

Community Board 12 Licensing Committee

Minutes, January 15, 2014

Committee Members Present: Aldemar Diaz (Chair); Shah Ally (Assistant Chair); Rolando Cespedes; Michael Diaz; Edith Prentiss; Maceo Raysor; Angela Sanchez

Committee Members Excused:

Committee Members Absent: Ulises Noboa, Anina Young

CB12 Members Present: George Fernandez, Chair; Ariel Ferreira, Second Vice Chair; Manny De Los Santos

CB12 Staff Members Present: Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Community Members Present: Nancy Preston, Jose Vivas, Thomas Hui, Mike Reina, Aldrick Blanco, Jesus Perez, Richard Wong, Michael Alberto, Yuri Prohhorov, Rodrigo Pastor, Nicholas Romero, Eleni Bourinaris-Suarez (Office of Councilman Levine), Yokarina Duarte (Office of Councilman Rodriguez)

A. Welcome and Opening Remarks: Aldemar Diaz, Committee Chair

B. State Liquor Authority Renewal Licenses:

On-Premises Liquor License

1. Kiara Foods Inc. dba Manolo Tapas Restaurant - 4165 4167 & 4169 Broadway, (bet. W. 176th & W. 177th Sts.)

Owner/Representative	Jesus Perez – Owner
Type of Establishment	Spanish restaurant
Hours of Operation	Mon-Thurs 12pm-12am and Fri-Sun 12pm -2am
Tables/Chairs	15 tables and 60 chairs
Music	iPod; live music, Fri, Sat & Sun, 9:30pm-1:30am
Security Cameras	24 cameras, throughout the restaurant
Security Personnel	No
ADA Compliant?	Yes (front door, bathroom and upstairs dining room, but not private dining room located in the basement)
Employees	10
Capacity	72
Emergency Exits	3 exits
Restaurant Letter Grade	A
33rd/34th Precinct	33 rd Pct – no opposition

Community Comments	(1) No opposition from Council member Rodriguez; (2) Member of the community states that there are noise complaints from the establishment. Owner indicates that his establishment is sound proof and that he has visited the neighbor's apartment. There is no indication from the 33 rd Precinct that there is a noise issue at the location. (3) Building has not put together a petition from building residents regarding the noise complaints.
Stipulations	None
Notes	(1) This is the establishments 2 nd renewal of the license; (2) no objection from the CB 12 on the last renewal.
Committee Vote	Yes/No/Abstain: 5/0/0

2. Trustees of Columbia University dba The Faculty Club - 630 W. 168th Street, (bet. Broadway & Ft. Washington Aves.)

Owner/Representative	Michael Alberto – Faculty Club director
Type of Establishment	Restaurant/catering
Hours of Operation	Monday – Friday from 7am to 7pm
Tables/Chairs	120 chairs
Music	Ipod; occasional DJ, adhering to University noise policy
Security Cameras	6 cameras at the entrance and in the hallways
Security Personnel	Licensed Columbia University Public Safety Officers
ADA Compliant?	Yes
Employees	18
Capacity	150
Emergency Exits	2 (located by the conference rooms)
Restaurant Letter Grade	A
33rd/34th Precinct	33 rd PCT – no opposition
Community Comments	None
Stipulations	None
Notes	(1) No objection from CB 12 on last renewal; (2) Council member Rodriguez does not oppose.
Committee Vote	Yes/No/Abstain: 5/0/0

C. State Liquor Authority New Licenses:

On-Premise Liquor License

3. Merlion Specialty Foods Inc. - 813 W. 187th Street, (bet. Ft. Washington & Cabrini Blvd.)

Owner/Representative	Simon Hui – Owner
Type of Establishment	American restaurant Fusion
Hours of Operation	Mon. – Fri. 11:30am-11p; Sat. 10a – 11p and Sun 10a – 10:30p

Tables/Chairs	24 tables and 56 chairs; 9 bar stools.
Music	Background
Security Cameras	Yes – 3 at bar/4 in dining room and 2 kitchen
Security Personnel	None
ADA Compliant?	The bar and restaurant are separately compliant. The space between the bar and restaurant has a step. A ramp is available upon request for access between the bar and restaurant.
Employees	8
Capacity	74
Emergency Exits	2 fire exits in front of premises
Restaurant Letter Grade	A (last inspection was 12/12)
33rd/34th Precinct	34 th PCT – no objections
Community Comments	None
Stipulations	None
Notes	(1) Member suggest that the restaurant have a sign indicating that a ramp is available; (2) Council member Rodriguez wants to meet the owners prior to the general meeting.
Committee Vote	Yes/No/Abstain: 7/0/0

4. Marisco Caribeno Inc. dba Marisco Centro - 1490 St. Nicholas Avenue, (at the corner of W. 185th Street.)

Owner/Representative	Zoilo Ramirez (owner)
Type of Establishment	Seafood Restaurant
Hours of Operation	Fri – Sun 10am – 4am and Mon. – Thurs. 10a – 2am (last call is one hour prior to closing)
Tables/Chairs	35 tables and 150 chairs
Music	Ipod, live music (karaoke on Tuesday nights til 2am)
Security Cameras	16 cameras (14 inside and 2 outside)
Security Personnel	None
ADA Compliant?	Yes (front door and bathrooms)
Employees	35
Capacity	172
Emergency Exits	4 exits (2 in front and 2 in the back)
Restaurant Letter Grade	Pending (previous grade was an A)
33rd/34th Precinct	34 th PCT – No objections
Community Comments	None
Stipulations	(1) Council member would like to meet with owner prior to general meeting
Notes	(1) Owner uses Rush valet parking
Committee Vote	Yes/No/Abstain: 6/0/1

5. 565 West Side Cafe Corp. dba TBD - 565 W. 207th Street, (bet. Sherman & Vermilyea Avenues.)

