

General Board  
Thursday March 18, 2004  
Minutes

Board Members Present; Maria Berman, Nicholas Bunning, Carlotta Damanda, Maritta Dunn, Vicky Gholson, Cora Gilmore, George Goodwill, Ralph Jackson M.D., Charles Johnson, Patricia Jones, Carolyn Kent, Christina Lee, Patricia Lewis, Frances Mack, Savonna Bailey-McClain, Keith Mitchell, Carmen Perez, Janet Ramon, John T. Reddick, Jordi Reyes-Montblanc, Sylvia Robinson, Walter South, Okpoti Sowah, Chantay Taylor, Goergiette Morgan-Thomas, Carolyn Thompson, Gladys Tinsley, Joshua Weinman, Ernestine Welch, Sadie Winslow.

Excused; Callie Branch, Molesa Brown, Sophie Johnson, Theodore Kovaleff, Barbara Marshall, Ramona Jennett.

Absent; Richard Welch, Dolores Winfrey.

The meeting was called to Attention at 6:40 P.M., Jordi Reyes-Montblanc Chair, as there was no Quorum at the time. They began by hearing from those on the Public Session List.

Avra Petrides – The Bridge Stage of the Arts

They discussed their plans to restore the Hamilton Theater on West 146<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway. The Production Company wants to bring it back as a multifaceted Art Center, featuring Vaudeville, Contemporary Plays, Opera, workshops on the Performing Arts. They plan to focus on the programs for citizens of the Heights. Ms. Henryka Manes Chair of the Bridge Board said that they had looked in different locations but chose the Hamilton because no local Cultural Center existed. They would foster positive Business growth around the site and seek to utilize local residents for the construction. There was a discussion of the condition of the building on the interior.

At 7:00 P.M. the meeting was Called to Order as a quorum was present.

The Agenda was Adopted.

The February Minutes were Adopted, with any necessary changes.

Reports;

Chair- Jordi Reyes-Montblanc, His report was attached.

Treasurer – Was ill Draft report was attached

District Manager – Lawrence T. McClean deferred to Board Member Gladys Tinsley to announce the death of former Member Leah Williams. His report was attached. There was a discussion about the problems at I.S. 172 & I.S. 286, there was to be a Career Day at the school (509 West 127<sup>th</sup> street) on Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the discussion about the Draft Calendar it was pointed out that April 5<sup>th</sup> was Pass Over, so the Public Hearing on Grant's Tomb was moved to Monday April 12<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made and carried to accept the reports.

#### Public Session

Martin Smith of Councilman Robert Jackson.

Mr. Smith issued greetings from the Councilman who had just returned from a trip to the Dominican Republic with Borough President C. Virginia Fields where they distributed childhood medications. Councilman Jackson will be holding a series of Town Hall Meetings, and by the end of June will have issued two newsletters laying out his plans for the community and soliciting residents input.

Lisa Amato of State Senator Schneiderman's Office

The Senator is revisiting the Rockefeller Drug Laws, and are in the preliminary stages of determining how other states deal with non violent offenders. The Senator is also pushing for Legislation on a Code of Conduct as to how Gun Manufacturers sell and market their product.

Captain Kevin Heslin introduced himself as the new Commanding Officer for PSA 6 (Housing Police). He was warmly greeted.

Larry Dais Vice President Columbia University

He gave a brief update about Columbia University and it's plans to relocate some of it's activities to Manhattanville, with their latest Public Meeting having been held at the Roberto Clemente School on West 132<sup>nd</sup> Street. He was asking Community Board 9 to Co Sponsor a Meeting at the Board on April 20<sup>th</sup>. There may be a special meeting with Latino residents in Spanish..

Alexia Kelly & Brian Richardson Pulse Ensemble Theater

They are planning a Summer Outreach Theater Program for the Harlem Youth at River Bank State Park featuring an updated version of as Mid Summer Nights Dream. In

conjunction with the Dance Theater of Harlem and Riverside Church they will be interviewing local children to work In and On the Production. It is their hope that they will be able to involve 250 youngsters. Auditions will be in May, rehearsals in June with the program running from mid July through August.

Darryl Lacy read a letter that he sent to Chairman Montblanc protesting the treatment of Manuel Orochena before his removal from Board 9 for absenteeism.

Aaron Freidman of Transportation Alternatives

Asking the Board to support a bill that would ban Car Alarm sirens, which was reintroduced by Councilwoman Eva Moskowitz, Intro 115.

Dion Suleman, Brother/Sister Sol Liberation Program

Located on West 143<sup>rd</sup> Street between Broadway and Hamilton Place who are a group of Youth Activists focusing on the use of the former P.S. 186 now abandoned on West 145<sup>th</sup> Street under the control of Reverend Grant of Convent Church and the Boy's & Girls Club. The contention is that the Advisory Group formed has not lived up to promises. They were asking the Board to intervene. Board Member George Goodwill indicated that Reverend Grant has been ill, and the funding was in question. The Advisory Committee has been at this point disbanded.

Tom DeMott West Harlem Coalition

Discussed the next Rent Clinic at St. Mary's, and he urged the Community to turn out at the March 25<sup>th</sup> 197A meeting. The Coalition To Improve The Community would next meet on March 31<sup>st</sup>, looking at the employment opportunities from Columbia University's Plan.

The Board returned to Business Session with a Roll Call Vote.

Resolutions;

- 1) The Board approved the holding a ULURP Hearing on Grant's Tomb April 12<sup>th</sup>, by a vote of 28 - 1 - 2.
- 2) A Resolution from the Manhattan Borough Board in opposition to the Mayor's plan to end Social Promotion in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade. Was referred to the Youth and Education Committee.

Old Business – None

New Business – Christina Lee

Raised the issue of a notification in her box with a March 31<sup>st</sup> Deadline about the redrawing of Community Districts and how it is effected by Recycling Pickups. It appears Sanitation would need an extended routes to make it cost effective. Routes are restricted by Community District Lines, so should these lines for our Board be extended.

There was discussion as to why notification was so late, with Chairman Montblanc indicating that it had come in that day. The question was raised as to whether our trucks are at capacity. Mr. McClean said that in the previous weeks according to Sanitation the trucks were at capacity before the end of the routes, and they had to come back after dumping.

Mr. Smith asked if at the Board's consensus CB9 District Lines should remain the SAME, with a deadline delay by Councilman Jackson, and strong Comment by Community Board 9. There was a goal to have information by the March 21<sup>st</sup> 197A, Harlem Piers, Eco/Dev meeting. The Chair was to write a letter.

Mr. Smith raised the concern that due to the articulated buses on the BX19 at West 145<sup>th</sup> Street, and moved the Bus Stop at the corner of West 145<sup>th</sup> Street at the S/E Corner of Convent Avenue. Ms. Thompson said as Co Chair of Uniformed Services & Transportation. Keith Mitchell asked that as the MTA was a State Agency, State Senator Paterson's and Schneiderman's whose reps were present should be involved.

Georgiette Morgan-Thomas pointed out that the Borough President has received \$7,000,000.00 from the City for her allocations, It is not slated to be in the FY05 Budget, she urge the Board to stand with the B.P. to keep that yearly funding.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Transcribed and Submitted by



Lawrence T. McClean  
District Manager