



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 20st, 2018

Present: Abunoman Rahman, Angel Martinez, Benigno Cuevas, Brandon Ganaishlal, Cruz Garcia, Daniel Porro III, Doralina Colon, Felipa Manaiza, Hannia Godinez, Harry Dunlap, Henry Pleayo Jr., Jennifer Ellison-Lackard, Juan Torres, Kevin Kiernan, Kwabena Gabay, Linda Brown, Lisa Diaz, Mitchell Halpern, Mohammad Mujumder, Nellie Santiago-Rivera, Nicholas Himidian Jr., Sarwar Jahan, Sharan Fernandez, Steven Ochoa, Venus Williams, William Rivera (DM)

Absent: Cleneth Dais, Cesar Pagan, Isabelo Adames, James Tynan, Justen Colon, Justin Westbrook Lowery, Nevia Gallimore, Rosemary Ordonez Jenkins

Meeting Start Time: 7:15pm

Note: The Chairperson asked the audience to stand and pledge allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence.

Public Session

Note: The guest speaker was not present at the meeting. The Chairperson moved on to the next guest speaker.

1. Mr. Rogier Van Vlissingen, was the 1st guest speaker. He gave an update on the whole food plant based diet support system. Mr. van Vlissingen stated the nutritionist in ShopRite is educated on the Plant Based diet and on October 27th there will be an event, “Whole food plant based cooking event” at the second floor of ShopRite. He also stated that the first Bronx plant based doctor is located at 2300 Westchester Avenue and on October 9th there will be a Dinner for Doctors on Starling Avenue. Mr. Van Vlissingen also stated that he does cooking classes once a month.

2. Mr. Edward Hernandez, was the 2nd guest speaker. He read a letter in regards to the sanitation recycling yard on Odell Street. Garbage is being brought in by sanitation trucks early morning from 6 A.M- 5 P.M. Mr. Hernandez stated his concerns of this being unsafe to the children and the community.

3. Mr. Christian Aspiazu, from Piensa En Alto is producer/ director and was the 3rd guest speaker. Mr. Aspiazu wanted to let the community know if they need anything such as highlighting events and social media wise, he would love to help children get involved in programs. Mr. Aspiazu stated he wants to be more involved with the community.

4. Tanya Bradley and Melissa Davis were the 4th guest speakers, from Soundview and Clason Point Library. Ms. Bradley and Ms. Davis announced programs coming up such as tutoring for elementary, middle school and high school students. On September 25th, National voters registration at all libraries. On Saturday September 29th, open house will be held for library cards and Ms. Davis will also have a “hot spot lending” to families that don’t have Wi-Fi.

5. Mr. Walter Nestler was the 5th guest speaker. Mr. Nestler spoke about no facilities being at the Ferry service, stating there are no support facilities, no bathrooms or no shelters. Mr. Nestler stated not one city agency, elected official put money towards support facilities. Mr. Nestler also stated he will be organizing with other people to push to get these facilities.

Business Session

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

Elected Officials Report

1. Mr. Andy Toledo from the Borough President’s Office, was the first representative speaker. He welcomed back all Board Members. Mr. Toledo announced that on November 1st, the Department of City Planning is hosting a training for all new Board Members on UULURPS and the Zoning process. He encouraged the new Board Members to sign up for that workshop so they can understand the process. Mr. Toledo also thanks all Board Members for taking the EEO training over the summer. He announced that he is working with the NY State Parliamentary group to have a training for all Board Members here in the Bronx, it will be held maybe late October or early November, once a date and location is set everyone will be notified. Mr. Toledo also states that they are working with the Department of Conflict of interest to conduct a workshop for all Board Members in the Bronx. Mr. Toledo spoke about the Borough President’s 2019 Capital projects report, he stated that 10 million dollars was allocated to 55 Public schools in the Bronx, 3 to 4 which are located in Community Board 9, the schools can be found on the Borough Presidents website. The schools in Cb9 received between \$10,000-\$50,000 for new equipment. Also 3 million dollars went to affordable housing here in the Bronx. Mr. Toledo spoke on transportation and that MTA is having a workshop called “reimagining the bus networks here in the Bronx”, he encourages everyone to go to the MTA website and view listing of informational sessions they will be having throughout the Bronx.