Owner/Representative	Richard Wong represented by Frank Palillo
Type of Establishment	Restaurant - Spanish
Hours of Operation	Sun – Thurs 11am – 2am and Fri/Sat 11am – 3:30am
Tables/Chairs	12 tables (6 high tops) and 48 seats
Music	iPod and occasional karaoke; DJ on the weekends until 1:45am
Security Cameras	16 security cameras (interior and exterior throughout)
Security Personnel	Yes, 4 who are NYS licensed
ADA Compliant?	No
Employees	15-20
Capacity	74
Emergency Exits	None – just front entrance
Restaurant Letter Grade	Pending – restaurant not open yet
33rd/34th Precinct	34 th PCT – Abstain from making a decision until a walk through is conducted with the establishment.
Community Comments	(1) Community member inquired if there will be soundproofing. Owner indicates that he will sound proof the restaurant
Stipulations	
Notes	(1) Owner agrees to purchase a ramp to accommodate the one step located on the front door; (2) Council member Rodriguez would like to meet the owner prior to the general meeting;
Committee Vote	Yes/No/Abstain:6/0/1

Restaurant Wine License

6. Las Palmas Restaurant Inc. - 3891 Broadway,(at the corner of W. 163rd Street.)

Owner/Representative	Jose Vivas
Type of Establishment	Mexican food
Hours of Operation	8am to 2am 7 days a week, Last call at 1:45am
Tables/Chairs	9 tables and 36 chairs
Music	Juke box
Security Cameras	14 cameras, located throughout the restaurant
Security Personnel	No
ADA Compliant?	Yes
Employees	4
Capacity	75 persons
Emergency Exits	2 exits (front door and through basement)
Restaurant Letter Grade	Grade Pending
33rd/34th Precinct	33 rd Pct – requesting a meeting with the owner prior to rendering an opinion

Community Comments	None
Stipulations	None
Notes	(1) Council member Levine requests a meeting with owner prior to general meeting
Committee Vote	Yes/No/Abstain: 7/0/0

7. Yudyt Restaurant Inc. - 1626 St. Nicholas Avenue, (bet. W. 191st & W. 192nd Streets.)

Owner/Representative	Aldick Blanco – Mike Reina (Accountant)
Type of Establishment	Spanish food -
Hours of Operation	2am – 10pm 7 days a week (owner indicates that Restaurant will cater to taxi drivers on late shifts)
Tables/Chairs	46 seats and 8 tables
Music	Juke box
Security Cameras	12 cameras
Security Personnel	Yes - Fri – sun from 2am – 7am/ NYS licensed
ADA Compliant?	Yes
Employees	7
Capacity	75
Emergency Exits	2 (front door and basement)
Restaurant Letter Grade	A (lasted inspected in May 2013)
33rd/34th Precinct	34 th PCT – No objections
Community Comments	None
Stipulations	None
Notes	(1) Council member Rodriguez would like to meet the owner prior to general meeting.
Committee Vote	Yes/No/Abstain: 6/0/1

D. New Business/Adjournment:

1. Committee discusses the need to update the Applicants Questionnaire Form;
2. Committee suggests that applicants seek advice and counsel to educate on the application process;

LAND USE COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2014

Committee Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair
James Berlin
Dulce Bueno
Tamara Rivera
Steve Simon
Jason Miller
Isaiah Bing

Committee Members Absent

Board Members Present

Elizabeth Lehman
Kelley Boyd
George Fernandez

Public Member Present

Vivian Ducat

Public Member Absent

Staff: Debra Blow

Guests: Osi Kaminer, Rita Gorman, Vadim Moldover, Candice Delevante

1. The Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. Land Use Committee ("Land Use" or the "Committee") Chair Wayne Benjamin began the meeting by welcoming committee members and guests. He advised that the discussion with representatives of the Manhattan Bible Church schedule for tonight's meeting was rescheduled to March at the church's request.
2. Chair Benjamin advised the Committee that Planning Fellow Jessie Such has requested that the Committee consider changing the focus of his work plan from further review of contextual zoning to a study focused on the Bridge Apartments, near the George Washington Bridge and over Interstate 95. After discussion the Committee unanimously agreed that Jesse should continue to focus on contextual zoning; Chair Benjamin will communicate this to him.
3. Chair Benjamin requested that the office follow-up with the Board of Standard and Appeals on the status of SoBro's proposed Fort George Hill project. In December 2013 the Community Board passed a resolution opposing the project.
4. The Committee discussed goals and priorities for 2014. The discussion generally covered the following topics.
 - i. Evaluate the potential of decking over the MTA Train Yard located between 215th and 207th Street west of the Harlem River and East of 10th Avenue to facilitate new residential and other development. This is a matter the Board requested that the City review at the time the Sherman Creek rezoning study was active.
 - ii. Prepare a summary of our district needs as it relates to land use and planning for the De Blasio administration. Topics discussed in the meeting consist of rezoning, affordable housing, preservation of affordable housing and funding available through HPD.
 - iii. Identify what areas can be rezoned to accommodate residential development, for example the rezoning of C8 districts that CB12 has already requested.

- iv. Identify potential development sites for new housing including city- and privately-owned sites and infill sites.
- v. Pass a resolution to reiterate CB12's past support for matters such as mandatory inclusionary zoning, contextual zoning, and the development and preservation of affordable housing.
- vi. Evaluate the community district's infrastructure needs, such as technology (Wi-Fi, bandwidth) and power, to satisfy existing buildings as well as new development.

