



Matthew S. Washington
Chair

George Sarkissian
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
1664 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10035
TEL: (212) 831-8929/30
FAX: (212) 369-3571
www.cb11m.org

Senior Committee
Monday May 2, 2011
Committee Board 11 Office
1664 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10035

Present: Hans Desnoyers, Judith Febbraro, Willie Mae Goodwin, Nina Saxon, Alexandra Vasallo
Excused: David Giodarno, Dorothy Porter
Public members: Wendy Ferreira, Raymond Ferreira
Absent: Jim Greene, Jay Cepeda
By Invitation: Diana Ayala, Dorian Block, Deonarine Prashad

Meeting was called to order by Hans Desnoyers at 6:10 PM.

Presentation:

Dorian Block, from the New York Academy of Medicine conducted a presentation on the process and outcomes on the East Harlem Aging Improvement District consultation survey that was initiated among key stakeholders including public officials, seniors and community board members. The summary of finding is categorized in the arena of public spaces, buildings and business, housing, recreation and work.

Based on the outcomes, Ms. Block shared some of the success that derived from the survey. For instance, the office of Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito and the Senior Health Partners: Managed Long Term Care, partnered with sixty local businesses to provide chairs to seniors who may need to rest while shopping. In addition, the current NYC Parks Commissioner designated senior hours for their public pool. Other successes have included transportation services for seniors to La Marqueta and other plan to increase media attention on the aging improvement district in East Harlem. However, several members shared some concerns. Ms. Goodwin expressed that NYAM could have outreached more aggressively to seniors who are either disabled, with poor access to senior centers, or to those without links to any of the services offered in East Harlem. Ms. Saxon expressed concerns that the report did not quantitatively analyze the needs of the diverse ethnic groups in East Harlem. Lastly, Ms. Vasallo expressed concerns regarding the qualitative aspects of the report. For instance there is no mention within the report on the psychosocial needs for seniors. Ms. Ayala rejoined that this report addresses structural vs. individual needs and indicated that the Interagency Council, which is scheduled for May 19th will specifically address the psychosocial and mental health needs for seniors living in East Harlem and the surrounding district.

Discussions: Based on the above presentation, the committee members reviewed the mission, goals and priorities for the committee:

The proposed mission for the senior committee is to improve the quality of life for seniors living in East Harlem and the neighboring district.

The following key areas were once more reviewed and the consensus was that the presentation matched the components that we plan to initiate within the upcoming year. They include:

- i. **ADA compliance:** to appropriately amend some infrastructure in public spaces and buildings to accommodate seniors and those who are physically challenged/disabled.
- ii. **Emergency Preparedness Plan:** to develop a disaster preparedness plan that appropriately meets the needs of seniors. Ms. Saxon has agreed to do a preliminary research with regulatory agencies.
- iii. **Improve access to communication technologies:** Develop strategies to introduce technologies to help increase access to community resources for seniors.

New Business:

Members made a motion that the senior committee meeting may end no later than 7:30 PM.

Announcements:

1. Alexandra Vasallo and Hans Desnoyers plan to visit senior centers in the East Harlem District in the summer. Other committee members are invited to attend as well.
2. Inter-Agency Council will be meeting on May 19th at 1664 Park Avenue. All committee members are welcome to attend this meeting.

Adjournment:

Alexandra Vasallo motioned to adjourn; seconded by Nina Saxon and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM; minutes to be prepared by Hans Desnoyers.