

Community Board 9 Manhattan

Chairs Report

January, 2013

Meetings held with the Arch257 group of minority architects regarding their lack of inclusion in the Columbia expansion. The group is planning to establish themselves as a collective and seek to bid for the large projects that the University will develop as part of the expansion. The advantages as well as the disadvantages were discussed and the group is continuing to work on their management plan. They did, however, agree to and saw the benefit of being partnered with larger firms that already have assignments within the expansion in order to carve out work and for some to afford additional growth and development for their firms.

Multiple meetings held with Columbia University representatives regarding the hiring of Minority professionals. Columbia agreed to and followed through with making the procurement process accessible to local minority architects. Applications, certifications and documents were filed and assignments were made for each to have a project manager who will be responsible for them working on projects throughout the University system. Community Board 9 requested that where a job might appear to be larger than the scope of work that a local firm has handled, that the University pair our local companies with larger firms already contracted for projects allowing them to work on projects that have already been bid on. In the case of construction companies the board has identified at least one major construction firm that has the capacity to provide all the requirements needed (according to Columbia) bonding, union, history/experience etc. CB9 will seek to have the University establish a written contract with minority professionals ensuring that they will continue working on existing projects and the Manhattanville projects of the future.

Met with Prince Hall to explore ways in which CB9 might assist with their outreach in the community to ensure that community residents have access to quality day care. As well as examining ways in which they increase the availability of service to more families in CB9.

Attended the Swearing in ceremony of State Senator Adriano Espaillat whose senatorial district now includes CB9.

Participated in a panel discussion to increase community service and civic participation.

Met with Sonia Reese of Community Impact to discuss the program and how it serves the residents of CB9. They will be attending the March GB meeting to share the program with CB9.

Met with the Faison Fire House, Le Gree Baptist Church and a 285 developers to explore means to create a more welcoming environment on St. Nicholas Ave. between 125 and 124 streets. Also discussed the possibility of the Church developing affordable housing. Referred them to the Uniform Service and Land Use committees.

Represented CB9 at the Special prosecutors meeting of community leaders to discuss ways to eliminate guns on our streets, youth violence and excessive drug availability.

Participated in Peace Day celebration to increase aware for our children and young people of the importance of resolving conflict in peaceful and constructive ways focusing on Ghandi, Martin Luther King Jr. and other individuals of change who did so in peace.

Discussions held with Boys and Girls Club They were not awarded the 9% city tax credits from HPD due to their not having their application into the buildings dept. (they can not make application to the buildings dept. until they go through SHIPA (state preservation). Because they have committed to preserve the building they have been pushed back in terms of funding allocations. They have applied for and are pending (April/May) state tax credits. In January they hired a new executive director and he will be coming before the Board in April.

On going meetings and discussions with committee Chairs to plan scope of work for their committees and assess how the Chair can assist in movement toward their goals.

Attended the 8:30am Borough Board meeting where the Good Jobs resolution was voted on and passed with the revisions from CB9 and other boards. A presentation was given regarding the poor care of animals in city shelters and the need to reform the city system, many members were unaware that the ASPCA was a separate entity and does not care for all of the animal issues in the city. There will be a presentation made at individual boards and the city will begin to attempt a transformation of the existing services.

Numerous discussions with environmental leaders throughout the city, Hudson River Foundation and community groups to ensure a successful workshop outlining the “possibilities” for groups in our district to create exciting and beneficial projects using the 1.2 million dollar Environmental Benefits Agreement funds.

Co-Hosted the Saturday afternoon Environmental Benefits Project workshop where many community groups and residents came out to receive the RFP, help with filling out the application and examples of projects that have been successful in other districts.

Numerous discussions with board members, community residents and Chairs surrounding the redistricting, letter written and representative (April Tyler) assigned to represent CB9 at the meetings and hearing. Met with Chairs of CB10, 11, and 12.