

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 19, 2015

Broadway Housing, 583 Riverside Drive

Attending Committee Members : Victor Edwards – Chair, Joel Mentor , Arnold Boatner, LaQuita Henry, Brad Taylor, Feruze Zeko

Community Members: Heidi Lopez - M. Levine office

Meeting called to order at 6:45

Agenda adopted / Minutes not available for prior meeting

DISCUSSION

- Review of presentation (4/21/15) of WHDC's strategic plan by Kofi Boateng.

Attending members agreed that narrowing of the WHDC focus to the areas of education, economic development, work force and affordable housing was a good strategy. Chair Edwards noted that Kofi had reviewed the education initiatives that have occurred to date which include the use of an "App" in targeted schools that help teachers communicate with parents. Further educational plans included targeting specific schools for improvement through building direct relationships with the Principals and the employment of school coordinators.

REPORTS

- Columbia Employment Information Center:
 - Chair Edwards noted that he had received a response to questions from their March meeting with the Columbia employment center. Member Boatner noted that the Employment Center's report indicated that only 10% of people served came from CB9 which was unacceptable. Edwards stated that the full report was being reviewed for a formal response to Columbia University.
- Columbia University Undergrad Scholarships:
 - Chair Edwards reported that a review of the data obtained from Columbia U (after a 7 month wait) revealed that approximately 51% of the scholarships under this CBA program were being awarded to residents of CB 9.
- Columbia Secondary School for Math, Science and Engineering (CSS):
 - A review of a visit to CSS was presented noting the attending committee was pleased with the diversity of the school and the number of CB9 students attending. The biggest issue facing the school is the lack of space since the school is a co-location school, sharing the space with 2 other schools. The committee also wanted the school to foster a closer relationship with the housing developments in the area.
- I. T. Sub-committee
 - Chair Edwards opened the meeting by stating that the committee needed to establish an overall agenda and goals. Brad Taylor noted an I.T. committee was previously formed to address several issues related to the Board's Website. Brad continued by stating that the Board's archived information needed to be greatly improved and to include resolutions. Arnold Boatner stated that in exploring other CB websites there were several websites that were significantly more robust and easier to navigate.

- Edwards added that navigation was an element that he thought needed improving on the CB 9 site. Feruze Zeko noted that the inclusion of photos would enhance the overall look of our website. Edwards suggested that as a first step the web consultant for CB be invited to attend the next meeting to provide a clearer understanding of what changes could be made under DOIT regulations. Joel Mentor suggested that a representative from DOIT also be invited to attend the meeting.
 - Other areas suggested for exploration were the use of Twitter / Instagram / Face Book /

Arnold Boatner and Hedi Lopez both suggested that the committee tap into the Borough President I.T. committee for assistances.

- C.BA
 - The meeting continued with a discussion of the boundaries of the CBA and what appeared to be the lack of benefits for the area (Manhattanville) that is immediately affected by the Columbia Expansion. Member Boatner stated that the benefits under the CBA were allocated by use of UMEZ which was not favorable to the residents of CB 9 who are the ones directly being affected and displaced. H. Lopez stated that she was going to take a closer look at the boundaries stated in the CBA for better clarity.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.