



## COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
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Matthew S. Washington  
*Chair*

George Sarkissian  
*District Manager*

**September 12, 2011**  
**Senior Committee Meeting**  
**Board 11 Office**  
**1664 Park Avenue**  
**New York, NY 10035**

**Present:** Hans Desnoyers, Carlos Diaz, Judith Febbraro, David Giordano, Nina M. Saxon, Alexandra Vasallo

**Excused:** Diane Collier

**Absent:** Willie Mae Goodman, Candy Vives-Vasquez

**Guest:** Diana Ayala, Dawn Sanders, Sandra Talavera, Katherine Chen, Robin Strashun

Meeting called to order by Hans Desnoyers at 6:35 PM.

### **Presentation:**

Dawn Sanders, Chief of Staff for Assembly Robert Rodriguez office introduced two significant legislative bills that Assembly man Robert Rodriguez seek to pass in the NY State Assembly. The first bill is an act to amend the public authority laws in relations to sewer and water rates for those granted senior citizen real property tax exemptions in the city of New York. The purpose for this bill is freeze water and sewer bills for senior citizen homeowners or persons with disabilities. The second bill is to amend the elder law in relations to instituting a senior center council. This bill seek to establish the NYS Senior Center Council, which provides a forum for discussion of challenges facing senior centers across the state and to develop strategies to address these problem. Nina Saxon made a motion to have the Community Board 11 write a letter to the Senior Assembly man in support of those legislative bills. The committee unanimously approved to present this motion in the larger CB 11 meeting.

Diane Ayala provided several updates to the committee concerning the City Parks Foundation announcing fall 2011 seasons of City Parks senior fitness. Carl Schurz Park has walking and Yoga several days per week. The Thomas Jefferson Park also provides yoga exercise for seniors on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:00 AM. Diana also interjected that even though there has been no significant changes with the goals, established by the Aging Improvement district, there were some successful activities that was implemented over the summer including access to the pool at Jefferson Park.

### **Old Business:**

Hans Desnoyers recommended that the committee members review the proposed mission and goals and provide the necessary feedback to establish the goals and mission by next committee meeting (see below).

Review: Proposed CB11 Senior committee proposed mission and goals

### Mission

To advocate on issues or concerns in East Harlem and focus on the betterment (social recreation activities, primary and mental health care to decrease isolation) for seniors or older adults.

### Vision

The committee envisions that all seniors are treated equally as contributors within our society.

### Proposed Goals

- a) Provide seniors to navigate within the environment in a safe and secure manner.
  - 1) Prepare for emergency events or situations
  - 2) Research and evaluate if East Harlem has a safety plan for seniors.
  
- b) Improved resources for senior to increase access to program activities and reduce isolation.
  - 1) Development of the resource guide for seniors
  - 2) Assessment of the community centers
  - 3) PSA for seniors (Cooling centers, etc.)

### New Business:

Alexandra Vassollo reported that she did an excursion with seniors living in East Harlem district to Coney Island, which she experienced as quite successful. Because the committee has limited capacity to perform some recreation activities, Hans request that Alexandra provides a thorough report to the senior committee to ascertain if this sort of activities is aligned with the mission and goals for the senior committee.

Carlos Dias was charged to follow up with Norma to contact Con Edison corporate office in hope that a representative can present of available options for seniors in reducing their monthly utility costs. The committee has charged Hans to invite Dorian Block to conduct a presentation on the Aging Improvement district outcome report.

### Announcement:

Sandra Talavera introduced to the group that the EHC Older Adults Subcommittee and East Harlem Inter-Agency Council on Older Adult have an upcoming membership meeting, scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup> 2011 at Linkage House.

### Adjournment:

Nina Saxon made a motion to adjourn and seconded by David Giodarno and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM and minutes prepared by Hans Desnoyers.

### Request for motion:

Senior committee seeks to support Assembly Robert Rodriguez office two significant legislative bills that support seniors in our district.

- The first bill is an act to amend the public authority laws in relations to sewer and water rates for those granted senior citizen real property tax exemptions in the city of New York. The purpose

for this bill is freeze water and sewer bills for senior citizen homeowners or persons with disabilities.

- The second bill is to amend the elder law in relations to instituting a senior center council. This bill seek to establish the NYS Senior Center Council, which provides a forum for discussion of challenges facing senior centers across the state and to develop strategies to address these problem.
- Motion is for the CB11 chairperson Matthew Washington to write a letter to Sheldon Silver Senior Assembly man in support of those legislative bills, which will significantly impact seniors or older adult and people of disabilities.