

**CB9M**

1010 Old Broadway  
New York, New York 10027  
(212) 864-6200/Fax # 662-7396

**COMMUNITY BOARD #9, MANHATTAN**

Scott Stringer  
President, Borough of Manhattan

Patricia A. Jones  
Chair

Carolyn R. Thompson  
First Vice-Chair

Yvonne Stennett  
Second Vice-Chair

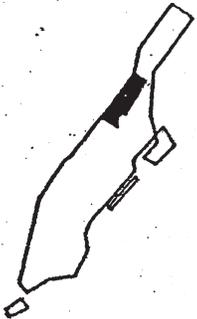
Anthony Fletcher  
Treasurer

Diane Wilson  
Assistant Treasurer

Theodore Kovaleff  
Secretary

Jane Arrendell  
Assistant Secretary

Eulha Prince  
District Manager



**DRAFT**  
**SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, March 3, 2009**

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

**Public Members in Attendance:** G. Marilyn Alexander; Laenoria Conyers; Inez Woodhouse; Ruther Miller

**Committee Member (s) Excused:** Georgiette Morgan-Thomas

**Public Members Excused:** Sophie Johnson; Vanisha Taylor

**Public Member (s) Absent:** Viola Rhods

**Other Attendees:** Joyce Garrett; Ruth Lewis; Amsterdam Adult Day Care; Bessie Davis; Sarah Martin; Anita Ross; Linda English; John Cannizzo, Horticulture Society of New York; Becky Davies; Sandy Wilson; Rob Bennaton, NYCHA Garden & Greening Program; Gisele Guerre.

A moment of silence was observed in recognition of our Board Member Ramona Jennett who passed away recently.

The meeting was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, 10027.

**Ernestine Welch**, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:20 A.M. and welcomed everyone for coming and stated that New York Housing Authority finally gave permission to use the land next to the George Bruce Library for Seniors Reading Garden.

The Agenda and minutes were adopted with any necessary corrections, which may be submitted to CB#9 district office at a later date.

**Commentary:**

**Ms. G. Marilyn Alexander**, read a poem called "Some Women Wait" by Audre Lorde in recognition of Women's month.

## SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Page 2 March 3, 2009

### Reports:

**Robert Bennaton, NYCHA Garden and Greening Program**, stated that NYCHA will assist in maintaining the requested Senior Reading Garden and provide technical support. The Horticultural Society of New York will be the guide in the development of the project in collaboration with the community (see 2/5/09 NYCHA letter.)

**Becky Davies, Columbia Student** reported on the establishment of Grant's vegetable garden. The Committee agreed to assist and cooperate in the planning and maintaining of this vegetable garden.

**John Cannizzo, Horticultural Society of New York**, displayed different neighborhood gardens within the city and stated that there will be series of planning meetings for the Reading Garden. Time is not a factor in creating a garden, it depends on the community; it is a process and the perfect time for planting starts March 15 – May 15. He reminded that delays might happen due to transportation and technical support, or unforeseen situation that may arise. A follow-up planning meeting will be arranged to discuss the Senior Reading Garden Project. The Horticultural Society has a library which is open to the public from Monday – Friday, 10 A.M – 6:30 P.M.; located at:

**Horticultural Society of New York  
148 West 37<sup>th</sup> Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tel: (212) 757-0915**

The sub-committee to help develop a proposal for the Reading Garden will be activated for said purpose.

**Ruth Lewis, Amsterdam Adult Day Care**, stated that the center is open seven days a week from 8 A.M. – 3 P.M.; provides breakfast, lunch and snack. It is a medical program that provides health needs to clients. Transportation is provided for pick-up and drop-off from home to medical appointments and to the center.

The program has established relationship with some of the building supers to be able to have access to the clients if assistance is needed. There is a need for homebound seniors to be connected to the outside world. We were urged to spread the word about the program.

Due to the economy Amsterdam has a freeze on hiring physicians. The agency will use the services of intern students from various colleges in the field of gerontology. Amsterdam Day Care is an accredited program which is bounded for New York State inspection.

**Sandy Wilson, Verizon, Telephone Representative**, stated that people who receive government assistance e.g. Food Stamps, Social Security Income, and Public Assistance are eligible for Life Line Program that saves customers \$13.00 dollars on their monthly bill. She stated that most of the surcharges on the bill are due to New York State or Federal Government taxes; she will mail the applications to the CB#9 District Offices for distribution.

## **SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Page 3 March 3, 2009**

**Tiffany Alston, Site Manager, George Bruce Library** thanked Community Board No. 9 Manhattan in the issuance of the Certificate of Appreciation to Heather Ulesso a former Librarian. She is planning to establish a Senior's Computer Group class in May and listed those seniors who plan to participate.

### **Announcements:**

- Thursday, March 5, 2009, 12:00 P.M. Columbia students are hosting a Community Garden meeting at the George Bruce Library
- Saturday, March 7, 2009 Riverbank State Park is hosting its Annual College Fair.

### **Follow-Up:**

1. On Access-A-Ride
2. Postal Office complaints
3. Grant Houses' Vegetable Garden
4. DFTA May Event "Aging in Action"

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

**Note:** The next meeting is Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009, George Bruce Library, 518 West 125<sup>th</sup> St

**Prepared by: Hleziphi Zita, Community Assistant**