



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Present: Abunoman Rahman, Angel Martinez, Benigno Cuevas, Daniel Porro III, Doralina Colon, Felipa Manaiza, Henry Pelayo Jr., Isabelo Adames, James Tynan, Juan Torres, Kevin Kiernan, Kwabena Gabay, Linda Brown, Mitchell Halpern, Mohammad Mujumder, Nellie Santiago-Rivera, Nicholas Himidian Jr., Rosemary Ordonez Jenkins, Sarwar Jahan, Sharan Fernandez, Steven Ochoa, William Rivera (DM)

Not Present: Cesar Pagan, Brandon Ganaishlal, Cruz Garcia, Cleneth Dais, Hannia Godinez, Jennifer Ellison-Lackard, Lisa Diaz,

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.

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

Public Session

1. Anthony Escot and Regina Wilson from NYCEM talked about the CERT program which is a volunteer program. Ms. Wilson stated that they are looking for people in the community to join and protect their neighborhood. Ms. Wilson also talked about the Community preparedness toolkit that helps people with how to plan for emergencies. DM Rivera stated that this is very important to him and hopes that one day our board will be very involved in this.
2. Mr. Chowdary from the Mujumder Foundation invited all minority high school and college students to 2026 McGraw on April 6th, 2019 at 6 P.M for dinner.

Business Session

Note: The Chairperson put a motion on the floor to go into the Business Session. The motion was seconded by Mohammad Mujumder. The vote was unanimous. The motion was passed.

1. Andy Toledo from the Borough President's office, told the Board Members that reappointment letters will be going out next week. Mr. Toledo then stated that the sexual harassment training for 2019 should be available in May or June, once informed by DCAS the board will be notified. Last week the Borough President released the annual development report which is broken up into 3 categories, residential, commercial and institutional investment. 2018 was another record year for the Bronx which received a total of 3.48 billion dollars in investments.
2. Josue Melendez from Councilmember Rafael Salamanca office announced that they will be having a mammography bus on May 8th which is completely free of charge, you must RSVP for this. Ms. Melendez also announced that on Saturday March 23rd there will be free tax preparation on for anyone who makes less than \$54,000 a year.
3. Frankie Mercedes from Senator Biaggi's office announced open office hours and gave out a flyer with this information. Ms. Mercedes also stated they have first Fridays where you can just walk in, this will be April 5th. Senator Biaggi's office will be doing constituent services from CB9 every last Thursday of the month.
4. Daniel Guerrero from Senator Sepulveda office gave out the office location which is 900 Rogers Place. The phone number is 718991316. Office services includes housing, food stamps etc. Mr. Guerrero stated that Senator Sepulveda sponsored bill S4211 which clarifies lactation in the workplace, which means women don't have to go to a private place to breastfeed.
5. Justin Westbrook-Lowery from Assembly member Karines Reyes office stated Assembly member Reyes passed her first legislation regarding lactation. Mr. Lowery announced an Easter Egg Hunt that Assembly woman Reyes and Senator Sepulveda are doing on April 6th at the Castle Hill houses. On Fri May17 Assembly member Reyes and other elected officials will be hosting job fair with SUNY from 10am to 2pm.
6. Anaise and Katherine from Marcos Crespo office stated that in late February Black history month was celebrated alongside Councilman Salamanca with Fanny Lou High School and they were able to view newly. Anaise then stated that the underpass on Bruckner Boulevard and Rosedale is being worked on, the benches and flower pots have already been added. Katherine stated that in recognition of women's history month Assemblyman Crespo is proud to sponsor the legislation that benefits the women's workforce throughout the state and it allows breast feeding moms to cancel jury duty. Katherine also stated that green light campaign is priority, this campaign allows equal access to driver's license regardless of immigration status. Katherine then talked about sponsored bill H6565 this bill is NYCHA residents can request lower rent when elevators, heat and hot water are not maintained.
7. Ramon from Congressman Serrano stated that they are hosting their annual women's history month celebration at the Bronx Museum of arts, tomorrow March 22. Ramon then stated that next week they will be meeting with the Bronx postmasters to discuss issues. An investigation was recently opened with the West Farms post office because there is a claim that the employees steal ids, if they are caught actions will be taken against them.

