Committee / Board Members Present

Amy Pinkerton, Committee Chair
Alicia Boyd
Becky Celestina
Mia Hilton, CB9 Coordinator

Meeting called to order 7:30 pm

Agenda:
- Introductions
- Housekeeping: Contact information; 2019-20 meeting schedule; ++
- Mission / goals for coming year
- Member area(s) of interest
- Action items for next meeting (11/5/19)
- Close 8:45 – 9:00 pm

Meeting Schedule:
Committee meetings will be the first Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:30 pm and ending at 8:45 pm

Mission / Goals: Chair Opening remarks:

Being our first meeting, I’d like us to discuss the areas of focus and the goals we wish to accomplish over the next year.

CB9’s mission is to serve our community, and the Environmental Committee’s mission within our Board and community, is focusing on quality of life issues: street cleanliness, conservation, noise, development impact on infrastructure (air, environment, parking, commutes, trains, sewers, etc.). Let’s think about a few areas we can focus attention and develop ideas around implementing improvements.

Brainstorm – Areas affecting our community:
- Trash / street cleanliness; working with sanitation to address chronic litter strewn areas
- Conservation – water and sewage issues with storm drains / rain overflow; abundance of plastic water bottles
- Disseminating information / education about individual changes leading to larger impacts
• Street ‘ponding’ (lack of rain water drainage creating flooding at intersections)
• Real Estate development: Spice Factory, Botanical Gardens, Montgomery Street, Bedford Armory: Area experiencing major build-up which need environmental reviews (City / State requirement)
• Spice Factory development is a major controversy: Changing zoning heights; proposing 40-45 +/- story building in 7-story zoned neighborhood; 1,500 new apartments; sunlight blocking structure negatively impacting the Botanical Gardens; infrastructure impact based on an expected 5,000 new residents (trains, sewer, parking, traffic)
• Bedford Armory development – asbestos abatement concerns

Next Steps – Getting started

• Communication is key: getting information and sharing it:
  o Propose a short survey to send to CB9’s community email listserv for feedback on priorities of the community residents.
  o Propose to the CB9 office a change to the way we use our office window “real estate”. Having a clearer way to present important information on upcoming meetings and community events will assist with community involvement and turnout.
  o Dedicated space on the CB9 website for the committee? Need to look into and plan content.

• Conservation: Educating residents / Providing information for making informed changes:
  o Example: Block Parties distribute lots of water bottles but there is a NYC program called “Water on the Go”, providing a portable drinking fountain sourcing NYC tap water (https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/whats-new/water-on-the-go.page). Could be an excellent alternative.
  o Another: Helpful tip for water conservation: Minimize household water usage during rainstorms to eliminate undue stress on the sewer systems. Overflow waste water ends up in our waterways when too much volume (household water and storm drain collections) enters the water treatment system. Getting this type of information out to residents is worthwhile.

• Partnering with other CB9 Committees (maybe Housing and / or ULURP) – Areas of concern overlap
  o The ULURP Committee is also concerned with our community’s real estate development – find out more about what they doing at the ULURP Committee meeting in November.

• CORNELL Real Estate Development (Spice Factory / Height Re-zoning) – Major impact on BBG and neighborhood
  o There are currently lawsuits and community discussions around this proposed development site (Alicia Boyd and her MTOPP group is active in this regard). What can the Environment Group do to best support the community’s interests?
  o Per Alicia, the developers need to do an environmental impact study addressing many (but likely not all) areas that will be affected by the development: Traffic, sewer, congestion, sunlight blockage, train / bus over-crowding, impact on nature (bird natural habitats), etc.
- Organizing a forum for community information: Getting experts / non-profits to come together and present needed information to residents. Primary purpose is education and organization of the community.
- Best to have forum before the developers release their environmental impact report. Timing of report release is not known.
- Will plan for spring event; propose holding at MS 61.
- Campaign to advertise forum includes flyers, door knocking, calling, emails to organizations and listservs.
- Collect input from residents through Google form surveys.
- Think about news coverage / local papers (BK Eagle, Caribbean News, etc.).

**Action Items – Before November 7th Meeting:**
- **Gather more information on conservation ideas (Becky Celestine and others)**
- **Create Google doc survey and send to community residents by next meeting, obtaining community input on priorities for our committee (Becky Celestina)**
- **Propose CB9 revamp window design idea to Board (Amy Pinkerton)**
- **Inquire about CB9 website space with Board / Mia Hilton (Amy Pinkerton)**
- **Attend the next ULURP meeting in November (Amy Pinkerton + others?)**
- **Send to group a list of non-profits and contacts to begin identifying speakers and supporters for spring forum (Alicia Boyd)**
- **Read up on the developers and proposed development for background (All members)**

Meeting ended 8:45 pm