



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Present: Abunoman Rahman, Angel Martinez, Ahmat Jallo, Antionette Vereen, Beverly Roberts, Brandon Ganaishlal, Cesar Pagan, Daniel Porro III, Denisha Lopez, Doralina Colon, Elizabeth Angeles, Felipa Manaiza, Henry Pelayo Jr., James Tynan, Joy Nicole Thomas, Juan Torres, Kwabena Gabay, Louise Marchena, Lisa Diaz, Mitchell Halpern, Monique Farrington, Mohammad Mujumder, Nellie Santiago-Rivera, Rosa Gomez, Shante Chamblee, Sharyn Brown, Steven Ochoa, Twywana Bush, Victor Cordero, William Rivera (DM)

Not Present: Benigno Cuevas, Cruz Garcia, Isabelo Adames, Kevin Kiernan, Marisol Cordero, Nicholas Himidian Jr., Sarwar Jahan, Sharan Fernandez, Sinade Wadsworth

Meeting Start Time: 7:09pm

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. The Chairperson reminded all speakers that they have 2 mins to present. She reminded everyone to please sign up to speak no later than 5pm the day of the General Board Meeting.

Public Session

1. Jeff Bello, NY Regional Director from US Census Bureau pleaded with the audience to help recruit for the census. US Census Bureau is paying \$25/hr with paid training and transportation reimbursement. Census forms will be received by next March. Recruiting Assistance was present at meeting to answer questions. Everyone interested in an employment opportunity is able to apply online. Mr. Bello also asked everyone to start the conversation about the census because the Census is Safe, Easy and Important. Census information cannot be shared with any other entity as per the law. The census can now be processed online as well as over the phone and on paper. Filing the census is important because funding is disseminated based on census data.

2. First Vice Chair Mohammed Mujumder welcomed the new Chair of the board as well as the new board members at CB9. Mr. Mujumder also spoke in opposition of the proposed Men's Shelter at 2008 Westchester Avenue. He stated that letters of opposition were drafted by CB9 and a local elected official and urged local electeds not to give up the fight about having the shelter placed elsewhere.
3. Keenan Willis from Citizens Committee for NYC, a nonprofit based in lower Manhattan spoke about the organizations grant program. Citizens Committee for NYC provides grants such as the neighborhood grant to eligible participants. Applications are very easy to submit. This grant will be open from Oct 1st to January. Also, Love Your Block is currently open and due in November. The only requirements is that applicants be part of a group, no grant writing experience is needed.
4. Emerald Isle. NYC Health & Hospitals was not present.
5. Gerald Hollingsworth, President of the Soundview Reunion Community spoke regarding his desire to rename 174th St. Park to Capt. William Thompson. Capt William Thompson was raised in Bronx River projects. A petition has been signed by residents in support of this name change.
6. Jimmy Graham, resident spoke about the removal of the Q44 bus stop in front of the Bronx River NYCHA Development. He says seniors use this bus to go to Target and the airport and explained how necessary this stop is.
7. Rogier van Vlissingen, Plant Powered Metro NY spoke about a plant-based nutrition movie, Game Changers, which depicted the stories of performance improvement and recovery improvements on various people. This movie is available online after October 1st. Also, people interested in in home training for plant based diets can contact Rogier for more information. In addition, there is a cooking class at St. Helena's that will be taking place, interested parties must contact Rogier for payment by tomorrow.
8. Michael Beltzer, resident promoted Take the Community Back Event which includes a mandatory parent leadership component to promote parent involvement. Volunteers are welcomed at 10 on event date. Event is taking place on Saturday at PS 93 from 11am-1pm. In addition, Mr. Beltzer informed the public of the ballot proposals for rank choice voting which is question number one. Voting is on Nov 5th and early voting starts October 26th.

Note: The Chairperson reminded all Board Members to sign in on the sign-in sheet.

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. Senator Luis Sepulveda was present and gave acknowledgment to Assembly Member Karines Reyes and Councilmember Rafael Salamanca. Senator Sepulveda gave away 1,122 book bags for children in the district over the summer. One of the upcoming projects in the district includes advocating for an elevator at the Parkchester Train Station. In addition, there will be a Halloween event at the office as well as turkey giveaways during the Thanksgiving season. Senator Sepulveda encourages everyone to follow him on social media for upcoming events. Senator Sepulveda has the busiest constituent office in the Senate. Please feel free to contact his office or him if you are need of assistance.

