

**Community Board 12 – Manhattan
530 West 166th Street
6th floor
New York, New York 10032**

Committee for the Concerns of the Aging

January 14, 2014 – 10:00am

PRESENT: E. Lehmann (Asst. Chair), E. Nau, L. McGougan, L. Saneaux, N. Candido (Public Member)

EXCUSED: G. Vanterpool (Chair)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: V. Mendoza, M. Karash, M. Anderson, Z. Setaro, J. McNiff

Ms. Lehmann called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM. Her opening remarks entailed brief updates from the other committees:

- Land Use: a) focus on rezoning of our district set to begin in the spring...CB9 & 10 were already rezoned; b) building and maintaining affordable housing.
- Health & Environment: three presentations...one on pollutants in CB 12...the other by Take Care NY, a Bloomberg initiative to improve the health of City residents...and the last on the effort to bring the Smoke Free initiative into the schools.

Mary Anderson updated us on the Youth & Education committee she attended where a high school senior project working with CB12M was discussed; scholarship program at Isabella; and a core curriculum program also at Isabella.

Lorenzo McGougan is concerned about the status of the Thurgood Marshall senior center where there is significant water damage and flooding. He stressed that this facility is the feeding site for three senior residences in close proximity. He and our Chair visited the site last year and there appears to have been no repair work done. He wishes CB12M to put pressure on NYCHA. Mr. McGougan suggested that he and Ms. Vanterpool should re-visit to site(s) to ascertain up-to-date status.

Budget priorities:

- Establishment of a dedicated geriatric clinic at CPMC after their closure of 99 Fort Washington. This clinic should have an area for psychiatric intake as we recognize depression to be a big problem with our elderly. There is still no dedicated geriatric health care clinic in CB 12.
- Lack of affordable housing and bolstering legal resources to help the elderly from being pushed out by landlords.

- Meals on Wheels & case management Programs should be made more robust with better coordination and more local control.
- WIFI at senior centers. First recommended by the Allen Hospital so that they could provide health education.

NYPD Liaison Update

There was no one from the NYPD present. E. Nau wanted to ask about the motorcycle incident which occurred this past Sunday January 12, in front of the Ortiz funeral home on 190th and Broadway, only several blocks away from the 34th Precinct. A point was made that “quads” are illegal in NYC. It was agreed that we would ask the 34th Precinct to come to the next Aging Committee meeting to provide an update.

Health Food – New York

No one from City Harvest was present at the meeting, but Mary Anderson was able to provide an update on the Healthy Food survey to be completed in CB 12. Seniors will be going out into the neighborhood to rate the quality of produce at local markets and supermarkets in an effort to assess the current quality of food and to encourage local proprietors to upgrade the quality where needed.

Potential CB 12 Health Forum

It is our Chair’s idea to do this in order to discuss changes with the Affordable Care Act. It was discussed that the health forum held at Isabella recently (organized by Assemblywoman Rosa) and sponsored by Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield should not be repeated. A CB 12 Forum might consider having non-insurance company experts provide guidance and answers to questions that might arise. Pending resolution of the implementation problems surrounding the Affordable Care Act, we might consider a fall date for this Forum.

Announcements:

- Free English and computer classes at the SUNY Attain Lab locate within the Armory.
- WHICOA meeting on 1/23/14 at Isabella.
- Peoples Theatre Project new play will be performed on February 21, 22, and 23; at the United Palace Theatre and on the second floor of the Alianza building.
- The next CB12M general meeting will be held at Isabella on January 28th at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 11:34 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Edgard Nau with assistance from E. Lehman