5. After further discussion the Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jason Miller and Wayne Benjamin

Business Development Committee

Minutes, January 7, 2014

Committee Members Present: Anina Young (Chair), Jason Miller, Ellen Ackerman, Richard Allman, Ariel Ferreira

Committee Members Excused: Christopher Smith

Committee Members Absent: Victor Santos, Rud Morales

CB12 Staff Members Present:

CB12 Members Present: George Fernandez

Community Members Present: Jerry Castanos, Small Business Owner

Guest Speakers:

A. Welcome & Opening Remarks by Anina Young

Re-cap of November and December 2013 meetings.

Rebecca Karp, Government and Community Relations, The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey spoke about MWBE certification for The PANYNJ.

She gave an overview of the bus station project and how the process is conducted.

They had an event in September inviting the public to learn more about the process

B. New/Old Business

The future of the Business Development committee and where we want it to go. We discussed having workshops, holding events to benefit incoming businesses i.e. a Small Business Entrepreneur Forum.

Jason Miller raised the issue of trying to reach out to landlords of vacant space to see whether they would be willing to temporarily lend out their space to local arts groups. The concept of a pop-up store or an art gallery – a moving art gallery. It would provide vibrancy to the area other than a bar or restaurant.

Ariel Ferreira suggested looking at the Small business Committee at the city and state levels to learn about what they are discussing as they may be topics we would want to address or would be something we would want to design a resolution on.

What is the role of the Committee?

Ariel cited Education and Advocacy.

Anina cited Small Business Expo for existing businesses as well as businesses that are contemplating starting up.

Jason raised the idea of starting a mentoring program for small businesses.

Everyone agreed on finding a way to connect resources to small businesses.

An idea for harnessing tourism.

Discussion around a Business Incubator.

Curiosity about the new Administration's agenda related to businesses.

C. Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 pm.

CB12M-Youth and Education Committee

Monday, January 13, 2014

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

Committee Members Present: Fe Florimón, Chair; Chris Smith, Asst. Chair; Manny De los Santos; María Luna; Lorena Jiménez Castro; Ayisha Oglivie

Committee Members Excuse; Alyce Smith

Public Members Absent: Shaun Abreu, Student at Columbia University

CB12 Members Present: Mr. George Fernandez, Chair

Community Members: Police Athletic League Inc; Laura Katz- KIPP; Mery Melendez, KIPP Parent; Wileen Jamison, Tenants Association

The Chair Fe Florimón called the meeting to order at 7: 20PM.

Chair introduced herself, the members of the committee and the chair of the board. Those present then introduced themselves including many (about 32) youth representative from WHEELS Schools. The agenda was also reviewed, with amendments

Open issues

Community Board function and roles was reviewed. The students discussed their particular areas of concerns that they are seeing how change would be possible. Sample topics included childhood obesity, problem of violence in the schools, and school to prison pipeline.

- The committee reviewed the work of the committee during 2013, including 19 meetings (10 weeknight and 9 Saturday) including involvement of youth especially within the Saturday meeting forums.
- The committee took leadership of the issue of teenage representatives on community boards, issues of exploring capital funding that seemed to not be used by a school, worked on budget prioritization, a scholarship forum
- Passed three resolutions
 - ✓ Co-location of schools
 - ✓ Lack of release of funding to the city by the state after CFE lawsuit
 - ✓ Involvement in the Upper Manhattan Educational Cooperative
- Completed the third year of Saturday meetings
- Three forums especially designed for:
 - ✓ youth and parent involvement;
 - ✓ Teens on Board – to allow 16 and 17 year-olds on Community Boards in New York City;
 - ✓ Scholarship opportunities for High School Seniors
- The safety of drinking fountain water in school was also explored and resolved

The committee considered committee goals for 2014. Discussion centered around the importance of youth participation and voice as well as the different political environment. This conversation will be continued next month.

CB12M-Youth and Education Committee

Monday, January 13, 2014

The Assistance Chair highlighted some important events and deadlines:

- ✓ Special event on Common Core Standards at Isabella on February 6th.
- ✓ Saturday event focused on scholarship opportunities at Isabella on March 1st
- ✓ Upcoming committee meeting on Saturday and Monday, February 1st and 10th
- ✓ Congressional internship deadline of February 5th

Community processes of change were reviewed.

- ✓ The chair explored aspects of committee member involvement. This included the importance of everybody involved and sharing the responsibility of the committee.
- ✓ The last meeting of the Upper Manhattan Education Collaborative (CB and CEC representatives) was reviewed. The current work is focused on providing a guide to help people navigate the school system.

During open community announcements, the following items were raised:

- Event around reducing the age to serve on a community board
- The importance of individuals learning computer coding
- KIPP spoke about their "Calm down space" for prolonged episodes for specific students for the escalation that was featured in the media. Committee members expressed residual concerns and will visit the schools when more specifics about this intervention will also be provided. Additional concern was raised about broader compliance across the district of special needs compliance with mandates and police involvement in schools.
- The letter to SCA about PS 28 has been drafted and should be going out this week.

The assistance chair adjourned the meeting at 9:39pm.