2. Assembly Member Karines Reyes welcomed the new board members. The Assembly Member hosted mobile office hours at the Castle Hill Library at the beginning of August. Her office is on Westchester Ave near the Parkchester Library as a result, mobile office hours allows for her to be accessible throughout the district. The Assembly member hosted a big clean-up project on Randall Avenue in partnership with several groups. 175 volunteers attend. In addition, there was a huge shredding event in Parkchester over the summer. Another one will be taking place on Castle Hill. As per Assembly Member Reyes, her office also sent out a letter to DHS in opposition to the shelter on Westchester Ave. In Addition, the Assembly Member co-sponsored bill 4824 which ensures that city and nonprofits proposing a shelter come before the community board and get approval before they begin. Also, back to school events were hosted over the summer and back packs were donated to a local church. There was a press conference earlier today regarding the request for an elevator at the Parkchester Train Station, Senator Sepulveda was present as well as a representative from the Congresswoman. In addition, the Assembly Member drafted letters to MTA requesting they also make meaningful investments in Bronx busses. As per upcoming events, the Assembly Member is hosting a Housing Fair on Wednesday, October 16th at Holy Family Church. Two bills were signed into law this month, one was a lactation bill and the other was a cancer benefits bill for fire fighters. As per BM Juan Torres, what is the status of the co-sponsored bill regarding shelters? As per Assembly Member Reyes, I am the co-sponsor, Assembly Member Michael Blake is the Sponsor. As per Senator Sepulveda, he will sponsor the bill in the Senate. The Assembly Member will make this a priority. As per a question from BM Daniel Porro, Assembly Member confirmed that the workers comp bill is in committee.
3. Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr. noted that he has a small portion of CB9. He has the Bronx River up to Evergreen and going down south. As per the Council Member, he used to be a board member and a District Manager for CB2. He urged that Board Members attend meetings for quorum. This year the Council Member hosted his third annual back to school event on Longwood Ave and gave out over 5,000 book bag with school supplies. On Sept 7th, the third annual Longwood Festival was held. Jerry Rivera was present. In June 2020, the fifth annual Longwood festival will be held and La India will be present, call office for more information. The Council Member spoke about working for the Census in 2010 and he encourages everyone to sign up to work for the Census if the opportunity presents itself. Regarding the MTA Bus Redesign, MTA planning on removing certain stops or routes on the Bx5 on Story Ave and himself along with Assembly Member Marcos Crespo wrote a letter objecting to these changes. A town hall meeting with residents on that part of the district was also held and the President of the Busses from MTA was present and heard the cries of the district as a result, it has been confirmed that no BX5 bus stops will be removed. In addition, the SBS6 will now be driving down Story Avenue to allow for better commuting. As per the Council Member every borough expect Staten Island will be receiving a new jail, which the CM does not support. His objection to the Bronx jail is that based on the Litman Commission it was determined that the population in Rykers would be reduced to about 5,000 in order to open these borough based jails, but the idea was that these jails would be attached to a court house or a civic center. The reason for this was to facilitate defense and communication between public defender and detainee. In the Bronx there is space for jails behind 161st street, however, the local member does not want a jail here. As a result, CM Ayala volunteered to take the jail in her district, however, CM Salamanca objects to this jail because there are 3

jails in a 3 mile radius. 2 of these are in CM Salamanca's district. As a result, the CM refuses to vote for a 10 year plan where another jail gets moved to a similar location to the barge that was an extension to Rykers when it was created. As per BM Pelayo, he disagrees with closing Rykers Island. As per CM Salamanca, there is violence and no programming taking place at Rykers Island. As per BM Torres, he agrees with BM Pelayo that Rykers should not be closed and supports the Council Member's position not to allow another jail in the Bronx.

