SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2014

Committee Members:

Hon. Ernestine Welch, Chair, **Present;** Hon. Anthony Fletcher, **Excused,** Hon. Barbara Marshall, **Excused;** Hon. Martin Wallace, **Excused;** Hon. Carole Singleton, **Excused;**

Public Members:

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

Other Attendees Present:

Yolanda Bennett-Reid, NYPL Hamilton Grange Branch; Junelle Carter-Bowman, NYPL George Bruce Branch; Annie Payne; Giovanni Puella, Manhattan Borough President; Ameeda Muhammad; Lucinda Blackwell; Jeanette Wilson; Dee Dee Halleck; Florence Rice; Anne Burley; Lillian Doctor; Shirley Saxton; Ginia Addo

The meeting was held on Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027

Hon. Ernestine Welch, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. and welcomed everyone; she stated that the Senior Issues Committee have been meeting as a group at the library for many years.

The agenda was adopted as stated.

Reports:

New York Public Libraries - George Bruce and Hamilton Grange

Alexander Kelly, Junelle Bowman Carter and Yolanda Bennett-Reid stated that the Harlem is changing and the Library decided to do a project A People's History of Harlem, Our Neighborhood Oral History to preserve the history of Harlem. Therefore, the library is looking for volunteers to assist in collecting Harlem's neighborhood history by interviewing residents of Harlem. Seniors were encouraged to sign up for one interviewer training session. The volunteer interviewer sessions at George Bruce Library located at 518 West 125th Street are on:

- Tuesday, October 21st, 2014 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Saturday, November 8th, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information contact Junelle Carter-Bowman via telephone at (212) 662-9727 or via email at junellecarterbowman@nypl.org. See attached flyer

The volunteer sessions at the Hamilton Grange located at 503 West 145th Street are on:

- Monday, November 3rd, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 8th, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

For more information contact Christopher Daigle via telephone (212) 926-2147 or via email at ChristopherDaigle@nypl.org. See attached flyer

West Harlem Development Corporation:
Dean Morris, Program Director stated that the West Harlem Development Corporation oversees the Community Benefit Agreement which started due to the Columbia University Expansion.
In the CBA funding was allocated to create senior programs which a Summer Senior Employment was created: The Summer Senior Employment Program started in the summer of 2013 and was also held this summer of 2014.

Eligibility criteria to participate are:

- One has to be 55 years and older
- Live in Manhattan Community District 9
- Interested in serving the community while earning a modest stipend
- Availability to complete up to 120 hours of work during the summer.
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Opportunities for participation:

- Part-time position with local non-profit organization and earn up to $10.00 per hour.
- Resume writing, updates and individual consultation.
- Job Interview techniques
- Gain new employable skills
- Motivation to pursue additional work opportunities.
- Increase network of contacts.

The Summer Senior Program job placement process composes of registration, submit application, workshops, orientation, interview and employment. West Harlem Development Corporation received one hundred and twelve (112) application but eighty eight (88) were hired. One of the problems that prevent seniors to participate is health issues. Dean Morris indicated that the program starts recruiting in April and the dead line is in May.

Carol Singleton a Community Board 9 member was one of the participants in the Senior Summer Employment Program, and was employed as a site manager. Her duties were to do site visits, get feedback from 45 sites - employers, managers and supervisors of the senior participants. She stated that employers and managers are thrilled about having seniors and looking forward to having the seniors to participate again in 2015. The program enhanced the seniors self -esteem and encouraged them taught them skills and made them to want more for themselves.

There were questions on how come representatives of New York Housing Authority Developments Manhattanville and Grant Houses are not part of the Board of Directors at West Harlem Development Corporation. According to the CBA there is funding for both NYCHA developments and WHDC will meet with Presidents of both public developments.

Suggestions:

- Shirley Saxton advised seniors to reach out to Community Board No. 9 if they have issues and CB9 will contact her to see if she can be able to resolve the matter. She also advised seniors to contact their Congress Member regarding issues they face with Social Security Administration.
- On Thursday, October 9th, Council Member Mark Levine will hold a Budget Participatory at the George Bruce Library, 518 West 125th Street at 6:30 p.m. All are encouraged to attend and spread the word.
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Prepared by: Hleziphi Zita, Community Associate & Coordinator of the Senior Issues Committee

A People's History of Harlem

Our Neighborhood Oral History Project

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Interview your neighbors, family, and friends...

Sign up for ***one*** interviewer training session below and help collect Harlem neighborhood history!

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***Sign up by contacting Christopher Daigle at Hamilton Grange Library:**

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