8. Antirson Ortiz from the Comptroller's office talked about inclusion, transparency, equal pay and equal opportunity. Mr. Ortiz stated that right now NY women owned businesses are only getting 5% of contracts. The Comptroller wants to make sure that lines are equal, there is equal pay, equal opportunity and diversity.
9. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was present and spoke about district week and mentioned that she was at the Westchester Square Library this week and at the Van Nest Library a few weeks ago. The Congresswoman is almost 3 months into her term. Her office has been addressing a lot of housing and immigration issues with residents. Deputy District Director Noreen was also present and Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez encouraged residents to contact her office for federal related concerns. In addition, if anyone is looking to honor someone from the community, Congress is able to fly flags over the capitol in someone's name to honor local constituents. If anyone wants to plan a trip to DC the Congresswoman's DC staff is here to help. In the interim, the office is ascertaining priorities related to healthcare, housing, education, immigration and the environment. The Congresswoman opened the floor to address any specific questions or issues residents may have. The first flagship office was secured in Jackson Heights, Queens. They are working on securing a Bronx site but have been struggling because a lot of commercial landlords want a 5 or 10 year lease, however, Congress is legally only able to sign a 2 year lease. As a result of this, the Queen's office opened first due to logistics, however, the Congresswoman is actively looking for leads on a location for the Bronx. Regardless, there will be open office hours every single week in the Bronx at different libraries.

As per BM Mujumder, Thank you very much for Congresswoman being present and here for the community outside of election time and when people need it.

Chairperson's Report

- Chairman Nicholas Himidian talked about creating a NYCHA committee. He stated that in the wintertime there service reductions with no heat and a chronic list of repairs that are never repaired and now there is lead paint being used. Mr. Himidian stated that billions of dollars are spent on NYCHA and nothing happens and he asked the Board members if they have some time on a Friday night to come out and discuss this.
-Motion: Chairman Nicholas Himidian put out a motion to create a NYCHA sub-committee the chair will be Nicholas Himidian until further notice. The motion was seconded by Daniel Porro the vote was unanimous the motion was passed.
- Chairman Nicholas Himidian states that in the Bi-laws it states you can't miss more than 3 meetings in a row and CB9 is very flexible. There are two board members Nevvia Gallimore and Justen Colon who haven't been to any meetings. They have been sent letters, received calls and emails and nothing was ever received back to CB9.
-Motion: Chairman Nicholas Himidian put out a motion to remove Nevvia Gallimore and Justin Colon from the Board. The motion was seconded by Angel Martinez. The vote was unanimous and the motion was passed.

District Manager's Report

- The Executive Committee will have Board member attendance for the fiscal year.
- The CB9 office relocation was completed. Councilmember Diaz allocated \$100,000 for CB9. The new office should be done in the summer. The office still doesn't have internet so the hotspot is still being used.
- CBMS is up and will be monitored till the end of the fiscal year
- The Second anniversary for Yadira Arroyo went very well
- The school bus operator meeting on March 5th was a very good meeting. A follow-up was done with the Precinct Council and there will be a follow-up with all bus operators very soon. Elected officials were asked to look into a legislation that will mandate cameras.
- CB9 had a meeting with DHS, Samaritan Daytop Village and local Electeds regarding a single adult men's shelter slated to open Winter of 2019 at 2008 Westchester Ave. The next steps are to host a public meeting to inform the community of what is coming into the district. DHS and the provider will be coming to the next Social Service Committee Meeting as well as our next GB Meeting. The most important thing is to coordinate with Electeds how and where to conduct a community meeting.
- Site will be on Westchester between Olmstead and Puglsey.
- This is an As of Right Project. This location was chosen in conjunction with the Administration and DHS.
- As per BM Juan Torres, this site was most likely chosen because Riverdale and Throggs Neck did not want it in their district. It is ridiculous to host another shelter in this district.
- As per DM Rivera, as per some stats in early 2014/2015, there is 1 shelter in Staten Island compared to the city, Manhattan has 108 shelters, Queens has 67, Bronx has 165, and Brooklyn has 125. In terms of Commercial Hotel Facilities and Clusters buildings Manhattan has 33, Bronx 64, Queens 39, Brooklyn 35, and Staten Island has 0. The Bronx brunt's about 35% of the shelters due to a lot of different factors and variables, for example, cheaper property values. In the Bronx Community Board 11 has 0 shelters and 0 facilities, Community Board 8 has 1 and the most shelters are concentrated in the South Bronx. Community Board 9 has 8 shelters. Compared to the Bronx, CB9 is on the lower end, but it is not fair when some community boards have 0.
- As per BM Juan Torres, these number do not consider state and private sites. In addition, the reason why property values in the Bronx are low is because we are carrying the brunt of the weight of shelter sites.
- As per Linda Brown, when was notification given?
- As per DM Rivera, we were notified after construction began because this is an As of Right, about a month ago and a meeting was held earlier this month with DHS and provider.
- As per DM Rivera, community meeting should take place in April most likely in St. Helena's, St., Pauls' or one of those facilities in the area.
- Conflict of Interest Board present to give 10 minute presentation to the board.