2. Ms. Josue Melendez, from Congressman Salamanca’s Office, was the second representative speaker. He stated he is proud to announce that the speeding cameras are back on. They were back on before the school year started to have a safe environment for the students. Mr. Melendez stated the City Council is trying to work on bringing more affordable housing into the Bronx. Mr. Melendez also states that Councilman has been appointed to a new position called the waterfront advisory board. Which will have different City Agencies and Public groups working together over

the next couple of years to develop a comprehensive plan on the way the city should utilize the waterfront and will be looking for community input.

3. Ms. Iliane Almanzar, from Assemblyman Marcos Crespo's Office, was the third representative speaker. She stated at the moment she doesn't have anything to report and gave out the contact information for Assemblyman Marcos Crespo's office.

4. Ms. Jessica Reynoso, from the Public Advocate's office, was the fourth representative speaker. Public Advocate Letitia James recently won the Democratic Primary for Attorney General. Ms. Reynoso reminded participants that the office of the public advocate oversees city agencies and has an outreach team, a community affairs team, a policy team, an investigation team and an constituent service team which can be reached at 212-669-7250 for any city related complaints. As per BM Daniel Porro, does the Public Advocate work with NYCHA? As per Jessica Reynoso, the Public Advocate is currently working on addressing the many NYCHA complaints that have been coming in.

Note: The Chairperson put a motion on the floor to approve the June 2018 General Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Board Member Mohammad Mujumder. The vote was unanimous. The motion was passed.

Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson congratulated all the new Board Members. New board members attended a CB9 meet and greet and got an opportunity to select the committee of their choosing. Chairman Himidian announced all of the members of each committee as follows: **Public Safety Committee:** Chair Brandon G., Vice Chair Isabelo A., Juan T., Henry P., Jennifer L., Cleneth D. This committee was closed to new board members because it is already at capacity but will re-open again next year, however, any board member can attend any committee of their choosing as these are open to the public. **Land & Zoning Committee:** Chair Mohammad M., Vice Chair Benny C., Vice Chair of Planning Nicholas H., Sarwar J., Cruz G., **Parks Committee:** Chair Nicholas H., Sharan F., Kevin K., Nellie S., Mitchell H., Kwabena G., **Social Services Committee:** Chair Rosemary O., Vice Chair Justin W., Daniel P., James T., Angel M., Nevia G., **Youth & Education Committee:** Chair Venus W., Vice Chair Harry D., Felipa M., Lisa D., Justen C., Steven O., Hannia G., **Seniors Connected Committee:** Chair Linda B., Vice Chair Daniel P., Cesar P., Doralina C., Cleneth D.

All Board Members must fill out all EEO acknowledgements as well as complete the Sexual Harassment Training that is due in December.

There are two upcoming meetings, the Metro North Sheridan and a City Planning Meeting. The meetings scheduled on Oct 27th and 29th are on the Sheridan.

Seniors Connected will be held on Wednesday, September 27th and moving forward it will be on Fridays at its new location, ShopRite.

As per Chairman Himidian, board members are encouraged to attend CB9's upcoming Town Halls. These will be held at all the parts of our community.

As an FYI the local Borough Consultation Meetings are taking place and district priorities surveys were distributed to all board members.

The Merchant Lunch hosted by CB9 was moved to October 22nd during the day.

General Board Meeting venue will be moved to ShopRite. There is parking available on site.

Board Member Brandon Ganaishlal received an award in recognition of his support of the Puerto Rico hurricane relief efforts.

District Manager's Report

New board members as well as present board members are invited to attend the next BP orientation.

AED is at the office. CPR has been completed and all participating board members should have received their certification.

CB9's temporary office has not yet begun construction. As soon as this begins, DM will update the board.

All EEO packets must be completed, any board members who do submit this will be removed from office.