Community Board 12
Public Safety Committee
Jan 8, 2014

Present- Committee Member

Luis Tejada (chair)
Pamela Palanque-North
Liliana Saneaux
Chris Sullivan

Excused

Rud Morales

Present – CB 12

George Fernandez

Agency – Guests

Captain Morales – (34th Precinct)
Inspector Pichardo – (33rd Precinct)

Called meeting to order at 7:15

Opening Remarks

- Good wishes for New Year
- Deep freeze
- Meetings not well attended due to deep freeze
- Congrats to Inspector Pichardo promoted December 23, 2013 33rd Precinct
 - Good things being said about him

Updates from 33rd

Inspector Pichardo

- Focus to work hand in hand with the community board, local businesses and the community at large to make quality of life much better
- Thank you for help with email blasts about identity theft, initiatives, crime prevention
- Ended up with up in crime 2% - 25 actual crimes
 - Bulk – 90 crimes 370 grand larceny (ID theft)
 - Credit card
 - Cell phone
 - Down in rapes, burglaries, car thefts, shootings, robberies
 - Help with grand larceny – ID theft
 - Shred documents or black it out with sharpie
 - Take back to 1994
 - Historical prospective precinct created at tail end of 1993
 - 78 shootings (1994) 7 shootings (2013)
 - 31 murders (1994) 2 murders (2013)
 - 44 rapes (1994) 19 rapes (2013)
 - 683 robberies (1994) 202 robberies (2013)
 - 400 felony assaults (1994) 200 felony assault (2013)
 - 766 burglaries (1994) 118 burglaries (2013)
 - GLA (car theft) (1994) 573 29 GLA (car theft) (2013)
 - Grand larceny 414 (1994) Grand larceny 356 (2013)
 - Look at all categories especially violent crimes - Drastic difference between the two years due to the hard work of the men and women of the precinct
 - Grand larcenies of 1994 not the same as today – chains or electronics or purses back then now ID theft

- The people that work, live or travel through will help this year 2014 in driving down the grand larcenies ID theft by being extra careful –
 - watching when they hand over their credit card and checking to make sure that someone is not using a skimmer to steal their credit card #,
 - making sure no one is watching them using their pin #,
 - making sure that they shred their documents before throwing them out
- 2014 grand larcenies are the ones that we all have to work together to make them go down
- We agree with you especially also cyber crimes and cyber bullying conversations need to be had –
 - Take receipts
 - Shred stuff

Updates from 34th precinct

Captain Ernest Morales – Executive officer

- Up 1.7% - 7 crimes raw #
- Driving the city was grand larceny
- #'s don't matter it's the perception of how you feel in the community
- 34th precinct people feel much safer than 20 years ago
- No incidents of violence during new year's eve 2013
- Current #'s
 - Down 37% - week to date
 - 12 vs. 19 25%
 - 69 vs. 92
 - 11 vs. 11
 - Pattern 12 crimes Verizon wireless on the internet
 - Opened online under someone's name
 - Waiting for UPS FedEx by that address
 - Sign for it without ID
 - We need to ask the delivery people to ask for ID
 - This is not going to eliminate crime but it will reduce
- This year public awareness campaign
- No longer violent crimes
- We are dealing with smarter people so we need to become smarter as well
- Traffic safety issues
 - Pedestrian/bicycles accidents / injuries
 - Bicycle lanes through the city
 - Vehicle traffic laws must be abided by EVERYONE
 - Can't go through lights
 - Pedestrians
 - Use of cell phones
 - Don't use cross walks
 - Summoning people for
 - Jay walking
 - Disorderly conduct
 - First we'd like to do a public awareness campaign before ticketing
 - The problem with these situations is that if the officer comes after the fact he cannot issue a summons – he NEEDS to SEE it to TICKET it.
- Community board will work with the police to make a campaign
- Tejada will offer 52 for meetings with parents or community
- Put out this information
- Educating the community this year
- Many immigrants in this community

- Need to be educated about what is going on.
 - Need to pay attention
- If we can educate the community by having a meeting with parents and students
- We need to practice situational awareness
- PAL – looking for volunteers 14 to 19 years old
 - This will reduce issues within the community
 - They have locations just need volunteers
 - Funding constantly under attack
 - Great project to get behind
 - Wish school would give up space with no charge
 - Problem is custodians get involved and they have to bring cleaners and pay overtime
 - Conversations need to take place to make this happen
 - One city agency helping another city agency there should be no charge especially since it is helping the youth of the area stay off the streets
 - Maybe work with PA to come and talk about program and new initiatives
- Community relations
 - Christmas drive
 - YMCA
 - Donate presents to
 - 200 kids got gifts
 - Wrapping campaign
 - People bring in gifts
 - Coat drives
- What is the situation with the council of the 34th?
 - It is functioning
 - Is there a new president?
 - Not yet
 - Commander Bizetti now leading
 - Past president removed due to conflict of interest
 - Looking for a quorum before vote
 - Several interested candidates
 - Will be up to active members to see who will lead
 - Screening will be done
- Recognized Dr. George Fernandez

Manhattan District Attorney – No Representative

33rd precinct council - No Representative

34th precinct council- No Representative

After discussing all the business on the agenda, committee members present had a discussion about ways to improve communication amongst members. It was brought up that all CB are governed by the NS Open Meeting laws. Members brainstorm possible public forums. PS will be working with the Youth and Education Committee to plan a forum around School violence. Many ideas were discussed which will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at

**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

Community Board 12, Manhattan ~ Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee
January 7, 2014

Attendance: Committee Members: Mitchell Glenn, Chair; David Kach, Assistant Chair; Karen Arthur, Richard Lewis, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter and Chris O'Sullivan; Juan Mejía, Ulises Noboa and Zead Ramadan were absent. Board members: George Fernandez, CB12 Chair. Also present: Shamel Martin, Partnerships for Parks; Andrew Moore and Rene Fan, Quennell Rothschild & Partners; Allan Scholl, George Bloomer and Jennifer Hoppa, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation; Danica Doroski, New York Restoration Project; Eleni Bournaris-Suarez, Office of NYC Councilmember Mark Levine; Osi Kaminer, Paul Kittas, neighborhood residents.

