



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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Wednesday, April 9th, 2014, 6:30pm

Hon. Deborah Gilliard, Chair
Hon. Karen Horry, Acting Chair
Hon. Daniel Clark, Co-Chair

Meeting began at 6:50 pm and was held in the 3rd floor conference room. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Karen Horry, Acting Chair.

Committee Members in attendance: Troy Gethers and Lupe Moreno. Daniel Clark and Deborah Gilliard, (Chair) were excused. **A quorum was not present so no action items were taken.**

Guests in attendance: Eduard Nunez (126th Street Garden & Apiary), Ryan Gaines(126th Street Garden & Apiary), Thomas DeVito (Transportation Alternatives), Rene Calvo (Mandela Park), J.C. Duncan (Mandela Park), Rupe F. (Mandela Park), Elisa Merrow (312 West 114th Neighborhood Association), Martin Wallace (Saner Living Neighborhood Association), Kieishsha Y. Garnes (DPR), Louis Bailey (WE ACT), Nadirah Ahmed (Better Family Life), Martin Baez, Stephen Miller (Streetblog), Maurice Sessoms, Julius Tajiddin, J.P. Partland.

1. NYC DOT Updates (The agency did not provide representation at the meeting, however Josh Orzeck, Community Liaison and Deputy Commissioner Margaret Forgione provided e-mailed updates.)

a) **Morningside Avenue** – The Committee has been awaiting a revised presentation promised by NYC DOT since December 2013 and remains in continuous dialogue. The agency has once again postponed the tentative date for submission. Deputy Commissioner Margaret Forgione advised that the agency is experiencing difficulty in arriving at an alternate streetscape design without approval of proposed signaling that cannot be assessed until warmer weather when the area is more frequented by people going into Marcus Garvey Park. The plan will not be available until May or June.

The safety of community residents is of utmost concern to the Board and this is the reason for precaution. Streetscape changes on Mount Morris Park West, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd and 5th Avenue resulted in problematic and hazardous conditions that are still being remedied. While some residents expressed extreme concerns over what they perceived as life-threatening conditions, other residents were not alarmed and

conveyed that the problem with speeding was precipitated by the multiple-block span without traffic lights and that the area would benefit from creation of a slow speed zone, particularly in view of the presence of schools.

Outcome: The Committee will submit the current resolution to the Executive Committee for review, as a quorum was not present.

b) **SBS M60 Impact on the Disabled and Seniors** – The elimination of bus stops on this route remains an on-going concern in the community. The issue is not that the SBS M60 is ADA compliant but rather that access to the bus stops is equally accessible to all residents without undue hardship. The M60 is the only bus that continues into Queens and on to LaGuardia Airport. NYCDOT maintains that it is their position that they will not reconsider the stopping pattern for the bus line. Community resident and advocate for the Disabled, Martin Baez advised that a petition was filed for a class action suit against the NYC DOT

Outcome: CB10 will continue its outreach to elected officials and advocacy groups to address this community concern.

c) **Mount Morris Park West (MMPW)** – NYC DOT as per their March 28th e-mail correspondence did not give an update on Mount Morris Park West. Residents of MMPW/5th Avenue Takes Action expressed that there were still community issues at the March meeting and were asked to provide a written update assessing the NYC DOT response to community concerns per the agency's February 2014 feedback. Response was pending at the time of the meeting. Please see the attached.

Outcome: Committee has asked MMPW community organizations to provide a list of changes made by NYCDOT in response to community concerns and what they deem as still hazardous with respect to the street redesign. Information is still pending.

d) **City Bike Share** – Per the March 28th e-mail NYC DOT communication there was no current information available on the Bike Share program being introduced in the CB10 area.

Outcome: The Committee will remain in dialogue with NYC DOT regarding any updates.

2. **Bike Lane Study Initiative** - The Committee embraced a conversation around the need for a bicycle impact study for the CB10 area in response to the repeated concern for the incorporation of bicycle lanes in the area's traffic infrastructure. The Committee reviewed a NYC DOT map of the city's existing and proposed bicycle lanes. Continuity of a bike lane network was emphasized as a mandatory feature. It was advised that CBs 9, 10, 11 and 12 jointly develop any proposed network. CB 12's NYC DOT Bicycle Route Preliminary Evaluations: Priority Bicycle Routes was used as a guide.

Outcome: The Committee will contact CBs 9, 11 and 12 to initiate a joint development of an effective bicycle lane network.

Presentations

a) **Mandela Community Garden Park** - The proposed garden will encompass 265 and 267-269 West 126th Street (between Frederick Douglass and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevards) - Block 1932, Lots 5 and 7, respectively. The HPD-controlled lots are contiguous and are a total of 0.149 acres. The group is requesting a letter of support to transform the city-owned lot, which is proximal to the Harriet Tubman Learning

Center. The garden will be named in honor of the legendary leader Nelson Mandela. The project vision is to create a garden that will provide solace to residents and educational programming for local area youth in conjunction with local schools.

The Committee and community raised concerns regarding evidenced lead toxicity of the site and advised that the group should seek help from Green Thumb regarding cleanup issues. Mr. Calvo advised that the group has a letter explaining their understanding of any restrictions or conditions governing the use of the property by HPD. In addition, the group was advised to provide a letter of support from the Unity Funeral home which has also expressed interest in the site.

b) **Outcome:** The Committee advised that community support should be evidenced by submission of letters of support from local tenant organizations, block associations, resident petition, schools, religious institutions, businesses, etc in the immediately adjacent area.

c) **Bike Train** – Biketrain is a new venture in the community which encourages safe social cycling in groups at no charge to participants. They are promoting the cycling skill development and safety education for less experienced cyclists who have been previously apprehensive about commuting by bicycle, due to safety concerns. The group's premise is that cycling in groups provides safer visibility in traffic. The group leaves every Thursday morning from Lenox Coffee, located at 60 West 129th Street – gathering begins at 7:30 am and departs at 8:00 am arriving in midtown around 8:30 am and Greenwich Village by 9:00 am. The group then goes on to Central Park and 9th Avenue for leisurely cycling. Biketrain is canceled in the event of rain.

Outcome: The Committee and community are in support of the project.

Announcements

WEACT Events – 4/12/14 Membership Meeting

Elected Officials Breakfast & Community Gardens & Barbecue

NYC Parks and Recreation: "It's My Park Day" – May 17th

New York Cares Volunteers are available for support in community park activities

The Committee is continuing its work on developing a District Needs Statement.

There were no voting items.

Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.