

# STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

March 17, 2015

Broadway Housing, 583 Riverside Drive

## Attending Committee Members

## Guest :

Victor Edwards – Chair,  
Joel Mentor  
Padmore John  
LaQuita Henry

Linda Walton  
Harriet Rosebud  
Brad Taylor  
Arnold Boatner

Yuen Chen

## Reports:

- Follow-up from meeting with Columbia U. Exec. V.P. Maxine Griffith
  - A copy of a letter from Ms. Griffith was distributed to members with her response to questions previously submitted regarding issues around the CBA.
  
- Columbia Employment Informative Center – Visit (3/16/15)
  - Member Edwards provided a summary of his recent visit and along with 4 other Board members to the employment center. He informed the committee that several questions were raised during the visit that would be followed-up by the center regarding interaction with the community.
  - Member Boatner stated that there is disconnect between the employment center and community at large.
  
- In-Kind Benefits
  - Edwards - Request has been made to the WHDC to provide a better understanding of the use of these benefits: process, criteria, year to date usage etc.
  - Walton – WHDC should be tracking the drawdown of the benefits, is this being done?
    - Edwards – to the his knowledge benefits have only been utilized in 2 instances:
      - 1. Economic / workforce development project (\$54,000)
      - 2. Assistance to the CB9 Health Committee in analyzing data for the emissions from the North River Treatment Plant
    - As per the CBA Columbia is required to submit an annual report on year to date usage of In-Kind Benefits.

- Edwards – Requested members review the CBA for items related to their committee's that they might want to pursue through In-Kind benefits with the assistance of Columbia. He further stated that the needs of the community couldn't be met solely through WHDC grants and we must institute initiatives on our own.
- WHDC
  - Current WHDC Grant report distributed indicating that 55% of Grantees in the current cycle are located outside CD9.
  - Rosebud – Grantees should be located within CB 9 when possible and stressed developing a partnership between the Grantees and CB9 committees. Rosebud further stated that the Arts/Culture committee reaches out to all the Arts/Culture Grantees to invite them to their monthly meeting which has been very successful.
  - Edwards – Stated that sometimes the specific organization does not exist within CB 9 and then it is necessary to look outside of CD 9. He also stressed that all committees could reach out to Grantees in their respective areas of interest to develop a relationship and be resource.
  - John – Questioned how are we assured that the Grantees are serving CB9 residents, should they have to submit a quarterly report on their activities and attendees.
  - Walton – All Grantees must submit an interim report to the WHDC which provides this information and funding is dependent on compliance.
  - Mentor – Is anyone fact checking the reports that are submitted by Grantees?
    - Edwards – We can ask if this is being done but with the current staff size it's doubtful.
  - Edwards – A reminder was sent to the WHDC regarding distribution of a letter to all Grantees providing contact information for CB committees to encourage building a partnership.
  - Guest Yueng Chen – The letter providing contact information for the CB 9 committees should be handed out at the WHDC information sessions.
    - Edwards - Follow-up would be done to act on Ms. Chen's suggestion for the upcoming 3/26/15 information session.
- I. T. Committee Initiative
  - Edwards – This committee would explore updates, enhancements and easier navigation for the CB 9 website
  - Several members agreed that the website could be more robust and could be updated for easier navigation.
  - Taylor – Explained that previously there was an I. T. committee responsible for maintaining the Boards website and this would be a good idea.

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- Boatner – The Borough Pres. Office has a Tech committee in place that might be able to assist with this issue.
- Mentor/ Padmore – The Board site should at least be as up to date as other Board site if not better, e.g. CB9 Bklyn CB7 Manhattan
- Strategic Planning/ Day Retreat
  - Edwards – There is little time during the Board meeting to interact with fellow Board members, a half day retreat would provide an excellent opportunity for this type of activity.
  - Henry – This would be a good idea and we should include all Board members.
  - Walton – When are we looking to hold this and where?
    - Edwards – It could possibly be held at River Bank State park or a site on Columbia’s campus, details to be discussed further but possibly during May or June.
- Old Business – None
- New Business –
  - A request was made to have someone from the WHDC Affordable Housing committee attend the April SPC meeting.
  - Kofi Boateng of the WHDC to be invited to attend the April SPC meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 9:05 pm