



Manhattan Community Board 9

Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville and Morningside Heights

SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014

Committee Members:

Ernestine Welch, Chair, **Present**; Anthony Fletcher, **Present**; Barbara Marshall, **Present**;
Carole Singleton, **Excused**

Public Members:

Wanda Capan, **Excused**; Laenoria Conyers, **Excused**; Bessie Davis, **Present**; Cora Gilmore,
Present; Ruther Miller, **Excused**;
Inez Woodhouse, **Present**; Lillian Doctor, **Excused**; Nazarene Robinson, **Excused**

Other Attendees Present:

Anne Burley; Marion Mills; Christa Hill; Rosa Saldana, Community Liaison for Emblem Health
Neighborhood Care; Ginia Addo; Verna Arthur, Manhattan Director of Community Affairs,
DFTA; Ameenah Muhammad; Annie Payne; Dee Dee Halleck; Ellen Rice, Amsterdam Adult
Day Care; Zonia Bucknor; Victoria Mason-Ailey; Shirley Saxton, Public Affairs Specialist,
Social Security

The meeting was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West 125th Street,
New York, NY 10027

Ernestine Welch, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

The agenda was adopted as it is.

Updates

Department For Aging:

Verna Arthur, Department for Aging stated that the following programs provided by the department:

- Foster grandparent program for seniors 55 years and older who are interested in working. The jobs are available at day care centers, afterschool programs etc., a stipend and free lunch is provided.
- Senior employment Program provides employment for the following jobs, security guards and home health aides.
- The Seniors Exercise Program sponsored by the American Health Association will resume April 2, 2014.
- DFTA and Cultural Affairs have an Artist program where artists teach a class and receive space as an in kind service at the senior center.

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CB9M Arts and Culture Committee:

Sabrina Francis stated that the Arts and Culture of Manhattan Community Board No. 9 in collaboration with African Ensemble Chorus will hold Diversity Cultural Program, May 31, 2014 at Edgecombe Avenue [between West 141st and West 145th Streets] from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Columbia University Community Shuttle Bus:

Victoria Mason-Ailey, Vice President, Office of Government and Community Affairs stated that the Community Shuttle bus is part of the Community Benefit Agreement (CBA); shuttle bus services are available to seniors and the disabled. The shuttle bus is a limited service and the designated stops have no signs which cause seniors unable to utilize the service. She requested seniors and community to report on how the service works; report any problems experience such as – when the incident took place, where, and when so that it they can be able to trace and remedy the problem.

Social Security Administration:

Shirley Saxton, Public Affairs Specialist reported there will be changes in the following:

- August 1st, 2014 social security cards services will no longer be offered at the local offices.
- October 1st 2014 budget letters will no longer be issued at the local office.
- All of the above services will be provided through online services under www.mysocialsecurity.gov or by calling the national toll free number at 1(800)772-1213.

Reports:

Emblem Health Neighborhood Care:

Christina Hill, Community Liaison reported that GHI and HIP became Emblem Health and Emblem Health started to open community neighborhood care. The Community Neighborhood Care provides the following:

- Pharmacist on site to help constituents regarding medications free to the community.
- Free classes are offered to all residents in the community without being a member.
- Physical activities are free to the community.
- Initiative under Emblem Health
- Neighborhood care resources are rendered from Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Not a medical clinic but makes referrals to organizations, etc., per the issue(s) at hand (no clinical services, but have clinical staff available)
- A calendar of March events was distributed and to receive the calendar of events log to www.ehnc.com or call 1-866-469-0999.

Old Business:

Senior Garden:

Sarah Martin reported that there will be cleaning up and restoring of murals in the gardening.

New Business:

The committee unanimously agreed to go forward with the Senior/Housing Forum

Suggestions:

- More clinics are needed in the district.
- A digital studio is needed in West Harlem
- Invite USPS representatives regarding improving services

Announcements:

- Thursday, March 6, 2014 CB9M and Columbia University will hold a Manhattanville Campus Open House Information Session at Nash Building, 96 Old Broadway [@ West 133rd Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue] from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Columbia University offers Community Scholars program to seniors who hold a High School Diploma or GED.
- March 27, 2014 the MTA Metrocard bus/van will be available at Amsterdam Avenue across from Citibank [corner of West 123rd Street and Amsterdam Avenue] from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment: 1:30 p.m.

Special Note: Due to repairs at the George Bruce Library, the Senior Issues Committee meeting will be held at the Hamilton Grange Library starting April 1, 2014

Prepared by: Hleziphi Zita, Community Associate