



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 20st, 2018

Present: Abunoman Rahman, Angel Martinez, Benigno Cuevas, Brandon Ganaishlal, Cesar Pagan, Cruz Garcia, Daniel Porro III, Felipa Manaiza, Hannia Godinez, Henry Pelayo Jr., James Tynan, Jennifer Ellison-Lackard, Justen Colon, Justin Westbrook Lowery, Kevin Kiernan, Kwabena Gabay, Linda Brown, Mitchell Halpern, Mohammad Mujumder, Nellie Santiago-Rivera, Nicholas Himidian Jr., Rosemary Ordonez Jenkins, Sarwar Jahan, Sharan Fernandez, William Rivera (DM)

Not Present: Cleneth Dais, Doralina Colon, Harry Dunlap, Isabelo Adames, Juan Torres, Lisa Diaz, Nevia Gallimore, Steven Ochoa, Venus Williams

Meeting Start Time: 7:00pm

Note: The Chairperson asked the audience to stand and pledge allegiance to the flag, followed by a moment of silence. As per Chairman Himidian, January's General Board Meeting will be extensive due to November's meeting cancellation and December's Holiday.

Public Session

1. Rogier Van Vlissingen, was the first guest speaker. He presented on behalf of Plant Pure Communities. Along with Stevenson Family Health Plant Pure Communities is in the process of planning to host a jump start program next year. This 10 day emerging program allows Medicaid patients to get a plant based diets with Wholefoods. The results have been so phenomenal that Medicaid has offered to sponsor this program. Rogier is also looking for volunteers who are willing to help him next year.

2. Gordon Chrischlow, was the second guest speaker. He was representing Sun Run Solar. This business consults with homeowners to help offset their utility expenses. He will return next month with more details on the program. Flyers were distributed.

3. Shireena Drammeh, was the third guest speaker. She is the Principal and Co-founder of the Islamic Leadership School. She introduced STEM DUP Academy Charter School. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math and DUP stands for Diversity, Unity, Peace. The school will be dual language, Arabic English will be taught as a second language. As per Ms. Drammeh, STEM DUP will be an integral part of the community and the change the community needs. As per Chairman Himidian, Ms. Drammeh attended the Youth & Education Committee and presented in length at this meeting so attendees are encouraged to review these meeting minutes.

As per Chairman Himidian, if Board Members have no need to keep their meeting packets, these should be returned at the end of the General Board Meeting to be reused at the Seniors Connected Meeting. Notes sheet will now be distributed along with packets for note taking from Board members.

Business Session

Note: The Chairperson put a motion on the floor to go into the Business Session. The motion was seconded by Rosemary Ordonez-Jenkins. The vote was unanimous. The motion was passed.

Elected Officials Report

1. Ms. Iliane Almanzar, from Assemblyman Marcos Crespo's Office, was the first representative speaker. She shared that the underpass on Bruckner and Rosedale has begun construction. The plan is to add murals and paintings here. As a result the community should share any artist information that would be willing to collaborate on this project with their office. In addition, if residents know of any locations throughout the district that should be beautified with murals, suggestions should be sent to their office. Assemblyman Crespo's office will be closed for the holiday until January 2nd.

2. Ms. Daniel Guerrero, from Senator Sepulveda's Office, was the second representative speaker. He informed the community that the office recently donated 600 toys to several schools for the Christmas Holidays. The office is open Mon-Fri 9am-3pm for constituent services.

Chairperson's Report

As per Chairman Himidian, he congratulated all Board Members past and present for their work on the board. The Chairman's report will be consolidated and moved to January's meeting.

Chairman Himidian introduced BM Justin Westbrook-Lowery who announced his last day on the board as he will be joining Assemblywoman Reyes' staff as Deputy Chief of Staff.

District Manager's Report

As per DM Rivera, 2069 Bruckner Blvd development will be voted on in January Committee Meeting. Regarding 1275 Pugsley Ave, it came out on a website blog that they wanted to put a hotel here, as of right now, if this were to be true, this would be an as-of-right project. It would not go through a ULURP Process, however, they are not able to build more than 3 or 4 stories here which may not be financially feasible. 1600 Randall Ave. (between Rosedale and dead end) is a 99 bed studio transitional housing from shelter families, females and children. Their application got approved from the city which was the only approval needed since this will be an as-of-right.

This will probably be done at the end of next year so program will return at a later time for another presentation to committee. CB9 does not have a CERT Team so DM Rivera is helping to start one. This will probably get started next year.

As per DM Rivera, CB9 is collecting toys for toy drive.

Seniors Connected will take place tomorrow at Jaime Towers for Holiday Celebration.

DM Rivera introduced Captain Ramsey. He lived in Jaime Towers in the community the last 9 years. There are a lot of challenges here but he wants to make sure that people that are from housing are represented properly. Captain Ramsey will be at Seniors Connected tomorrow.

As per DM Rivera, there was a homicide in Castle Hill earlier today. As per Captain Ramsey, this started out in transit, possibly a dispute in the train. The incident happened off camera. It is an unfortunate incident. This is still an active investigation. The bus stop was blocked, this is normally done during a homicide. This incident happened at 6:59pm. This looks like it was a one on one personal dispute.

As per Captain Ramsey, it only takes one incident to be on the opposite side of the track, but thankfully to BM Henry Pelayo, he was given a second chance.

Joshua Cortez stated that the news broke today that the Mayor supports the legalization of marijuana. There are mixed reviews, but if this goes through all records of those who have marijuana convictions of the past will expunge. Mr. Cortez also talked about NYCHA receivership, which means the federal government will be in charge of NYCHA and urged everyone to push to extend their rights to fight for NYCHA and the residents. Mr. Cortez announced that State of the city will be coming up in January and for Community Boards to look out for invites.

Maritza Cortaza stated that she is stationed in Castle Hill and helps with one shot deals, food stamps, and check cases for residents.

DM Rivera states that a few Board Members didn't take the sexual harassment training and there are 2 Board Members who didn't take the training nor did they sign the EEO Policy. The training can be done at CB9 within the hours of 9-5 and during the committee meetings.

Committee Reports

1. Youth & Education

Shirley announced that the toys that were donated to a daycare at 1700 Seward Avenue. The daycare invited the Board to take pictures with the children opening the toys at 1:30 P.M on December 21, 2018.

Nicholas Himidian (Chairman) stated the extra gifts will be given to North Central Hospital.

Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

2. Land & Zoning

Mohammad Mujumder talked about the possibility of a hotel coming to 475 Pugsley Avenue. He states that this should be somewhere else and everyone should come together and oppose it.

A motion was called by Nicholas Himidian (Chairman) - Motion to approve BSA 278-86-BZ: To extend term of special permit that expires June 17, 2019. The special allows the premises to operate as white castle eatery and drive thru. 23 Board Members voted yes and the motion was passed.

Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

3. Parks

Soundview Park wants to put the road runner markers in a small portion in the park to show where you are in the park. This won't interrupt the bike lane.

A motion was called by Nicholas Himidian (Chairman) -Motion to approve the road runner markers. 23 Board Members voted yes and the motion was passed.

Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

4. Public Safety

Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

5. Social Services

Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

Meeting adjourned: 7:50 P.M.

OFFICE INFO

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