

CB12M Aging Minutes
January 13, 2015
Community Bd. Office
530 W. 166th St. 6th Floor

In Attendance

Gloria Vanterpool, Chair

Public Member

Elizabeth Lehman, Asst. Chair

Norma De Candido

Edgard Nau

Lilliana Saneaux

Arlene Schulman

Guests ----Mary Anderson, Juan Bolivar, Julio Batista/, NYPH, Pilaar Sanchez, Y.Duarte, Councilman Rodriguez /representative, Zamira Setaro, /Con Edison representative ,Laura Whitehorn

Meeting called by Chair at 10:05 A.M. Everyone introduced themselves

Congratulations were in order to Betty Lehman who accepted the office of Secretary for the Community Board 12 and to Lilliana Saneaux as Assistant Secretary.

Committee Reports

Health Betty Lehman reported that Con Edison services were improved with the use of #6 oil. Additional particulars will be shared at our next meeting by Ms. Setaro- Con Edison Representative. Students from Gregorio Luperon H.S. visited at the meeting to observe the Community Board in session. There is a discussion to invite Youth (Teenagers) to become eligible members of the Board

Traffic/Transportation = Mary Anderson –Public Member, reported that additional subway stations will be WiFi accessible. A fare increase is expected. - Public forum was held. MTA Board will meet to discuss results and an announcement will be made in the near future. Concern was mentioned of passenger's difficulty getting on and off the bus due to the Bus Drivers not going to the sidewalk curb. A request will be made for a MTA representative to come to our meeting to discuss several items regarding the service problems

Norma De Candido stated that she observed beefed up security by Port Authority Police Dept. at the tunnels to and from N.J.

Lillian Sanseaux was unable to report on Safety Comm. because of meeting cancellation due to weather

Parks Committee – Arlene Schulman reported that a concern was expressed by a senior resident of Hudson Hgts Apartments with the upgrade in Bennett Park Plgd. With her presentation, she

offered some suggestions. It was mentioned that at this time, no money was available to make any changes, but her suggestion would be reviewed and she could return in April for further discussion. Originally, the senior citizen resident brought the problem to the Aging Committee and she was referred to the Parks Committee for review.

Julio Batista, Director of Community Affairs – NYPH mentioned that his presence at the meeting was to insure that we were aware of the work that was now in progress to improve Health Care in Washington Heights. Over \$100 million is being spent for the expansion of the Adult Emergency Department in response to the growing demand for emergency services. This is expected to be completed in 2017. The Chairperson mentioned to Julio Batista that 3 persons from our committee led by Betty Lehman attended the Community Meeting held on Dec. 9th and we received a detailed report and were encouraged by the work in progress. Mr. Batista was asked if a unit or special area was included in the expansion for geriatric service. He suggested that we bring this idea to the hospital for consideration. The committee will follow up on this. He also mentioned that people should be encouraged to use the Urgent Care Center at 21 Audubon Ave. for less serious medical problems thereby avoiding the long wait at the Emergency Department. It was agreed that the committee would work together with N.P.H. in promoting awareness of the URGENT CARE facility on Audubon Ave. at 166th St. the committee will stay in close touch with Julio Batista.

Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption SCRIE

Tenant who qualify for the NYC Rent Freeze Program for Seniors (SCRIE) can have their rent frozen at their current level and be exempt from future rent increases

Requirements

- Must be at least 62 years old
- Rent an apartment this is required by the Division of Housing and Community Renewal
- (rent controlled or rent stabilized apartments
- Total Annual Household income of \$50,000 or less and
- Pay more than one –third of the household’s total monthly income for rent

Yokarina Duarte /Deputy Chief of Staff/ Hon. Rodriguez office extended an invitation to visit his office for assistance with the applications for any senior in our community.

Office located – 618 West 177th ST.

Sen Espailliat will be holding an informational forum on SCRIE & DRIE on

Date: Thursday, February 5th 2015

Time 7pm – 8:30pm

Place Isabella Geriatric Center / 515 Audubon Ave. @W.190th St.

We must encourage our seniors to take advantage of this opportunity if they qualify.

Laura White horn—Release Aging Prison Population RAPP. Community Resident

This is a grassroots group that aims to reduce the number of elders behind bars in NY State.

They advocate the release of elders through parole decisions based on legitimate public safety risk and people's personal growth while in prison. Ms Whitehorn attends our meetings and keeps us informed of the activity of this group. Dept for Aging has received a grant and has a planning task force to explore how to better prepare older prisoners for their release to the community. We will watch the activities and keep the Board informed.

Mission Statement

Chairperson asked the Committee to review what is now our mission statement and offer some suggestions for changes. At our next meeting, it is expected that we will vote on agreed statement.

Meeting was called at 11:40 am Next month's meeting will be held on February 10th