



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Present: Abunoman Rahman, Antionette Vereen, Brandon Ganaishlal, Cesar Pagan, Daniel Porro III, Doralina Colon, Felipa Manaiza, Henry Pelayo Jr., James Tynan, Joy Nicole Thomas, Juan Torres, Kevin Kiernan, Kwabena Gabay, Louise Marchena, Marisol Cordero, Mitchell Halpern, Monique Farrington, Mohammad Mujumder, Nicholas Himidian Jr., Sarwar Jahan, Shante Chamblee, Sharyn Brown, Sharan Fernandez, Steven Ochoa, Twywana Bush, Victor Cordero, William Rivera (DM)

Not Present: Ahmat Jallo, Angel Martinez, Benigno Cuevas, Beverly Roberts, Cruz Garcia, Denisha Lopez, Elizabeth Angeles, Isabelo Adames, Lisa Diaz, Nellie Santiago-Rivera, Rosa Gomez, Sinade Wadsworth

Meeting Start Time: 7:05pm

Note: The Chairperson asked the audience to stand for the pledge of allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Note: The Chairperson entered into the Public Session.

Public Session

1. Steve Williams from Accessible Dispatch Program spoke about the program which connects the community to wheelchair accessible taxis all throughout NYC. All car services are required to provide wheelchair accessible cars. Flyers were distributed.
2. Fahim Rofique from Synergy Prep spoke about free high school admissions tools for all students especially 8th graders. Tool can be found at NYCHighSchoolAdmissions.com. Flyer to be shared with CB9 for distribution to schools.
3. Rogier vanVlissingen, Plant Based Nutritionist spoke briefly about the success of the movie Game Changers and about the upcoming cooking class at St. Helena's from 2-5:30pm. Sign-up is required. Also, Tuesday at 9pm there is will be the usual monthly dinner at Neerob Restaurant

on Starling Ave and on Dec 12th at 6pm there will be a lifestyle medicine dinner at Neerob as well.

4. Debra Oguamah from Creating Unity in the Community spoke about the Kwanza event at St. Helena's Church on Saturday, December 28th from 4-8pm. There will be speakers, giveaways and festivities in celebration on Kwanzaa. All are welcomed to attend.
5. Aurora Carrion, President of the Precinct Council for the 43rd Precinct spoke about the property on Olmstead and Bruckner because previously a shelter was proposed for this site and it seems that another shelter will be returning to this site. She is adamantly opposed to a shelter at this location.
6. Mohammad Mujumder, 1st Vice Chair spoke about his opposition to all male shelters in the district.
7. Andrew Walos from DSNY spoke about the fall leaf collection taking place on Sunday, Dec 1st. Residents are encouraged to put their leaf collections out on Saturday night Nov 30th. In addition, CB9 has curbside composting and DSNY encourages all to participate. Flyer was distributed.

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. Surey Miranda from the Mayor's CAU introduced herself and spoke regarding
2. Destiny Cruz, from Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio Cortez office, thanked everyone who attend the Pelham Bay Town Hall last week. Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez unveiled the first bill that codified the green new deal, it is called the Green New Deal Public Housing Act. Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez recently joined the Congressional Bangladesh Caucus and the Quiet Skies Caucus. Office Newsletter will be released soon. Destiny is located at Assemblywoman Reyes' Office from 9am-5pm every day except Wednesday.
3. Emmanuel Martinez from Senator Biaggi introduced himself and spoke about the opioid crisis discussion event which will be taking place on Nov 25th at the City Island Library. Senator Biaggi's staff is located at Bronx House for constituent services.
4. Shantalee Martinez from Senator Luis Sepulveda's office discussed an upcoming event on Sunday, December 7th in conjunction with CEC8, Montefiore, and AW Reyes as well as other partners. This event is the First Annual Community Health Fair Extravaganza at Antonia Pantoja at 1980 Lafayette Ave from 10am-4pm. Senator Sepulveda's Office is open 9-3 Mon-Thurs and 9-12 on Fridays for constituent services.
5. Justin Westbrook Lowery from Assembly Member Karines Reyes reported regarding the 2008 Westchester Ave because AW Reyes sent a letter to the NYS Office of Temporary and NY Assistance asking the administration to reject the certification for this site. On Sat, Oct 26th AW held an immigration clinic along with other community partners. AW Reyes also participated in the Virginia Park Groundbreaking. The park will open in 2021. AW Reyes Office has released a listing of Senior Program and Resources (SCRIE), pamphlets distributed. Office Number is as follows: 718-931-2620.

As per BM Marisol Cordero, what is the Assemblywoman's objection to shelters, what is being opposed? As per Justin Westbrook-Lowery, the issue with this shelter is the way in which tis shelter was proposed. DHS has been unable to provide us with information

regarding the need for single adult men shelters in CB9. As per Board Member Juan Torres, the issue is also that CB9 is being over inundated with shelters. Justin will look into the status of related shelter bills and report to CB9 in Jan or Feb.

