

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday February 27, 2014
Broadway Housing, 583 Riverside Drive

Attending Committee Members

Victor Edwards Co-Chair, Arnold Boatner, Signe Mortensen, Yvonne Stennett
Other Attendees: Maritta Dunn, Wayne Petro (Columbia U student)

The meeting was called to attention at 6:50 p.m. without a quorum. Since a quorum did not exist the agenda and minutes could not be adopted.

Reports:

Member Edwards explained to the guest that the topic for tonight's meeting was a review of the reports on Columbia's Community Engagement website. This website listed various programs and amenities that are available to West Harlem community through CU. Committee members would be reporting to the group on the relevancy and usefulness of the reports, Columbia's documented participation by CB 9 residents and any recommendations for improvements.

Signe Mortensen (Arts/Culture Committee) started the reporting by reviewing the reports that had been assigned to the Arts/ Culture committee:

High School Summer Internship Program

- 15 internships (only 2 from CB 9) 8 - from Columbia Secondary School (CSS)

Member Stennett informed the committee that this program was a pilot program slated to possibly end in 2014. Marrita Dunn suggested that the program provide more slots specifically for CB 9 students. Member Mortensen stated that overall the reports on this program were good however, there did not appear to significant student representation from CB 9.

Recommendations:

1. Expand the zip code listing of selected students to include zip + 4 to provide better data on where the students reside and how many students are selected from CB 9.
2. Begin a dialogue to continue the program beyond 2014 and to change the selection ratio to provide more internships to CB 9 students (currently 2/3 of the students are selected from the CCS)

Summer Camp Scholarships for Children

- 25 summer scholarships are offered to Columbia's summer camp through for financially eligible children (age 6-12). A scholarship provides one week at camp and most children received 2 weeks.
- All students were from CB 9

Member Mortensen stated that the report provided good information including zip codes for the participating children.

In-Kind Benefits

- All requests for "In kind" benefits must be directed through the WHDC.
- To date \$54,000 (economic develop focus group) of the \$20,000 has been utilized

Member Mortensen suggested that Columbia's has a variety of space that could be utilized for various community activities types ranging from performance artist and to interest. Each committee should examine how Columbia's sites through the "In kind" benefits could be utilized by the community.

Graduate Scholarships for Elementary School Teachers

The scholarships are awarded to qualified elementary school teachers either currently teaching within Community District 9 or interested in teaching elementary school within Community District 9. Up to three scholarships would be in force at any given time with a cumulative maximum of 18 credits per year.

One teacher is currently in this program selected from Columbia Secondary School.

There is a requirement that the teacher must teach for 5 years within the area but, the question was raised whether or not there should be residency requirement? Ms. Dunn noted that these were the terms agreed to during the CBA negotiations.

Recommendations:

How many scholarships had been awarded since 2009?

How the scholarships are advertised to schools within CD 9 beyond the CSS.

Co-Chair Edwards thanked Member Mortensen for her reporting and stated that he hope the other committee members would be prepared for reporting at the next meeting.

WHDC

A discussion commenced regarding the recent activities of the WHDC. Several members had questions regarding the success and status of the grants. Co-Chair Edwards stated that Board members continue to ask him and Carmen Morrillo about the status of the grants that have been distributed. Co-Chair Edwards said that he had suggested to Kofi that some type metrics outlining the status/success of the individual grantees be provide to the board to address members inquires. Edwards also stated that Kofi had briefed him on several promising initiatives of the WHDC however; this same information must be communicated to the Board on a regular basis. Several members agreed that there appears to be a lack of communication from the WHDC that needs be improved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm

Next meeting to be held on March 27, 2014.