



Social Services & Housing Committee Meeting **Minutes**

February 6th, 2018

Board Members Present: Rosemary Ordonez- Jenkins Chair of Committee, Justin Westbrook Lowery Vice-Chair of Committee, Daniel Porro, Loretta Masterson, James Tynan, Angel Martinez, Nicholas Himidian (chairman)

Board Members Excused: Nelson Peralta

Meeting Start Time: 7:00 P.M.

Attendees of meeting introduced themselves.

Introduction

Committee Description: The social service & housing committee represents the community's interests with regards to social services including senior services, disability, veterans and housing concerns and acts as a liaison between community members and the NYC Human Resources Administration, Department of Homeless Services, Department of Aging, New York City Housing Authority, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Disability Sub-Committee is under this committee.

Suad Hassan- Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corp.

Ms. Hassan is a housing director for a non-profit organization and they have a grant to come into the community and get work done. Nicholas Himidian (Chairman) recommended Ms. Hassan to come present at the Seniors Connected meeting and he will get her in contact with Ms. Linda Brown. Ms. Hassan said she is in touch with Ms. Brown and has been to a few Seniors Connected.

Gloria Vidal- Fourth Presbyterian Church

Ms. Vidal stated Fourth Presbyterian Church (2072 Newbold Avenue) has been around over 60 years and she is reaching out to the community for help identifying nonprofits in community board 9 that she could possibly work with. Rosemary states that the committee will be in touch with Gloria.

St. Andrews Village Homeowners Association

Sharon is reaching out to the committee seeking a letter of support with guidance and assistance. The resident on the block of Hope House have great concerns with 2023 Caesar Place. Sharon stated it isn't a suitable location for a business with former inmates. The residents want to stop this because the neighborhood is filled with seniors and children. People are concerned about property

values decreasing and spoke to realtors that informed them that property price decreasing is a possibility which is a concern for the entire neighborhood. Nothing was said to anyone nor did nothing come to them about this, it wasn't addressed to anyone.

Robin says home values are going down and it's because one homeowner decides they want to put this home there and it is very unfair.

Residents state the last Community Board meeting was very intimidating, something they didn't expect. A lot of profanity and name calling was taking place of the homeowners one person snapped a picture of someone sitting in the front. They are asking for the community board to be there for them, support and be there for the community.

Justin Westbrook Lowery asks if the letter being asked for is regarding opposition of a business being ran out of a home? And ask wasn't the matter in regards to zoning? Was there any report that came out of land & zoning if it was okay to run a business out of that home? Nicholas Himidian (Chairman) says there wasn't a confirmation from DOB and asked William (DM) to try to get a response ASAP. Resident's state when DOB went to investigate the house it wasn't occupied and now the house is being occupied. The homeowner has been living out of the house and there are people in and out of the house and a car parked there.

***Motion to put Walter Nestler's Documents into the records- Vote unanimous**

Residents state that having the homeowners deal with this is wrong. They are running a business there are 5-6 women who don't know each other and the homeowner isn't even living there. The property is a legal 2 family dwelling and they are running a business with 5-6 convicted felons. For each individual person that is a family because they don't even know each other. It is a business it isn't a home.

*Comment- Without support or guidance it is set up to fail

Rosemary stated that it was said that supportive services will be on site and make referrals to partner agencies. Doni says emotional part is very important and the disrespect is a big one. They met with Tapika Sams and Ms. Moody and went through services and they have one girl who studied in prison and got a certificate in some type of social service.

Doni also states Justin Westbrook Lowery stated that there was a lot of noise.

Doni says they continuously lie that this isn't shelter. There are many programs for re-entry, where is the money coming from? Why is people rolling money out and different cars coming to the neighborhood that they never seen before? Residents are speaking to different agencies and Elected Officials and they want a letter in support of their community because this is their Community Board not Tapika Sams.

Doni also states Jennifer Lackard needs to not be involved and not to be part of this because she is a conflict of interest

Justin Westbrook Lowery respond in regards to the way his statement was viewed and says his statement was viewed in a very isolated matter. When he said there was a lot of static it did not imply nor to suggest there was noise. When the letter was sent out Mr. Lowery says he got a copy

of what was said, the text of the letter was meant to say static meant a brave amount of miscommunication with what was said between Hope House and St. Andrews Village. Mr. Lowery says Doni said there would be no 24 hour supervision and no connection to social services which Hope House said there would be. Mr. Lowery says to Doni “I think your impression of me is not how I do, I spend hours agonizing over this and don’t think it’s fair and honest to tell people that I think what you are saying doesn’t matter”.

Resident’s state there was a lot of things that were said it was said like Nicholas needs to speak the adults in the room. Justin Westbrook Lowery and Nicholas Himidian (Chairman) states when that was said it was towards Demaris because rules weren’t being followed, at the General board speakers only get 2 minutes. Mr. Lowery says he spoke to Andy Salas and Demaris and she said apologized for speaking that way and stated she gets really passionate when she speaks about certain things.

Walter Nestler reminds everyone the meeting is being recorded and there has been several letters and a letter by the DOI and they should allow them to make the determination it’s not up to anyone in the room to make these decisions and with everyone is reacting is not solving the problem.

Nicholas Himidian (Chairman) stated another letter was sent out. Elected officials were contacted to have a Town Hall meeting. Homeowners requested for the 43rd precinct to be present just in case things get out of hand Mr. Himidian also expressed to William (DM) to write their concerns. Mr. Himidian (Chairman) also talked about getting in contact with Department of corrections so they can talk about what’s going to happen when Rikers empties out and how it will affect the community and different questions St. Andrews village will have at that time.

Walter Nestler says in an article it says Hope House is not licensed nor properly zoned. Ms. Sam and Ms. Burton says there is no license requirement because hope house is not seeking funds from the state. Walter Nestler says if this is the case what’s to stop 3 of these opening on that block. This isn’t doing the community any good.

Sharon says in listening to audio there was nothing that supported the community. What is the position and job of the Community Board she believes the Community Board is supposed to stay neutral. The meeting was secret. There was nothing stating concerns. Justin Westbrook Lowery ask how can the Community Board stay neutral if at every point the Community Board is being asked to write letters. Rosemary says we don’t want to go back forth and the committee has received the information and at this point we just have to wait to hear a response when the meeting will be held.

Old Business

-Rogier says a health fair is being planned at St. Helena’s for 26th of May and they are working with 2 or 3 restaurants in the area. Rogier also states they are launching a POD online group for people who are interested in a plant based diet.

-Mental health & Disabilities Health Fair will be on March 17th, 2017 from 12 P.M – 4 P.M @ Sonia Sotomayor center.

-CB9 Postal resolution- Motion to be tabled (unanimous vote).

New business

-Nicholas Himidian (Chairman) has been in contact with the Comptroller's office to get things fixed at Sotomayor Center. The front door has to be fully replaced. The broken glass has already been replaced, the bathroom hinges needs to be replaced and bleachers and score boards needs to be fixed. Painting will also be done. Mr. Himidian (Chairman) says as soon as he gets more information he will provide an update.

-A date for the Social Security workshop needs to be set.

Questions/Announcements

Question: To have a CPR class opened for everyone. Rosemary says she will follow up with William (DM).

Brandon from SYEP stated SYEP went live yesterday in addition to that he is also coordinator of a youth paid internship program which starts March 5th. Rates will be \$13 an hour for max 10 hours per week. For these internships they provide work readiness workshops.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 P.M.

Minutes Transcribed by CB9 Staff