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm in the CB12 meeting room at 560 W. 166th St., 6th floor, with an intro & welcome by Chair, Mitch Glenn.

Jennifer Hoppa introduced a presentation on the reconstruction of Staircase #50 in Ft. Tryon Park: Allan Scholl, Landscape Architect; George Bloomer, Design Supervisor; Andrew Moore: Landscape consultant from Quennell Rothschild. The project will be presented to the Landmarks and Public Design Commissions. Schematic, contract #M029-111M.

Quennell Rothchild has worked in FTP since the '80's, doing many projects including the Alpine Gardens, New Leaf, etc. Staircase #50, built in the 30's, is one of the original features of the Park, and is the most direct connection from the playground at Broadway/Dyckman/Riverside to the Cloisters. The project site is not in a flood zone. Olmsted Brothers wanted to emphasize the park's rough topography in the design. Photographs of the original stairs show level treads and even joints. These have degraded considerably over time. In restoring the stairs the architects must go through and see what is original and what is restored, and rely in addition on the original designs both of the staircase and the plantings. As this is one of the earlier uses of municipal asphalt, it will be proposed in the restoration. There is little evidence of most of the original plantings, the landscaping having been filled in by volunteer plantings. The original planting plan had different species based on seasonal considerations, and where people were most likely to congregate. (E.g., less likely to be in the western section in the Spring, when it is raw and chilly.)

The stairs are hazardous and have been closed for 4 years. They are blocked by snow fencing, though many people ignore it and use the stairs anyway. Original features include bluestone treads and risers, asphalt landings, bluestone landing pavers; concrete curb with steel railing is likely not original. Virtually everything will be removed; those that are salvageable will be reused. New stones will be matched to the original materials. New plantings will also help to open up site-lines, and will be consistent with the spirit of the original plan, though not using invasive species that were used in the original plan. Emphasis on native plantings within the palette originally used, including evergreens and perennials. Flowering and non-flowering mixed, with the goal of blending with existing plantings that are farther from the stairs and beyond the scope of the project. Concrete-and-steel railing will be removed, and replaced with a new steel handrail that is appropriate, similar to what is in the Linden Terrace. The idea it to be functional and attractive, but not a design feature. Existing boulders will continue to edge either side of the staircase, with additional boulders added. The catch basins are silted up; this will be remediated.

There will be railing on only one side, so as to honor the original design while also improving visitor experience. There was considerable discussion about the railing, and if there should be railings on both sides, or in the center, for increased utility as well as honoring the original design and maintaining openness of the staircase. Special consideration will be given to the red oak near the top of the step-ramp portion. This feature generated considerable discussion, and there was no agreement among the Committee or the public as to which would be best: a single rail on the western side as proposed; rails on either side; or a single, central rail.

Trees which will be removed are dead or dying; one is a real hazard. Any trees removed will be replaced. There was some discussion of planting of additional mosses and lichens to supplement that which will grow naturally so as to enrich the soil and control erosion. The project will cost \$1.35m, which has been fully funded by then-Borough President Scott Stringer.

The Committee voted unanimously (6 votes) to support the project and the preventative approach of the design. The Committee encouraged DPR to consider other design options with respect to the railing to maximize accessibility while mindful of aesthetic considerations, though 5 of the 6 members would not oppose the plan as proposed. It also was suggested to add signage at the top and bottom of the staircase indicating the non-stair alternatives. (Remaining vote was: 1-0-0-0 Board; 2-0-0-0 public with 3 declining to participate in the vote.)

Announcements

- Mitchell spoke about the United Palace Theatre. Recent "It's a wonderful life" a tremendous success. "Muppets Take Manhattan" showing this Sunday.
- Danica Doroski, NYRP, re: family gardening plots. 16 raised garden beds in the children's garden in the Sherman Creek Park by PS5. If you are interested in a plot, contact her: 212-333-2552 / 917-291-6436 / ddoroski@nyrp.org.
- Paul Kittas gave an update on the Harlem River Valley and the Highbridge. Needs better signage. Once the High Bridge is open, there will be more people in the park than we are ready for. Will be bringing a slide show next month.

DPR Update from Northern Manhattan Parks Administrator, Jennifer Hoppa:

- Our reso on the skating rink was received and transmitted to the Revenue division. Many of the recommendations will be incorporated into the RFP. Thank you for your helpful input.
- Ribbon-cutting on Dec. 30th for Ft. Washington Park. Great event; many people, including many neighborhood children, several CB12 members, electeds, and now-former Parks Commissioner White. Thanks to CB12 for its support for this project over the years. With regard to accessibility, JH noted that DPR's former Accessibility Coordinator, Victor Calise, was very involved in the design and helped Parks Capital Division make changes to the design so that more of the final playground amenities would be accessible:
 - Two accessible Picnic areas with six accessible picnic tables.
 - The Sand Box has a transfer platform
 - The track style rides also are considered ground level, but in this instance we made transfer platforms (unique and above requirements) with two of the rides using your hands above head and the third you can sit (again a DPR first).
 - Two accessible swings
 - All three drinking fountain are accessible
 - Fibar Engineered Safety Surfacing
 - The Tree House has spiral stairs versus the typical stairs, which allows each stair to be a transfer platform.
 - All the mushrooms, beams, leafs, pods are approachable from the ground and are not considered elevated components; many are the same height as a wheel chair.
 - All the curbs on the site are flush.
- North end of Fort Washington Park, making progress on the ADA ramp. Contractor has until September of 2015. There is a lot of coordination of effort of State, Federal and City agencies.
- FW Lighthouse link project suffered some damage following Hurricane Sandy, but is now on track for completion by summer.

