

Minutes from Committee for Concerns of the Aging

Thursday October 3rd 2019 @ Dyckman Senior Center

Attendance:

Committee – Present: Yosef Kalinsky, Mary Anderson, Mariam James, Glennis Aquino-Gil. **Public Members –** Fern Hertzberg, Carol Weeks. **Excused:** Jay Mazur. **CB12 Members –** Fe Florimon

Public: Joseph Rosenbaum, Martha Gonzalez, Maria Pizzini, Margarette Wooly, M Valentinotti, Sadie Bradley, Cynthia Singletary, Bessie Robinson, Andra Harris, Nathaniel Green, Francine Coleman, John Thompson, Ken Plunket, Kayla Perdomo

- Meeting called to order at 10:45am
- The chair opened the meeting and introduced herself, other members of the board. Committee Mission Statement was reviewed. Fern opened with background information regarding the goals of a community board and specifically our committee. She asked for community input so that issues can be addressed by the committee.
- Presentation by FDNY on fire safety and education:
 - Biggest cause of fire is cigarettes. Be careful not to smoke when lying down and be sure that the fire is extinguished when you are finished smoking.
 - If you are cooking and need to walk away from the kitchen – set an alarm as a reminder to return to the flame, take an oven mitt with you to remind you that something is on the fire and that you return to it shortly.
 - Never throw water on a grease fire, instead grab oven mitt and take pot cover and cover it. Alternatively, throw baking soda on the fire and it will go out (this is same substance used in fire extinguishers). Remember, your goal is to make yourself safe from the open flame, so position yourself near doorway when dealing with the open flame and leave exit as soon as possible.
 - Fire in oven – close door and turn off
 - Microwave – keep door closed and unplug electricity
 - Be careful of loose fitting clothes when cooking on open flame.
 - Children – keep away from stove and use knob covers. Same is true for house animals.
 - Two types of residential buildings: (1) large buildings, like the Dyckman house, were built with fireproof walls made of cement. This contains the fire within the apartment. So if a neighbor's apartment is on fire you should stay in your apartment and not try to exit on the stairs (2) non-fire proof buildings (typically 5-6 story buildings) - you should have a fire escape in addition to stairs to leave in case of fire.
 - Avoid clutter in your apartment – it spreads a fire and makes things more difficult for FDNY to assist and get in quickly.
 - Always be sure to close the door behind you, very important, it limits the fire from spreading.
 - Extension cords – never use one for an item that heats (blow dryer, space heater, AC, refrigerator)
 - Smoke detectors – the new ones last 10 years. Remember to change battery twice a year (when you change your clocks). Combination of smoke and CO2 – for smoke the alarm sound is 3 longer beeps, for CO2 it is 4 short beeps. Leave right away if you hear CO2 alarm. Never take detectors down if there is smoke in the room, just air out the room. One continuous beep every

few minutes means it is time to change the batteries. If you live in an apartment and need a new detector, ask the management for one. If they do not respond in a timely fashion you can request one from Red Cross (877-red-cross) and they will schedule a time to come and install one in your apartment, free of charge. If you are hearing impaired or blind there are special detectors that vibrate or have strobe lights.

- Be careful with space heaters. Make sure the area is flat and clear of all items. Before sleeping – heat up the room and then turn off while you sleep.
- Don't ever use the oven or stove to heat the apartment.
- Don't leave a lit candle in room unattended. Move lit candles away from upholstery or loose items.
- It is critical to have an escape plan in case of fire. Make sure the fire escape window area is cleared and that the windows opens up.
- Fe Florimon – presented a proposal to continue the third year of involving the Aging Committee to cohost “Youth Performing for Seniors” during the holiday season. The proposal was affirmed and passed unanimously with the committee.
- Kayla Perdomo – from Riverstone Senior Center, mentioned special program working with seniors and memory loss. She will give a longer presentation in a future committee meeting.
- Discussion on expense budget and capital rankings. Reviewed our lists from last year.
 - The expense budget included: affordable home care, additional social workers and program coordinators, transportation services, healthy food programs, and increase funding for replacement furnishings in senior centers.

			Increase funding for programs for Gifted & Talented students in School District 6	5
			Aging Committee	Cmte
22	Aging	312201905E	Increase Expanded In Home Services For Elderly Persons (EISEP) funding to provide affordable home care, including sliding scale reimbursement	1
23	Aging	NEW	Increase funding to expand services at senior centers to include hiring additional social workers and program coordinators, creating culturally competent, adding meals, extending hours, increasing per-meal reimbursement rates, etc.	2
24	Aging	312201924E	Increase funding for transportation for seniors by restoring prior City Council Funding and expand access to services	3
25	Aging	312201918E	Increase access to appropriate, healthy food programs for seniors with medical needs	4
26	Aging	NEW	Increase funding for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities to support currently unfunded mandate for nursing hours	5
27	Aging	NEW	Increase OTPS funding for replacement furnishings (non-capital) in senior centers as needed	6
			Traffic & Transportation Committee	Cmte

- The capital projects included: suggestions to renovate existing buildings or build senior centers to comply with ADA and DFTA regulations and to provide funding and Wifi connectivity.

24	Y&E	NEW	HVAC Upgrade to add air conditioning in the George Washington Educational Campus auditorium	6
25	Y&E	NEW	Renovate and upgrade classrooms at M468- HS for Health Careers & Sciences	7
			Aging Committee	Cmte
26	Aging	312201917C	Renovate existing or build replacement senior centers as necessary to comply w/ ADA & DFTA regs	1
27	Aging	312201906C	Provide funding to construct affordable, accessible housing for seniors	2
28	Aging	312201920C	System-wide upgrade of area senior centers to improve connectivity and Wifi	3
			Traffic & Transportation Committee	Cmte
29	T&T	312201908C	Funding to make the following subway stations ADA compliant. IRT (1) Line Stops: 157, 168, 181,191, Dyckman, 455, 168, 464 & Dyckman	1

- Vote:
 - Capital Budget - 6-0-0 (committee) , 1-0-0 (CB12), 14-1-0 (public)
 - Expense Budget - 6-0-0 (committee) , 1-0-0 (CB12), 14-0-0 (public)
- Meeting adjourned at 11:59am

