

Minutes from Youth Education & Libraries Committee
October 26, 2005 6:30 PM

Present

Carlotta Demanda Melissa Brown
Romana Jennett Sandra Carter
Barbara Marshall Opt Sowa
Georgette Morgan Thomas
Janet Rommon

Absent

Fatima Flores

\ Meeting was opened by Carlotta Damanda 6:40 PM

Ana Garcia from ECHO (Edgecombe Children Helping Others) located on 141st Street and Edgecombe Avenue spoke. They are a program which helps kids in the community with problems by giving them activities and programs to keep them off the street. The program is for children from 6yrs old and up.

ECHO wants to have the vacant lot on their block fixed up to either a garden, building or playground. They are willing to pitch in and help but need funds and leadership to head up the project. They would like the committee to help research as to whom the property belongs.

ECHO also says that they need more space to have programs, rehearse and put on holiday shows as well as store clothes and food that they collect for the homeless.

They were asked by a committee member to create a list of things they would like to do and the committee would help them accomplish it. The committee will also help promote their shows and events to bring about awareness of the program and additional help.

The ECHO group has leadership meetings and they also have knitting and crocheting on Saturdays and socializing on Fridays. They have been getting together for the past three years to put on a performance for the lighting of the Christmas tree in their neighborhood.

Also in attendance was The Moss School located on 131st street and Convent Avenue. It is a school or accelerated studies in Math, Science and Technology.

The children in this school score above citywide standards and are on or above grade level. Because of this they do not receive funding like the other schools. They do have organizations who have offered services in lieu of funds.

The multi-cultural music group provides music programs to the students. This year they have had to cut the after-school program because they don't have a bus to transport the students home. They are housed in a very small building and don't have the facilities of a regular school. It was suggested that the committee advocates for a different site where they will be able to have a gym, playground, and auditorium to properly educate and nurture the children.

They want the community to help and speak up for them. Their immediate need is for bus transportation to take the children home after school. It was suggested as a resolution that the committee adopt this school and fully advocate on their behalf to community as well as city leaders. There will be weekly progress reports on what's being done and what still needs to be done. A committee member also suggested that the parents contact their local churches of which there are many transportation ministries they may be able to participate in.

The President of the Community Education Council of District 6 offered Community Board 9 and the committee an open invitation to visit the schools of their district. They will be working very closely with the chair to inform them when there will be visits to schools so that they can attend with them.

It was suggested by a committee member that the committee continue the Youth Summit that was coordinated by Councilman Bill Perkins and the committee chair.

Dr. Gholson brought up the construction of the IS school on West 152nd Street and Amsterdam the question is who will be going to this school. There is already a Principle appointed and should be at any meetings involving this school. Will the children of Hamilton Heights benefit or will Washington Heights take this school for theirs? Will there be a Community Meeting to get the facts? Will the Politicians get involved?

In regard to the IS school which is being constructed on West 152nd Street and Amsterdam Ave Mr. Mclean District Manager has done investigation into the school and found in August the Mayor while announcing another school advised that the school on West 152nd Street would be the home of the 21st Academy for the 21st Century . In January's Youth Committee the people involved will be invited to that meeting after the dates have been decided. Every student in District 6 can apply; initially we were told this school was not for our children.

Carlotta Damanda presented a resolution for Liberian Manny. Carlotta to supply resolution.

Committee all agree on the resolution

Minutes Submitted by B.A. Marshall