Committee Reports

1. Executive & Operations minutes were submitted as is by Chairperson Himidian.
2. Youth & Education Committee Minutes were be tabled and submitted as is by Chairperson Himidian in absence of BM Cesar Pagan.
3. Land & Zoning
As per Chair Mujumder, a new affordable senior housing will be coming into the community within the next 2 years. In addition, the shelter that will be coming into the district did not come to the Land & Zoning Committee, most likely because it is an As of Right project. Chair Mujumder vehemently opposes this project because it is adjacent to a church, library, schools and condos. There should be no such thing as an As of Right, the public should have the right to oppose this.

Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

4. Parks
Motion for the Co-naming of Blackrock after FDNY EMT Yadira Arroyo. Motion was seconded by BM Rosemary Ordonez-Jenkins and unanimously approved.

As per Chair Kwabena Gabay Parks is attempting to place a quiet park in the district for members who are handicapped. In addition, Chair Kwabena will be visiting all parks in the district to ascertain what is needed.

Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

5. Public Safety
Minutes were submitted as is by Vice Chair Isabelo Adames.

6. Social Services
As per Chair Rosemary Ordonez-Jenkins, she is not opposed to shelters, however, advocates to spread shelter sites evenly throughout the borough and the city and will address this when meeting with DHS.

Social Service Committee will be hosting Senior Symposium on April 26th from 10-1pm

Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

COIB Presentation

Conflicts of Interests Law handout was distributed to BMs. This handout includes a contact number that can be used to answer any questions BMs may have. The Conflict of Interest has a Training Unit, follow them on Twitter at @NYCCOIB. They also have an

Enforcement Unit, this unit has very few enforcement cases against CB Members. There are a lot of advice cases, advise is given free of charge, the most common topic is regarding voting items. It was stressed to BMs to call before doing what is being proposed to do not after it was already done.

When does a conflict of interest prohibit you from participating in the discussion? Community Board Members can always participate in the discussion but not in the vote, however, BMs must always disclose their conflict at the beginning of the conversation. These areas of conflict include direct benefit to finance, city agency, and nonprofit agency.

If a BM is not qualified to vote because of COI, BM cannot abstain because this can count as a no vote.

If you are a lawyer and also a BM, you are unable to represent a client that has to come before the board. If someone from your firm wants to represent that client, COI Board must be notified and approve in advance.

City staff and resources are for the city stuff and election resources are for election stuff, these cannot be mixed.

Board staff and DM are BM's subordinate so they cannot be asked to do anything for political campaign and you cannot get into financial relationship with anyone who works for the board.

No gifts over a \$50 value are allowed to be accepted while on the board.

Seniors Connected will be taking place tomorrow at 10am at ShopRite

Next General Board Meeting will be on April 18, 2019, same time, same place.
Follow CB9 on social media, Twitter, FB and Nextdoor.

Meeting adjourned: 8:20 P.M.

OFFICE INFO

*District Manager William Rivera - wrivera@cb.nyc.gov
Phone (718) 823-3034 - Fax (718) 823-6461 - Office Email bx09@cb.nyc.gov - Website nyc.gov/bxcb9
Office Hours - Monday thru Friday 9AM to 5PM*