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Youth & Education Committee
Tuesday, June 13th, 2017, 6:00pm
Board Office
1664 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10035

*** Minutes ***

Present: David L Giordano, Nilsa Orama, Mahfuzur Rahman, Jeremiah Schlotman, John Green, & Lilly Belle Gonzalez & Jason Villanueva
Absent: Chandra Smith
Excuse: Yolanda Brown & Elsie Encarnacion
Guest(s): Paul Dawkins, Michael Termini, F. Tabone, Carmen Matias, Voyka Soto, Katie Taylor, Rayna Bautista, M. Velez, Ann Bommarito and Don Mabrey, Vikki Lassiter

Opening Remarks:

The Committee Chair, David L. Giordano opened the meeting at 6:08 by welcoming members and guests. Motion to adopt the meeting's Agenda was made Mahfuzur Rahman and seconded by & Jason Villanueva. Committee Chair explained that we would begin with old business and then move forward through the committee presentations, New Business and rh.

Discussions/Presentations:

A. Cooke Center for Learning & Development-Taft Houses: Michael Termini, President

Mr. Termini and team gave an in-depth formative presentation on the Cooke School and Institute, Founded in 1987 to address children with various severe special needs. The Cooke Center's mission "Envisions a world in which all people with special needs are included as valued members of their communities, leading independent and purposeful lives." The School is a unique learning environment that individually approaches each youth's specific needs and holistically develops a plan to foster youth developing the skills necessary to become independent and valued members of their communities leading meaningful and fulfilling lives. It is a private school and approximately 60% of the students are not paying the full tuition. Many students receive funding from DOE for payment to the school. Cooke leadership is presenting today to introduce themselves to the Community and CB 11 Youth & Education committee.

The Committee was also informed by Mr. Termini that the Cooke School purchased the church located on Madison Avenue within the NYCHA Taft Houses. The facility would be renovated with a projected opening by 2020 – 2021 moving the K-through high school to the new location. Currently, The Cooke School Center is serving approximately 200 youth in the K through 12th grade. The agreement is that the Cooke School would admit 10% of the entering body each year from families living within NYCHA housing developments (City Wide) at no cost to the families. However, there was no specific priority enrollment for CB 11 youth living in NYCHA facilities.

During the presentation, Committee Chair, David Giordano informed the Committee, Cooke School and public, that he has some connection with the school as his nephew is currently a student at the school for the last several years and that the Cooke School has had an extremely positive impact on his nephew.

Although committee members are impressed with the school and welcome this unique and much needed school to the community, again the lack of prior notice thus preventing input and feedback prior to the decision being made is again troubling. The committee did agree to work with the Cooke school leadership team to help them learn and navigate through the community partners. We will meet during the summer and committee members will take a tour of the current school.

B. Measure of America/Data 2Go NYC APP: Vikki Lassiter, Partnership Division.

Presentation on new Data APP resource tool, development and creation of a data base and APP with access to so much information combining from so many sources and systems. Measure America received a five year grant to create a resource data base/APP with a wealth of information collected from federal, state and city data that compares data and can be used to shine a new light on critical issues in communities, help plan and seek funding for critical community needs. The also presented material as related to disconnected youth- Defined as youth who are neither not in school nor working/employed. For CB 11, 14% of youth between ages 16 through 24 are not in school or employed.

C. Aspen Institute's Project Play Harlem Initiative: Rayna Bautista, Project Coordinator.

Ms. Bautista informed the committee that the Aspen Institute is partnering with other foundations (Mt. Sinai Health System, Tisch Illumination Fund, Harris Family Charitable Foundation) to examine opportunities or lack of opportunities of recreation play from both an environmental spaces and recreational programming in communities and assist communities in developing a collective impact to improve opportunities to develop physical fitness opportunities through recreational play. This initiative is a result other initiatives to increase the opportunity for physical fitness and physical play for youth. Such as Play 60. The main focus of the grant is to evaluate and understand the State of Play within various neighborhoods Such as East Harlem. Project Play Harlem will be studying a three mile area from 96th street to 142nd Street from 5th Avenue to East River, looking at environmental play and recreation spaces and at recreational programming at schools and CBOs within the covering targeted area. During approximately a three month period, the project will bring communities leaders together to be part of an advisory group to help identify and gather information as it relates play spaces and opportunities for recreational programming and activities and foster a collective impact of community organizations, schools and vested individuals to create and provide opportunities for recreation and physical play. Members of the committee agreed to help support the initiative and to identify other major players and forums/meetings to attend. The plan is to collect and analyze data and then present to the community, supporting the community in developing ideas to increase opportunities for to be actively involved in sports and recreational activities.

Old Business:

a. **P.R.E.P. Charter School: Letter of Support Charter School Application- Ann Bommarito & Don Mabrey:**

Ann Bommarito and Don Mabrey, reappeared before the board and presented their written responses to the committee's request from May's monthly meeting (See Attachment 1). The Members reviewed the letter and felt it addressed points raised by the committee. Members only concern was that this letter and the content would be binding and part of the application. It was communicated and noted that the letter presented to the committee was included in their Letter of Intent and is already part of their application package.

Motion was made by Jeremiah Schlotman to write a letter in support of P.R.E.P Charter's Application to open a Charter School in CB 11. Motion was seconded by John Green. Motion passed unanimously

b. **Urban Dove Charter School: Letter of Support:** Jai Nyda & Richie Cerudd forwarded their written responses to the committee's request from May's monthly meeting (See Attachment 2). The Members reviewed the letter and felt it addressed points raised by the committee. Members only concern was again that the letter and the content would be binding and part of the application and since they were not present the motion to include such letter in their application package.

Motion was made by Jason Villanueva to write a letter in support of Urban Dove's Application to open a Charter High School in CB 11 with the stipulation that the letter received from the board would be binding and included in their application. Motion was seconded by John Green. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Book-bag & Supply Donation:

The Committee Chair explained that once again CB 11 will donate book bags and supplies to youth. This year we will distribute to three groups: DOE District 4 & 5 and to NYSOM. We will present the bags to NYSOM for their August 26th, back to school supply give away and District 4 Back to School Fair on September 16th.

Summer Committee Meeting:

The Committee Chair expressed the benefit and need for the committee to meet several times over the summer in order to actively focus and work on committee goals and projects to carry out during next year. The Committee agreed to meet Monday July 10th at 6:00 pm at the Children's Aid Society East Harlem Center located at 130 East 101st street.

Motions & Action Items:

- ✓ Motion was made by Jeremiah Schlotman to write a letter in support of P.R.E.P Charter's Application to open a Charter School in CB 11. Motion was seconded by John Green. Motion passed unanimously

- ✓ Motion was made by Jason Villanueva to write a letter in support of Urban Dove's Application to open a Charter High School in CB 11 with the stipulation that the letter received from the board would be binding and included in their application. Motion was seconded by John Green. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements:

Paul Dawkins of New York State of Mind (NYSOM) announced 2 up-coming events this summer: They will be having a Back-To-School Jam Supply Drive and Book Bag & Supplies Give away: on August 26th, 2017 at the surrounding gardens on 117th street and first avenue.

Madai Velez DA Community Affairs Department announced another "Clean Slate" event on Saturday at 2East 120th street at the Bethal Gospel Church

Jeremiah Schlotman reminded committee members that The Legal Aid Society Harlem Law Offices located on 106th street will be closing June 22, 2017 (last day to receive walk in services) and will be moving June 23rd, 2017 to 125th Street in Harlem. Once again, Jeremiah explained that many of the Attorneys really advocated to remain in East Harlem on 106th street, however, they are still moving.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mahfuzur Rahman to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Green.