

Manhattan Community Board 9 General Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 16, 2014 at Fortune Society, 140th and Riverside Drive
Meeting called to order at approximately 6:40pm

Public Officials:

City Councilman Mark Levine- gave update on fire at Citibank in Morningside Heights. Fire lasted 30 hours. Building will be able to be rebuilt per Citibank but Citibank isn't the owner of the property. Councilman Levine also gave a report on the pedestrian deaths at 97th and West End Avenue involving a nine year old boy and an elderly man who was killed at 96th and Broadway. Levine emphasized the need for street safety enforcement. Mayor DeBlasio has outlined a program for zero deaths. Question from C. Abate asking for comment regarding Councilman's position on universal pre- kindergarten which the councilman answered that he supports. Comment from S. Thorenson regarding Morningside Heights rezoning plan. Councilman introduced Sabine Franklin as new community liaison.

Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell- Commented on Citibank fire. Assemblyman lives nearby the fire and was on the scene from 5:30am-12 noon. Assemblyman also discussed candlelight vigil for child killed at 97th and West End Avenue. Assemblyman has written a bill that will be introduced in assembly to change speed limit in the neighborhood. Finger-printing on Riker's Island is issue that is strongly opposed by Assemblyman. He has visited 12 state prisons since becoming chair of committee with oversight of state prisons. Hi staff has parking calendars listing alternate side of street dates available to the public. Question from C. Abate- could assemblyman comment on 16-17 year olds bring tried as adults. Assemblyman said 1200 under age prisoners are being held at Rikers Island and complimented A. Tyler for bringing issue to his attention. Comment from April Tyler- under-age prisoners issue should be credited to M. Dula. Question from H. Rosebud concerning synchronization of stop lights. C. Thompson commented that not all lights have the same sync pattern. Discussion of signal light synchronization followed.

Famod Konneh Manhattan D.A. representative - He announced that person who was tried for shooting 3 people in the head and killing them at 122nd and Broadway has been sentenced to life in prison. Distributed flyer for Saturday night basketball program.

Nina Saxon- Comptroller Scott Stringer's new community liaison for CB9, 10, 11, and 12. New email: nsaxon@controllernyc.gov

Martin Smith-State Senator Espaillat community liaison- Report on conservative activists Koch brothers on board of Presbyterian Hospital. Also commented on Domino's Pizza worker issues. Update on Toys for tots at Christmas.

William Smith-State Assemblyman Keith Wright representative-Assemblyman focused on housing issues. 212-866-5809 office phone number for contact. Question from B. Weinberg regarding assemblyman condemnation of NYCHA for in-fill proposal. Question from E. Welch regarding closure of post office locations and lack of public seating in post offices.

Frances Escano-communication rep for City Councilwoman Inez Dickens- previously worked for Robert Jackson. Email for contact: fescano@council.nyc.gov

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Ernestine Temple-Bell-community liaison for Assemblyman Herman (Denny) Farrell- Installation of CB9 officers by Assemblyman Farrell at Executive Committee meeting. She announced Town Hall meeting Sat. Jan 18th at Church of the Intercession. MTA to discuss Mother Clara Hale Bus Depot at Esplanade Gardens Friday January 17th at 7pm.

Public Session

Catherine Abate- comments regarding progressive slate of candidates being elected. Expressed opinion that there has been a lack of progress on community issues.

Brian Taylor-Jen Silverman- poop stations available for distribution. Increase awareness of poop removal from sidewalks. Flyers available. C. Thompson working with DOT to determine if poop stations can be installed on DOT street poles. Question: how widespread is program? Currently on Hamilton Terrace. Question: Riverside Park poop stations? Program expansion being considered into Riverside Park.

Martin Wallace- commented on need for street crossings and greater speed limit enforcement

Brad Taylor- Update on renovations within Morningside Park

Alicia Barksdale- 3333 Broadway tenants' association representative discussed downsizing of HPD subsidized families to smaller apartments. She said HPD is only targeting low income housing tenants. Meeting will be held Jan, 28th at 7pm. Comments from M. Dula challenging accuracy of Barksdale's statements.

Corey Ortega- President of West Harlem Club. Survey results from issues survey. Club has amenities open to the public. Fund raising for poop campaign. Club is located at 131st and Amsterdam.

Saleen Shah- Citizens Committee for New York City. Grant money available from committee. Budget must be under \$40K. You don't have to be a non-profit 5013C. No individual grants. Question: H. Rosebud- how is funding priority established? She said arts organizations don't receive enough funding. Shah responded that Arts East New York was funded by committee and that arts organizations are receiving funding as well.

Business Session

Roll Call-35 members present

West Harlem Art Fund letter of support for art exhibit in Riverside Park- tabled by 22 to 12 vote for February general board meeting.

NYCHA construction in-fill resolution- passed by unanimous vote with one not entitled to vote

Reports:

Chair- report on holiday activities, meetings attended and attendance at committee meetings by board members.

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Reports (continued)

District Manager-not present report in packet

Treasurer-not present- had emergency among his staff

St. John the Devine land mark resolution- Introduced by Chair Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas. Discussion followed distribution of resolution for review. Close of church would be landmarked and church would be allowed to build proposed housing on north lot adjacent to church. Request was made to have a vote to table resolution by member Brad Taylor and seconded by member Barry Weinberg. Vote was held to table resolution. Vote to table was 6 yes and 29 no. Vote was next held to pass resolution. Vote to pass resolution was passed with 22 yes 12 no and 1 abstention.

Gail Brewer-Manhattan Borough President- Announced that 2 deputy borough presidents and chief of staff have been appointed. Also announced that north region office will be on West 125th Street.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35pm

Submitted by Arnold Boatner