

Minutes for the New West 123rd Street Block Association & Community Garden General
Membership Meeting: **May 30th, 2012**

The agenda of this meeting was primarily geared towards discussing the recent events that occurred in the Community Garden. Roland Chouloute from Green Thumb was present to answer questions and address any concerns. In terms of attendance, there was a great turn out from the community.

Meeting commenced around 7:10pm, at which point Jackie Albano gave an overview of what happened in the Community Garden. Here are a few highlights:

- The Block Association is currently active in reaching out to several agencies including Greenthumb, Parks Department and the Manhattan Borough President's Office.
- We have to take an audit of everything that was lost. The garden was completely destroyed; we have to start all over. First, the top two feet of soil has to be removed due to possibly toxic soil
- The developer is working with us to reimburse for the items lost; Parks will file a claim on our behalf. Once we provide a list of losses, Parks will submit the list to the developer's insurance company
- It is difficult to put a timeline on this project, as it is a staged process, but we do have the full support of Greenthumb and the Parks Department and are moving forward steadily.
- Aaron Albano added that we were able to document what was in the garden before the demolition and this information (the site plan, list of losses) is with the developer who is filing a claim on our behalf to return these losses.
- AA: the first step is for the developer and insurance company to settle what can be replaced. As far as finances go, our current balance is \$7,900.30. This number is primarily donations and was going to go towards the garden gate.

Various concerns were raised by attendees of the meeting, some of which included of testing the soil, the effect of the dust cloud that occurred upon the collapse of that building and what can the residents do to directly address this issue. Residents were urged to both become a member of the Block Association (membership gives you a voice!) and to utilize 311 and put pressure on the city to quicken the process and to get questions answered. Questions were also raised as to how to safely go about collecting soil samples and about insurance matters.