

**SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, January 5, 2010**

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Ernestine Welch; Chair; Cora Gilmore; Donitra Clemons

**Public Members in Attendance:** Wanda Capan; Laenoria Conyers; Bessie Davis; Ruther Miller; Ruth Lewis; Inez Woodhouse; Vannisha Taylor

**Committee Member Absent:** Georgiette Morgan-Thomas

**Committee Member Excused:** Tiffany Alston

**Public Members Excused:** Marilyn Alexander; Sophie Johnson

**Public Members Absent:** Margaret Collins; Virginia Lee; Dothe Rudolph

**Other Attendees:** John Cannizzo; Horticulture Society; Jean Williams; Yvonne Hazel; Lucille Bordie; Luzella Ratliff; Sarah Martin, Grant Houses Tenants Association; Miranda Murray, Librarian; Florence Rice; Kenneth Boyd; Mary Boyd; Evan Burke; Verna Arthur, Department For The Aging; Nazarene Robinson.

The meeting was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, 10027.

**Ernestine Welch**, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:36 A.M.; the agenda and the minutes were accepted with corrections, if any, submit to the Board Office at a later date.

**Commentary:**

Comments stated on the importance of Martin Luther King Celebration and the passing of others. A moment of silence acknowledged the passing of the well known Harlem and City wide Leader. The Honorable Percy Ellis Sutton; Marjorie Moore, Tenants and Landlord Reconciliation group as announced by her Co-Director, Florence Rice this date and others.

The Chair reviewed 2009 Committee activities, accomplishments and goals for 2010. It was agreed that priority issues will be the Senior Garden at the George Bruce Library Site; Housing for Seniors; and Post Office complaints.

- Urged submission of public Committee Member application.
- Cooperate with Census.
- Reminder to sign petition to Restore Student Metrocards to be sent to MTA to pick-up Notices on New Service for Seniors – Geriatric outreach Project at the Upper Manhattan Outreach Center, (212) 694-9200 and Castle Gardens Apartments Notices to apply for apartment.

## Senior Issues Committee Minutes

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### Reports:

Due to illness, Catherine Giblin, Director of Counsel Project at DFTA – unable to appear but will be present on February 2, 2010.

### Old Business:

#### Senior Reading Garden next to George Bruce Library:

- Sarah Martin, President, Grant Houses Tenants Association, NYCHA reported that she is awaiting response from NYCHA Re: letter sent in early December 2009.
- John Cannizzo, Representative from Horticultural Society, submitted one copy of updated proposal for the Garden with list of items to be answered. The estimated cost for renovations will be \$45,000 for walkways, seating, paths, and classes to be held in the garden. It is projected that the renovation will take two (2) months to complete.
- It is suggested that we form partnerships with local organizations such as Harlem Commonwealth that Seniors take an active role by volunteering and mentoring in the inter-generational program.
- It is also suggested that letters be written to include the following;
  - i. How the project can serve seniors in the community?
  - ii. How many seniors will be served?
  - iii. How many seniors are in Grant Housing?
  - iv. How many seniors in the area etc?

### New Business:

- Continued complaints - expressed about senior transportation. It was suggested that we request the Board Chair to write a letter protesting the cutback Budget for Access-A-Ride and withholding of any Social Security funds from seniors.
- Presentation by Dr. Vicky Gholson, founder of DEEL, non-profit Community Organization. This is the original group which proposed the Senior Garden to the Senior Issues Committee in Honor of Seniors who worked to get an improved Library and other senior services in the community. She read a speech to be given at the Senator Perkins, State Committee Hearing on Columbia Development to be held this p.m. of (January 5, 2010.) She requested feedback, opinions and suggestions from the elders present.

**Adjournment:** 12:20 P.M.

**Notes Submitted by:** Donitra Clemons, Committee Member  
E. Welch, Committee Chair