

**SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2012**

Committee Members:

Ernestine Welch, Chair, **Present**; Tiffany Alston, **Present**; Anthony Fletcher, **Excused**

Board Members:

Dr. Vicky Gholson

Public Members:

G. Marilyn Alexander, **Excused**; Wanda Capan, **Present**; Laenoria Conyers, **Present**; Bessie Davis, **Present**; Ruther Miller, **Present**; Virginia Lee, **Excused**; Inez Woodhouse, **Excused**; Nazarene Robinson, **Excused**

Other Attendees Present:

Jully Merino, Columbia University, Shirley Saxton, Social Security Administration, Miguel Pagan, Columbia University Transportation, Katherine Chen, Ginia Addo, Sarah Martin, Gisele Guerre, Anne Burley, Florence Rice, Zonia Bucknor, L. Ann Rocker, Joyce Garrett

The meeting was held on Tuesday, June 5, 2012 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027

Ernestine Welch, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m.

The agenda was adopted as stated and the minutes were accepted with any corrections and can be submitted to the district office at a later date.

Update:

Columbia University Transportation Services:

Mr. Mike Pagan stated that he is still working on the issues raised regarding the Columbia Shuttle during the summer only one bus is assigned and three buses assigned during the school academic year. The intercampus shuttle schedule was distributed (see attached) and the schedule is divided into three segments:

1. Early morning departure is to take medical students to Harlem Hospital
2. Around 9:00 a.m. the bus starts following the regular schedule throughout the day
3. Late afternoon the bus pick-up medical students from Harlem & Presbyterian Hospitals

There are hard and soft stops, due to misinterpretation of assigned stops for the shuttle bus, visual stop signs are indicated on the map. Bus drivers are supposed to allow seniors and handicaps on board without identification, and seniors/disabled can ride the bus with their attendant.

Q&A

- Q. How do you determine ridership for the shuttle?
A. There is a scanner were rider's swipe their identification cards or bus driver punched a button to log in if a senior/disable ride boards the bus.
- Q. How long is this free shuttle bus project going to last in the community?
A. Will check the contract to be sure.

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Concerns:

There is still a concern about the issue of seniors being evicted from their homes due to increased in rent. Most seniors live on a fixed income.

Suggestions:

- Request data from city planning regarding on **how much seniors were paying before** the West Harlem Rezoning and what impact has the Rezoning have done based on rent charges in Harlem.
- Contact Time Warner to address signal, billing and other issues pertaining to cable services at the Grant Houses.
- Contact the New York State Attorney General's Office and request a Community Directory for Seniors
- Invite a representative who deals with Elder Abuse from the Attorney General's Office.

Update:

Senior Reading Garden:

Sarah Martin, President of Grant Houses Tenants Association stated that planting has started with the help of Dr. Gholson and other Grant Houses residents. A small grant was received from a filming company for the garden. Sarah Martin will report on an update detailed plan for the garden at our next meeting.

Announcements:

George Bruce Library

Tiffany Alston, Site Manager stated that the library was closed for a week for repainting and the air-conditioning unit is down but is working on it. The following are highlights of up-coming events:

- On Saturday, June 9th at 2:00 p.m. there will be a play called "**the correspondence of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.**"
- Film series every month on Wednesday, the next movie event is on June 13th
- Make Music every day, Thursday, June 21st at 4:30 p.m. by Amina Dance Theater
- On Monday, June 11th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. there will be music by the International Chorus
- On Wednesday, June 20th at 12:00 p.m. is Senior Computer Class.
- Learn Kwaindoo every Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

The Senior Ad-Hoc Committee will meet in the summer month to discuss the Senior Reading Garden

Adjournment: 1:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 11th, 2012 George Bruce Library

Prepared by: Hleziphi Zita, Community Associate