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NYC Civic Engagement

9/23/19

SARAH SAYEED: Okay, we will get started. So... the meeting will
please come to order. Would love to welcome all the commissioners
and members or representatives from the administration who are here.
And, organizational partners, members of the public, thank you so
much for taking the time out to be with us today. And also thank you
for everyone that is with us on the live stream.

There is a sign in sheet for people in the audience, members
of the public, we will pass that around, please do sign up so we have

your contact information and stay in touch with you and wonder if any members of the press here today? Okay.

I always love to start by thanking the Landmarks folks letting us use a chair in this space and as we know we are trying our best to be open and follow the open meeting law and today we are being live streamed and we also have live captioning and Spanish interpreters and if anybody needs interpretation, please let us know.

We are doing something new today which is that in the last part of the meeting, the last half hour, we are going to be open for public comment. We have had two people sign up for that, so hopefully, they are here and we will be sharing with us later.

I wanted to start a little bit since part of our job is to educate people and inform people about civic engagement opportunities, I want to start explaining the difference between a public meeting and a public hearing for anybody in the audience that need that to be clarified. The goal of open meeting law as you know is really to make sure that the public has access to decision making processes within the government.

And, this law is also known as the sunshine law. With the open meeting law, a public hearing is a format that allows the public the right to be heard on any given policy.

And, it's basically a way that government collects input on the public's ideas and thoughts about a policy that they will be putting forward. To remind ourselves, the civic engagement commission is required by the charter to hold a public hearing related to the

methodology to which we will select poll sites to the interpretation. That methodological is going to be made to the public, January 1st or before. We will required to have that available for comment public for at least 30 days and required to hold at least one public hearing on that topic for public input and the final methodology needs to be posted in April.

This is different from a public meeting in which we are gathering here to conduct our business but that is also open to the public to observe and listen. And, we're required to have all of our meetings where there is at least a quorum of 8 people to be open to the public.

And during the public meeting there is no requirement that the commission here from people observing or listening to the conversation.

So, but since January is such a long way way away, and people, we definitely want to engage people that are tending the meeting, we will try this approach at the end to make the last half hour open to the comment from the public.

So we will start out talking about the intern business of the civic commission and later we have a presentation from an agency partner NYC service and we will then turn to the public comment.

First let's go over the minutes of the meeting, that should in be in your pact from the last meeting and as we discussed, it is a very basic version of our conversation and I wanted to ask if there are any additions or corrections to the meeting that is in your packet?

Okay. I would like to make a motion to approve the minutes.

Speaker: Yes.

SARAH SAYEED: Thank you. And all in favor of approving the minutes from July? Okay, we will move forward and approve the minutes, thank you so much.

To give you all an update on different things going on within the commission, we left off the last meeting talking about hiring, so I want to start off with that. We made some good progress in this area, with some good developments to share. I have had different people in the administration helping me with things that need to get done.

Alexa from city hall has been helping with me with hiring and Wendy troll is a senior advisor from the city engagement committee and is on with the mayor's office and helping me with operations and programs. The law department is supporting us with some legal staff time, Qurumy (phonetic), you may know him, he is an attorney with the law department and Carl Brock will help us with the legal question and this will help us get a better sense of how much legal assessment the commission needs and rather to better assess if we need a better full time attorney on the board. Amy is a full time on the board and former director of ground swell, she has a lot of experience in public engagement and using the arts for public change, she will help us with public budget.

Lid yeah originally from Montana joined us a full time member and will work with us on the needs assessment for community boards,

we are tasked to help community boards build their capacity particularly in the area of land use, urban planning and technical assistance and interpretation. It's very general and we want to try to nail down more what that looks like on the ground and what our community boards are doing and what they need help with to add value.

We have had made two full time offers on 2 full time positions they have been accepted and they are going through the process of on boarding and hopefully we will have those people on board by next meeting and the other positions have narrowed down candidates and things are falling into place and I am no longer staff of one which is great.

Yes. So, in the next section, we will be talking about the bi-laws

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ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: Before we move on, Sarah, what are those positions are?

SARAH SAYEED: One is the community coordinator position, the person tasked with building the relationships for the commission. And the other one is the civic engagement support specialist that will also be helping with relationship building and have a role with you all keeping us coordinated and also help with the internal operations administration of the commission.

Speaker: Are there job descriptions that you can share with us?

SARAH SAYEED: I feel there should be a very quick go around of intros because you haven't seen us in person, so maybe you want

to start and do a go around. By the way, make sure that your mic is on. When you talk.

LILLIAM PEREZ: So Lilliam Perez, I have seen you all before and I am the Bronx commissioner. My daily job is vice president of governmental of the college of Einstein and we have been very busy but I am excited to be here. I come with a lot of government experience for 18 years and a combination between the New York State senate and the attorney general's office and to become an executive monitor about 2 years ago. Hope to work with you again.

Chuck: I'm Chuck, the vice community board 7 and the Queens representative to the commission.

SARAH SAYEED: Anthony, would you mind coming up here?

ANTHONY HARMON: Sure.

DONNA GILL: I'm Donna Gill community board 10 and I am the representative for them.

ANASTASIA SOMOZA: I'm Anastasia Somoza, and in my big job I work for the speakers and the representatives that work in our community to give me the division to represent the needs of disabled New Yorkers, that include accessibility and a lot of transportation work but anything that impacts the disabled New Yorkers, I work with the speaker and the counsel to address those issues and I am the first one to ever fill that role at the counsel and it has been excite being over the last year and a little bit more to better rest my community for the city. And I also do similar work outside of the counsel of disability advocates and that is my role and happy to be here working

with all of you.

EVE BARON: Hi, nice to see everybody again after our break. I'm Eve Baron, the chairperson of the Pratt Institute of the environmental (educational?).

MARK DILLER: Good morning. My name is Mark Diller I am the borough president for representatives commission and I am a member of the community board 7 in this time in Manhattan -- I mean Queens and served on various committees and I spend a lot of time in this room.

EVE BARON: So sorry, I forgot to mention I am at Brooklyn borough president representative.

ANTHONY HARMON: Anthony Harmon, appointed by the speaker by the united federation of teachers and a do a lot of community work throughout the city of New York.

ANASTASIA SOMOZA: I forgot to mention that I am the other appointee speaker of Cory Johnson.

LINDA LEE: Hi, everyone, I am Linda Lee community services and also a member of community board 11 in North Queens.

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: Good morning, my name is Annetta Seecharran, and I run the China corporation and I am the mayor's Queens appointee.

AMY BREEDLOVE: Hi, Amy Breedlove. Assigned in Brooklyn and appointee of from the mayor and on the civic organization I am also for a member urban quotient which is architect wal form that does affordable and supporting housing and a number of other roles.

SARAH SAYEED: José, you want to introduce yourself? Because Lilliam Perez is the first time here.

JOSE HERNANDEZ: How you doing, my name is Jose Hernandez I am with United Smiles Organization.

SARAH SAYEED: So, I don't know if everyone signed in so I will pass this around one more time. So we were talking about the job postings, I will send those around, just for our internal awareness, some of the rules are going to get a little tweaked as I mentioned for instance, if we have support from the law department then we don't need to hire a lawyer and the position was advertised as general counsel and director of admin so that will change.

So once it's all set then, you know, I will share them with you. For sure and would love to get your help getting, you know, people to apply.

Yep?