4. Andy Toledo from the Borough President's office, welcomed and congratulated the new board members. He updated the community that over the summer a letter was mailed to BMs regarding the Sexual Harassment Training which can be taken online at the CB9 office. In addition, there were dates on the letter of Sept 24th and Oct 1st for in house training at the BP's Office. The Oct 1st date has been cancelled due to holiday, the makeup date is Oct 29th. On Thursday, Sept 26th at Lincoln Hospital from 4-6pm there will be a public forum regarding the opioid epidemic in the city. DOH will also be available to sign up individuals for training on how to manage the epidemic.
5. Destiny Cruz from Congress Member Alexandria Ocasio Cortes' Office was present. Summer recess has concluded as of last week and the Congresswoman is back in session. Top legislative priorities include the just society, a pack of legislation that is aimed at updating the federal poverty level which haven't been changed in years. In addition, it is to expand the safety net for vulnerable community members and promote housing justice. Additionally, the Congresswoman is a co-sponsoring HR8 a piece of legislation that enforces background checks, closes the Charleston loop hole, and impedes individuals with a history of domestic violence from owning guns. Regarding community updates, the Congresswoman has held 2 town halls as well mobile office hours and visited schools and community gardens throughout the summer. The office also attended the press conference this morning in support of an elevator at the Parkchester Train Station. Those interested in signing for the Congresswoman's newsletter, see Destiny after the meeting. In addition, the Congresswoman's Office has opened 515 cases and closed over 350. Any issues related to federal agencies, her office can help. Destiny is co-located at Assemblywoman Reyes' Office Monday through Friday, expect for Wednesdays, 9am-5pm.
6. Anthony Jordan from Congressman Serrano's Office was not present during this portion of the meeting.
7. Carolina Santos from Assembly Member Crespo's Office spoke about partnerships events that the Member hosted over the summer such as the Morrison Day Festivals, Movies Under the Stars and Back Pack giveaways as well as Homeowners BBQs at Clason Point, Castle Hill, and Harding Park. The Beautification of the underpass on Rosedale Ave and Bruckner Blvd is still ongoing. Phase 1 is completed, any volunteers interested in participating in Phase 2, please see Carolina after the meeting, date is TBD. The Assembly Member and DOT are working together to address cracked and unlevelled sidewalks, lighting, as well as over passes and underpasses. In addition, the Assembly Member is working closely with NYCHA on issues such as the gym at Sotomayor and the lack of space for youth at James Monroe and lack of lighting at Clason Point. There are 3 constituent liaisons at the office at 1163 Manor Ave available to assist residents on any matters.
8. Emmanuel Martinez from Senator Alessandra Biaggi's office announced that the office will be having an outdoor concert on September 23rd at independent Ave in the Bronx at 7pm. In addition, the Senator is collaborating on a Job Fair for Oct 1st from 10am-1pm at Christopher

Columbus HS, flyers were distributed. Mobile Office hours will also be implemented at Bronx House at 990 Pelham Parkway South every Wednesday from 11am-4pm.

9. Christina Calderon from the Bronx DA's Office Community Affairs Dept spoke about upcoming events in October such as the 5k run, walk or roll to bring awareness to Domestic Violence which will be held on Saturday, October 19th from 9:30am-12:30pm rain or shine. To participate, fill out forms distributed, QR scanner can be used to register, this is a free event. In addition, the DA is hosting another chance event at the 41st precinct on October 26th on 941 Rev James A Polite, the event is open to everyone, and the purpose of this event is to resolve open summons/warrants free of charge. It is open to everyone within the 5 boroughs. In addition, at this event the DA's Office will be informing the public about the new marijuana laws and expungement as well as the sealing statute. As per BM Torres, in regards to the annulment of the summons warrants, are we talking about violations not misdemeanors? As per Christina, yes, these are small petty quality of life warrants.

Chairperson's Report

- As per Chairman Ganaishlal, Committee Reports section commenced and new board members were welcomed and given an opportunity to introduce themselves to the board and the public.
- Board members will be assigned to committees based on their preference. New Board members were given an opportunity to attend all committees in September and a committee preference sheet was distributed to be collected and reviewed before committee assignments are given. In addition, any senior board members who are interested in changing committees should notify the chair.

District Manager's Report

- As per DM Rivera, the Chairperson is doing a great job for his first meeting.
- DM Rivera requested the birthdates of each Board Member, not the year, as per Chairman Ganaishlal, because we would like to acknowledge Board Member's birthdates on the months of that General Board. It is important to operate as a family to better serve the community with a strong front. This initiative began with the new BM (board member) training.
- DM Rivera meets with elected officials quarterly. He is meeting with them now to discuss things that took place during the last three months. This allows for much better communication with elected officials.
- 561 Soundview Ave is on the DMs radar. There isn't issues with night life mostly in CB9 but this was becoming one and DM Rivera is looking into addressing this.
- DSNY lot on Zerega and Lafayette is looking for board approval. The design is great, they will be back next month to the Land & Zoning Committee for approval.
- Over the summer there have been a lot of projects. Street renaming for one. In addition, the lot on Randall Ave that was cleaned by Assembly Member Reyes has been a concern for some time because no one will take responsibility for it.
- Mexican Independence Day celebration was a successful event that CB9 assisted with
- DM Rivera is having local budget consultations, these help prepare the District Needs Statement

