

General Board Meeting

December 18, 2014

16-18 OLD Broadway

New York, New York 10027

The Chair asked that Councilman Levine be allowed to speak after adopting the minutes and amending the agenda as he has a pressing engagement. Motion to adopt the minutes with corrections and adopting the corrected agenda. So moved and accepted.

Councilman Levine – He started by speaking on the unfortunate occurrence in Staten Island. He and some of his colleagues have been discussing this matter and are moving legislature to address this situation. They are also introducing legislature to have attorneys in the court to address housing issues. Thirty five council members are on board with this legislature. This situation has resulted in a 35% increase in evictions this year. Only 10% of the tenants are represented by lawyers whereas 90% of Landlords have attorneys. Over 1000 of these cases are NYCHA and of them 3500 are children. Many more since then have been evicted and are turning up in shelters. It is feeding the need for affordable housing because many of these are rent stabilized apartments. It only costs about 2,000 to have representation for a tenant. These apartments are lost to rent stabilization forever. Intro 546 will deal with the buy out situations. Landlords are paying 5-10k for tenants to leave their apartments and they reap the benefits of this situation. Tenants are intimidated and sometimes have documentation issues and therefore they are scared and take the buy outs because they feel they don't have representation. Intro 214 will deal with this situation. CS Will the lawyers be set up in the court or how will the tenants deal with getting these lawyers? There are 500 to 1000 cases a day with only 1 legal aid lawyer to deal with them. Ideally they will start working with the tenants before they show up at court so you can get their papers in order and their cases together. This will be provided by legal aid and corporations. The Chair mentioned that Single Stop delivers this service to residents in the community and this might be a way to get more of these services to the community. There were questions about how well these attorneys knew what the HPD and other issues concerning these tenants should be handled. MD said they have a whole division of lawyers devoted to these issues and they are well versed in these issues. The councilman wished everyone a happy holiday. AF thanked the councilman for his 2k allocation. West Harlem Development Corporation update was given by K. Botang. He thanked MS. Adewumi for their help putting on the Christmas party at Riverside Church. He responded to the resolution of transparency and it has been put on line for review. He provided a flyer with the breakdown of how monies have been spent up to this time. There was a forum sponsored by WHDC with the Manhattanville and Grant Houses.

Mr. Notice stepped down September 30th. The WHDC did a grant writing workshop. Software that will address public school attendance was introduced. Ten million was transferred to Tides for WHDC's affordable Housing Program from NYC Planning Department after successful RFP process that resulted in the selection of IISC as the Housing Administrator.

A presentation was given by Liam O'Neil to introduce Shen Yun a Chinese Dance Company that will be performing at Lincoln Center in January.

Chairs report highlight: Jobs for CB9 Economic Development had 63 men and women to sign up for construction jobs. We have the names and phone numbers. Derreck Haynes brought people from the Manhattanville and Grant Houses. Jonathan Burrus President of SLG Construction company handled the intake at the event. SLG will be training these people with OSHA training. They will be handling some of the employment for the St. John the Divine site. We are looking for individuals who are looking for work to come by the Board office to be able to put them to work on projects in the community. We would like to see at least 50% of these individuals come from the community. Treasurers report is in the package. We have not yet received the councilman's 2K contribution to the discretionary fund. Committee chairs should forward requests to the treasurer for next year's allocation. Crescent Consulting had at least 60% Brooklyn natives on their rolls.

The District Managers report is in your packet,

G. Puello spoke for the Borough President's office. He spoke of CUNY services will provide interns for part of Tuesday and Friday. Town Hall Testimony money raised for HDFC. HPD policy of one bedroom apartments to be moved to studio has been defeated, Landmarks Commission calendared over 100 sites 36 of which are in Manhattan.

Public Speakers: Sharfen Benjamin came to introduce Harlem Garage as a resource coming in the Fall for entrepreneurs and small businesses located at 318 West 118th street.

Victor Edwards of the Strategic Planning Committee provided updates on strategic community planning.

Dan Cohen voiced concern about the development at the St. Luke's Mt. Sinai hospital site.

Martin Wallace spoke on being thankful.

Martin Collins from Uptown Arts Stroll Poster contest. The deadline for entries is February 17, 2015. An honorarium of \$500.00 will be presented to the winning artist.

The votes on action items were as follows:

Electric Substation 36 yes 0 no

Co-Naming West 140th street Dorothy Skinner Way 32 Yes 2 Abstain 2 No

Central Harlem Alcohol Abuse Crisis Center was withdrawn

St. Luke's Calendering 37 yes

Reso on 640-646 Riverside Driv3 32 Yes 2 Abstain 1 No 1 not entitled to vote

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42PM.

Respectfully submitted

Carole Singleton