MARK DILLER: With respect to the American core volunteer board, a service member looking at the needs assessment of the community board, we have a few members on our commission, without interfering with them, it would be wonderful to have an opportunity to interact with us and share what we know and perhaps, unbundle a few things.

SARAH SAYEED: Totally, really would love to get your input and I actually center around, I hope I didn't miss you, I did send around an e-mail introducing her but at the end, maybe if there is time you can connect in person and she would definitely like to sit with you

and learn from your wisdom and anyone else that may not be currently be on a community board but has had that experience and insights to share, I know, Eve, you have talked about this also, we will make sure that she comes to you and I missed e-mailing you, and you want to be apart of this, please e-mail me and remind me to make sure. Because for all of the programs that we have to take on, it's so important to collect the knowledge base and wisdom of the people that are doing this work because we are not inventing anything, we are trying to add value.

So having your insights on that will be really helpful. Any other questions or thoughts about the hiring piece? Okay.

The by-laws, we do have a draft of the by-laws and Donna and Mike had volunteered to help us review and we are going through that process so once that draft is ready for collective sharing we will bring that to the meeting to talk about.

How are people doing with their e-mails? They're CEC e-mails which as a reminder we did to make sure that your personal e-mails are not foiled in case, which hopefully will never happen but if it does, we want to give you the availability to have the CEC official e-mail, so are people using those e-mails?

LILLIAM PEREZ: I never got anything, I know you mentioned in the past but I never got anything.

SARAH SAYEED: Okay, we need to make sure you have access to it, has everybody else been able to get into their e-mail?

LINDA LEE: I vanity.

LILLIAM PEREZ: Were we suppose to get a link?

SARAH SAYEED: No, you got your login and I will make sure that you get that. And I wanted to recommend that if you are e-mailing me for anything, like I have been bcc'ing everybody's personal accounts to make sure it's there but if are you ever e-mailing me for anything, do use your CEC account, and hope to get into the practice of that.

MARK DILLER: I wonder if anybody else has the same problem as I do trying to link the CEC e-mail with the general G-mail account to get it come to real time in a single feed and respond using as awe suggest but the system is resisting allowing me to link those, I don't know if that is the same inability that led me to lose my edits on the by-laws or rather it's something having to do with the system than my lack of savvy.

AMY BREEDLOVE: I'm having the same issue and the reason I can't really access it all the time is because I realized I used my phone more than a computer and so I really need that to be linked so that I can have access easily to this e-mail.

MARK DILLER: Can we talk after to see if you have the same problem or different?

SARAH SAYEED: Yeah, we can get G-mail to help troubleshoot. Hopefully there is a solution. I have logged in -- well you know how to do that with Micro Soft Online, it's just integrating with your other accounts.

Okay, we will turn to programatic updates. At the last meeting, we distributed handouts with the overall contribution of the

committee. That committee application just went online on Friday. So I will send around the link and would love to get your help circulating the application.

There is an overview of the website about the responsibilities of the committee and also the kind of people they are looking for. In your packet today, I did -- we put in there the section on participatory budget from the charter so we can review what the charter is asking us to do as far as membership of this advisory board and we have given a deadline of October 8th, so any help can you provide to circulate this application, would be great. Hopefully, we'll get a bunch of applications and you know, we will be able to stick to that deadline but we will assess as the time comes near.

Any questions on the participatory budget advisory?

AMY BREEDLOVE: Just one question is the counsel working with us at all since it does go through the counsel members?

SARAH SAYEED: Well, what's the "it" ? The "it" referring to participatory budget is is that what you mean? That it's currently happening through the counsel?

AMY BREEDLOVE: Yes.

SARAH SAYEED: Okay, so part of the job of the CEC is going to be figure out a strategy for participatory budget that is city-wide. It may not go through city counsel, currently, not all counsel members participate so we are obligate to create a strategy, the charter does name borough presidents and community boards and any other elected official so obviously, anything we do has to be aligned with

counselors and we have been talking to counsel central staff and counsel member Lander and talking to other counsel members about how to create a process that is lined like we would not want to have vote week be a different week.

But I believe the CEC and the city's process will be separate, from hopefully, parallel tracking but what it looks like from the ground is something we will work with and figure out and that is part of the job of the advisor of the participatory budget is to work with the advisory committee to figure out what that will look like and we have been keeping in touch with counsel on this and I also want to really encourage everyone if you are not already doing it if your counsel member is conducting a PV process to please go and try to participate and see what it is like and so you can also bring ideas and thoughts to the commission and the advisory group about how you would like to see how it works.

ANASTASIA SOMOZA: Is it likely that some of the members that have been working with counsel member Lander's office about participatory budget, in general, the group that created a quorum that has been suggested to us that as commissioners, that we read. Is it likely that some of them will be apart of the advisory committee or is that be separate?

SARAH SAYEED: I think you mean participatory budget project?

ANASTASIA SOMOZA: Yeah.

SARAH SAYEED: Yeah. There are certainly thought leaders in this field and we have been talking to them along and some people

from the counsel meetings, prior years may choose to apply and we also talked long term about how to create a committee that is responsible for the entire process as opposed to having multiple bodies but we are not quite there to merge everything together, does that make sense?

ANASTASIA SOMOZA: Yeah.

SARAH SAYEED: Okay. Any other questions on PB?

MARK DILLER: Yeah, I'm sorry, I guess the question is a timing one. Many of us have been involved in PB as a counsel level and that begins with the counsel member making the decision to participate and setting aside a certain amount of capital funding that would be dedicated to whatever the results of PB process would be, where in the process do we come to understand what the city-wide funding commitment would be and who makes that commitment and where does that come from? Is that part of what the advisory committee will be working on?

SARAH SAYEED: It is a mayor's decision about mayor and OMB and we have been talking to OMB to figure that out on how much will be allocated for this process and hopefully we will be able to share that in the near future. And what was your other question?

MARK DILLER: Essentially, how that will play throughout terms of funding because that may or may not impact a counsel member who currently participates, what will happen in his or her destruct but that will be determined as soon as the work of the advisory committee but there is another layer that there is the budgeting piece if I

understand you correctly will come from the OMB mayor's office and then the roll out will be the work of this advisory?

SARAH SAYEED: And the commission and staff, yeah, in partnership, it won't be possible for one staff member to implement a city-wide PB strategy, so we will have to build a lot of partnerships to have us roll out over time and we will talk to different agency partners about how to do outreach and we will talk to CBOs and etcetera.

Speaker: Is this working on the assumptions that we are helping those are participating, what about those that are not counsel members?

SARAH SAYEED: We will need to talk to counsel members that aren't -- to make sure that -- that when we are in everyone's district that everyone is good with it. Perhaps, they'll join, perhaps they'll won't. It's really hard to say at this point but we will make sure that we talk to people what are and are not.

Speaker: My question is that will we go out safely and lobby them for "sake" to join in the program or show the advantages of it and because that is the difficulty of it of having districts that are not participating.

SARAH SAYEED: I don't think we will be lobbying anyone.

CHARLES APELIAN: You know what I mean by the word robbing, encouraging them.

SARAH SAYEED: Over time, many of of the counsel members have joined and I think counsel central office has been encouraging people

and we will certainly work with counsel on that. Yeah.

