

Manhattan Community Board 9
3291 Broadway
New York, NY 10027

General Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 15th, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: New CB9 Location at 3291 Bway, Zoom, Facebook Live

Attendance:

Panelists -

Eutha Prince, Barry Weinberg, Carolyn Thompson, Victor Edwards, Alex Hunter, Anthony Achille, Arelis Mejia, Carlton Davis, Dan Cohen, Derrick Johnson, Evelin Collado, Heather Jason, Jonathan Sinagub, Joyce Adewumi, Lydia Gerson, Miriam Aristy-Farer, Miriam H - AM O'Donnell, Nina Norwood, Patricia Caldwell, Patricia Ramos, Patricia Watler Johnson, Robert Jackson, Signe Mortensen, Theodore Kovaleff, Tina Lumley, Walter Alexander, Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, Deirdre McIntosh-Brown, Joyce Adewumi, Annette Robinson, Monica Dula, Shannon Richards, Jane Arrendell, Minah Whyte, Shaneeka Wilson, Miriam Aristy Farer, Louis Bailey, Ken Miles, Monique Hardin-Cordero, Hugo Torres-Fetsco, Ely Silvestre, Michael Palma, Sean Farrow, CM Shaun Abreu, MBP Levine, Joselinne Minaya (DANY), Laquita Henry, Ilana Mercado,

Attendees -

Chris Johnson, Crystal Baez, Franchesco Martinez, Jair Sanchez, Jessica Mates, Jonathan Kirk, Katherine Yoakum, Madison Ayala, Mary Rocco, Patricia Jordan, Renee Strickland, Robert Stern, Stephanie Caban, Suzy Bueno, Tomas Dias Piva Imperato, Thomas Copeland, Abena Smith, Clayton Sanford

I. Call to Order

The meeting started at 6:34 PM. Quorum is not achieved at this time. The recording and the live broadcast were started. We reached quorum at 7:08 PM. B. Weinberg has called the meeting to order. The Attendance roll was taken at 9:22 PM by T. Kovaleff.

II. Adopt Agenda

The agenda for tonight was submitted prior to the meeting. T. Kovaleff asked to amend the agenda. Election for Assistant Secretary is needed at Next Gen. Board Meeting. C. Thompson moved to adopt the agenda. L. Henry seconded the motion. All remaining members present unanimously agreed.

III. Adopt Minutes

S. Prophete submitted the minutes from the June 2022 general board meeting prior to the meeting. C. Thompson moved to adopt the minutes. J. Martin Green seconded the motion. All remaining members present unanimously agreed.

IV. Presentations/Updates/Discussions

Vice Chair: V. Edwards

- Board Member Attendance
 - Absences need to be excused by the Chair or committee head
 - Went over Board Bylaws
 - Absences are allowed if a board member is participating in board business

V. Reports

Chair: B. Weinberg

- Hybrid Meeting Law will end in September 2022.
- Gov. Hochul will not extend the executive order.
- Mayor Adams has not indicated if he will extend the order.
- Board members should assume they have to meet in person for committee meetings and board meetings.
 - Attendance exemptions should be requested from the chair, district manager, and committee chair(s)
- Monkeypox virus update
- Polio update
- Bx19 bus stop has been restored on West 145th Street.
- Sen. Robert Jackson is no longer representing our district due to the new redistricting map.
- Refugees being sent to NYC from the Southern Border (Texas)
- 1727 Amsterdam Avenue Update
 - Move out for existing tenants is March 2023
 - Reps joined the Exec. Board Meeting last week
 - HHC and BRC plan to build a nine-story building with 200 units (of supportive housing and affordable housing)
 - Board believes City owns the land and is subject to the ULURP process
 - HHC believes they do and are only subject to hearings and city council votes.
 - G. Morgan Thomas raises concerns about supportive housing in the area and feels that consistent follow-up with inhabitants by providers is not being done.
 - M. Aristy-Farer raises concerns about BRCs projects downtown. Also, there is another supportive housing project one block away. In addition, there is a school with 1,200 kids close by.
 - The health committee and the Housing & Land-use committee are monitoring the situation.

Treasurer: K. Bettis (not in attendance)

- Submitted fund balance/report prior to the meeting.
- Included in the packet

District Manager: E. Prince

- She provided a written report prior to the meeting.
- Thanked board members for support. Would like to give members a tour.
- Signs for BX19 have not been put back yet
- Budget meetings currently taking place.
- Mosquito sprays taking place tonight.
- 26th Pct. - conducting tow operations starting 9/15 through 9/16 between west 116 to 135th street and Riverside Drive.
- Rat Academy Training on 10/18 - virtual link will be shared via email
- There will be 2 positions to fill in the District Office.
 - The Community Associate position has been posted. Please share.

