

Minutes from Committee for Concerns of the Aging

Thursday February 6th 2020 @ ARC Senior Center

Attendance:

Committee – Present: Yosef Kalinsky, Mary Anderson, Mariam James & Jay Mazar. **Excused:** Glennis Aquino-Gil. **Public Members:** Fern Hertzberg and Carol Weeks. **CB12 Members:** Osi Kaminer, Sara Fisher

Public: Joan Bowen, Priscilla Bassett, Elsa Almonte, Celsa Cepin, Neomi Menaya.

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- Meeting began at 10:45am with introductions by the Chair
 - Presentation by Sara Fisher on “Taking care of the environment & having fun doing it!”
 - Sara co-founded in 2015 ‘friendship of Inwood Hill Park’. Here are some things we can do to help the environment that are relevant to people of all ages:
 - Take care of and plant new trees. Remove invasive trees that are not native to the area and harm other trees
 - We have 10,000 acres of natural areas
 - There are 675,000 street trees in NYC. What can you do? Weed, cultivate, mulch, and prune (if trained beforehand)
 - Protect the shoreline
 - Clean up water ways
 - Monitor the quality of the water. When there is a lot of rain it brings sewage into the drinking water so places need to be checked regularly.
 - Restore the habitat. Three sites currently in Inwood monitoring oysters (we brought them in to enhance the habitat) which have allowed sea horses and other species to return to the area.
 - Protecting our species
 - Butterfly and monarchs – watch, tag, and release.
 - Gardens
 - Two gardens in Inwood
 - Recreation projects for all ages at NY Parks – using recycled items for art
 - Three upcoming events
 - Earth Day 2020 – 50th year anniversary of earth day. April 25th-26th – events in Inwood Hill Park
 - River sweep – May 2nd
 - Paint Inwood Festival – June 25th-28th
 - Old Business/ New Business / Announcements

- Elevator closed at 191st Street Station – currently there are shuttle busses going back and forth every 20 minutes. This only goes until 10pm. Let us know if you have any issues with the service.
- 2020 Census
 - Mariam mentioned her frustration with the process of not receiving feedback on her application to join the census team.
- Update on Medicare benefits – Proposed NY Health Act – New Yorkers out-of-pockets costs will be eliminated, saving an average of \$6,100 (22%) of average senior's income. We will have longer discussion on this topic at our next meeting.
- Next meeting is scheduled for 3/5 @ the YM&YWHHA
- Meeting adjourned at 11:55am