

General Board Meeting
Community Board 9
February 15, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:08pm. (Meeting called to attention and presentations started about 6:50pm).

Minutes approved with necessary amendments.

Presentations

Juan Parra from Solar One

SolarOne is an educational non-profit, expanding the conversation about sustainability and solar movement. They offer a workforce training program to train for construction and solar jobs in the city. Another works with NYC public schools. They manage a park on the East River, and with the city program NYC Accelerator to provide free technical assistance to buildings through their program, Here Comes Solar, to help estimate savings, understand tax incentives, and assist with design. The organization currently partners with WEACTION to campaign for solar in affordable housing.

A new program, community solar, let's residents get credits from a large solar warehouse in Queens to reduce their monthly energy bills. Solar is harder for residents that don't own their own roofs, like renters.

We have an opportunity to bring solar all over the city, not just modern houses, and help the city to meet its sustainability goals. The organization's outreach is focused on affordable housing and multifamily buildings who don't know that the services exist.

Recent federal tariffs on imported solar technology will make it harder for the industry, since a lot of the technology comes from abroad, though they are high as they could have been.

District Manager

Community Board hearing to respond to the Mayor's preliminary budget will be held on Discretionary funding requests are due by tomorrow COB.

ARISE SYEEP is accepting applications until March 31. Young people must be entering or in high school and live in CB9.

NYPL is holding a facilities and maintenance jobs fair -- see flyers for details.

CB9 is accepting applications for public members.

MBPO

Capital grant funding for local organizations is available.

Black History Month celebration on 2/26 at the Apollo to recognize Black activists.

Ewoma Ogbaudu

Senior at Columbia, studying biology and pre-med.

Organizing a conference for pre-med students of color called Marginalization of Medicine, Saturday March 3. Panel and workshops on health care disparities in surrounding communities.

Rep. Espaillat's Office

Shana Marks, new constituent services representative for Harlem.

Upcoming Black History Month celebration at the Alhambra ballroom.

Holding a workshop on access to capital for small businesses.

Working with families affected by fire at 144th, working with HPD to place families. Holding a meeting tomorrow on fire at 3333 Broadway.

State Sen. Alcantara's Office

Jane Arendel, district representative.

Upcoming event celebrating Dominican Heritage Month at City College at the end of the month.

Working with victims of mail fishing in the area. Has been getting resistance to refunding money orders that happened as a result of theft. Seniors are disproportionately the ones sending money orders, and the office is sending complaints to the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Manhattan District Attorney

DA has set up a work-related sexual violence team including attorneys from sexual violence unit and social workers.

DA's office is accepting applications for summer internships for high school students (sophomore or older) who live or go to school in Manhattan, accepted until March 12.

Some recovered funds have been put into youth work centers around the city, including one in West Harlem.

Corey Ortega, Democratic District Leader, AD70 Part D

In December and January, many NYCHA developments including Manhattanville lacked heat and hot water. The City Council held a hearing to grill NYCHA about this. Some buildings in Manhattanville are still not back in full working order. Working with Sen. Brian Benjamin to ask for \$500 million (\$200 million was proposed) from the city budget to adequately provide for NYCHA.

The congressional primaries will be in June, and the BOE will be offering jobs for 17 and 18-year olds to work the polls helping to check in voters.

Assemblymember Al Taylor

Office is open to assist people with their needs - please get in touch.

Public Session

Louis Bailey, WEACT

WEACT works in partnership with SolarOne, and has been providing free training to the community for six years. A lot of buildings are going up in Upper Manhattan -- the areas WEACT covers -- so they are asking that developers building in the community to use workers in the

community, and providing resources to ensure that skilled trained workers are prepared. Trainings cover topics including OSHA, flag and scaffold, asbestos removal, and solar panel installation. These are free (they ordinarily cost hundreds of dollars) and earn participants state-issued cards, which will help make construction jobs more accessible to low income people and people of color who have previously been locked out of those jobs. Trainings are also available to people who were formerly incarcerated.

WEACT will be holding community chats, starting with an intimate conversation (< 40 people) with Mitchell Silver, Parks Commissioner. Other topics will include housing, transportation, and environment.

Signe Mortensen

West Harlem Empowerment Coalition, going into its sixth season, brings empowerment partners together to take empowering resources to low income, high crime blocks. Holding a fair tomorrow in the subway at 145th and St. Nicholas with tables and resources to connect people to existing resources.

The 150th block association between Broadway and Amsterdam. Rene John-Sandy from Omega Psi Phi shared that the block will be holding a healthy Harlem empowerment fair on April 15, including insurance, sports activities, healthy food, sexual health, mental illness, as well as sports and fire safety.

Walter South

Teaching a class on perpetually affordable housing next Thursday at 6:30pm at Red Oak on 106th. All are invited.

Barry Weinberg

The DCP told the Morningside Heights Community Coalition that if they wanted to rezone Morningside Heights, they would need to put together a proposal themselves. MHCC did it, presented it last week to a packed house. The plan mostly reflects existing building heights, and every block will have a building cap. Working with Borough President to extend protections that exist on the Upper West Side against big box stores. Currently, developers can buy air rights and stack them onto tiny footprints, leading to 40 story towers currently in planning in the 120s.

Dennis Burgess

Previously a technician with Time Warner Cable. The union went on strike against Spectrum. The company wants to take away benefits from workers, and has also prevented information about the strike from reaching people. The union is trying to spread the word to the community, and asking people to write letters to the company CEO to urge support for the union. Spectrum has a monopoly, and is charging for services they're not providing, and blaming the technicians. They're trying to get a franchising agreement in May 2018.

Patricia Johnson, CB9 representative to WHDC board

Attended a board retreat and annual board meeting shortly after being elected. The board is talking about building a legacy in West Harlem and the surrounding community to make sure that their work is having a lasting impact on the community so the work will continue after the benefits run out. Chair is Judge Milton Tingling and other leaders in the community.

Joanna Castro, Executive Director at NoMAA (Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance)

Calling for submissions to a poster contest due February 20 for the uptown arts stroll. Biweekly newsletter contains opportunities for local artists, including grants and fellowships geared toward uptown artists.

Action Items

Letter of Support at 730 St. Nicholas Avenue

The board chairs presented the letter with a friendly amendment to remove the final paragraph in light of a conversation with Argus Community earlier in the day. Debate proceeded around concerns about providing drug treatment in that particular location, close to a subway and within a few blocks of a school.

A motion to call the question passed 29-1-1. The letter passed 19-11-1.

The board is reminded that next Thursday is a mandatory By-Laws meeting at the same place and time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alec Barrett
Assistant Secretary