative feedback to festival in previous years.

Presentations

Sarah Kay and Ashwini Chhabra, E-Scooter Voi network, Columbia SIPA State legislature legalized electric scooters (stand-up) over the summer. City Council then authorized DOT to create pilot program for areas underserved by other alternative transportation options. Currently excludes Manhattan. Voi scooters is Swedish, in 50 cities in Europe. New York is first in North America. GPS controls where you can ride them. Able to limit speed to 10 or 15 mph in early rollout or for new riders. Dual kickstand -- harder to leave laying down. DOT pilot likely to start in areas without Citibike. If people ride in places they are not supposed to, start by notifying rider, then turn off throttle.

Questions and comments followed regarding safety issues and enforcement of DOT and company rules.

Health & Environment, Miriam Aristy-Farer

PPE distribution coming up. Edwin Torres presented on vaccines and cultural issues -- recommend sharing with community. Heard from Broadway Housing Communities soup kitchen and difficulty of doing all food to-go. Challenging for people to interpret scientific data and make their own decisions. Misinformation is another wave of problems.

Youth, Education, & Libraries, Shaneeka Wilson

Most community organizations need word of mouth about their programming. Need participation in order to maintain grant funding.

Heard from Good vibes in the park with AyolnMotion. Sessions in St. Nicholas Park on different themes around Black creators, women, and history. Seeking grants for additional funding.

George Bruce Library has youth programming. Presenting two letters of support for PUMP Initiative which is presenting to DOE, and senior committee's letter in support of educational equity.

LGBTQ-SGL Task Force, John-Martin Green

Two resos - in support of statue of Audre Lorde. To be presented in Action Items.

Economic Development & Harlem Peers, Maritta Dunn

Offered to present to Dept. of Sanitation about Marine Transfer Station.

Funding for West Harlem Piers not being held in separate account by Parks Department, which they should have been, because it's dedicated funding. Issue about borders of piers park -- it goes to east side of Marginal Street.

Uniformed Services & Transportation, Carolyn Thompson

Spoke with Borough Commissioner Pincar about 120th street angle parking. Question about Open Streets expansion and effect on parking if space is no longer being used.

Housing, Zoning, Land Use, April Tyler

Proposal to demolish three townhouses on Riverside and build 17-story building. Rezoning approval required. Would include 21 affordable apartments for rent. Need another meeting to develop position on the project.

Project at St. Luke's on Convent Avenue. Episcopal archdiocese owns land, National Parks owns adjacent land because of former Hamilton Grange site. Unclear what plans are and what rules are for the site.

Hamilton RKO theater moving along slowly, appears to be continuing in the right direction.

RAD developer has been chosen, covering Audobon and part of Manhattanville. Doing outreach to residents to inform them of their rights.

Strategic Planning, Victor Edwards

Reentry project moving forward, some members will be joining PPE distribution tomorrow.

Senior Issues, Anthony Fletcher

Discussion with Porfirio Figueroa from Sen. Jackson's office and Dept. for the Aging representatives on cost of living increases seniors are eligible for. Considering presentation in January on senior assisted living facilities. Planning to have a monthly social with seniors.

Action Items (Y-N-A-PNEV)

1. Propose statue of Audre Lorde across from her former residence, 626 Riverside Drive, in light of dearth of statues of African-American and SGL-LGBTQ individuals in Harlem. 15-0-0-0
2. Calling for Manhattan DA's gun buyback program to hold an event in West Harlem. 15-0-0-0
3. Letter of support for PUMP initiative. 15-0-0-0

Barry	Y Y Y
Carolyn	Y Y Y
Victor	Y Y Y
April	Y Y Y
Alec	Y Y Y
Joyce	Y Y Y
Harriet	Y Y Y
Maritta	Y Y Y
Edwin	Y Y Y
Deirdre	Y Y Y
Shaneeka	Y Y Y
Anthony F.	Y Y Y
Miriam	Y Y Y
Pat W.-J.	Y Y Y
Daria	Y Y Y

Brief discussion of commemorative wall for new CB9 office, and specific remembrance of the late Walter South.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.