

Community Board 9 Manhattan
Chair's Report
February 2013

Held meeting with member of strategic planning committee to establish process by which the committee will interface with the WHLDC, as well as development of an evaluative procedure to monitor the impact and/or effectiveness of the projects that receive funding.

Multiple discussions held with ED of WHLDC to discuss the grant process and the manner that CB9's strategic planning committee will interface with the WHLDC to evaluate and monitor the service delivery of the organizations receiving funding. As well as giving input in terms of service needs of the district for future grant funding.

Numerous discussions with St. Luke's Hospital and Chair of Health and Environment regarding the elimination of pediatric beds at the 113th street location, as a result a meeting was scheduled to explore options.

Meeting held with Black Architect to continue dialogue and update progress with Columbia. The process was not clear as far as the manner by which they are to receive assignments and therefore further discussion was had with Columbia, all architects who desire to work on the Manhattanville expansion are being asked to bid for projects that currently are being developed, they will then be assigned a project manager who will be responsible for them being assigned work on the expansion project. There are architects who have bid on jobs on the campus and will be partnered with larger firms that have been selected for the initial phase of the expansion.

Teleconferences with minority businesses exploring the current practice in the district as well as the city which impedes their ability to obtain work on projects being developed.

Several phone discussions with Congressman Rangel's office surrounding a resident who had serious immigration issues (work visa expiration) threatening their ability to continue working in the area. Resident's issue is resolved for now but will require additional work toward permanency.

Several discussions with block association members on 150th street regarding parking on Saturday and Sunday, the Seven day Adventist Church currently double parks on the block on Saturday and have leased the space to a Baptist Church that desires to double park on Sunday.

Attended Senior Issues committee meeting to follow up on the shuttle service and participate in the presentation of a new survey that will assist Senior's to enhance their medical insurance.

Attended Borough Board meeting:

Linda Felstein, Senior Finance and Budget Analyst in the Borough President's office, presented about the Borough President's community grants program. Community grants are distributed annually through various City agencies to non-profit organizations. In 2012, the MBPO worked to improve the participatory nature of the grant-making process by recruiting local experts and community members to serve on grant-making review panels. The office is seeking panelists for this year's process; panelists should have expertise or extensive background in senior services, parks and recreation, criminal justice, health or education. Applications to serve as a panelist can be found at www.transpareNYC.org and are due on March 29, 2013. Mr. Diller raised concerns about requisite time commitment, and Ms. Felstein responded that MBPO is well-aware of these concerns and is working to make the timeline more flexible for panelists.

Jessica Silver also pointed out that the Borough Board must issue a response to the Mayor's preliminary budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The public can weigh-in on this budget via the [TranspareNYC](http://TranspareNYC.org) website, which will be considered in the Borough Board response. The Borough President's Office will write this report on behalf of the Borough Board, circulate it for feedback and then submit it to the Mayor. This approval will be ratified at next month's meeting.

Jennie R. Romer, Esq., Founder and Director of "plasticbaglaws.org," gave a presentation on plastic bag ordinances. Ms. Romer explained that the widespread distribution of plastic bags results in increased windblown litter, and she outlined various U.S. cities' efforts to regulate plastic bag usage. San Francisco has banned all plastic bags less than 2.2 millimeters thick. Los Angeles is in the process of fully banning plastic bags, as well as requiring a ten-cent fee for reusable bags. Washington, D.C. requires a five-cent charge on all single-use plastic bags; part of the revenue from these charges goes towards funding the clean-up of the Anacostia River. Ms. Romer recommends that New York City adopt a ban on ultra-thin plastic bags, and a ten-cent charge on thicker bags. She suggested that the Borough Board adopt a resolution in support of this recommendation. Ms. Romer also discussed her role as Atlantic Region Director with the Clean Seas Coalition Atlantic, which works to reduce ocean trash and debris.

Attended: The McKissack (new office) open house.

The Promotional Alliance of Harlem at the Aloft Hotel which was a huge success with many businesses coming out to network and introduce their business to the community.

30th Precinct Clergy meeting, shared the concerns that residents have on 150th street and suggested that the Seven Day Adventist Church reach out to the residents of 150th street to hear their concerns and input.

Black History at Harlem Hospital, "The African American Experience in New York".

Screening of “When Harlem Save A King” documentary on the 1958 stabbing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Blumstein’s department store on 125th street.

Attended the Arts and Culture community artist’s event which highlighted artists who live and work in CB9, was well attended and received great encouragement from the many organizations present to continue such.

Explored several sites as possible office and meeting space for CB9, awaiting word back from DSAS as to the appropriateness of the space desired for leasing based on the city guidelines.

Collaborated with the Hudson River Foundation to set up the second workshop held to familiarize the community with the CB9 Environmental Benefits Grant process. The EBG brings 1.2 million dollars to our community to be used to enhance and improve the health and environment of community district 9.

Numerous conversations with H&E committee Chair and community leaders around facilitating assistance to the Maribal Sisters organization to help them develop a project under the EBG.

Fielding numerous calls and e-mails, daily from City agencies and community residents.