

Manhattan Community Board 9
3291 Broadway
New York, NY 10027

CB9M General Board Meeting Notes

Date: Thursday, February 16th, 2023

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: The Forum at Columbia University on 125th Street and Broadway, also broadcast over Zoom and Facebook Live

Attendance:

See the "Roll Call" Sheet/Attendance took by T. Kovaleff

Proposed Agenda for CB9M General Board Meeting on 2/16/2023

- General Board Meeting Agenda;
- General Board Minutes (01/19/23);
- Chair's Report; (will be shared at the meeting)
- Treasurer's Report;
- District Manager's Report;
- WHDC Report;
- UMEZ Report;
- 125th Street Bid Report;
- MBPO Report;
- Action Item(s);
- Committee Minutes;
- Flyers, and Announcements;
- February/March - 2023 Calendars;

I. Call to Order

Calling meeting to attention at 6:39 PM. The meeting started at 7:06 PM. We reached a quorum (38 members present). The recording and the live broadcast started. B. Weinberg has called the meeting to order. T. Kovaleff took the Attendance roll.

II. Adopt Agenda

The meeting agenda for tonight was submitted prior to the meeting. C. Thompson moved to adopt the agenda. W. Alexander seconded the motion. All remaining members present unanimously agreed. T. Kovaleff votes not entitled.

III. Adopt Minutes

S. Prophete & T. Kovaleff submitted the minutes from the January 2023 general board meeting prior to the meeting. C. Thompson moved to adopt the minutes. W. Alexander seconded the motion. All remaining members present unanimously agreed. T. Kovaleff abstains.

IV. Presentations/Updates/Discussions

- Stephanie Mercado Altman (saltman@healthsolutions.org) - NYC Smoke-Free
 - Public Health Solutions
 - Mission - to increase tobacco-free norms
 - Smoking prevalence has gone down. CB9 - 17%, Manhattan - 13%, NYC- 14%
 - Reduce secondhand smoke exposure
 - Smoke-free housing and tobacco-free outdoors - policies are voluntary
 - Work with landlords and property owners
 - Community Screening and Discussion of Black Lives/Black Lungs
 - Introduction to Cannabis Task Force
 - Slide deck will be shared with District Manager and can be circulated

V. Reports

Board Chair Report: Hon. B. Weinberg

- Elections Committee - LaQuita Henry, Tiffany Khan, Annette Robinson, Tina Lumley, Ken Miles
- Mayor Releases Preliminary Budget for 2023-2024
 - Cuts to numerous agencies. Libraries hit the hardest.
 - Response to the proposed budget was due 2/12
 - Discretionary budget due on 2/21
- Condolences to the family of Sam Brown (recently passed away) - Founder of the Children's Foundation in Harlem
- Meeting at the Forum on 125th Street for Hybrid Meetings
- New CU President - Nemat Shafik starts in June 2023
- Barnard STEAM Summer Program for teachers in K-8 schools
- New Commanding Officer for the NYPD 26th Precinct - Captain Alvarez

Treasurer's Report: Hon. C. Thompson

- No expenditures made at this time
- Waiting on system password(s) to be restored
- Hearing on a preliminary budget taking place later this month

District Manager's Report: Eutha Prince

- Introducing new Community Associate - Ms. Madison Ayala
- District Manager's Report is in the packet distributed with meeting invite
- Scheduled Tour on 3/2 with Lyle Blackwell of DOT
- Review Mayor Budget proposals
 - Sent out in packet - letter of response needed from ALL committee chairs
 - Feb. 23rd for MBPO Deadline for Capital Project funding

WHDC Report: Hon. P. Watler-Johnson

- WHDC Report is in the packet distributed
- New Resource Center Director hired - Mr. Vincent Morgan
- Marcus Garvey Project Completed
 - WHDC was reimbursed for the \$2 million loan plus interest
- WHDC Annual board meeting is on 2/25
- Exploring financial Resources for HDFCs
- Zead Ramadan - Executive Director shares the following developments:
 - Free admission for seniors - who want to see "Mama Wants To See You Swing."
 - Scholarships available for Little Lions Summer Camp sponsored by WHDC

UMEZ: Rev. Morgan Thomas

- UMEZ will be meeting on 2/25
- UMEZ funded \$2.4 Million dollars for 52 organizations in our district (last fiscal year)
 - Sought out federal funding and grants
- Perscolas Technology / Apprentice IT Program - to be launched soon
- \$300,000 earmarked to help local artists

125th Street BID Report: Ken Miles

- BID assessment increase - waiting to be processed
- More cleaning and more maintenance
- When will it be available to spend.
- Public Safety is the focus
 - Cannabis Dispensary opening - at 248 West 125th Street
 - Written concerns about placement
- Please sign the Change.org BID petition
- Ms. Barbara Askins is supposed to receive an award in March for her community work.