Speaker: I have a question, Sarah. City counsel has started and sent out applications and we are in the process of defining or getting things together. Are we work in tandem with city counsel to do this because as Charles was saying, there are members that do not participate but there are members that do that may take offense to an outside body coming in and talking about participatory budgeting when they already have, you know, their set way in which they want to do it. So that's something to look.

SARAH SAYEED: Well, our goal and attention is to definitely align this process with counsels. The charter specifies that we need to roll out a city-wide participatory budget process, it does not tell us to do the counsel budget level, so it's up to us to make what sense to do it with counsels. We can do it at the borough level and I don't know, there are always different ways to break up geography and we need to figure out what is our charge is to make sure that people that are not participating currently are not civically engaged and are brought into this process and we need to figure out what's the best geography that will allow us to do that.

LILLIAM PEREZ: So is our main goal is to really pay more attention and care more for and come up with a strategy to engage the public and less or true and tell the counsel and those that are not what to do and we can put out the best practices as we can use experts and we should just concentrate on and you can put the hearing together and it shows up and it is still a public hearing but the

goal of this body is to make sure that our constituencies will have a goal and express their concerns and support four community projects, we can make that one of our main goals, we are going to be successful without handicapping those that are doing a good job because some of them are doing a good job, that is really our goal.

MARK DILLER: I wanted to book in that the thought I was about to share is that the other end of that goal of the equity is that I hailed from the upper side of of the west of Manhattan which is known and not being shy is one of them and we have counsel members that are already participate and who receive some fair share of that funding, I would be concerned if we create another opportunity for my upper side members to dip into the pot and where there may be other folks and counsel folks that don't participate or don't have the ability to participate and to make sure that the security budgeting is more equitable city-wide and which I understand to be behind the charter budget in the first place so we don't have --

ANTHONY HARMON: Two bites of the same apple.

MARK DILLER: Yes, thank you.

SARAH SAYEED: Holly, are you still on the line?

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: Did you ever call her?

SARAH SAYEED: Yeah, she was sitting in traffic but she may no longer be on the line.

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: I have a thought, Sarah, there seems like there is some really good expertise in this area. Would it make sense in addition to the advisory committee that we are going to set up,

would it make sense to have a subcommittee of commissioners that have a lot of experience and thoughts and ideas to starting now work in between meetings to flesh out some thoughts and present to the commission. I worry that in this sort of form, there is just a lot of really good thoughts and ideas that get thrown out and I want to make sure that we as commissioners in this stage make sure what things look like and support you and your team in that.

SARAH SAYEED: Right, of course. That is a really great idea. I'm wondering who has had participated in PB and would like to contribute to a working group or a committee, their thoughts? Mark and Amy and Donna, and Murad. We are going to have to call on everyone because you all need to think about what are the networks and groups of people that we should really be involving in PB and provide input on that, certainly. That is sort of the like the baseline that we would want to expect of each commissioner, in addition to that, if you have thoughts on strategy, like what has worked and what has not worked and that is something else that we will learn from counsel, what is working and what is not working because they are doing an amazing job, all across the city with counsel members and staff to implement this and it is not an easy feat and it is a very time consuming process to build public participation and talking about people what is needed in their community. And so, we definitely welcome anyone's input on all of this, yeah?

LILLIAM PEREZ: When I express my thoughts and concerns about the city engagement of community members what in my experience is

what I have seen are communities at that are very organized and know how to voice their opinions and represent different sectors, aim talking about the ones that really don't have those platforms, now traditional board committees members that have free to their priorities or CEOs with their own needs, and have money to build their own day care and they will turn out a hundred people to get the support they need to make it to the top 3. Those we know who they are, they will be there. I am talking about real residents of the community. I examine from the Bronx where you don't have the civic engagement that the upper side has and I want to make sure that we go into the basis of those communities and speak about the pressuring points here. Do you need sidewalks, and do you need safer streets, what is it? And I am not relying on the traditional civic groups of this community that is what I am interested in more. How do we really, do we have the resources to really, I don't know, use the board of elections data. Or use the registeries of the home and can member of this board attach to the data base. I am super interested in how to regulate thoughts from 9 to 5.

SARAH SAYEED: That's a great point.

Speaker: So participatory government has been around a minute at this point.

SARAH SAYEED: Just a minute.

Speaker: Just a minute and there has been success in that point and civic with happy communities and also within the communities that are not generally civic happy. So if you look to see what's happened

in different communities across Brooklyn, you will see that communities that historically not been engaged in the process have become engaged and because participating with civic participatory budgeting doesn't mean have you to be a citizen, there is a lower age threshold, you see something in the communities that have some of the lowest voter turnouts and have the highest participatory budget turnouts and I think we can look at the communities that are already participating in PB to see what they are doing and thousand implement that across the board and I think that the success of that campaign will be determined by the investment. And so if you look at where the counsel PB programs have been successful, it's because there are actual enormous amount of input and support from the counsel member and their staff. Who then build out a team at that will run it and so I think for PB itself, you get somewhere along the lines you get what you put into it and how to follow along the lines the standard of how to make it more successful.

SARAH SAYEED: Yeah, really good thoughts.

CHARLES APELIAN: If we go into a forum and I am Joe Q public and I love participatory budget, my counsel member doesn't participate in the participatory budget, what now? Where do I go. And mark, you said before, I'm confused, double dipping, you that has the opportunity of money, I didn't understand that.

MARK DILLER: Counsel members will be participating in and there will be a pot of money that comes effectively from what would be the mayor and depending on how the mayor or OMB participatory

funding is made available and to whom and whom the outreach is done, it's conceivable to me that in the Williams point that there are some groups that my district happens to be school groups that are effective and that is a project size that fits within the PB model, you are talking about building senior centers or global youth centers that are beyond the million dollar value that counsel members have available.

CHARLES APELIAN: So why the two pots of money? I'm still confused.

MARK DILLER: Well, that was the nature of the ballot that passed and the design is to figure out what to do with the charter amendment that has been adopted and how that is rolled out and I think we do now.

SARAH SAYEED: I think the idea is is that we want to give New Yorkers more funds with which to participate through their different avenues to do that. Actually, I believe borough president Eric Adams is also contributing to the PB process, I think he allocates certain amounts of money to counsel members in Brooklyn that are participating and there is also to put, schools are engaging in participatory budgeting and there are different streams of money that are coming into participatory budgeting.

CHARLES APELIAN: That would lead to my other question, if borough president is giving money and the counsel member is not participating, getting money from another borough source. I don't understand.

SARAH SAYEED: That is where the CEC process comes in, creating the process of city-wide participatory budget because the current process is not city-wide and we will add value and create more ways for people to join.

Speaker: You can get a land post for a million dollars at this point and I think the increase in funding is desperately needed and what we see in where participatory budget is successful because of where there is schools and we need air-conditioning and upgrade our bathrooms and our gymnasium and the different project outside of that school building it will cost more so what you see is the minimal investment being a million dollars to counsel members, in some areas in Brooklyn, you have the borough president's additional funds that you can tap into but that is more so for rebuttal projects and not necessarily the smaller ones and everything I learned in ground one in PB is how expensive everything is. And the expense only increases over time and it takes a very long time to do -- to actually implement these projects, too, so the additional funds are desperately needed and not two different pots, I think if there are additional ones available, we would be able to actually realized more transformation of the communities, not less.

SARAH SAYEED: Two other, sorry. Go ahead.

