

COMMUNITY BOARD #9m

16-18 Old Broadway

New York, New York, 10027

General Board Meeting

Thursday, September 20, 2012

Time:7:40

Location: Fortune Society; 630 Riverside Drive

Elected officials will be first and then we will go into our public session. Reports are in the packet.

Chairs Report, District Manager Report, Treasurers Report and the WHLDC Report and

Borough President: is committed to working with Board 9 and Broadway Housing and area residents as well as relevant agencies to address the issues that are going on. "Shining the Light on Domestic Violence", October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are going to light up 42<sup>nd</sup> street. Please wear purple to show solidarity with the people who have been suffering from domestic violence. Reports in the back concerning housing. On Monday we are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Honoring phenomenal people. Newsletters informing you of the things the Borough Presidents office is doing in your community.

Chair: The community board would like the borough president to know that there is displeasure at the BP's decision to up-zone 145<sup>th</sup> street against the recommendations of community board 9.

Assemblyman Denny Farrell: No major uprisings or problems during the summer. Districts changed. My District now ends right outside. I have shifted from North to down here. There are court cases surrounding the re-apportionment which were won. My district that I now have will remain for the next 10 years. Affordable housing act. I was a delegate at the convention to re-nominate President Obama. Complaints regarding noise in the last two weeks. City gave permit to work from 6:00AM to 12 midnight. Housing is important to us but we don't want the noise. There is a time limit on building. They are now working on cutting back the time to do the work. Permits are given for one week periods from the Dept. of Buildings. I also am checking to see whether the work is causing any shaking or other problems with adjoining building.

Assemblyman Keith Wright: The 72nd assembly district needed 17,000 more people to get the necessary 135,000 people which are the number for every district. Denny Farrell's district was short 8,000 people which I had to give him from my district. It was a busy summer. In July of this year we re-named 138<sup>th</sup> street and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. after my father. I have been very busy on the number one issue, unemployment. I have been giving successful job fairs. I am Chair of the Labor Committee. I will be giving a job fair here, probably at the Manhattanville Development. You will be notified of the date and time. Many people have been hired at these job fairs and I will have the unions there. In May of this year I was named the Co-Chair of the New York State Democratic Party.

Corey Ortega is sending out a map of the districts. We cut the ribbon on the new school being built by Teachers College at Columbia University as part of the West Harlem expansion project. Our Chairperson of CB9 gave the best speech.

Calvin Soloman: Director of Community affairs of the Prosecutors office. Prosecutor Richard Brennan appointed by the District Attorney of New York City. On March 20 of this year, after a three month investigation, there was a major takedown at 3333 Broadway where we instituted a search warrant in Tower C, apt. 13G. There was a major drug and weapons activity taking place in that apartment. Four defendants were arrested. In the aftermath of that takedown Prosecutor Brennan suggested the drug forfeiture money be used to open up a PAL play street in the school yard in front of 3333.

Martin Smith (Director for Constituent Services) for Senator Espaillat: Took a group of people to PA to investigate hydro-fracking. Met with the Commissioner of DEP to talk about the North River Sewage Treatment Plant and Riverbank State Park and the early warning system that should be in place to make sure that we don't have an emergency like the fire at Riverbank State Park. We also talked about an early warning system that announces when sewage by passes take place.

Chair At next month's meeting we will have representatives from DEP here to talk about the plant and utilization of the funds that have been allocated to this community due to the burden of that plant on our community.

Inez Dickens office: Our chief of staff passed away. Legislative update: DYP and cultural development have staff at the homeless shelters trained to identify young people who are in need of immigration services, follow up and 2<sup>nd</sup> piece of legislation MWOB (minority and women owned businesses). Intro #913 regarding community boards. This would require the Manhattan Borough President's office to provide an annual report on vacancies within all the boroughs, applicants, how many interviews were conducted, and how many seats were replaced.

Councilman Robert Jackson: Six events this summer, two bikes give always, participated in the National Night Out at the 32<sup>nd</sup> precinct, Human Citizenship now, 425 West 144<sup>th</sup> street.

Senator O'Donnell; Adan Burr, New Community Liaison. He hopes to attend meetings in the coming months, looking for interns, Health Fair at the Fredrick Douglas Houses, Saturday, November 3. Anti-bullying law went into effect in July. Fall newsletter in the back.