WHDC: P. Watler-Johnson

- She provided a written report prior to the meeting.
- Community Grant Application still taking place
 - For more information, email grants@westharlemdc.org
 - Grantees will be confirmed by end of September
- Resource Center
 - Applications/resumes for Director have been submitted on 8/31
 - Plan to open by the end of 2022
 - The Center will be located in the WHDC offices
- Summer Leadership Academy for 5th-8th graders
 - Took place from August 1st - August 19th
 - It was very successful. Administered by Boys&Girls of Harlem
 - What was the number of youth that were hired?
 - Formal report needed/requested - precedent done by ARISE
 - Spoke to Zaid. We need to do better. Everything was done very last minute.
 - Why did CB12 get many more spots?
 - Did not fund Senior Employment Program this year/summer.
 - WHDC is organizing a coalition
- Uptown Night Market - still a continued success
- Climate Change hosted by Columbia University
- Learning Skills Center plans - will work on getting an update

MBPO: Mark Levine / Minah Whyte

- Welcome to all new community board members.
- Open Meetings Law (OML)

- Expires 9/23. Overlapping Exec. orders may allow us to meet virtually
- Migrants
 - Averaging about 300 a day
 - New Resource Navigation Center opened on West 47th Street
 - Treated as political pawns by Texas and Florida
 - Federal Government needs to support NYC
 - Donate items and services to the 125th st. office
 - Need legal and translation assistance
- Collecting Donations
 - Drop off at Northern Manhattan Office
 - The request for donations has specifically been new toiletries and hygiene items such as body washes, toothbrushes, menstrual products, new and packaged clothing, and diapers.
- Resource Fair at Riverbank State Park
 - Monday 9/26 from 12-6 PM
 - For underserved families
- Additional Monkeypox vaccinations are being released by the city.
- New Omnicron Boosters are available
- 1727 Amsterdam Avenue Project
 - MBP believes that the project helps to create affordable housing
 - Monica Dula believes the shelter system is on the brink.
 - 11,000 people are currently using the shelter program
 - The system is very dangerous and not safe. An increase in security is needed.
 - We need more family housing.
 - Need more social workers.
 - Right to shelter law (NYS Supreme Court)
 - Do not support the repeal of the law
 - Only looking to do implementation strategies

City Councilman S.Abreu

- Legislation to track guns, public disclosures of firearms
 - Working with Moms on Demand
- Asylum Seekers
- Three assemblies are being organized about 1727 Amsterdam Avenue
 - Concerns about reduction of health services
 - CB9 would like to work with CM Abreu's Office in the process
 - There needs to be more transparency and say given to the Community
 - Heritage Healthcare was in jeopardy of closing due to financial issues
 - Dr. Ralph Jackson of Jackson Ophthalmology was a CB9 member
 - Has an assessment been done? What is the impact?
- Budget Cuts to Education
 - Need support from local and state politicians
- The Department of Homeless Services needs to be held accountable

Mirian H. - Assemblyman O'Donnell's Office

- She will pass on concerns and issues to Assemblyman O'Donnell
- Rat Academy Training being held tomorrow from 1-3 PM
- Support and sponsoring for Gun Legislation and Abortions
 - No knock warrants
- Plan for Suicide Prevention for 7-12th Graders
- HIV Prevention Bill
- Water Testing Bill
- Environmental Bill - requiring charging stations for electric vehicles

Joselinne Minaya & Ely Silvestre (DANY)

- Linda who ran the Harlem office retired
- Domestic Violence Awareness month
 - Workshops and talks
 - Shine the light event - Oct. 24
 - The bulk of cases come from North of 96th Street
 - Includes child and elder abuse
- Senior Wellness Day in October at the Washington Heights Office

Nina Norwood (Congressman Espaillat's Office)

- Fighting for Gun Legislation in Washington
- Fighting to lower health care and prescription drug costs
- Working on Student Loan relief for borrowers
- Seeking financial assistance to help migrants/refugees
- Hosted President of the Dominican Republic in Washington DC
- Nominations for the Military Academy

VI. Public Session

Mr. Abreu

- 500 West 134th Street between Amsterdam and Broadway - Job Center
- Natalia coordinated and led the center. She retired.
- Center helped residents of CB9 fill out applications for Job Training and Certifications
- It changed the area around the center.

Shannon Richards (142nd Street Dog Run)

- McCarren Dog Run - had several animals die due to Rat poison
- Proposal for renovations given to Parks and Landmarks committee to limit rodent population
- No garbage cans on the east side of Riverside Drive from 135th to 144th Street.

Louis Bailey - We ACT

- Asking Community Board for support to reach out to Speaker Adams to bring Zero Waste Legislation to the NYS Senate
 - <https://www.weact.org/campaigns/waste-justice/>
- Activating Transportation working group
- OSHA classes are currently given at We ACT.

Jasmine Lawrence (Cayuga Centers)

- Welcoming community
- Fundraiser for families in need.
- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paving-new-ways-170th-anniversary-celebration-in-new-york-ny-tickets-376776166657?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

VII. Action Items

Letter of Support for Proposal of Morningside Heights Historic District (Robert Stern)

- Five distinct areas with significant criteria for NYC Landmarks
 - M. Hardin-Cordero moves for unanimous consent. M. Dula seconds the motion.
 - The resolution has been adopted unanimously

Letter of Support for 346 Convent Avenue Renovations

- Expanding basement level rear yard, install new retaining walls and fences
 - The LPC hearing for this property is on 10/18.
 - Convent Avenue Baptist Church has asked for documentation
- Motion to table the resolution until 10/13 - exec. Board meeting
 - Unanimous consent was requested and moved.

VIII. Old Business

- a. The Assistant Secretary position needs to be elected at the Next General Board Meeting.
 1. Solomon Prophete has nominated himself for the position. Seconded by Victor Edwards.
- b. Harlem School of the Arts

IX. New Business - none

X. Adjourn

- Monique Hardin Cordero moved to adjourn the meeting. Monica Dula seconded the motion. All participants were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 PM

Respectfully submitted by Solomon Prophete