AMY BREEDLOVE: I wanted to ask that there are really expensive things, there are also things that come before the vote like \$7,000 for a women's group who wants to have a rent space for, you know, a couple of times a month to gather because they're victims of

domestic violence and that is something on a recent vote that is \$88,000 and while there is the half a mill dollar projects, there are also these very small projects and I think what we want to and what I am hearing from this group, this commission is to find a way to tap into both levels and then all of that in between as well.

SARAH SAYEED: Yeah, so it's a different. The capital, that is something I meant to say to you before in your question. The capital expense, I think a lot of the capital dollars have been -- I think counsel members have been doing some expense funds but it's absolutely capital, you are right. And we would like to see how we can also maybe add value to that and shift a little bit towards expense, again, the proportional ratio, that is all sort of to be TBD. And I think the larger version of goal and for me for participatory budget and I think for all of you is that it is an avenue to build a greater consciousness about how tax dollars are used, right?

And it's not even so much that it is different streams of money, this is all public money, so it's just one stream that belongs to, you know, the people of New York City that they hopefully will get more interested and curious and want to contribute to the decisions around that, so that is what we are trying to open up and create more than what is happening. So we have spent a lot of time talking about participatory budget and I want to move onto the next section and stay on time with the presentation to come. Just to update quickly and this may not be a quick conversation but pulse site

interpretation. The language assistance advisory board application is also online, I did send that link out and please think about who would be appropriate candidates to apply and encourage their application. The deadlines since that was put up about a week ago, the deadline is October 1st, so it's coming right up, again, if we don't get applications or in the volume that we need, we will extend that but I really want to try to keep this moving, this language assistance advisory board has a really important responsibility to help review the methodology before it goes public. So if we are going to do that on January 1st, we have to have people in place.

So we really have to get an advisory group assembled as soon as possible like yesterday would have been great. But, I will really count on you all to help with that.

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: Sarah, have we gotten many applicants?

SARAH SAYEED: No.

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: And what are we looking for?

SARAH SAYEED: Both on the advisory document, it describes the overview of what their responsibilities are and the type of person that we want to serve on the committee, I can share that with you, for sure.

Speaker: Who will staff that from the city?

SARAH SAYEED: The advisor for participatory budget is responsible for the advisory community of PB, the advisor of the community board is responsible for the language assistance advisory.

Speaker: And which city agents will be apart of that other than

the city engagement?

SARAH SAYEED: So far, I mean the charter doesn't specify what kind of agency to participate, it's a CEC advisory.

Speaker: Okay, just because when we went through the battle or the advocacy for expanding language access within the city just a couple of years ago, there was a couple of different modules when they presented on the pilot I brought up on how sentence data was not the best atto to be using and layering it with ahead (phonetic) data, the sufficiency of that data is the better route to go, I think the city's planning... is led by, I forgot whose name... I'll send you the representative's name.

SARAH SAYEED: Are you talking about department of city planning?

Speaker: Yes. And making sure that there is a demography.

SARAH SAYEED: Yes, we have having conversations with her about the methodology and that is ongoing and I want to encourage talking about participatory budget, if there are commissioners here that want to contribute to the language assistance work, we should touch basis on that separately and figure out how to get your input and thoughts into that, there is nothing in our commissioners from serving on the advisory committee, so if you want to serve on the advisory committee, you can. You just apply, and yeah.

I guess it depends on people's time how they want to do that.

Two... we know this that year, we will have early voting. So that is something that we will need everyone to get the word out about

that. That will be starting on October 26th, we're talking with democracy NYC about potentially doing a forum about informing people about their rights as voters, which broadly speaking will include interpretation because we have not done a great job about but, me too, so to let the people know that they can bring their own interpreters to the poll sites. Because no entity is going to be comprehensive and including every language and everybody needs help and people it have that right and they need to know that they have that right.

LILLIAM PEREZ: I have a lot of experience in this problem and the biggest problem is actually the people working the polls. I had to pull out my badge to ask them and tell them that these people have rights and they're not suppose to show ID on list with to show and if the child is interpreting, they give them hell and I think we need to also do a job about educating the poll workers about the people's rights, they give them such a hard time when they bring their own interpreters, I brought my grandmother and they said no and I know my rights, who are you, what are you talking about and it is interesting to see the dynamic and you know, obviously because I come from politics, I have done every corner of the city of New York, I have participated in different elections and it is so different depending on where you are. Queens and the Bronx are insane. Manhattan gets complicated past 125th but on the upper side you have different communities. But I want to point out as much as education we give the voters, oh, boy we have to work harder with the workers.

SARAH SAYEED: You're right, we have a lot to work with the workers. So I will keep you updated on whether or not that event will happen.

LILLIAM PEREZ: I'm sorry, is there a way because this is one of my issues. Is there anything that we can speak maybe to the board of elections about and I have taken a trainings, there are more about how to keep people away from voting. But how do we better talk, you know, engage people about the possibilities of really training these folks, I'm not a major but a lot of people can't even hear when you talk to them or understand you. Or know that they can, you know, refer you to an interpreter that is, I don't know, somewhere within the school cafeteria, barely find the interpreter. But, any way, I think that -- those folks need a better training, maybe we can recommend this to the city and the city can take us seriously.

SARAH SAYEED: Okay. I think we are also by charter, again, the charters tells us that we are working collaboratively with all of the entities that are already working in every program area, so Belize is one of them and we will try to work with them and add value of educating people about their rights. It's definitely definitely that we have to get better about getting the word out about this stuff.

All right. On the last -- yeah?

Speaker: I want to say something about poll workers in defense. I happen to be one of them. So, basically, what I try do is educate my child in several different sites and definitely talking with the board of election would be the way to go. And educating them to when

they educate the poll workers and at least they have all the information because when they come around, they change everything. But when they training, they do not give them all of the information and it's a lot of information and education, it's causing all of this misunderstanding.

SARAH SAYEED: Thank you. Okay. On the community board stuff, we had already talked about working on a needs assessment. And, I've also been talking with DCP and OMB that have been collecting and responsible for collecting needs statements from the community boards, and creating an online need process and that is better and also Judith has been helping community boards on their websites and me and Lillian will meet with Judith after this board and we will hope that more and more will do that and it is such an important way to reach people online and there are lots of people that are not online but we have to do both and websites is a good thing that we will try to work through.

The last thing before we turn to listening sessions is that we had talked about last time doing this what is a CEC presentation. And it was that PowerPoint is in development, right now, the PowerPoint is pretty much focused on the charter and I feel like it needs to do a little bit more than talk about what the charter says and maybe even include a little bit more of the historical perspective of the charter commission and how and why people seen saw the need for a civic engagement commission just so we're, you know, keeping that history alive as well. So we're going, you know, add to that

PowerPoint, too, and I will send that around for your more careful look-in input. Yeah, Annetta?

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: Is this PowerPoint in the tools of the listening section?

SARAH SAYEED: I think it's both. If people want to go out and talk to groups, yourselves. I had given you a version of it.

LILLIAM PEREZ: So, pretty interesting, I do so much engagement, part of my job, when I go, they recognize my name and when I go, can you talk about more about the work at the commissioners office and I talk to them about the work at the commissioners and it was super early and you know, thank you for the information you gave me but they really want to know projects and they really want to know how they can community with those about their needs and priorities and I spoke barely about it but they're waiting for us to really resend a list of our initiatives and explain how we can be apart of it.

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: So we had a robust listening section I want to hear about it.

SARAH SAYEED: That is the last thing we will talk about.