#### Public Session

Richard Weitz: Argus Community, Management agreement with Phase Piggy Back. Provide alcohol and substance abuse treatment, job development and Job placement services, two youth programs. Located at 145<sup>th</sup> and Edgcombe Avenue.

Marilyn Holstein: New Magazine coming out called Morningside Heights. Delivered monthly to residents of Morningside Heights. Forum for people to talk about issues that are going on.

**Nine Murray Street:** New York City Coalition for a smoke free city. Megan and Jeanine work for a public interest research. Community service society. They are working on reducing smoking rates and empower youth not to smoke. Reducing youth smoking through reducing exposure to tobacco advertising in stores where children shop. Voluntary smoke free housing. Doug works for Asian Americans for equality. Help Asian Americans and anyone else in need. Made two properties smoke free.

**Katherine Abate:** Land Use and Zoning committee. Re-zoning moving forward. Approved re-zoning specifically lower building heights on 145<sup>th</sup> street. The Borough President's office voted to increase the zoning. City planning commission voted against the Board's recommendations. Counting on Robert Jackson to support the Board's recommendation.

**Patricia Ju:** The 17 hours of jack hammering at 155<sup>th</sup> street and St; Nicholas Avenue. Reduce the hours by one. Hold Family housing accountable.

**Klausner:** It affects me mostly in the evening. P.S. 28 across the street from the construction. Reading resolutions about school breakfast. Putting them under a constant noise level and without a demand for sound barriers is unethical.

**Gabe Morales:** Echo sentiments. How and why our community board, elected officials and building planners were not able to work effectively and jointly. Drilling through bedrock. Broadway Housing is not here so they are not considering the community.

**VG** Residents did not know about the legality that was pushed through the Dept. of Buildings; Do not assume that the Community Board knew. That is very important. That is the methodology that divides us. My concern is for the seniors. Seniors cannot afford to have their sleep disrupted. It affects their health. Dust and particles also are to be considered. Dept. of Buildings does things and report to no one. We should deal with them collectively. This is a historic district. People are going to be annoyed with anything that was not there before. We need to be focused on the displacement. When they shook up Chelsea and So Ho they came to our neighborhood. Residents could not buy homes in our neighborhood due to red lining.

**Chair** Broadway Housing will be asked to attend a meeting. They were not invited to this meeting. When people come to this board with an issue they should let us know so that we can have interested parties at our meeting. We intend to have a dialogue with them concerning alternative and issues.

**Maddox:** We should have the Dept. of Buildings and DEP and the Construction Company here at the meeting.

**Mr. Tubing:** The community is supposed to have a public hearing and people on the immediate blocks notified and an environment impact in place in terms of what type of structure, machinery, construction and the noise level is supposed to be monitored on an ongoing basis. Has this been discussed and what feedback do you have. The District Manager should have something in the report

and I went through the Manager's report and there was nothing in the report concerning these matters.

Chair I will meet with Ellen Barken from Broadway Housing on Tuesday. I will address these issues at that time. I have some options to present at that time. After that meeting I will have more to say concerning the issues presented here tonight.

Councilman Jackson read a letter from Broadway Housing was read concerning the drilling, bedrock problems, noise and vibrations were discussed. Drilling rock removal and remaining work was discussed. On September 24<sup>th</sup> all drilling and excavation will end by 9:00PM. DEP and Dept. of Buildings monitored air quality, vibrations, noise levels and. All tests showed they were within permitted tolerances. In our last letter to the Community the work was predicted to last another three weeks. We predict the sometime in October to complete these tasks. They will continue to share information with the community and our neighbors. You can contact Ann Rodriquez with questions about this project.

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Horizon Accounting: Based on Lenox Avenue and 125<sup>th</sup> street. Certified Public Accountants we plan to grow our business and work with CB9. We are looking for clients. We do bookkeeping, tax matters etc.

Justine and Julia Masters: I live on Hamilton Terrace for 12 years now. There is one way in and one way out. We have a large community of children that play on the street and people speed very fast up the block. We had a speed bump that was installed in the 90's and is has worn down. We are asking for another speed bump to be installed on 100 yards away from 141<sup>st</sup> street.

CT You should come before the Uniformed Services committee on October 4<sup>TH</sup> to request a new speed bump because the fact that you had an old speed bump there it might be in the plans so they might put another one there. The fact that you had one there it should not be a problem.

End of the Public Session

We officially adopted the agenda. We did not have a quorum initially. We need to adopt our agenda.

CT So moved. And seconded.

Chair What about the minutes?

CT So move.

Chair The minutes should be in the packet. Then we cannot adopt the minutes if they are not in packet.

CT Ted completed them but I don't know what happened.

Chair We will include those minutes in next month's packet.

Do we usually get the executive committee minutes?

CT No. They don't put them in there.

Chair: Our District Manager had an emergency and had to leave the office so I think our packet might not be as it should be

CT Keep in mind that Carole Singleton was not at the meeting so we were giving her the minutes by machine. I think she was at the polls. She wasn't at September. She did August I don't know why they weren't included.

Chair So at this time we want to allow any questions about the reports.

In your memorandum I am not on any committees.

Chair You were going to get back to me and let me know so give me an e-mail.

Brad Taylor: One about the Treasurers report. This report says that we did not spend any money from July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Chair We have vouchers in our office that are just being signed and so we have not spent. When I was speaking with our District Manager there are a number of vouchers that have actually just been signed so no moneys have been spent.

Brad Taylor: So no checks have been written over the summer. At the end of the last fiscal year there was a balance of about \$30,000 in our account.

Chair: That should not be the case.

AF Obviously I can respond to that. With the exception of a couple of hundred dollars that entire aggregated balance was exhausted. That money was spent on office supplies and vendors all that.

Chair That may be a typo.

AF I don't know what you are looking at but it was indeed the case that in May there was a balance.

Brad Taylor Could we get a reporting?

Chair I will ask tomorrow. I will go over it with Eutha because we cannot leave; we cannot leave a balance because we would lose that money so every year we buy office supplies and equipment so we will look over that.

Brad Taylor: The discussion is I want to see how that money was spent.

Chair Absolutely, we will have an itemized list of that. Every year we as a Board have always approved spending the surplus because that money if you don't it goes back. There are boxes of office supplies, copy paper in the office.

Brad Taylor Many of us when we are asked about how to spend this money so was just wondering whether any of those proposals were acted on I asked that questions specifically whether this could go to consultants maybe we can use this to build up our archives.

Chair You cannot just, when you have lines especially OTBS lines, you have to look at the lines and spend it accordingly. Postage or office supply lines have to be spent accordingly. There is no way we can end up with \$30,000.

AF I encourage anyone one the community board to go to the office and review every single payment voucher that I signed for the fiscal calendar year and to make an assessment whether or not the purchases were within the budget lines. I can assure you that consistent with my the past practice which was to follow what the District Manager's recommendation as to how that money should be spent to the extent that it remained in our budget balance.

Brad Taylor There is nothing in here about that.

AF Make arrangements to come to the office. I will be happy to go over them with an individual member.

Brad Taylor On the Chair's report there was a memorandum that you sent out. It actually showed a combination of committees and under the by-laws only the full board should

Chair absolutely, this evening was very different and that is something that when I did my report that I intended to talk about. As you said there were too many committees. I heard that and I agreed with you I looked at how we might remedy that and so it was presented in July to the Officers of this Board as well as in August to our Executive Board and there was no disagreement with the fact that it would benefit our Board to combine our Landmarks and Parks committee and Economic Development and Piers. And so, what we intended to do and I am glad you brought it up and so we would like to at this time is to ratify that decision that has been supported by the Officers of this Board as well as the Executive Committee. Well if you would like for it to be reflected in the minutes and not be voted on it without the minutes being in the packet, we could do it next month. Until then the committees stand as they are.

Brad Taylor The by-laws state that it is not what I want; it is in the by-laws.

Chair He is absolutely right. We will move on and in the mean time the committees stand as they are.

CG I think this is an important issue to re-arrange committees. I think it is something that we should all understand and we here in the back could not hear what you were saying. I think before we ratify anything maybe it would be great if you could tell us what you are doing here. What you are combining and what the source are.

