

Manhattan Community Board 9  
16-18 Old Broadway  
New York, NY 10027

#### General Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 16th, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: The Forum at Columbia University (2nd Floor Auditorium), Zoom, Facebook Live

#### I. Call to Order

The roll call was taken at 6:39 PM. 31 board Members are present (either in-person or remotely) and 2 board members have excused absences. A quorum was achieved. The meeting started at 6:42 PM. Attendance sheets given to Ms. Eutha Prince.

#### II. Adopt Agenda

The agenda for tonight was submitted prior to the meeting. C. Thompson moved to adopt the agenda. J. Arrindell seconded the motion. All remaining members present unanimously agreed.

#### III. Adopt Minutes

The minutes from the May 2022 general board meeting were submitted by T. Kovaleff prior to the meeting. C. Thompson moved to adopt the minutes. W. Alexander seconded the motion. All remaining members present unanimously agreed.

#### IV. Reports/Presentations

Chair: B. Weinberg

- Provided written report
- The Fiscal Year 2023 City Budget recently passed. Several organizations in our district received funding:
  - Sugar Hill Housing
  - Ali Forney Center
  - Teachers College Community School
  - Riverside Park (Stairs Renovation)
  - PS 125 (Pool Repair)
  - Jacob Schiff Campus
  - New security cameras throughout our district
- A reminder that many people in our community are trying to fight the economic loss brought about by the pandemic
- Many people in our community are stretched, strained, fighting fatigue, and overcoming losses. Remember the less fortunate.
- Please remember to relax and take care of your mental health.

- Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to be made available for children 6 months old to 5 years old.
- Low-income families are eligible for a \$30 credit for Broadband access to help bridge the digital divide.
  - Verizon and Spectrum have announced these broadband plans
- All community boards are navigating in-person and hybrid meetings.
- Gov. Hochul extended the emergency open meetings law. However, it may not be extended past September 2022.
- Board 9 is still waiting to move into a new space at 3291-3295 Broadway.
  - Waiting for IT & DCAS - audio, visual, and data service to be set up.
- Ms. Zita - Board 9's Community Associate will be retiring this summer. She has been with the board for over 22 years. We wish her well in her retirement. She has not been given an official last day yet but has given her 30-day notice.
- Please make sure that we help Eutha.

Treasurer: K. Bettis

- Submitted fund balance/report prior to the meeting.
- Chair Weinberg pointed out an error by DCAS. Not realizing that we needed to pay rent for 2 locations. Until we finalize the move.
- We also expanded the budget to pay for Spanish interpretation services.

District Manager: E. Prince

- Provided written report prior to the meeting.
- Spoke about Ms. Zita's departure and how much she will be missed.
- There will be 2 positions to fill in the District Office.
  - The Community Associate position has been posted. Please share.
- George Bruce Library closing for renovation - was a top priority for budgetary needs.
  - Please use other nearby branches: Harlem Library, Morningside Heights Library, and Harry Belafonte Library
- Columbia Entrepreneur's program in Business Management for High School Juniors & Seniors.
  - Application Deadline: June 27th, 2022
- 13th Annual NYC Multicultural Festival
  - Saturday, June 18th, 2022 from 12PM-6PM at St. Nicholas Avenue (between 141st and 145th Streets)
- 29th Annual Juneteenth Festival
  - Saturday, June 18th, 2022 from 12PM-6PM from 116th Street between Malcolm X Blvd and Fifth Avenue. For more info, visit [juneteenthecelebrationnyc.org](http://juneteenthecelebrationnyc.org)
- Early voting begins Saturday June 18th through Sunday, June 26th and June 2022 Primary Election Day is on Tuesday, June 28th. Go to [NYCVotes.org](http://NYCVotes.org) for more information.

WHDC: P. Watler-Johnson

- Provided written report prior to the meeting.