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: The PowerPoint just doesn't... it could be a small segment of the audience that we need to.

SARAH SAYEED: Yeah, I think we need to provide at the listening sections, we do need to provide some kind of intro to what the CEC does and that is part of why we would use that.

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: It could be worthwhile to produce a very

simple fact sheet, one-pager in multiple language as part of the tool kit in what we develop.

SARAH SAYEED: Mmm-hmm. A fact sheet of who we are.

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: I just think that the PowerPoint is effective for a setting like this but not beyond that and I think in a community when we go out to do these listening sessions and engage folks in any kind of community education, I'm thinking if we want something that is a take away because there are different types of learners.

SARAH SAYEED: Right.

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: It's just something that folks can take.

SARAH SAYEED: It's like a pamphlet, right? Okay.

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: Just a one-pager that says the facts about the civic engagement commission, the basics. And that should be updated as things evolve and change on a regular basis.

ANASTASIA SOMOZA: I just have a clarifying question because I know we talked about and I just want to clarify rather this is separate or connected to listening sessions because I was on one of the calls but I thought we also talked about since all of us has to spread the word individually, more related to what Lillian was referring to about the commission, if we got invited to speak, I think we talked about creating a standardized presentation deck that would allow us as commissioners to know how to speak about it at the community level, so that's separate from what we are talking about with the listening sessions, right?

SARAH SAYEED: Right. It is separate. I mean, we do have. We need to create standardized talking points that we can all use, that is what we are trying to. So we do need to do that.

ANASTASIA SOMOZA: Is that -- when you say the presentation deck here, the CEC, that is what that is?

SARAH SAYEED: Yes, that's what that is. Thank you.

Okay, next. We will talk about the listening sessions. So we had a call after the last meeting with a couple of the commissioners that are interested in talking more about this. At the end, we decide we wanted to get a consultants to help us with this process and we had after that meeting, we decide we were going to talk with participatory budgeting project and hassle was another group named and I did talk about those groups and continuing those conversations and hopefully, we'll come to some conclusion around that and also looking at other possibilities.

1 piece that I did want to mention and this is where Eve comes in and I did go and speak with her class about the civic engagement commission, she is like really bringing her students onboard to talk about the CEC and I wanted to ask if you could share a little bit about what you are doing and I did include your handout but you will talk about that, yeah.

EVE BARON: Sure, I will try to be brief.

SARAH SAYEED: Yeah, yep. We will hopefully have NYC service around 12:15ish. So.

EVE BARON: I think we have the understanding of so much of the

work that we are doing out to the future is dependent on building relationships and relationships with, you know, groups that we come from and some groups that we are in contact with and as part of that, my roll as the chairperson, I wanted to make sure that the Pratt Institute had a role in this and we really prioritized in the public participation and engagement and it is a big part of our organization and I think the principle behind that is really simple is that so many plans and decisions that have had taken place without the participation of people have resulted in just you know, incredibly disruptive projects, renewal of highways and disrupting highways, it's not just simply New York City, but all over the world when you remove people from their city neighbors, you have a disaster planning and we, you know, in our program attempt to teach students that the, you know, the planning has to happen with the communities, not for communities and that engagement is a key part of that strategy. So, and that good planning pivots off of the idea that people have a natural desire to participate in the future of their community rather that is a physical community or a social community.

So, you know, I currently this semester teaching a one-credit class on civic techniques and I asked Sarah to come and talk about the works engagement and did a curriculum development and we found out that the students were very interested in lending their skills and their thought in the work to the project to support the commission and so they're creating a project of proposal, rather, for a listening session and it's not just -- it's intended to be a blueprint for what

we might be doing going forward and to really focus their efforts, they've identified a certain demographic in a certain area to work on, so they are looking at a hard to reach demographic which is 15 to 24 years old because they have particular insights into that group and they wanted to look at ridge wood but as a neighbor it's difficult to get that data boundary and they will look at direct 4 and the attention is not to just address the civic work engagement because I think we want to go more deeply in that and really have people understand neighbor involvement as key, you know, empowerment, you know, a little bit of self autonomy. And so, they're going to be building at a project where they are looking at state Cornell systems and to see who in that neighborhood is an addition maker and how with the pads are to those decision makers.

They will also look at key demographics and come out with an outreach methods and identify support partners and look at very tangible things like what is the space that we need to have to make this happen and they will be planning the activities that are taking place in this forum.

They're also going to be looking at indicators of effectiveness, how the effectiveness of this particular engagement and one thing we talked about here at the beginning here was a way to have feedback loop for ourselves and not having a one-off event to have people come here and saying this is what we are doing and goodbye but we continue to hear from those groups and that will be built into the proposal and they are currently working on that as a team and share preliminary

results with Sarah and hopefully that interrupt your schedule too too much. And it will have something in writing for this proposal for potential methodology for the listening sections.

SARAH SAYEED: Great, do you want to say something about the handout?

EVE BARON: Oh, sure. So this is...

SARAH SAYEED: The hem-is (phonetic) principle.

EVE BARON: Right. These are principles for democratic organizing and they come to us from the environmental justice and the environmental justice movement, you know, exists because people have been removed from decision making especially in communities where there were environmental hazards and placement of toxic waste and globally. And when environmental justices meet, they use these principles to hold their meetings. Inclusivity that people have recognized and be aware of them and take effort on them. The emphasis is on the bottom up is that you are not just talking to leaders, you need to talk to everyone, up and down the chain.

Letting people speak for themselves, you know, not assuming that we know what someone else needs and making sure there are opportunities for everyone to speak. And working together in solidarity and neutrality, let's be clear that we want to build towards a future that is informed by broad engagement and building just relationships amongst ourselves and looking relationships more for each other and how to build equity into inclusion into that and self transformation and really thinking and reflecting on how we see

the world and we are reflecting back. So these are key principles that, you know, students in the planning program are taught to use in their interaction with communities.

So, I thought, you know, Sarah suggested that this might be an interesting thing for us to take note of, maybe lay the ground work for how we engage.

SARAH SAYEED: Yep, I also wanted to say that when we spoke, I do feel very strongly about whatever we do in this area, listening sessions is something that we need to continue and it's not something that we do at the beginning and stop but we find a way to make that apart of our ongoing work and hopefully there will be some kind of tool kit that will emerge from the student's work in this area.

As we're kind of transitioning, could I ask my colleagues from NYC service to please come up and could someone hit, maybe it's Linda because you're the closest, the power button on that?

MARK DILLER: You have to hit it twice.

SARAH SAYEED: Did it go on? Is it blinking?

LINDA LEE: Status is blinking, yeah.

SARAH SAYEED: So your PowerPoint is loaded.

So, I thought -- we were talking in our very first meeting about what is civic engagement and I'm sorry we didn't have the time to do the Q and A, and obviously at the next meeting, maybe you could provide an update as to where things are and maybe we can talk more.

So the first meeting we talked about our definitions of civic engagement and we also talked about last time about making sure that

we are not just focused on voting and looking at an array of civic engagement opportunities that we are trying to promote and I want to invite NYC service who is a great agency partner in this space to the civic engagement commission to just come and share a little bit about what they are working on and this is part of just our internal sort of education about what is going on in different parts of the city in terms of civic engagement so they are going to talk for a little bit and then hopefully we'll have a few minutes for Q and A.