- Snow Day at Highbridge on Jan 4th – sledding, hot cocoa, and lots of fun. \$96m in the last decade invested in Highbridge Park, and it's really paying off, though people seem to be unaware of all of the improvements, and we need to continue to build awareness.
- Mulchfest: Jan 11th & 12th at various parks throughout the district; see handout / URL.
- Almost done with Orville & Wilbur Playground. Would like to open it soon, even though the bathrooms won't be open for another 2-3 months.
- Inwood Hill Park DeGroat (Little League) Ballfield and batting practice area. Funded by City Council a while ago, but since it's so small it took almost two years to find a qualified bidder. Renovation is moving forward, but is weather-dependent, probably sometime in the Fall '14.
- Muscota Marsh is finished. It is open, but that hasn't been officially announced yet. Community celebration of opening will wait until the warmer weather. Sandra Harris attending next month and will provide details.
- EcoDock – probably scoping meeting in February.
- Highbridge Park Rec. Center is looking great with the improvements and the central enclosure.
- 20% done with the pathways project at Sherman Creek.
- Pathway below cottage in Ft. Tryon is advancing.
- John T. Brush staircase – contractor still working on it. Working with ConEd to get power there. DoT has approved the plan.
- Edith asked regarding annual memberships, that people with disabilities be considered for reduced fees on par with seniors and youth <24, i.e., \$25. JH will get back to us.
- Mitchell asked about the Amtrak Bridge in FW Park: when is that closing? A: We have to pay a fee for them to review the designs, and also for flagmen to come out when there is active construction. Not clear when it will begin. JH will advise as to expected date, and anticipated length.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

Community Board 12, Manhattan ~ Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee
December 3, 2013

Attendance: Committee Members: Mitchell Glenn, Chair; David Kach, Assistant Chair; Karen Arthur, Richard Lewis, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Juan Mejia and Chris O'Sullivan; Ulises Noboa and Zead Ramadan were absent. Board members: George Fernandez, CB12 Chair. Also present: Carol Ward, Morris-Jumel Mansion; Roger Meyer, Conservancy North; Jennifer Hoppa, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation; Danica Doroski, New York Restoration Project; Bob Braswell, People's Theatre Project; Obed Fulcar, Friends of Sherman Creek; Osi Kaminer, Peter Levy, Paul Kittas, Mary Anderson and Carlos Bernard, neighborhood residents.

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm in the CB12 meeting room at 560 W. 166th St., 6th floor, with an intro & welcome by Chair, Mitch Glenn.

7:10pm Roger Meyer, Conservancy North. (conservancynorth.org / roger@levelm.com) 501c3 non-profit formed by neighborhood individuals in response to the CU Boathouse Marsh as part of a community benefits agreement. The CBA is two years old, but does not yet designate a community organization to distribute funds (\$100k/year for 3 years) for community benefit. It is hoped that by the first quarter of 2014 Conservancy North's ("CN") proposed grant program will be approved and in place. CB12 has a seat on the Board, but that seat currently is vacant and awaiting CB12 to appoint a replacement. Q: What other funding sources is CN looking towards? A: CU \$\$ is one pillar of many. We are applying for small grants for visioning and other programs, but we do not yet have funding for staff. Q: how is that different from, for example Partnerships for Parks and their capacity building grants and programs? A: We have a lot of community energy to get groups that serve in the community. We stewarded eco-dock with the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance; helped connect Jim Cataldi to Riverkeepers to expand his programming, etc. We do not yet have a budget. Q: Could that be achieved by an advisory council or do you have to have staff to do that? A: I don't think we can dip into the honey jar of goodwill and volunteerism forever. Mitchell: We will get CU here at a future meeting to get more information on the status of this agreement and when the funding will come to the community.

7:30pm: Carol Ward, Executive Director, Morris Jumel Mansion (director@morrisjumel.org / 212-923-8008) Gave a general intro to the mansion, Manhattan's oldest house, built in 1765. We interpret 100 years of history (through 1865). The mansion has about 16,000 visitors a year, including 7,000 school children, up from 2,000 five years ago. Many educational programs through schools, as well as afterschool educational and arts programs. All programs are enquiry- and object-based learning modules that fit within DOE educational guidelines. There also are many arts programs, in partnership initially with the Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance (NoMAA), and now with other community arts groups as well. There are numerous exhibitions and events, including community artists with solo shows that relate to the objects in the house. Unfortunately the Mansion is that they are in need of funds for preservation and repairs. Recently concluded an IndieGoGo fundraising campaign (an on-line/social media platform). Hoping to complete an exterior restoration by their 250-year anniversary in 2015. This is more than a paint job: it would run ~\$350k to strip, paint, restore. DPR has several projects on the property, including several million dollars to fix the retaining walls around the mansion and surrounding Roger Morris Park; replacing the walkway, and recent completion of ADA-compliant entrance to the park; ADA-access to the mansion itself is a much-needed project. There were several recommendations for increased public outreach, as well as ways that the Committee can help raise awareness for the capital needs for this neighborhood gem.