- Community Grant Application
  - For more information, email [grants@westharlemdc.org](mailto:grants@westharlemdc.org)
- Next Uptown Night Market on 7/14.
- Summer Leadership Academy for 5th-8th graders
  - Taking place from August 1st - August 19th
- Special Thank you to Anthony Fletcher for his help and service to WHDC.
- Tina Lumley asked how many jobs for CB9 residents were allocated through Arise
  - Pat has not received a response yet from WHDC
- A. Robinson asked how many slots are provided by WHDC for Riverside Leadership Academy?
  - Pat responded that 20-30 slots are being sponsored by WHDC.
- W. Alexander asked, is the Senior Employment program happening?
  - Pat responded that she will have to find out.
- B. Weinberg asked, what amount of money was allocated for Greater Harlem Week?
  - Pat responded that she will have to find out.
- Annette Robinson and Victor Edwards commented that WHDC is failing our youth. Not making CB9 a priority. We need more accountability. There has been a lack of communication. They have invited the Executive Director to a meeting and there has been dead silence.

UMEZ: Rev. G. Morgan-Thomas

- Unable to attend tonight's meeting due to death in the family.

MBPO: Minah Whyte

- Welcome to all new community board members.
- Wishing everyone a Happy and Safe Pride Month
- Reach out to MBPOs office to march in the Pride Parade
- MBPOs office had a great time marching in the Puerto Rican Day Parade.
- Open Meetings Law (OML) extended to July 14th, 2022
- MBPO held a forum about MonkeyPox with Columbia University ICAP.
- MBP fighting to improve air quality. Wants to make mandates for indoor air quality to prevent airborne viruses.
- Co-sponsoring a bill about construction safety.
- Senior citizen subsidy available; deadline to apply is 6/30.
- Partnering with Uptown Wagon on Wed 6/29.
  - Need clothing (gently used)
- Advocating for the right to counsel and urging the courts to stop evictions.
  - Asking for rent freeze
- P. Caldwell asked about BX19 stops removed along 145th Street.
  - Removal of stops was not on MTAs redesign plan.
  - Minah asked that Ms. Caldwell to contact her directly.
- Board is aware of the issue and has tried to contact Marcus Book for an update.

125th Street BID: Ken Miles

- Response Center at 66 West 125th Street open from 11am to 6pm Monday thru Friday.
- Members of the community are encouraged to drop by and give comments/feedback.
- City agencies are not communicating well with one another.
- Increasing sanitation budget for the BID.
- How are opportunities created for young people?

Additional comments by Chair Weinberg

- Chair will reach out to new board members regarding committee assignments.
- Monkeypox is like smallpox. There is an existing vaccine. But the CDC is trying to contain the virus.
- Early Voting starts this Saturday, June 18th. The NYC Board of Elections have opened many new voting sites.
- Be aware that the NYS Courts recently threw out newly drawn assembly district lines.

#### V. Public Session

Richard Cox from Market in the Heights

- Working with Team Unity and CUNY to address Food Insecurity
- Farmers Market/CSA is available on Thursdays and Saturdays from end of April to November.
- We are living in a food desert. Want to give members of our community more choices.
- For more information, visit - <https://www.ccnycunyu.edu/calendar/market-heights> or email [marketintheheights@gmail.com](mailto:marketintheheights@gmail.com)

Doug Lavin and Lisa Greenwald from 111th Street Block Association

- Provided assistance to former shelter residents of 610 West 111th Street (Women's Ellington Shelter). It was closed down by the City due to poor building conditions
- City has recently reopened the shelter and moved people back in.
- Shelter residents have complained of roaches, mice, issues with water, stoves not working, heaters on blast.
- Board is aware of the situation. Assemblyman Danny O'Donnell is in contact with DHS and has inquired what repairs have been made.
- Recently the legacy developer/landlord sold rights to the building.

Patricia Allen (Harlem resident)

- Gave her support for the Historic Harlem Markers

William Seraile (historian and Harlem homeowner)

- Gave his support for the Historic Harlem Markers
- Wrote an essay - "Historic Harlem on my mind"

VI. Action Items - none

VII. Old Business - none

VIII. New Business - none

IX. Carolyn Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting. Laquita Henry seconded the motion. All participants were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM

Respectfully submitted by Solomon Prophete