But can I ask you, Laura and Dubai to introduce yourselves? I think the mic is on... okay, there we go.

DEBOSH: Hi, my name is Debosh, I am the institution of the city of New York and NYC service a division of mayor owes office that you will quickly learn more about today, and my colleague here.

LAUREN: Hi, I'm Lauren, developer and strategy development in the community as well.

DEBOSH: All right, so we will begin, just by a quick show of hands, how many of you have heard of NYC service before? Okay, excellent. So we are looking forward to doing about talking a little bit more about our work and direction that we are headed in as well as some of the research and evaluation work that is done around volunteerism within our office just to better understand how residents engaging in service across the city so we are very much looking forward to that and I want to thank Sarah for inviting and we are hoping that as the city engagement moves forward that we can

work with you again. So I am looking forward to that.

So to talk a little bit what we are. NYC service is a division of the mayor's office, you can think of us as the volunteerism service engagement of the city, our lens, I know it means a lot of different things is really volunteers in the service that is our lens of the civic engagement, we heavily rely on partnerships to do our work and to expand city engagements and volunteers and service programs to create sustainable change in the city's greatest needs and our needs is advancing civic engagement from New Yorkers to older groups and how to build an equitable city and men moving over to our values, these are the things we do our work, participation in life long civic engagement, it is a right to everyone and it is also a privilege and a responsibility. Diversity and inclusion, respecting the fact that residents bring good experience to the community challenges.

Community is very important to the work that we do and understanding that the communities and the organizations that exist within the work that we work with is bringing live assets to the table and that is something we rely heavily on the collaboration to make it happen and those are the kind of things that we do with our work and building communities within our partnerships.

So to talk a little bit about our goals and moving forward in the next couple of years, we have been thinking live about is how to reach our communities and many different programs to run and partnering with a lot of city agencies and non-profits in the city

and we want to make sure that we have reached communities that we have not traditionally worked with and in addition to that, want to partner with city agencies for a greater impact and that includes the city engagement commission and finally developing systems for data analysis and collection. And we will get into some of the data that we have collected and shared and that is something that is important to us, what does volunteering and services look like across the city and how to their information across the city and build a program that recognizes that and these are a couple of private areas. I will run them through quickly. One area is the capacity building, working with city agencies and -- national service and support, you heard of America, before, our organization -- our office runs for different national programs known as the American programs and we also partner with other American organizations across the city that does similar work, thinking of best practices and how to advocate across the city. Partner and private partnerships how to engage the city and employees to contribute to the city's greatest needs and volunteer service.

Outreach, how to reach colleges and universities and other resident groups and understanding their work better and partner with them to advance volunteer service and finally volunteer strategy and development and again looking at the big picture what is volunteer service in New York City and then keeping a special eye on youth in particular, high school youth how they engage in the city and how they use their voice to contribute things in the solving of things.

I will hand it over to Lauren.

LAUREN: Thanks. So one of the things that we think a lot about on the volunteer strategy is that to question anybody is a good fan off the good place, a show itself, what do we owe each other as New Yorkers, fellow human beings and residents and I will dive into 2 points. Number one, sharing work expansion and understanding what work engagement looks like across New York City and the second point is to look at a quick overview of the things we are learning about and what civic engagement look like in New York City and our team strategizes in a different way and looking at the analysis of civic engagement and oftentimes volunteerism is something that is seen as nice and not necessary but we view volunteer service as critical to the city and come together and feel they have agency in the communities and also outreach because we know a lot to translate this and residents and understand this and make decisions around the community around it and the community part that de-Porsche touched on is to understand that the community is the experts already and how to help them provide a better framework and thought on how to do together.

One of the things we have done over the last couple of years is a study. The first study is that we conceptualized about what is the civic engagement spectrum? Because there are a variety of ways and honoring this variety of ways with that a lot of research is saying that people want to get involved is that they feel the responsibility to get involved in particular at this time right now, so how do we

capitalized on that and recognize that there are so many ways that the city is working on this and how to bring those together. Two things that studies that we have done, the first one was done 3 years ago and this was a study we did in Queens, I spoke with over 850 people and replicated a national survey and we did focus groups and talked about 80 people in that and really looked at and asked a lot of questions that were going on at the federal level. And it was something where we just kept saying what if because if you look at the national data, actually there is it a good slide here, the national volunteer average was about 25 percent, when you looked at New York City data, the New York City was about 14 percent, through the study, we had one additional question to what the federal government asked and asking about do you volunteer on the behalf of your house of worship and for a religious organization and that is where we saw a huge leap in engagement, so if you look on the top, it's a little small but people were primarily volunteering for religious group and house of worship and this is attending services and for school groups and when you look at this by race, this is especially black and Hispanics are engaging and it's looking at an encompassing across the country what volunteerism look like and it's a fundamental way to understand service in New York City.

The other things that we found, the second finding was the personal interest of identity and the people that volunteer. I won't go into all of these but fulfilling principles make a difference and wanting to succeed on the need and the community to wanting repair

that and a couple of other things that should be no surprise to people here but people volunteering and/or attending town hall, the community needs and all of those correlate to each other, but people engage in one way tend to be engaged another way, we heard a really good story about the narratives about how people heard about that going on in the community which led to other engagement.

The final thing we found in that study is people looking at the study is that a lack of time is huge. The in New York City, the average community time is 45 minutes and that is the largest in the country. And that might have been added in the last couple of years and really finding opportunities locally because we spend every day on buses and cars and finding opportunities that are local that you don't have to access is paramount. And the second study we did was so different than the national level on the traditional levels of engagement and New York City and we wanted to try to replicate this on the city level, last year we did a city wide of voters and were sent an e-mail to click a link and fill out a survey. With this, we had almost 12 thousand residents fill out a survey in New York City and again found some of the things that were consistent from the first door to door in Queens and in this 12.8 percent of people volunteered and that is higher than what is traditionally thought of in New York City. And you can see in the bottom left hand corner here, this will help us along with other New York City agencies how to inform us and get neighborhood data to look at community efforts and a variety of civic engagement in New York City and again, this is very similar and I

won't go over it but people want to make a difference and people that didn't had too many time demands and this one is relevant, that they don't like to get involved in political matters, seeing volunteering synonymous as getting involved politically.

Just to end, a couple of things that we do, we have our annual volunteer report, we have done this annually for 5 years and in the last one, we publish in April and last year, for the second year in a row, we are able to attract a million volunteers in the city from 420 non-profits and city agencies and we have been mention indeed NYC and goal and increase that number by an additional 5 percent each year and we have a mayor recognition program where nominations can recommend more and get a certificate. And we had almost 4 thousand people that received certificates and that grows every year and organizations being able to recognize their volunteers and we are looking next year to expand the impact to build a platform and drive the civic engagement narrative in New York City and how to look at this as a way to communicate with civic engagement community and looking at the core of the work, engagement is providing resident agencies and the community to thrive in those connections and a second piece is to look at volunteering is that residents are making impacts on a local level and inclusiveness into the city and as a core of the city that we are and with the administration and the example we are providing across the city the importance of engagement and how to include the civic engagement and anything you want to add? Thank you so much.

SARAH SAYEED: We literally have about 2 minutes before we turn to public comment, so does anyone have any questions on anything that has been said? You do, José?

JOSE HERNANDEZ: Yes, the mayor's office with disabilities is also doing some studying on civic engagement, do you guys in building partnerships, do you guys think you can partner with the NOP and share this information with them?