7:45pm Obed Fulcar, Friends of Sherman Creek (ofulcar@yahoo.com / 917-536-1275) founded in 2005, first alumni of Partnerships for Parks Academy. In conversation with P4P to launch a new Sherman Creek Waterfront Park Catalyst Program, to pick up where EDC's Sherman Creek Master Plan left off. Also has a proposal for a community pier for a boathouse or dock on Sherman Creek, behind PS5. Also described

NYRP restoration plan to restore Sherman Creek, and add waterfront amenities including expanded kayak/canoe storage, and further development to restore this part of waterfront to public use. There are existing permits and pilings from previous docks, so certification should be attainable. Attention must also be paid to wetland restoration, as Hurricane Sandy taught us. No funding has been secured for these projects, and there was some brainstorming around possible ideas for funding. There isn't yet a set budget. Ms. Hoppa and NYRP's Danica Doroski spoke about the remediation project underway for shoreline stabilization and to remove toxic soil at the site which formerly included a gas station. The project cost \$900k; this on top of \$10m spent in the area over the last 15 years to remove dumping and mitigate brownfield conditions at the site. There has been much progress, but there is much yet left to do. There are many opportunities for educational and recreational programs at this site. He mentioned specifically a boat-building project which ties to current DOE STEM (science, technology, engineering & math) curricula. CB12 Chair George Fernandez suggested in the context of the ensuing conversation about waterfront issues that this Committee has dealt with over the years that the Committee consider adding "Waterfront" to its name. Roger also noted that it is worth considering small, incremental, interim programming, not just the long-term large project. In closing, Obed noted his upcoming trip to the South Pole on the Ice Cube Neutrino Project next month as part of a science education project.

8:20pm Bob Braswell, People's Theatre Project (bob@peopletheatreproject.org) Gave an update on what PTP is doing, and to introduce their IndieGoGo project and how to make it a success. PTP was formed 5 years ago by himself and his wife, Mino Lora. The productions are created within the community by children, teens and adults in the community on issues of importance in their lives. Currently they have a temporary home in the Alianza Dominicana space, and this has provided stability for their programming, although many of their programs are mobile in schools, the Morris-Jumel Mansion, Word Up Community Bookstore, the Nagle Y, and other community venues. Mary Anderson, one of the adult actors in the Uptown Action project spoke of her experience in this program. She describes it as an enjoyable and dynamic growth experience that connects her to herself and her neighbors, and involves the public in discussion on important topics such as housing, immigration reform, bullying in schools and other social action topics. All of their programs are run bilingually, and are free or pay-what-you-can. PTP also works a lot with children through the CHALK "Live Your Life/Vive Tu Vida" project, building theatre around ten habits for healthy living. PTP partners with schools to provide programming in schools, and also has afterschool programs in which individual children can participate on a pay-as-you-go basis.

8:45pm discussion of resolution on Ice Skating Rink (per discussion at last month's meeting) Recap of discussion from previous month, and discussion of proposed reso drafted by the Chair. In general the group was supportive of the RFP, but there was a desire for:

- more public hours, and at various times/days to ensure access by various ages/constituencies;
- a shorter contract term (DPR proposes a 10-year term)
- strong compliance provisions
- healthful, affordable food concession options
- ability to use one's own skates and locks
- noise abatement and safety concerns

A resolution was drafted, and approved by the Committee: 6-1-0-0; public: 1-1-3-0.

9:25pm discussion of the High Bridge and its history, including the role that CB12 and its Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee played in advocating for the renovation of Highbridge Park, the waterfront near the former Harlem River Speedway, and the renovation of the High Bridge and the Highbridge Water Tower. Both the Bridge and the newly renovated Highbridge Park recreation building will be reopening in 2014. The John T. Brush staircase at the southern end of Highbridge Park also will be reopening in 2014 as soon as the reinstalled lights are powered by ConEd. Paul Kittus, a community

member, spoke about some of the activity on the Bronx side of the Harlem and the High Bridge, and what we can and should be doing in Manhattan to raise awareness of this new facility as a way to reinvigorate the Park on both sides. There was some discussion of restorations to the gatehouses. The one on the Bronx side has been renovated, though there is no public access to it. There is a proposal to turn this into a concession, but there isn't a firm plan. It was suggested to renovate the gatehouse on the Manhattan side as well. Mitchell suggested that the High Bridge remain a continual item on the agenda for periodic updates.

Additional report by Jennifer Hoppa, DPR Northern Manhattan Administrator:

- The new yellow paint in Msgr. Kett Playground is peeling and is all over the place. Also the alphabet which was painted in the playground is missing the letter "V".
- Skate Park: not open yet as landscaping and other items have not yet been completed.
- Re Muscota Marsh: there is one remaining item pending resolution with the Law Department. As it is time-sensitive, DPR is encouraging the Law Department to act quickly. Anticipated resolution within a few weeks. The site is otherwise completed, and complies with accessibility and safety requirements.
- Wright Bros. playground is now being locked at night. Equipment is all installed, but the safety surfacing is not finished; completion of this is weather dependant. The garden is laid, but won't be planted until spring. The contractor will guarantee the plantings for a year. A gardener will be responsible for that, but if there are community groups wanting to work with DPR, they encourage that public participation.
- Re Nature Center, DPR is still in talks with FEMA regarding what they will cover in terms of post-Sandy repair. Once all of the funding is in place, the renovation has to go through a public design process. This takes about a year; bidding will take about 8 months; construction will take about a year. The Rangers have relocated to the facility at Payson Playground. There has been public programming there through the Urban Park Rangers and other public presenters. Q: Why do some areas get more funding than Upper Manhattan? A: Northern Manhattan has many parks and has received significantly more money.

New Business: Can we invite NYRP to come to a future meeting to give an update on the status of their programming in the community, especially the former gas-station near where PS5 is now.

Announcements of (then-)upcoming events.