Manhattan Borough President's Office Report: Mark Levine & Minah Whyte
(minahwhyte@manhattanbp.nyc.gov)

- State of the Boro - 1/31 at City College
- Happy Black History Month
- Housing Nights
- Capital Funding available - applications due on 2/23 at 5 PM
 - <https://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/funding/capital-funding/>

- Limit Non-emergency Helicopter Use
- Against proposed 5G Towers installation
 - Use existing public infrastructure
- For Compost Program throughout Manhattan - pick up of organics is essential to cut down on waste
- Outlined Benefits of Urban/Street Trees - calling for the planting of one million new trees
- Right to Council - housing court does not have enough lawyers. Asking for a moratorium until all tenants can be adequately represented
- 145th Street and Amsterdam Ave. Project
 - Need affordable housing and supportive housing

VI. Public Session

Sugar Hill - Maritta Dunn

Andreas & Lois Penny (Concerned Citizens for a Better Harlem) - 1727 Amsterdam Ave.

- Would like to be included in the updates for the project
- Want to speak with public officials regarding the project

Louis Bailey (We ACT)

- Membership meeting on 2/18 AM
- Composting Program

Shawn Abreu - City Councilmember District 7

- Hearing on 2/28 for an Anti Discriminatory Bill (obesity, tattoos, hair)
- Protect Right to Counsel - Protest on 3/3
- Looking into the prolonged Gas outage at Grant
 - Government not making payments on-time
 - Need Epayment option
- Waiting on 1727 Amsterdam Ave. project update from Sheena Wright (1st Deputy Mayor)
- Elevator at 125th Street 1 subway station - the goal is to have Columbia pay for it
 - CU paying for study for the elevator. MTA will pay for elevators.
 - Awaiting results from the assessment

John Martin Green

- Blackberry Productions - encourage community awareness
 - Theater Based Intervention model with regards to community policing
 - Introducing COPP intervention model
- Save the Date - Event on Tue 2/21 at Harlem School of the Arts from 6-8 PM
 - Will share RSVP with Eutha Prince to distribute

Lisa Edmiston (Concerned Citizens for a Better Harlem)

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/concernedcitizensharlem/>
- Asking for more information regarding the Project on 145th Street

- Looking for a definitive statement from Councilmember Abreu on the project

Matt Gerber (Concerned Citizens for a Better Harlem)

- Concerned about the project at 1727 Amsterdam Avenue
- Looking for clarity from the developers and the city about the project
- Community is looking for replacement of lost resources

Ms. Mack (CODA Alliance)

- <http://www.nyccoda.org/>
- Purchased a building on 152nd Street and St. Nicholas
- New Free Pilot program - Finance for Women
 - Every Thursday from 630-830 PM
- March 1st - Digital Literacy Program for Seniors

Annapurna Potluri (Red Balloon Preschool) - Annapurna.Potluri007@gmail.com

- Columbia attempting to remove preschool from current space
- Current space would be turned into a CU owned preschool
- Offered to temporarily move them to a temp space for one year
- Scheduling a mass protest

Tiffany Khan

- Email sent to CB9 on 1/12 about HPD funding issues
- <https://www.nyc.gov/site/hpd/services-and-information/homefirst-down-payment-assistance-program.page>
- Grant from HPD - for 1st time homebuyers (low to moderate income)
 - Application fee is \$850.00. Way too high for low/moderate income families
 - HPD is taking 4-6 months to process an application. Way too long.
 - She has tried to see Councilman Abreu about the problem
 - Can only make appts with his office. Can no longer make on-demand or ad-hoc visits. Needs assistance getting traction on this issue.

Emmitt Sklar (Esklar@council.nyc.gov) - Office of Councilman Shaun Abreu

- Francheco is under the weather
- Speed Cameras are now on for 24 hours. Speeding violations are down 25% since this initiative has been enabled
- Three Kings Day - Toy Giveaway
- Councilman protested with Nurses and Nurse's union.
 - Nurses reached a new CBA deal with Mt. Sinai
- Working on making universal exit interviews across all city agencies
- Email him or the Chief of Staff (Amber) to coordinate a meeting with the councilman re: 1727 Amsterdam Ave. project
 - <https://council.nyc.gov/district-7/>
- Councilman Abreu has joined the meeting at 8:20 PM.
 - He is in full support of permanent supportive housing

- He is leaning towards a YES on the project but wants some guarantees from BRC.
- Columbia has agreed to pay for elevator study at 125th Street Station

