



Manhattan Community Board 9

Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville and Morningside Heights

DRAFT

Senior Issues Committee Minutes

October 1, 2013

Committee Members:

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

Public Members:

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

Other Attendees:

Maria Walters; Anne Burley; Zonia Bucknor; Junelle Carter-Bowman; Joyce Garrett; Iretha Fletcher; Quentin Fletcher; Weiner Dorothy; Katherine Chen, City College Dept. of Sociology; Lucinda Blackwell; Lucille Boddie; Ameenah Muhammad; Yolanda Bennett-Reid; Ellen Rice, Amsterdam Adult Day Care; Annie Payne; Tamiaka Miller

The meeting was held on Tuesday, October 1, 2013 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., and stated that it is three or four years now Community Board 9 have been trying to find a better space for the community to be able to hold meetings. She indicated that all request for presentations should be sent to the Community Board Office.

The agenda was adopted as stated and September minutes were unavailable, but will be mailed out to committee members and public for review at a later date.

Reports:

Dances for Seniors:

Naomi Goldberg Haas stated that Dances for Seniors is an exercise program is for a variable populatins. It is for wellness, relaxation, and the human spirit. The exercise classes are open to anyone, and held in various locations, the George Bruce Library, Jackie Robinson Senior Center, Hamilton Grange Senior Center, and the Kennedy Senior Center in Central Harlem on specific dates. Ms. Goldberg Haas demonstrated a few exercises, and invited everyone to come and participate in the exercise classes. She distributed the schedule for of classes, and for information she can be reached at (347) 683-269.

The George Bruce Library

Junelle Carter-Bowamn, Site Manager welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. She stated that she is available and open for any suggestions.

NYPD 26 Precinct Community Affairs

Officer Jason Harper reported that there are gangs problems in the district, especially in NYCHA buildings, Grant and Manhattanville. The situation of both Grant and Manhattanville escalated when a young woman, Chiken was killed by a young man from Manhattanville. The 26 Precinct and other community based organizations are trying hard to bring harmony between both developments by providing recreational programs such as basketball.

The Officers reported that there has been several incidents of cell phone snatching on 125th Street and warned seniors to be aware, and urged them to keep their phones in the pocket at all times in this location. They also stated that there are several prepaid credit card scams, and these scammers operate outside the United States, and for seniors to be weary of anyone calling them to purchase a prepaid card.

Community Activist

Florence Rice a community activist and an advocate for senior citizens especially on housing issues. She stated that she is concerned that harassment on seniors is becoming worse, and what seniors should do. She mentioned the Older American Act of 1965, the first federal initiative aimed at providing comprehensive services for older adults (see attached copy of the act) Ms. Rice reported that there is a senior citizen who resided on Riverside Drive and have been was evicted due to her income no longer enough to meet her rent expenses.

She went on and shared her story about being evicted unlawfully from her apartment by her landlord. She praised the churches for a good job in assisting her with her eviction issue. Thanked the board and family for standing by her during this difficult time. She stated that children should be reminded about the struggle seniors went through and fought for. She stated that Palante Harlem will honor her November 24, 2013.

Community Board Member/CB9 Treasurer

Anthony Fletcher reported that he attended a Legal Aid Society, Housing Forum on succession issue, and stated it was very informative. He brought and distributed fliers about tenants' rights, harassment, discrimination, and succession rights.

Suggestions:

- Improve the internet speed in public libraries.
- Find out about Countee Cullen Public Library' proposed closure.
- Celebrate and recognize seniors who have fought hard for civil liberties in our community.
- Organize a CB9 senior fair, and invite governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- Invite Association of American Retired People (AARP) to present at our next monthly meeting.

Action Taken:

- Carole Singleton volunteered to write a proposal regarding senior fair.
- It was agreed that to request the Chair of Community Board #9 to sign a letter to Commissioner Margarita Lopez and send it out as soon as possible.

Adjournment: 1:15 p.m.