6. Christina Calderon from the Bronx DA's Office Community Affairs Department spoke about the Another Chance Event which was geared to clearing summons warrants. In house mock trial program begins in December until May from 4-6pm. Participants in this program are coached with ADAs. 2 high schoolers at the end of the program will be offered internship opportunities. As per BM Juan Torres, it seems the DA's Office is more of a social service office than enforcement. As per Christina, the expungements that were given at this event are only for people on the rehabilitation track that have not been involved in criminal offenses in over 10 years. As per DM Rivera, DA's Office to please email quarterly report to CB9 to be shared with BMs.
7. Antirson Ortiz from Comptroller Stringer's Office spoke about the Comptroller's push for equal share contracts for Minority Woman Owned Businesses. He created Chief Diversity Officer Position in his staff and pushed for city agencies to have Chief Diversity Officer Positions. Comptroller Stringer wrote a letter to the NYCHA Commissioner regarding gas and heat outages throughout the city. Comptroller's Office has been working with Clason Point and Soundview to assure there is heat in these buildings. As per BM Nicholas Himidian, please send us copy of this letter for disbursement. As per Antirson, Soundview has several issues that is delaying the function of heat here, including the need for new boilers. Sotomayor is also in need of repairs. Antirson Ortiz contact number is as follows: 646-294-3300
8. Suray Miranda from the Mayor's office introduced herself. Ms. Miranda was recently appointed as the Bronx coordinator. She stated that she is familiar with this community. Ms. Miranda gave out her contact information.

Chairperson's Report

- Brandon Ganaishlal wished the veterans a happy veterans days and a happy birthday to all Board Members who have birthdays in November.
- The chairman attended the conflict of interest training at the Borough President's office with Lisa Diaz and Henry Pelayo.
- The sexual harassment training needs to be completed by December 19th, 2019
- Vice-chairs are needed for the Youth and Education and Parks committee

District Manager's Report

- Office Update- DM Rivera stated that the permits have been issued but the construction hasn't started as of yet. As soon as the construction starts DM Rivera will send pictures to the Board.
- DM Rivera stated that the CB9 dinner was a great dinner. From now on the dinner will be held at the end of the fiscal year moving forward, in June. Mr. Rivera announced to Board Members if there is anyone that they think should be honored, to send him an email with a brief description.
- DM Rivera attended the PSA8 luncheon where he was honored.
- CB9 co-sponsored Halloween party at a family shelter in the district.

- DM Rivera was featured on Bronx Talk and talked about things in the District.
- DM Rivera stated that he did a site visit at 1600 Randall Avenue. This proposed shelter will be brand new with culinary school. It will have 99 females with their child. This shelter is scheduled to open in January 2020. They will be coming to next month's Social Service meeting.
- DM Rivera stated that the CB9 dinner photos are now available online and will be available on google drive. DM will show how this can be accessed at the committee meetings.
- DM Rivera attended the ribbon cutting today for 1520-1530 story avenue.
- DM Rivera did a site visit at OEM in Brooklyn. He stated it was great to see how OEM operated during an emergency.
- BM Mohammad Mujumder attended the Borough board this morning. DM stated that the mayor did 3% managerial raise increase.
- CB9 Seniors Connected will be tomorrow at 10am. The Parkchester library manager will be honored.
- DM Rivera stated that the District needs statement will be submitted this week. All Community Boards are mandated to create a disciplinary committee. This is usually a sub-committee under the Executive committee.
- CB9 office will be closed on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.
- DM Rivera stated that CB9's college aide was promoted to another community board and a job announcement was placed for the college aide position. CB9 received 3 resumes and 2 of them were conflict of interest. Mr. Rivera introduced the new college aide Sabrina Talukder. Ms. Talukder introduced herself to the Board.
- DM Rivera stated that Mr. Hernandez came to thank Mr. Rivera and the board for helping with sanitation issues in Parkchester. DM Rivera will hopefully have an update soon.
- DM Rivera stated that he will try to get access to the Sotomayor Gym to do a story with News 12.
- DM Rivera talked about the lot at Olmstead and Bruckner. This site was entertained to be a site for a shelter 2 to 3 years ago but it didn't happen. DM Rivera reached out to DOB to see what can be built there and was notified whatever is built at that location is an as of right. DM Rivera emailed the contact for this location but there was no response. A response doesn't need to be sent being that this is an as of right location. DM Rivera talked about the shelters in this district and not getting the numbers from the email he sent to the Mayor's office in regards to how many homeless men, women and families in the district. BM Nicholas Himidian stated that when a community is involved everyone should have a say. BM Beverly Roberts stated that the single men's shelter at Westchester Avenue was disrespectful to the community the way that was brought to us. Ms. Robert's stated that is not the right place for a shelter.

Motion by Chairman Brandon Ganaishlal:

Motion: To create a Veterans and Mental health and disabilities committee under Social Services and a Disciplinary Committee under the Executive Committee.

Motion was seconded by BM Nicholas Himidian. The vote was unanimous, the motion was passed.

Committee Reports

1. Youth & Education Committee Minutes were tabled and submitted as is by Chair Cesar Pagan
2. Land & Zoning minutes were tabled and submitted as is by chair Vice-Chair Mitchell Halpern.
3. Parks minutes were tabled and submitted as is by Chair Kwabena Gabay.
4. Public Safety Minutes were tabled and submitted as is by Chair Brandon Ganaishlal.
5. Social Services minutes were tabled and submitted as is by Chair Daniel Porro.
6. NYCHA minutes were tabled and submitted as is by Chair Nicholas Himidian. Board Member Mr. Himidian thanked new board members and congratulated BM Marisol Cordero on being the new Vice Chair of the committee.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 PM

OFFICE INFO

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