LAUREN: Absolutely, and Debosh can speak with this and we have a bureau that builds other city agency volunteer platforms.

DEBOSH: Absolutely, I think there are several units of the mayor's and as well as other city agencies with civic engagement, and we worked with them, 19 last year and we are working with about 12 this year and there is a definite connection and opportunity for collaboration with a city organization across the board or within a particular program. Thank you for sharing that.

SARAH SAYEED: And the CEC will also work with MOPD, for sure.

JOSE HERNANDEZ: I'm at all their meetings.

SARAH SAYEED: That's great.

MARK DILLER: A lot of rich data and in your presentation, is it available online or it can be shared?

DEBOSH: It is. I shared a copy in the Queens department and it will be available on the website as well.

JOSE HERNANDEZ: One more question. Does it violate -- volunteerism also depend on the neighborhood and the education level because you have western Queens borough would be different.

DEBOSH: We didn't highlight it here but within the report itself, there is a lot of data and breaks apart the notion of who is volunteering and education doesn't make a difference, income didn't make much of a difference as well, these are all things that have been very interesting for us to really look at and also I think it's the expansion of looking at what civic engagement constitute that people do a lot more of it that they themselves don't think about and volunteering in engaging civically.

LAUREN: Right, and also for us to recognize that volunteering comes in different forms and people may not even call it volunteerism because it may be apart of their inherent culture or who they are but there are things that people do every day that should be considered patron.

SARAH SAYEED: So, thank you so much. To both of you. Thank you.

[Applause]

Will you leave the report somewhere? You're welcomed to continue to hang out but we'll be good. Okay, I didn't if you were leaving or not. Okay, thank you. So the last part of the meeting will be public comment, we had 2 people that actually signed up. Thank you for end that blinding light. The first person I would like to call upon and I think that mic is now turned on is Jamill Rose, the civic advocate for the New York City public advocacy office, are you here? Is she here? No? Okay. Sorry, yes?

AUDIENCE: I'm sorry, I didn't you could sign in for questions.

SARAH SAYEED: Just to clarify this last segment is not for Q

and A, but maybe at the end, there might be a chance but we will take the comments from people who signed up to offer comment. So if Jamill is not here, the next person on the list is Cathy Park, of citizen squirrel she is involved of participatory budget in her district and also on community board 6, so Cathy, the floor is yours, thank you for being here.

CATHY PARK: Thank you for offering public comment, my name is Cathy Park and I am a member of community board 6 of Brooklyn and the chair of community services there and a member of the district committee for city counsel district 39 which is in Park Slope, Carol Gardens and also a member of the CEC 15 which is the community education health are equivalent of the school board in school district 15 and also founder of citizen squirrel that encourages children to be civically engaged. I have met many of you and I have been to your commission meetings, it is a priority and I am really excited about the work that the commissioners are willing to do so want to talk about the PB and citizen squirrel. In district 9 I started in PB civic and now I am on the leadership team of PB in the only district that has a district committee and I submitted an idea 1 year and my idea did not win and separate for not winning, it was not an equitable process, the next year I wanted to get involved and get involved in the process and this year I am on the leadership team and make the process more equitable and we are entering cycle 9 and we have learned a lot in the district, we're still experimenting and evolving and Amy, you are familiar with PB in the neighborhood and

I want to welcome the commissioners to audit our, you know, come to our meetings, we are kicking off the process tonight in Kensington for this process and have been admitting ideas online since June and this is the most established PB in the city and I welcome other districts to connect with us and that could be one of the contexts.

Also, next Citizen Squirrel, I start a year ago that the basic idea that civic engagement can be aged down and look at the the family as a unit, too, because we often look at individuals and we do have sort of this, I think, a barrier when we say, you know, people feel that your vote -- you don't really count until you can vote and we are aging down the discussion of reducing and lowering the voter age which is coming down and there are groups like generation citizen that encourage and engage middle school students, you know, high school students were once that frontier and middle school students and being a mother of two small children, my kids do want to be apart of it and they really can participate and can see in tangible ways how their participation can lead to concrete change and have an impact.

So I am planning the civic engagement workshop for families for January 2020, the first one was a big experiment and I didn't know what to expect, over 50 kids and their families turned out on a January day in Park Slope and it was a huge hit, you can Google it, if you Google civic engagement in civic squirrel, it's on the NYC website and I want the commissioners to be part of the 2020 workshop that may be held at the public library in central park and I have a template

that I am offering to other neighborhoods and community leaders because I can't do it for my self but I want to create a template for my self and that is my few minutes, but thank you commissions.

SARAH SAYEED: People with questions or thoughts?

CATHY PARK: Yes, citizen squirrel at NYC.com.

SARAH SAYEED: We have a comment.

CATHY PARK: Oh, great.

MARK DILLER: You mentioned this as a community input in the PB process, it has been my experience in Manhattan that folks and counsel members not just one have been moving away from multiple neighborhoods in personal sentiments and more personal along the line the facilitation ideas and it takes a lot of staff to do these assemblies as well and what are your impressions about those choices?

CATHY PARK: You're absolutely Correct, Mark. We relaunched the form online but it is our second year and have already hundreds of submissions online and we get a lot of feedback of the Din in-person because hearing other people's ideas spark other ideas knowing what worked in the past and seeing how people present their cases, there is a need to have those in-person connections, quorums but the online submissions have been really popular and do address that need.

AMY BREEDLOVE: I wanted to ask a quick question, so first of all, thank you for being so civically engaged, Cathy, that is great you mentioned you went to civic to leader in the process. Can you give us quick thoughts on that synthesis? Can you tell us what led you to ascending?

CATHY PARK: I will be brief because we're short on time but I think, Rod, you mentioned a street pole light costs a million dollars and I saw that schools need bathroom doors or tires replaced, while this process focuses on and this is an equity issue, the schools should have those, these are basic things, this million dollars should not be divvied up for essential things but things they should take care of without the process and I realize over time that the conversation around the projects doesn't end when the project wins or loses so I saw that it's not just the vote and it's not just who leads the most lead. And because the conversation can and those projects can still get funded with organizations, other organizations and groups see that okay this is on the map now and put a project on the map, so I had a project for a side walk, I tagged it Lynch Field sidewalk and it is a sidewalk shared with cars and it is a dangerous portion of the park and it didn't win but I'm told that the Prospect Park 2 alliance is creating that sidewalk. I don't care that it didn't win, it's happening and I strongly know that it started with that conversation. And so, I guess that's how it evolved because it came from -- started with there are so many awesome projects in schools and organizations that need these things. Well, what are the other benefits? It's a gateway to participation and I just wanted to share that enthusiasm with my neighbors and you all, too. And I wanted to say this before that I want to emphasize that I want to support the commissioners on your initiatives.

SARAH SAYEED: Any other questions? From the folks here, the

commissioners, any comments before we go back to? Yeah, Donna?

DONNA GILL: You will share the information with us?

CATHY PARK: Sure, Dr. Sayeed share it to you and circulate it about citizen squirrel and PB and district 39.

SARAH SAYEED: Sure. That would be great.

CATHY PARK: Can I also take a group picture. I think everybody is here, the commissioners.

SARAH SAYEED: Almost everyone. Lori is not here. Thanks, Catherine. We have a couple of minutes left, did Jamill Rose come in?

MARK DILLER: I think she left.