Town Halls will be held at Castle Hill and ShoreHaven. The purpose of these meetings is to explain the roles and function of CB9. DM is going to host these once a year at several locations.

General Board Meeting in Oct will be held at ShopRite. All equipment will be stored at ShopRite, restrooms, stairs, and elevators are available. Staff will be present to direct participants on the day of the meeting. ShopRite will supply snacks, water, and coffee for the next meeting.

Candlelight Vigil was held in Castle Hill over the summer in response to the triple shooting that took place there. There was a fatal stabbing on Westchester Ave, however, the summer was not as violent as expected. New Commanding Officer Benjamin Gurley will be present at the new meeting at ShopRite.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez as well as other potentially new electeds will be present for Oct's meeting at ShopRite as well.

Gun Buyback Program is offering \$200 for a handgun and \$25 for a rifle or shotgun in the form of a pre-paid card. Event information can be found in the packets distributed.

CB9's 5th Annual Community Appreciation Dinner was very successful and concise.

As per DM Rivera in regards to the concern brought to light by Mr. Edward Hernandez, DM met with DSNY Superintendent and DSNY Director of Community Affairs as well as BM Juan Torres who is on the Board at Parkchester so CB9 is working on resolving this matter. As a recap, Parkchester South's curbside pick-up was moved to a container yard. Parkchester management brings all the garbage to this one location which happens to be next to this resident's home. This

agreement was signed and agreed upon by Parkchester and DSNY. DSNY does not want to go back on this agreement. DM Rivera does not believe this is an ideal location. Mr. Hernandez and DM will be working together to either push for the return of curbside pick-up or an alternate site for collection.

CB9 has a board member Google calendar which has meeting dates and sets reminders for upcoming meetings. All board members have been added via the emails they have provided. If a BM does not have access, communicate this to DM.

District Needs Statements are due soon. Every year CB9 submits a district needs statement online. CB9's district needs has been reformed in the last 2 years but new things are added or removed every year. This is a way for requests to be documented. DM has been working with committees about capital budget infrastructure projects, a draft should be ready by the next GB meeting. DM asks BMs to select the three most pressing issues facing the district to be tallied and added to district needs statement. Committees have to choose one pressing issue to be submitted by their next committee meeting. District Needs statement is due on October 31st. DM would like to submit by the 26th.

DM will submit a capital request to renovate Clason Point Park to be more conducive for the ferry. DM is also working on issues with bus shelters, accessibility, etc. here.

Committee Reports

1. Youth and Education Committee – Ms. Venus Williams., Chairperson

Note: There was a snafu with the recorder and minutes were not recorded, as a result, a recap of the meeting will be submitted by Committee Chair Venus W. and Chairperson Nicholas H. and included in the packet for the next GB meeting.

2. Land, Zoning, Planning & Economic Development Committee – Mr. Mohammed M. Mujumder, Chairperson

Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

3. Parks & Recreation Committee – Nicholas Himidian Jr., Chairperson

Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

4. Public Safety & Transportation Committee – Mr. Brandon Ganaishlal, Chairperson

Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

5. Social Services & Housing Committee – Nicholas Himidian Jr., Chairperson on behalf of Ms. Rosemary Ordonez-Jenkins, Chairperson

Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

As per Chairperson Himidian it is important for BMs to read the thumb drives that were provided to them with information on the board as well as read minutes every month. As per Chairperson, “our minutes are our responsibility.”

6. Operations/Executive Committee – Mr. Nicholas Himidian Jr., Chairperson

Note: Minutes were not discussed

As per Chairperson Himidian the next General Board Meeting will be held on Oct 18th at ShopRite. There will be signage at the site and at Kips Bay and an email blast will be sent out about this new location change as well. All committee meetings as well as General Board Meetings begin at 7pm with the exception of Seniors Connected.

Chairman Himidian invited all residents to access CB9’s FB, NextDoor and Twitter.

The Chairperson put a motion on the floor to adjourn the General Board Meeting. The vote was unanimous. The motion was passed.

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm