

Manhattan Community Board 9
Executive Committee
November 8, 2018

Meeting called to order at 6:44pm. Adoption of the agenda moved (JA) and seconded (CT).
Adoption of the minutes moved (CT) and seconded (JA).

Presentations

Barbara Askins, 125th Street BID

Ms. Askins shared plans for the annual 125th street Holiday Lights event. The event is upcoming and has a big social media presence this year; Ms. Askins asked that it be shared using relevant hashtags.

Floats will line up on Amsterdam. Board 9 will have a float assembling from 5:30 - 6:30pm. The countdown starts at Morningside Avenue, then proceeds down to Madison. The floats' stops are being timed so they can interact with viewers at each location.

There will be three health villages, including one in front of Grant Houses. These will provide screenings and health services.

The effort to solicit big box stores as sponsors has to start early each year for them to consider donating any amount. Next year the BID hopes to have churches as sponsors, and double decker buses as part of the parade.

Chair's Report

The MBPO sent a delegation to Rhode Island to start preparing for the 2020 census. The government is doing a dry run in a handful of cities. The controversial citizenship question was not tested during this effort.

The CB can help get the word out about the census and allay fears about what the Census entails, and it can create relationships with other organizations to promote accurate information. There are concerns about the potential for misinformation campaigns to undermine the effort.

The Chair met with Argus and recommended that they speak to block associations about future plans. The CB will convene a November 19th meeting with them.

The Beyond the Bars conference at Columbia will examine alternatives to incarceration.

The citywide referendum passed in the November elections imposes an 8-year term limit on Community Boards. As a result, meeting minutes are more important than ever to preserve our institutional memory. The proposal for a Civic Engagement Commission also passed so the CB will get a new liaison from the commission. A discussion ensued about the importance of showing up at meetings and other ways to document our history as a community board.