Chair Do we want to discuss it? Brad indicated that if we don't have it in the minutes we should leave this be. So, would you like to have a discussion?

CG I don't want to discuss it now.

Chair As members in this room can attest, in our executive Board meeting everyone there got very clear information as to what led the thinking of combining the particular committees that are being requested to combine. I just said next month we would give a clear detailed reasoning and make it very clear to everyone. It is no secret. All this is about the best for the Board. I brought that before the Officers in July before the Executive body before presenting it to the Community Board general.

AB The by-laws state that you can bring it to the general board general meeting for a vote if the chair so wishes. I would like to, since we had this discussion, vote now.

Chair The 197A plan states that parks are considered scenic landmarks. We have in our 197A plan definite recommendations and information that states that our landmarks committee should be working to make sure that our parks remained in good condition with a historical working and also that they are maintained with integrity according to the material that are being used. That is the kind of work that Landmarks does. Also, our Landmarks and Parks Committee worked wonderfully for many years. It was only as a result of the illness Carolyn Kent and the addition of someone who had such great expertise in Parks that our Chair Pat Jones decided to separate the two to lighten Carolyn Kent's burden. And so prior to that time the two committees did work together and worked well. Our parks here in district nine have some of the most historical and naturalistic parks in the city. We have the Hamilton Grange which just moved to St. Nicholas Park and so again, we have a magnificent landmark that has moved to a scenic landmark. Serving on one committee should lighten the burden especially with attendance problems that we had last year. Development of Harlem piers stems from a desire to make our piers more income based, bringing in waterfront taxi's bringing in the Circle Line, dinner cruises for tourism and so we again are trying to generate for our Harlem Piers economics and that also had been the assignment of this board for many years Harlem Piers and Economic Development work together. That was the reason behind it.

WS I personally don't believe that combining Landmarks and Parks together is a good idea. We have a lot of problems particularly with St. John the Divine. Last of which we need to discuss and continue. I was fired because I questioned some things that happened with St. John the Divine so I think that not only that we have P.S. 186 on the agenda which also needs to be landmarked. So, the combining of these two committees has only one function reduces the size of the Executive Committee. So, I think there is enough work to be done than have these two committees separate.

Chair First of all I want to clarify that you were not fired as a result of anything to do with St. John the Divine. Everybody in this room knows that you were fired because you insulted me in a meeting and I am not going to tolerate that. You decided to make some remarks that I just felt insulted and I felt that was not good leadership and I felt that Chairs of committees should not treat the Chair of the Board in that manner and that is why the change was made. We don't have as much work to do in our parks and a great deal of work that needs to be done is happening and we are currently having the work that needs to be done in St. Clare's Park renovation for many years is happening. The truth

is that the landmarks committee, at that time did not do as much work in our community as it should have been doing. we had a building in our historic district that was about to be demolished and we had Ms. Yuen Chin come petitioning our landmarks committee and as a result Ms. Yuen Chin and several other community members and members of our Board office begin to do the work to prevent that from happening. There should have been more work done in our Landmarks committee. I also feel like there should have been more communication. And, as Chair, Ms. G. I am not entertaining any comments at this time. I am making this statement and that is the end. As a result of that kind of behavior and that lack of work on that particular committee is one of the reasons I made my decision. I also placed an attorney on the landmarks committee as Simon informed me there are a lot of litigations and laws that are being proposed that affect the real estate in our community. And so to protect our landmarks we have an attorney assigned in our landmarks committee. We also have some dynamic people ready to do the work in our community.

CG Where does waterfront come in all this?

~~Chair The waterfront comes in with economic development. Call for the vote please.~~

Call the row.

CT 31 we have a quorum.

Action Item out of our Youth and Education Committee. Literacy Across Harlem.

CT There is a motion on the floor to combine the two committees Landmarks and Park and Economic Development and Harlem Piers.

CT I move to table it. Do I hear a second?

Seconded.

Chair Everybody take time to think about it and next month we will discuss it next month. At this point the committees will stand as they were.

Vote taken to table

Motion to table has passed. Please read your pink sheet.

Action Item: Literacy across Harlem

The tape did not contain the outcome of the vote.

Respectfully submitted

Carole Singleton