

COMMUNITY BOARD 12, MANHATTAN
Executive Committee Meeting
530 West 166th Street, New York, New York

December 8, 2015

Executive Committee
MINUTES

Board Members Present:

G. Fernandez [Chair; O. Bing, (First Vice Chair), P. Palanque-North (Treasurer); B. Lehmann [Secretary]; L. Saneaux (Asst. Secretary; S. Ally [Chair, Public Safety); M. Anderson (Asst. Chair, Aging); Y. Alonzo (Chair, Traffic & Transportation); Aldemar Diaz (2nd Vice Chair & Chair, Licensing); F. Florimon (Chair, Youth & Education); O. Kaminer (Asst. Chair, Parks & Cultural Affairs); R. Lewis (Chair, Housing & Human Services); Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, (Chair, Parks & Cultural Affairs); Maurice Owen-Michaane (Chair, Business Development); S. Simon [Chair, Health & Environment); Arlene Shulman (Asst. Chair, Health & Environment); R. Allman, (Chair By-Laws Task Force)

Excused: W. Benjamin (Chair, Land Use)

Absent: G. Vanterpool (Chair, Aging); Ayisha Ogilvie, (Chair, IT Task Force)

Legislative Representatives Attending During the Meeting:

Linara Davidson, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, Public Engagement Unit
NYS Senator, Adriano Espaillat, District 31

The meeting was called to order: 7:15 – Quorum was present.

George Fernandez requested a moment of silence for the recently deceased Michael Mowatt-Wynn, long-time community resident and Chair of the 33rd Precinct Community Council for many years.

Secretary's Report: Betty Lehmann presented the minutes of the previous Executive Committee. There were some minor edits. Acceptance of the minutes as amended was moved and seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Pamela Palanque North referenced the Treasurer's Report that had been made at the November meeting and indicated that there had not been any changes.

She also made a presentation about **the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone (UMEZ)** on whose Board she serves as Vice President and indicated that UMEZ had provided funds in support of many community projects – especially those that provide economic opportunity and jobs for local residents. Listed below are the main points:

- Mission is to sustain economic revitalization
- Catchment Areas are CB 9, 10, 11 & 12
- \$20 Million in undrawn funds and \$30 million in repaid loans
- Loans are available to businesses, cultural institutions and for workforce development
- Some recipients have included GWB – small business lending, WHIDC, Edge Hotel, Sugar Hill Museum, NOMAA, etc.

**Presentation by Linara Davidson, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, Public Engagement Unit on
"One NYC: The Plan for a Strong & Just City":**

- ~ The presentation is a brief Overview of the Plan as it presently exists with more development to follow.
- ~ A 6-panel publication on "One New York" was distributed.

- ~ “One New York” is a derivative of former ‘Plan NYC’ (under the Bloomberg Administration)
- ~ The Plan was created following 800 on-line surveys, meetings with local political leaders, regional (tri-state) leaders and over 70 city agencies.
- ~ There are (4) “Visions” in “One NYC”
 1. A growing and thriving City
 - anticipated 9 million residents by 2040
 - increase in median income
 - increase beyond 4.9 million jobs
 - better transportation access – limit of 45 minute commute
 - create more than 200,000 units of affordable housing
 2. A just and equitable City
 - Lift 800,000 residents out of poverty
 - Decrease infant mortality by 20%
 3. Sustainable City
 - Reduce GHG emissions by 80% by 2050.
 - Zero waste to landfills by 2013.
 - Implement “Parks without Borders”
 4. Resilient City
 - Strengthen coastal defenses by a variety of initiatives.
 - Enhance workforce development
 - Adopt new land use policies
 - Implement infrastructure improvements..

Q & A – Executive Committee members: Lewis, Ritter, Alonzo, Schulman, Diaz, Palanque North, Bing and Kaminer had many questions seeking clarification and further details. Ms. Davidson indicated that more work needs to be done by the Mayor’s office and that she will take the expressed concerns of CB 12 back to the Mayor’s office and will return to CB 12 in the future.

Linara Davidson’s contact information is:

(212) 676-3277 – office
 (347) 325-4583 – cell
ldavidson@cityhall.nyc.gov.

Committee Reports:

Maurice Owen-Michaane, Chair, Business Development Committee presented the following:

- Pamela Palanque North presented information on UMEZ at the recent meeting.
- Next meeting in early January will have a robust agenda for 2016 planning.