- As per DM Rivera, Board members to please fill in the District Needs Survey, please select top 3 issues. These surveys are used to fuel District Needs Statement
- There was a fire on Soundview Ave Hispanic Transit Society., they are using our office for now with their meetings, it is very sad that they lost their space CB9 is helping them get another space.
- Sexual Harassment Training for Board Members is mandatory, it is refresher, you do not need to sit through it for an hour. Please call the office to coordinate.
- DM Rivera was on News 12 and BM Henry Pelayo was on NY 1 in reference to advocating the ferry.
- Proposed Marina RFP was pulled out and potentially in 2 weeks there could be another RFP put out or CB9 can fight Parks for a better amenity to be put there, this will be an important topic at the next General Board Meeting.
- Parks Without Borders was an Initiative that awarded 10 million dollars to renovate Virginia Park due to CB9's efforts to request this funding through a report that was produced with hired planners.
- DM Rivera met with Commanding Officer and Chief of Public Safety for a quarterly meeting, new BMs are invited to shadow DM for a day.
- CB9 will host their Community Appreciation Dinner on November 1st
- CB9 will move into the renovated office space soon since construction permit has already been awarded. Hopefully by the end of the year, we will have a new office and new office opening shindig.
- ADM Alonzo has been attending borough budget consultation meetings on behalf of CB9. DM Rivera may attend the meeting on the 25th since DOT will be present
- Request for crossing guard on Pugsley Ave. Crossing Guards are chosen by Precinct Commander at the 43rd Precinct, they have the task to set crossing guards with limited budgets so DM Rivera will send this request to the precinct and hope for the best.
- DM Rivera sent an open letter to the Mayor regarding CB9's opposition to the Shelter on Westchester Avenue. A copy of that letter was included in the Board Member's packets. Council Member Diaz also wrote a letter to the mayor. In response a generic letter was returned, which CB9 is not happy about it and it seems like this is something that will happen. At this point, DM Rivera will be proactive at the shelter committee to make it successful.
- There is another shelter coming into the district at 1600 Randall Ave. This is a family shelter for single mothers with children and single room occupancy. There will be 99 units in this brand new facility. Providers met with CB9 two years ago and they will be returning to the next Social Service Meeting in October or November to refresh our memory.
- Minutes will now be summarized because it is too time consuming. Recordings of full meetings are available for anyone to listen to at the office at CB9. Minutes will be emailed to committee chairs so that these are received earlier. In addition, emails will be shared to google drive so that Committee Chairs can have access to their meeting recordings at all times.
- College Aid, Sanzida Talukder was hired at CB6 for a full time opportunity. There is an opening for her position. DM Rivera is unsure how to move forward with this opening or

if someone will be hired. Loretta Gagraj has been updated to Office Manager with new pay as voted by the Executive Committee. In her new role she will be supervising interns.

- Meeting packets are emailed to Board Members so packets can be recycled for Seniors Connected on the following day.
- DM Rivera suggested to the Executive Committee that the Elected Officials Report process at General Board be re-vamped so that elected representatives submit reports to the board and are still welcome to come to answer questions but this way time is saved for the business section so that this section is not rushed.
- CBMS is going really well, DM Rivera plans to present this system on the projector screen at the Oct Committee Meetings.
- DM Rivera will go over Council Member Diaz funding at every committee meeting with details.
- The CB9 Budget Report are pretty self-explanatory. All expenses are listed and it all adds up. Most of the expenses goes to salary. CB9 does not handle funds in person, everything goes through the system.

Committee Reports

1. Executive & Operations minutes were submitted as is by Chairperson Himidian.
2. Youth & Education Committee Minutes were tabled and submitted as is by Chair Cesar Pagan
3. Land & Zoning minutes were tabled and submitted as is by chair Mohammed Mujumder.
4. Parks minutes were tabled and submitted as is by Chair Kwabena Gabay.
5. Public Safety Minutes were tabled and submitted as is by Chair Brandon Ganaishlal.
6. Social Services minutes were tabled and submitted as is by Chair Daniel Porro.
7. NYCHA Committee Chair Nicholas Himidian was not present and Chairman Brandon Ganaishlal motioned to make NYCHA Committee a stand in Committee, the motion was passed by 2nd Vice Chair Lisa Diaz.

Meeting adjourned: 8:40 PM

OFFICE INFO

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