

COMMITTEE FOR CONCERNS OF THE AGING MINUTES

Thursday, January 18, 2018

@ Community Board Office

The attendees were: Mary Anderson, Chair; Fern Hertzberg, Assistant Chair; Eleazer Salazar, Committee member; Norma De Candido, Public Member; Priscilla Bassett; Miriam Canaan; Ann McCosh; Mary Johnson; Audrey Balkaransingh, Joan Bowen and Patrick Bowen.

The meeting was called to order at 10:50AM.

Today's meeting was held at ARC XVI Fort Washington Senior Center, 4111 Broadway, with entrance on 174th Street between Broadway and Fort Washington Avenue, next door to the school yard of PS 173.

Mary Anderson and Fern Hertzberg presented on "What is a Community Board?" A lively discussion ensued about the meetings and the issues that can and do come up before the Community Board.

Mary Johnson raised the issue of a problem with the sidewalk at 178th and Wadsworth Avenue. She stated that standing water is present at that corner all the time. It is especially a problem in the winter when it ices up, and when she tries to get into the Access-A-Ride vehicle, as that is where it picks her up. Mary Anderson will forward this issue to the district manager.

This was followed with a discussion of the doggie poop that is not picked up at 179th between St. Nicholas and Wadsworth Avenues. The problem is all over the block and no one says or does anything about it. Ann McCosh said the same issue is found on her block and many others chimed in with echoes of the same problem on various streets, being both a health and quality of life issue.

A suggestion was made by Priscilla that we have pick up bag dispensers at light posts. Mary Anderson said that had been a pet project of Arlene Schulman, a former Board member, and she would follow up on that. We also discussed the enforcement needed of an existing law that dog owner must pick up after their dog, and perhaps create a campaign.

Mary Johnson also raised the issue of items in the supermarket being too high for many seniors to reach. She said some supermarkets have grabbers, but they are difficult to find. We all agreed that it is not a regulation that the grabbers must be available. Mary and all present were encouraged to seek out the store manager to get an employee to bring down the item. Eli said he would discuss with supermarket owners in the neighborhood having grabbers readily available, as this is a store owner's customer service issue, and he also owns a supermarket.

Joan requested more information on the aging committee, suggesting that it should be the voice of the elderly of the community. Priscilla Bassett wanted to bring attention to the plight of Seniors Helping Seniors. She is concerned that many seniors are served by the organization, and that it has no support. We discussed the role of the Board of Directors of Seniors Helping Seniors, and their responsibility for that organization.

Next meeting of the Committee for the Concerns of the Aging is February 1. Location will be distributed to all who attended today as well as more widely, as we plan to be at another senior center on that day. Several seniors stated that they would like to attend future meetings.

There was a reminder to all attendees that there will be a public hearing on the Inwood Rezoning on February 22, 2018.

Adjourned meeting (Fern/Norma) at 12:10pm.

Submitted by Fern Hertzberg.

