

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday November 25, 2014

16-18 Old Broadway

Attending Committee Members

Victor Edwards Co-Chair, Signe Mortensen, LaQuita Henry, Linda Walton, Joel Mentor

Guest – Maritta Dunn

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. with a quorum. Co-Chair Edwards opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming out and welcomed Ms. Dunn to the meeting.

UPDATES – Columbia's Community Engagement Programs:

Review of the programs under Columbia's Community Engagement Programs (CCEP).

- In June Columbia's representative – Victoria Mason-Ailey attended the SPC meeting and provided some responses to inquires surrounding the CCEP programs but several questions remained unanswered in the following areas:
 - Columbia Employment Info. Center
 - Graduate Scholarships for Elementary School Teachers
 - Columbia Secondary School for Math, Science and Engineering
 - Summer Internships for high school students
 - Columbia undergraduate scholarships
- M. Dunn stated that these questions should be pursued through the WHDC for follow-up. Co-Chair Edwards stated that he had shared this information the WHDC and the CB #9 Chair.
- Member Walton asked which of the items were most important to pursue.
- Member Mentor stated that he had visited the Columbia Employment center and did not find the center very helpful.
 - Member Edwards stated he want to determine the priority order of the outstanding inquires with the committee's input but wanted responses for outstanding items.
- Member Walton wanted to know where the CSS School was located and was the school a part of the CBA Agreement.
 - Co-Chair Edwards explained that CSS was the Columbia Secondary School and is located at 123rd Street between Amsterdam and Morningside Aves, which is sometimes confused with the Teacher College Community School located on Morningside Ave. (K-8)

DISCUSSION – Co-Chair Edwards continued the meeting by explaining that the CBA contained a large number of items suggested for implementation (with Columbia's assistance) that could be truly beneficial to CD9. Co-Chair Edwards stated that in prior sessions (a list was distributed) last year several items were discussed for possible implementation by each committee from the CBA and he thought it was time to move forward with this process.

- **HOUSING** – Establish a resource/ advocacy center for HDFC's/ Explore co-op purchasing of oil/maintenance repairs for home owners/ conduct an assessment of CD9 housing issues.
- **HEALTH** - Initiate a health assessment of the CD 9 community/ Improve education of HIV, asthma, diabetes, obesity, sickle cell anemia / Establish a Community Emergency Response Team, known as CERT.
 - Member Henry stated that she would take the information back to the Health Committee and agreed that a District health assessment would be extremely valuable.
- **LANDMARKS/PARKS** – Assessment of current landmarks within the District and identifying possible new landmarks
 - Member Mentor thought this assessment would be an excellent idea to undertake.
 - M. Dunn suggested that the City and State agencies could be of assistance with the landmarks initiative.
 - Member Henry suggested that the garden that Member Vicky Goldson had maintain should be examined under the Parks committee.
- **ARTS/CULTURE** – Provision for use of space at Columbia, the Harlem Artists Legacy and Living History Projects.
 - Member Mortensen noted that access to performance space remained an issue for the arts community.
- All committee representatives agreed to take the information back to their committees and begin a dialogue regarding these CBA items and/or other CBA items that their committees might want to pursue.

REVIEW - Recent grants awarded by the WHDC.

- Co-Chair Edwards distributed a list of most recent WHDC grant awardees, noting that the largest share of the grants went to organizations in Education and Arts (17 of the 38 Grants).
- Member Walton questioned how many of the organizations were CD9 based?
 - Co-Chair Edwards referred to the handout that indicated that 25 of the 38 organizations were based in CD9 and that CD 9 had received 66% of the funds awarded during this grant cycle.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.