Mary Anderson, Asst. Chair, Concerns for the Aging

- The next meeting will be in January and the Committee is considering an evening meeting.
- There was no December meeting
- Under consideration is the possibility of recommending the Committee become a Task Force.
- George Fernandez is looking for a 5th member for the Committee.
- Pamela Palanque North brought up a potential change in Social Security benefits that will affect individuals who depend on their spouses’ Social Security. The proposed change is under imminent consideration by Washington and could take effect as early as 2016. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to do the following:
 - Pamela will draft a brief description of the possible legislation and what is at stake. This will be used to contact our local Federal legislators.
 - The matter will be referred to the Aging and Housing & Human Services Committees

- There will be further discussion with the strong possibility of a Resolution by CB 12.

Shahabuddeen Ally, Chair, Public Safety presented the following:

- The meeting was hold the first Thursday of the month
- 33rd Precinct presented information about the “Idea Scale”, an internet based site.
- 34th Precinct spoke about recent crimes in Fort Tryon Park and what steps they are taking ro remediate the problem.
- There was a discussion about the possibility of adding more PEP officers to the parks and the importance of improving lighting in the parks.
- The DA’s office provided a report on Amnesty Day, The response was good with more than 700 community showing up to address their individual matters. We would like to have another day – possibly in our own community. The local DA’s office will be contacted.
- He also attended a Park’s Committee meeting to ascertain the collaboration possibilities on some of these issues.

Yahaira Alonzo, Chair, Traffic & Transportation presented the following:

- The Committee met on November 7th.
- There was a presentation by the MTS on the plan to split the path of the M5 Bus into North and South paths so that ridership and efficiency will be improved. The current path is more than 14 miles long. The split will take place in the mid 30’s.
- The MTA claims that the current path loses about 4,000 riders a day due to to inefficiencies.
- The MTA must present to all Boards that are affected – so the plan is in an early phase with a possibility of implementation in 2017.

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**Presentation by NYS Senator Adriano Espaillat:**

(George Fernandez reported that the Senator first came to the Board In October. The Board’s Executive Committee requested a copy of the draft legislation – which is now present at this evening’s meeting.)

The Senator spoke concerning draft legislation that he is proposing that is an amendment to the alcoholic beverage control law in relation to authorizing the State Liquor Authority to impose a one-year moratorium on the issuance of new licenses to sell liquor on premises in certain instances.

The proposed legislation would permit the SLA to impose a one-year moratorium based on the request by the local Senator and Assemblyman along with a resolution adopted by the local Community Board.

Senator Espaillat indicated the following:

- He has met with local business owners and there is an apparent oversaturation of liquor licenses in certain sections of the community.
- There has been a doubling of liquor license applications in the past 3 years.
- This proposed legislation will apply only to cities of more than 1 million people.
- The legislation will allow for “home rule” as to what happens to a particular neighborhood.
- This does not apply to the renewal of existing licenses.
- The results of any moratorium would be studied and evaluated vis a vis quality of life.
- This may eventually lead to changes in the SLA law and its processes.
- He requested that CB 12 deny any new liquor licenses in the particular areas identified in the proposed legislation.
- He requests the support of CB 12 with respect to this Bill which will be introduced in early 2016.

**Q & A:**

- Are other Boards involved? Answer: Yes – but we are taking the lead.
- Only for one year? Answer: Yes
- Is there a problem getting other legislators to agree? Answer: Not a problem
- What is the Chapter referred to? Answer: SLA Laws
- What about unintended consequences? Reference made to other situations in Washington D.C. & Maine. Answer: That's why it's only for 1 year.
- Any difference in this legislation between beer & wine and hard liquor licenses? Answer: Not addressed in this legislation.
- Should there be consistency on closing times? Answer: No addressed in this legislation. That is a part of the liquor license application process.
- Is this a reflection on our local law enforcement? Answer: No
- Any plans after 1 year? Answer: Depends the results of 1 year moratorium.
- Recommendations on some language changes in the bill. (S. Simon) – which Senator Espailat will consider.
- Why Executive Committee and not Licensing Committee? Answer: There is no time for the Licensing Committee to consider this since the legislation is being proposed in January.

***Senator Espailat left and the Committee began a discussion.***

M. O. Michaane – SLA law should be changed so the CB 12 recommendation is binding.

E. Ritter – We should support the legislation in general and not worry about the specific language.

S. Simon – We should support the bill – but not as written . (2) Changes should be made:

1. 'May establish" should be changed to "Shall establish"

2. Remove the reference to the SLA ability to review the # of licenses – there should be no ability for the SLA to review the number of licenses

O. Kaminer: We should extend the geographic area. Answer: not at this time. That will come later.

Also – recommendation about closing times after 1 year.

