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COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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Land Use, Landmarks & Planning Committee
Wednesday, September 9, 2015 - 6:00 p.m.
Bonifacio Senior Center, 7 East 116th Street, NY NY 10035

- Present: Adem Brija, Diane Collier, Holley Drakeford, Alvin Johnson, Alex Kohen, Keith Massey, Frances Mastrota, Vincent Torres, Steven Villanueva, Candy Vives-Vasquez, Jemar Ward, Marie Winfield, Jonathan Winstone, Angel Mescain (staff)
- Excused: Beverly Alston, La Shawn Henry, Marissa Mack, Theresa Richardson
- Absent: Andre Vital, Jesse Yang
- Guests: Kathy Benson, East Harlem Preservation; George Calderaro, Historic Districts Council; Jenny Akchin, Picture the Homeless; Juan Pagan, Picture the Homeless; Ema Bologna, Civitas; Katie Benn, Pleasant Village Community Garden; Gregory Behl, Pleasant Village Community Garden

1. Call to Order – Adoption of the Agenda

2. Presentations/Discussions

- a. Request to support resolution celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Landmarks Law.

George Calderaro of the Historic Districts Council presented a request for CB11 to consider adopting a resolution recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the NYC Landmarks Law and the value of preservation.

Mr. Calderaro is in the process of making this request at each community board in Manhattan and reports that 9 of the 12 boards have adopted similar resolutions. He explained the benefits of the Landmarks Law has had in terms of helping communities preserve historic properties and areas, fostering civic pride, enhancing attractions, stimulating tourism

The committee agreed to put off a vote on this request until its October meeting to allow members time to consider the request and work to customize the language of the resolution.

3. Old Business

- a. Request for letter of support

Gregory Behl of the Pleasant Village Community Garden presented his request for the board to support having a portion of this garden, currently under HPD jurisdiction, transferred to the NYC Parks Department in order to protect it from development.

Mr. Behl and Katie Benn reported that membership in the garden has grown to sixty members within the last year. Each member pays a \$10 annual membership fee. He anticipates that further growth in membership will facilitate an increase in the hours the garden is open. As the garden grows the members of the garden are interested in contributing to a local food pantry.

Mrs. Mastrota spoke about the history of the garden and the efforts of the new garden leadership to expand participation.

Mr. Mescaïn reported on his recent tour of the garden with committee chair La Shawn Henry.

The committee decided to not take a position on the request until after it is heard at the Environment, Open Space and Parks Committee. Mr. Mescaïn will reach out to HPD to learn the status of the RFQ issued in late 2014 regarding potential development of affordable housing at a number of community garden sites in Harlem, including the Pleasant Village garden.

4. Informational Updates

a. East Harlem Neighborhood Study update

Mr. Mescaïn provided the committee an update on the status of the ongoing East Harlem Neighborhood Study and schedule of community workshops. To date, attendance at these workshops have been robust and attendees actively participating in discussions. Input from these meetings is compiled by sub-groups of the Steering Committee that has been convened to organize the process. Sub-groups are tasked with organizing the workshops, reporting findings to the Steering Committee and developing draft recommendations.

The process continues through November and culminates with a large public meeting early in the new year at which the Neighborhood Plan will be presented to the community.

b. Review of Draft Statement of District Needs & FY 17 Budget Priorities Discussion

Mr. Mescaïn provided an explanation of the new process by which the Statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities are submitted. In an effort to aid CB's in these processes, the Department of City Planning has created an online portal which combines these two processes. In the new process, a draft SDN with budget priorities included is submitted to DCP in August. After CB's have determined the priority of their budget requests, they will be able to submit the final version of the SDN in later October.

Ms. Collier asked committee members to review the draft SDN in preparation for its October meeting at which it will decide the order of its priorities.

5. Announcements

a. Neighborhood Planning & Rezoning: Community Visioning Workshop Schedule:

- Thurs, 9/10 - Small Business, Workforce Development, Economic Development, Health, Seniors
- Thurs, 10/22 - Zoning/ Land Use, Affordable Housing Development
- Thurs, 11/19 - Health, Seniors, Environment, Transportation & Safety

6. Adjournment

Vinny Torres made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Holley Drakeford and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.