SARAH SAYEED: She left, okay. Anyone else want to say something? We have a hand, there we go, Betsy.

BETSY: Hello, everybody, it is a real honor to be here and making space for this and accommodating me though I haven't signed in advance, I am an antiracist democracy and I am a number of district of 39 and serving as a delegate this year, I have been working with PB data set in the last 2 years doing an analysis of what people pay for looking at the participatory budget and looking at what city counsel is spending on verses what a participatory budget is asking them to spend on and I wanted to share a couple of elements on that and some ideas that I have that should be considered. For me, civic engagement is how communities decide together. This form of self governing is the bed rock of a functioning democracy.

Currently, there were over a hundred thousand people that showed

up and vote and more so that showed up at the climate strike and that is a scale I ask you to consider and last year, there was a civic that did it for all for a participatory process that was small. This year, there will be a 150 New York City schools that will do that process and that means that on July 2020, all people with the experience of participatory budget in New York City will be teen agers and younger, and I want to put that information into your heads when you consider what you want to do with this program. As far as programs are concerned, I look at PB on different levels and decisions of what the strategies are and the process decisions of the tactics and what we use to implement those strategies and project level decisions that are largely done in concert with the city agencies that are required to implement the outcomes of the PB processes. And when it comes to program level decisions, I think there are 3 different things that I encourage you to consider.

One is the pot of lending, will it be capital or expense, a great example that came up earlier was the issue of the self definition classes that you can pay with expense months but can't be with the pots of one. One thing I saw in my analysis going back to PB in 2012 is that the vast majority of these projects are not implemented and people are not seeing the outcomes of those that data sets and the day-to-day is what challenges the participatory budget and discourages people. And considering the pot of money and the what are the restrictions of funds will be very important.

The second element that is important to consider is the biases

you are looking to address, it is not necessary to think about it in terms of every single person in New York City in the process. And I ran out of time.

SARAH SAYEED: If you could wrap up that sentence, would love to have you back later.

BETSY: Something to consider, there are processes and other places in the world that focus on youth and/or elder beings in a particular process, it's something to consider, thank you so much for your time.

SARAH SAYEED: Yep. Anybody for comments or questions?

Speaker: Can you share your board project?

BETSY: I am currently working on it but I will definitely send it to Dr. Sayeed.

SARAH SAYEED: You can be back with your presentation.

BETSY: I would be thrilled to be. Any more questions?

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: I have a comment. I would love to hear more.

BETSY: Yeah, I have been here for all of the meetings and I will be definitely back I am very keen to work with this.

MARK DILLER: When you come back and you will soon, one of the things I would like to hear more about is that you were talking about the engagement of youth and the students connection' to PB, I'm aware of some schools but they actually have a course in civic engagement, you call it different things, is that the thing you were talking about?

BETSY: Yes, absolutely. So the civics for all programs is currently enrolled for all New York City schools and that is an integral part of the citizen squirrel program and as an antiracist advocate that is a huge opportunity in New York for what an antiracist democracy could look like and I hope that results in the work that you will doing here in the city engagement.

SARAH SAYEED: We can ask the DOE to come here about that curriculum and PB on the implementation side.

MARK DILLER: And there were even teachers here that did civics for all were even created and perhaps that is where civics for all came from. But I wouldn't limit that net.

SARAH SAYEED: Yeah, I would love to hear more of your input on that presentation.

MARK DILLER: Great.

SARAH SAYEED: Others? Okay, well thank you, Betsy for that. Or there any other public comments or questions from anybody in the audience? All right, I want to thank you all for being here for this and hopefully we'll continue. Did you all like this format of doing the public forum at the end and we will keep doing that as we go along and we will move towards closing out this meeting but I wanted to ask are there any announcements or any issues that we missed from any of the commissioners have anything to add or anything you want to add to the next meetings' agenda?

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: So as we continue to think through moving forward with the participatory budget, I would love to hear from folks

that are experienced in partnering with religious institutions because as just Betsy mentioned immigrants and we saw that reflected in the presentation from the NYC service that for certain communities, particularly immigrant communities, religious institutions is probably a place where civic engagement happens and is vibrant.

So, I would love to have us think about how we can scale that and I would love to hear from folks about good practices around that and I will just continue to put that on the table. For us to think about how we engage religious institutions if we are truly committed to engaging this, you know, entire city.

SARAH SAYEED: I think that is a really great question and maybe it's something that we need to systematically look like, the question is how have religious institutions been engage indeed this process and I don't know the answer to that and for the people that have done PB in their district, I don't know if you know the answer, are there religious institutions?

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: So I want to add that beyond New York City's experiences, perhaps there are other places we can learn from.

SARAH SAYEED: Yeah, that is a really great point. Terrific. Any other thing that you want to see included in future meetings?

LILLIAM PEREZ: I have a question, you and I spoke before about the possibility and you all thought about this, bringing these meetings into the communities, public sessions, instead of hosting them always here at this time, not many people have the ability to

come in and see what we are doing and see our ideas so hosting them in one of the other 5 boroughs, doesn't have to happen every month.

SARAH SAYEED: Yeah, we did talk about this a little bit -- did you want to say something?

ANASTASIA SOMOZA: The only thing we discussed about in previous meetings is the accessibility and the members of the commission, I think it's Holly lives all the way out in Staten Island and after the first meeting, she talked about how difficult it is to get to these meetings from an accessibility stand point and I love the idea of being able to do it but the reality is the city is not accessible enough and you really see that in the outer boroughs. And I know that José drives and has access to that but I don't, I really rely on public transportation and it takes me hours to get -- for example, I went the other day to visit family friends in the Bronx and the only way I could do it was to pay for Ubers back and forth and that costs a lot of money, I couldn't do that on a regular basis.

SARAH SAYEED: So one thing we can do is encourage people in the communities to watch us and be apart of the live stream and we could also talk about the ways that maybe we could get people to participate online and set up that system for those that can't want to come but it's too far away. The other thing is that I think you're right, we do need to be out in the boroughs and doing more things so we have to find a way to do that, rather to just reach more people, very good point.

ANNETTA SEECHARRAN: We did talk about the listening sessions.

SARAH SAYEED: Yeah. Yeah.

Speaker: So one thought is that I know we have a vast transportation system in the city so if we could get a better location and transported to the different areas that may be a way for us to get to one location to another.

SARAH SAYEED: That is an interesting idea, yeah. Like a school trip or something. Like a commission trip.

Speaker: Or the city could go cover cost for people like transportation and that's not a huge burden to ask either. I've seen it done in other things.

SARAH SAYEED: Yep. Terrific.

AMY BREEDLOVE: And just for clarification, the next meeting is October 29th, is that correct?

SARAH SAYEED: Yes. And who was talking to me earlier to try to make this regular, like having it be a 2nd Tuesday of every month, I'm not sure how do that because it's hard to coordinate everybody's schedule, the next meet is 3 meetings 10/29, 4 to 6; 11/18, 4 to 6; 12/18, 4 to 6. And these are times that I was able to get 8 people for which we do need people to make those meetings and that was the time that we could get the most people and it's a bit of a struggle and hopefully if we know ahead of time, people can make arrangements for the conflicts. Anyone else have any other comments and if there is no other addition, do I hear a motion to adjourn the meeting? So the motion has been adjourned and seconded and favored and let's all say "I." And I call this meeting adjourned. Thank you so much, and

look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

[End]

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