R. Allman: Motion to support the bill as presented. Motion was seconded.

S. Simon: **Motion to amend the resolution (lines 16 – 20 on page 2 and lines 18 – 22 on page 3.)**

**Change "may" to "shall" in the instances cited. Seconded by E. Ritter**

**Vote on the Amendment to the Resolution: 15 = Yes; 0 = No. Amendment passed.**

**M. O. Michaane: Motion to amend the resolution to cite that the SLA Law to permit the CB 12 to be the final arbiter. Motion as made was seconded.**

A. Diaz - Discussion about the fact that the city cannot supersede the state.

S. Simon - Discussion about the fact that the CB 12 role is advisory.

R. Allman – Timeliness is the issue.

P P. North – Arbiter or Decision-maker? Per M.O. Michaane- final decision maker.

P.P. North – that's against the Charter.

O. Kaminer – address the method of operation of the establishments with regard to closing times.

E. Ritter – We have no authority to remove a state agency from its mission. We can address the closing time restrictions at 2:00am after 1 year moratorium for a period of 1 year thereafter.

A. Shah – we are going beyond the scope of the legislation.

G. Fernandez – this doesn't take away from the role that the Licensing Committee in the Individual applications for new licenses.

**Vote to amend the Resolution by adding the 2:00am restriction in closing times for opl's after 1 year moratorium. Vote = 10 = Yes; 5 = No. Amendment passed.**

E. Ritter made some suggestions on language changes. George Fernandez asked for changes to be sent to him.

S. Schulman raised the question as to the length of the study.

A. Diaz – Amendment should be added to put in details for the timing and manner of evaluating the effect of the law. In addition, the law should be more explicit in saying it is “temporary”. How long will the law remain in effect? **Amendment should be added to create a mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of the law and set benchmarks over the course of the year and, depending on the results, the law may sunset if found to be ineffective.** Seconded by B. Lehmann

**Vote: 4 = Yes; 6 = No’ 3 = Abstain      Amendment did not pass.**

**G. Fernandez made a motion on the Resolution as amended. S. Simon seconded.**

**Vote: 12 = Yes; 1 = Abstain      Resolution passed.**

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Resumption of Committee Reports:

Fe Florimon, Chair, Youth & Education presented the following:

There is a collaboration between CB12’s Youth & Education Committee and and the Community Education Council (CEC) to host an Education meeting at GWHS on December 16t. Chancellor Carmen Farina will preside. All are encouraged to attend.

Aldemar De Jesus Diaz, Chair, Licensing Committee

The next meeting is December 9th and there are 8 applications for liquor licenses.

Richard Lewis, Chair, Housing and Human Services Committee presented the following:

At the recent Housing and Human Services Committee the following was considered:

- Older Adults in Prison who have not committed violent crimes .being granted release.
- Latest developments with SCRIE and DRIE
- HEAP Applications are currently available.
- MTA Half Fare
- Reviewed worst landlord’s list for CB 12
- Reviewed text amendments of ZQA and MIH
- The possibility of getting Li-Fi which is 100 x faster than Wi-Fi
uses led lights, is cheaper, does not require routers and is 240 GB’s .
(Currently used on Sweden).

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair, Parks & Cultural Affairs reported the following:

The committee is working with the NYC Parks Department Revenue Division on increasing the kinds of concessions that might be added to the parks. It’s an ongoing discussion.

Richard Allman, Chair, LGBT Task Force reported the following:

The Task Force is ready to start in January.
The Task Force expects a 3 – 6 month development phase.
A list of those involved in the Task Force will be ready soon.
G. Fernandez plans to appoint public members before year end.

Steve Simon, Chair, Health & Environment Committee reported the following:

At the last meeting, there was a good discussion regarding the status

of HIV/AIDS care in the community. Presentations were made by

- New York Presbyterian
- Washington Heights Corner Project
- Dominican Women's Development Corporation
- ASCNYC

In addition, the Committee reviewed the street cleaning ratings recently released. The results are encouraging. We are nearing 90%.

George Fernandez, Chair, Community Board 12, reported the following:

- He attended the recent Borough Board Meeting where the (2) Amendments were discussed – the ZQA and the MIH. Concerns were expressed regarding permanent affordability, parking, density, “poor doors”. diversity in housing, regional issues and restrictions on off-site development.
- We have a new CB 12 member – appointed by NYC Councilman Mark Levine. His name is Javier Trego and he will be at the next General Meeting. He has sold real estate or insurance in the community. We currently have 4 or 5 vacancies. The applications are on the MBPO web site.
- There will be a meeting with the IT Task Force concerning the possibility of a “Commune” which is a “Community Portal”. This will unify CB 12 information. In addition, the IT Task Force is expecting to engage a teenager to assist with this project and to serve as a Public Member on the Board.
- Pamela Palanque North indicated that there is money in the budget that can be used to hire someone part-time.
- The Personnel Committee will need to meet within the next month.
- Steve Simon reported that the Manhattan Times had an article about the State Liquor Authority forming a Task Force to look at various procedures. George Fernandez reported that Ebenezer Smith serves on the Committee and he will present updates within the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann
January 12, 2016