The meeting adjourned at 10pm.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

Traffic and Transportation Committee

January 6th 2014

Attendance: Committee – Yosef Kalinsky, Anita Barberis, James Berlin, Ellen Kackman, Edith Prentiss, Maceo Raysor. Board – Richard Lewis. Public – Buckley Yung (MTA), Mary Anderson, Josh Orzeck (DOT), Daniel Schack (Sam Schwartz Eng.), Kathy Preston (NYP), Amador Centeno (CUMC), Sandra Harris (CUMC), Anthony Cabrera, Yokarina Duarte (CM Rodriguez), Eleni Bourinaris-Saurez (CM Mark Levine), Deidre Parker (MTA), Osi Kaminer

- Presentation by NYP/CUMC for proposed renovations at 168th between Broadway and Ft. Washington Avenue
 - Due to construction of their emergency department the ED's ambulatory entrance was moved to 168th Street until construction is finished in 2017. The hospital faces many traffic and safety concerns in its vicinity.
 - Key traffic and Safety issues on 168th Street and Ft. Washington
 - Increased number of vehicles double parked and in no-standing zones
 - Traffic impedes access for emergency vehicles
 - Congestion on adjacent streets
 - Double parked vehicles discharging passengers in the middle of the street
 - Proposal
 - 1) Create more "no standing" zone on the south side of 168th Street and on Ft. Washington. This would impact:
 - 18 metered spaces on Ft. Washington on the east side
 - 30 spaces on 168th St on both streets
 - 2) Look into crosswalks on 168th between Broadway and Ft. Washington in the middle of the street where currently people tend to cross
- Edith, Anita, Jim – suggest that the M4 bus turn lower than 165th St. in order to alleviate the traffic on 165th and still maintain service to the hospital on Ft. Washington
 - Also, how can we move the livery vehicles that sit in the no standing or loading zones? Need help from NYPD for better enforcement on this
 - Yokarina (on behalf of CM Rodriguez) – we see the need to support the emergency vehicles, but what about the loss of metered parking? NYP responds: A study was done in April by the Sam Schwartz Traffic Engineering firm. They believe that the 48 lost spots could be found in the five block radius and therefore there was no net loss
 - Many board members and members of the public did not find merit to in their study and noted that 48 spots is a very large amount of spots in this neighborhood. Indeed, during construction on 168th we "temporarily" lost the spots so there will not be a major loss felt right now, however the community is looking towards those spots being returned.
 - For the record: There would be a net gain of 5 spots on 168th St. from its status a few months ago during construction, since during construction there were only 10 spots on 168th and now there would be 15
 - In addition, the study was only taken over one week in April and at that time street cleaning was twice a week and now it is once a week. Cars tend to stay in their spots longer
 - It should be noted that other hospitals in the city have no-standing zones for the entire block of the emergency room entrance
 - Yokarina, Richard – suggests that we need to do another study of the area for the missing spots and better enforcement for double parked cars
 - NYP –Clarification: the suggestion to make it "no standing" will allow traffic to move and not double park which is what happens at metered spots
 - Two final suggestions from the committee:
 - Is there a way for NYP to generate new spots in the adjacent area to make up for lost spots?
 - NYP and CUMC need to introspect and find ways to stop congesting Ft. Washington with loading and deliveries to its buildings

- Resolution
 - Temporary approval while emergency room entrance is on 168th (till 2017)
 - In so far as "no standing" - is not feasible unless 24/7
 - Vote: 3-2-1
 - The resolution did not pass since it did not receive majority vote
- Deidre Parker - MTA
 - Coming attractions - proposal to reroute the M100 off of Broadway to Dyckman and 10th Avenue - in order to service the Dyckman houses
 - Reso – 6-0-0
 - Dyckman/Broadway subway stair upkeep
 - According to the MTA records it is the responsibility of the owners of the Broadway/Dyckman Apartment property owners. Need to have the MTA Division of Properties look into this further
 - Elevator on the 1 Train on Dyckman – is it feasible to make it ADA accessible for the southbound travelers? Edith - It looks like it may only need a ramp, not an elevator.
 - GW Construction – how will the Bx buses that layover near the Bus Station near the construction being accommodated? The northbound M4 @ 179 St bus stop has already been removed. The committee asks that the MTA please provide an update.
 - Bus bunching – This is an old issue. MTA will try to maximize "Bus Time" to alleviate this problem.
 - Edith – please lower the "Bus Time" id number on the lollipop pole signs so WC users and short passengers can read them
- Sandra Harris – CUMC
 - Proposal to construct two temporary pedestrian crosswalks near the construction site on Haven Avenue between 169th and 171st Street to avert pedestrians away from the construction site
 - The committee does not object this proposal
- Josh Orzeck
 - Proposal for speed hump on 158th Street between Edward Morgan and Riverside Drive
 - Someone requested this speed hump and it meets the DOT qualifications
 - Committee would like to get more community input and support
 - Request for a walkway on Nagle in front of the Y from the Aging Committee. - Edith will bring this up with WHICOA
 - Crosswalk at 190th and Bennett – entrance to the A train, similar to the one installed at 184th Street and Overlook Terrace – email Josh the request
 - Stop sign on Park Terrace East and 215th Street – was studied in March 2012, so 18 months have passed. Josh asks that the committee send a formal proposal to him (there were 2 accidents at the location)
 - David Thom's Greenstreet suggestion on 218th St and Broadway still needs a sponsor.
 - Committee asks Sandra Harris if she can speak to those at CUMC to see if they are willing to sponsor
- Anthony Cabrera – request for a NYC Livery Car Service Base
 - APP generated car service with prices quotes entered before you book the car
 - Based on GPS
 - Tabled discussion because this should go to the Licensing Committee

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm