

CB12M's Youth & Education Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 10, 2014

Location: 530 West 166th Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimón, Chair; Alyce Smith, Assistant Chair; Maria Luna; Manny De Los Santos; Ayisha Oglivie;

Committee Member(s) Excused: Lorena Jiménez-Castro

Board Member(s): Chairman George Fernandez

Community Members: Dr. Gary Altheim, Psy.D. Founder/Executive Director-Growth and Development Services, Inc; Al Kurland from PAL; Mr. Joe Yoffie; Meredith Marin, LMSW-CHALK Program at Presbyterian Hospital; Karen Ozuna, representative for CHALK Program at Presbyterian Hospital; Roberto de la Rosa, Community Activist; Phil Zablocki, Community Activist; Maria Pichardo; Marlon Barrero, Community Activist; Shirlyn Perez, and Marleny De la Rosa Students of High School for Media and Communications- **GWEC**

The Chair Fe Florimón opened the meeting at 7:15PM.

Chairman of Board, members of the committee and attendees were thanked and introduced by the Chair.

❖ Discussion was taken place as indicated below:

- ✓ First item of the agenda-the minutes of the previous meetings October 20, and November 10 2014 were approved by the committee. However, an amendment for the October 20th minutes was recommended by member Ayisha Oglivie. She stated that all comments/testimonies made by participants in regard to Armory, did not appear on the minutes and so promised to provide the committee with the specific changes she has suggested.

❖ Students' Presentation: High School for Media and Communications at the **GWEC**

- ✓ Students Shirlyn Perez and Marleny De La Rosa were introduced by the chair. Students want to learn how board's meetings take place and what really is happening in the community.
- ✓ They also hope to become part of CB12M in a new future and learn from board's members. The students also discussed their participation/experience at the Y&EC's 3rd anniversary held on December 6th at Isabella Geriatric Center. "I (Shirlyn) was very impressed with Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer. I loved her speech. She has certainly inspired us to be here today."
- ✓ Members of the committee and the general audience asked questions to the students about their views on education. Some of the students' responses/comments include:
- ✓ That many students graduate and don't have the qualifications needed to get a job
- ✓ Student sense of purpose and why they should be engaged with Community Boards.
- ✓ In summary, students expressed themselves in very eloquent and satisfied manners according to members of the audience. At end of their presentation, students thanked the committee and those present for the opportunity to present their point of view and for also for being heard.

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❖ Committee's Performance and Recap

- ✓ The chair made a presentation reporting (draft) all the activities executed by committee from January 2014 to December 2014. The report discussed:
 - ✓ Committee's accomplishments
 - ✓ Community involvement with the School District Six (CEC 6)
 - ✓ Education data for CEC 6 population (Students' population 24,974)
 - ✓ The numbers of Elementary Schools, Junior High School, and High Schools and City College H.S Programs combined in the community
 - ✓ Pictures taken during committee's activities were provided
 - ✓ The committee's goals for 2015 were also presented.
- ❖ Dr. Gary Altheim approached the Y&EC to find out what's happening at the armory. He has also acknowledged of being aware of the Armory's latest initiative of reaching out the community and offering its programs. He will remain focused on how this initiative will continue.
- ❖ Chairman of the board George Fernandez came to the meeting to clarify the situation of the Armory in the community.

❖ Under new and old business:

- ✓ The Health & Environment Committee (H&EC) has proposed that part II of the "*Youth and Mental Health*" event be held on Thursdays January 8, 2015. However, the Y&EC suggested that spring season was better choice; especially during the month of March 2015.
- ✓ It was also discussed that the event would be held in combination with the Y&EC, H&EC, and HH&SC. In addition, members of the public supported the idea of having the event during spring by adding that the weather will be more favorable, which in turns will increase the public's participation.
- ✓ Meredith Marin, representative for the CHALK program at Presbyterian Hospital offered her support for the event. She suggested that during the event a session of Yoga may be provided to participants as a way to promote some kind soothing of souls/ mental wellness as the audience discusses the high rate of youth suicide.
- ✓ Mr. Richard Lewis, Chair of the Housing & Human Service Committee also joined the conversation and stated that his committee wants to join the event.
- ✓ According to Ms. Florimon, there is pending proposal at CEC 6 to initiate a Public Relations Committee. Part of the objective of the PRC is to promote and increase relationships people and communities. She also reported that Mr. Manuel Ramirez, IA Superintendent of Community School District 6, held a meeting at the Riverbank Grill Restaurant State Park with Chancellor Carmen Fariña and School Principals on Friday 12th where members of the Community Education Council District 6, (among them Ms. Florimon) were introduced. During the Community School District 6 meeting important discussions took place in regard to the priorities of the school district among others.

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❖ Report on Y&EC- Saturday Dec 6th Meeting:

- ✓ Chair Florimon reported that the 3rd anniversary of the Y&EC was well attended. 72 people attended the event. The event was directed by Mr. Obie Isaiah Bing, First Vice-Chair for the CB 12M who conducted the official introduction of the agenda; followed by his remarks, Chair Florimon provided an overview of the committee, and then Ms. Liliana Saneaux, Board member who moderated the event prior to its end.
- ✓ MBP Gale Brewer was the Committee's guest of honor. BP thanked everybody and shared a summary of some of her initiatives. Her speech was mostly addressed to the youth population and parents who were anxiously waiting to meet her and were also listening attentively to her message. Students from different schools (including GWEC) were present. Most of students came to the podium to share their messages and the great majority of them were encouraged by BP Brewer. At the end of their speech, all students felt very enthusiastic and please.

❖ January 3, 2105 Saturday Meeting will be rescheduled.

✓ Adjourned at 9:49pm

Submitted by: Alyce Smith

***Note:** Please be advised that a recorded version of this statement is available upon request at the office. Please contact with the CB12M's staff for information. Thank you.