Mirian Hernandez (Hernandezm@nyassembly.gov // 212-866-3970) - Office of Assemblyman Danny O'Donnell

- Book Drive at District Office from 10am-4pm
- Family Resource Fair on Friday 2/17 from 3-7 pm
- 2/28 Community Meeting about 611 West 112th (purchased by Columbia, formerly an SRO)
- Nominations for Historic Business (older than 50 years)
- Columbia proceeding with plans to remove Red Balloon

Joselinne Minaya - Manhattan DA's Office

- Contact - Washington Heights Office (212) 335-3320
- Sentenced 2 members of the Gang - "The Main Event" - violent drug trafficking ring from W135th Street Between Amsterdam and Riverside Dr.
- Human Trafficking Awareness Month
 - Human Trafficking Response Unit Hotline (212) 335-3400

Morgan Tiggs from Assemblymember Taylor's Office

- tiggsm@altaylorfornny.org - (212)- 234- 1430
- Had audio issues, unable to give update

Lermond Mayes from Assemblymember Dickens Office

- Working on the following proposed bills
 - Parole Board - Needs more diverse ethnic makeup for equality
 - Good Neighbors Bill of Rights - hold owners with big footprints accountable

Gisele from Councilmember Kristen Richardson's Office

- <https://kristininharlem.com/>
- Recently hired a new funding coordinator
- Working on Housing Projects for our district
- Organizaing Rally against the 145th St. Truck Stop on Sunday
- Councilwoman is firmly against the 145th Street Amsterdam project

VII. Action Items

1. RATIFIED Letter of Comments re: Proposed Enforcement Regulations & Adult Use of Cannabis;

- a. Explained by Chair Weinberg

- b. A unanimous consent motion by W. Alexander. C. Thompson seconded the motion. All members present unanimously approved.
 - c. Ratification of comments passes
- 2. LOS re: 4/20 Educational Event by Happy Monkey within MCB9;
 - a. Feedback given by the general board and will be relayed to event organizers
 - b. Changes needed to ensure safety for the event
- 3. LOS re: Mt. Sinai Adolescent Patient Care Services;
 - a. Chair Weinberg went over the letter of support
 - b. A unanimous consent motion by V. Edwards. W. Alexander seconded. All members present unanimously approved.
 - c. Letter of Support passes
- 4. Reso re: Commercial Vehicles Parking and Storage Over Night within MCB9;
 - a. Explained by Edwin Torres
 - b. A unanimous consent motion by D. Hardeman. W. Alexander seconded. All Members present unanimously approved.
 - c. Resolution passes
- 5. LOS re: General Colin L. Powell Street Co-Naming;
 - a. The majority of General Board members voted in support of the LOS
 - b. Letter of Support passes
- 6. LOS re: 1649 Amsterdam Avenue;
 - a. Explained by Heather Jason
 - b. A unanimous consent motion by V. Edwards. W. Alexander seconded. All members present unanimously approved.
 - c. Letter of Support passes
- 7. LOS re: 639, 637 & 635 West 142nd St. and Urgency to Calendar W. Harlem Historic District
 - a. Explained by Heather Jason
 - b. A unanimous consent motion by V. Edwards. W. Alexander seconded. All members present unanimously approved.
 - c. Letter of Support passes

Liquor License (Renewals):

- 8. Reso re: 112 French Inc.;
 - 9. Reso re: Trustees of Columbia University;
 - 10. Reso re: Baylander Café, LLC;
 - 11. Reso re: V&T Restaurant, Inc.;
 - 12. Reso re: 2896 Broadway Food Service Corp.;
 - 13. Reso re: Massawa Restaurant Corp.;
- a. Explained by Carolyn Thompson
 - b. A unanimous consent motion by W. Alexander. D. Hardeman was seconded. All members present unanimously approved.
 - c. Renewals are approved.

Note: All of the above liquor license renewals were vetted by US&T committee, NYPD Precincts - 26th and 30th, and had no complaints or violations with the NY State Liquor Authority

New Liquor License(s):

14. Reso re: Amancer Restaurant & Lounge
 - a. Explained by Carolyn Thompson
 - b. A unanimous consent motion by W. Alexander. D. Hardeman was seconded. All members present unanimously approved.
 - c. Renewals are approved.

Note: The new liquor license was vetted by the US&T committee and NYPD 30th Precinct. No issues or complaints were reported.

VIII. Old Business

- a. None was brought up at this time.

IX. New Business

- a. None was brought up at this time.

X. Adjourn

- S. Mortensen moved to adjourn the meeting. T. Khan seconded the motion. All participants were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM by Chair Weinberg.

Respectfully submitted by Solomon Prophete