

COMMUNITY BOARD 12, Manhattan

General Meeting

Thursday, March 24, 2015

Yeshiva University

Weissberg Commons Room at Belfer Hall

2495 Amsterdam Avenue

New York, New York

Draft Minutes

Board Members Present:

Richard Allman ,Yahaira Alonzo, Anita Barberis, James Berlin, Isaiah Obie Bing, Rolando Cespedes , Manny de los Santos, Aldemar De Jesus Diaz, George Fernandez, Fe Florimón, Mitchell Glenn, Yosef Kalinsky, Osi Kaminer, Elizabeth Lehmann, Richard R. Lewis, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Maria Luna, Lorenzo McGougan,, Jason Miller, Ayisha Ogilvie, Maurice Owen-Michaane , Angela Sanchez, Liliana Saneaux, Arlene Schulman, Steve Simon, Alyce Smith, Christopher Smith , Gloria Vanterpool, Felipe Wytik Sanchez

Board Members Absent

Shahabudden Ally, Wayne Benjamin, Kelly Boyd, Wanda Garcia, Lorena Jimenez-Castro, Jay Mazur, Isidro Medina, Juan Mejia, Rud Morales, Edgar Nau, Terriell Peters

Board Members – Absent – Excused:

Pamela Palenque-North, Martin Restituyo,

Lorena Jiménez-Castro, Lorenzo McGougan, Martin Restituyo, Tamara Rivera, Ángela Sánchez

Staff: Ebenezer Smith, Debora Blow, Paola Garcia

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***Call To Order:*** ***Chairman George Fernandez called the meeting to order at 7:21 pm.***

***Chair’s Welcoming Remarks, Updates and Announcements:***

George Fernandez welcomed everyone. He asked for a moment of silence for the woman who was killed at the 207<sup>th</sup> Street subway station and for the Brooklyn family who lost their lives in a tragic home fire. He minded everyone about the importance of having working fire detectors.

**Quorum was reached at 7:25 pm.**

***Chair ‘s Report:***

~ CB 12 had 23 renewal applications, 43 new applications an8 vacancies. Those that applied will be notified in April.

~ There had been a claim by a group of community residents (called “99 Pickets”) of a “conflict of interest” involving a Community Board 12 member. The Board has thoroughly investigated the matter including consulting with the Department of Investigations and the Borough President’s Office. After a thorough review, the claim of “conflict of Interest” was found not be true and the member is in good standing.

- ~ George Fernandez testified at the New York City Transportation Committee Oversight Committee on February 25, 2015 about the some of the problems that surround the George Washington Bridge renovation.
  - No consideration of MWBE hiring or contracting
  - No guarantee of a living wage for those who work – and will work at the GWB
  - No air quality testing
  - No beneficial oversight by the Port Authority
- ~ George Fernandez participated in a meeting with elected officials, the EDC and City Planning on March 6, 2015 about the rezoning of 100 acres from 201<sup>st</sup> to 220<sup>th</sup> St. He reminded those attending that the AMI for CB 12 is \$34,366 – much lower than the AMI for all of Manhattan. This is important to note with regard to the provision of affordable housing for this community
- ~ George Fernandez reminded everyone about the importance of attending the Land Use Committee meetings especially with regard to upcoming matters such as the Text Amendment for Zoning and the anticipated rezoning of CB 12.
- ~ George Fernandez was a Guest Speaker on Cable TV Channel MNN along with Councilman Rodriguez regarding the implementation of Vision Zero in CB 12.
- ~ Richard Lewis, Chair of the Housing & Human Service Committee, attended an Oversight Meeting of the Committee on General Welfare, HRA, DSS and DHS.
- ~ The Borough Board meeting was held on March 19<sup>th</sup> with the following of note:
  - A Resolution on Illegal Hotels as passed, It includes an amendment proposed by Community Board 12 that allocates funding for inspectors/investigators.
  - The Borough President’s office has published a borough-wide list of budget priorities as follows:
 

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Affordable housing    | 57% |
| K-12 Education        | 47% |
| Pre-K Education       | 22% |
| Public Transportation | 21% |
| Public Safety         | 19% |

Additional information about budget priorities is available on the Borough web site.
- ~ Liliana Saneaux and I George Fernandez testified at a meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup> of the Committee of Government on budget allocation for District offices. A request was made to increase the PS & OTPS from \$191,000 to 350,000 so that more staff and resources are possible. The matter will be referred to the Executive Committee at the next meeting.
- ~ George Fernandez announced that a resolution will be created to form a Task Force to assist in the trap, neuter and release efforts underway with regard to feral dogs and cats.. A group called NMARC (Northern Manhattan Animal Rescue Coalition) has been formed. CB 12 will pass a resolution to support the goals of NMARC, to help them secure space and to assist in the education needed for local business owners. CB 12 member Osi Kaminer is key to this effort.
- ~ George Fernandez thanked everyone who attended the State of the District address of Councilman Rodriguez on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

~ **Announcements:**

- ~ A meeting to plan the activities and grand re-opening of the Highbridge will take place on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 2301 Amsterdam Ave (173<sup>rd</sup> Street) at 6:30pm.
- ~ A Scoping Meeting concerning zoning for affordable housing will take place on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. This will include consideration of environmental impact, infrastructure, and housing for the disabled and the elderly, the AMI for the area, etc.
- ~ The NYCHA Public Housing Committee will hold budget meeting on March 26 at 10:00am.
- ~ NYS Senator Perkins wants to hold a meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss state budget priorities. George Fernandez will attend.
- ~ Some of the committees of CB 12 will be re-constituted. Maurice Owen-Michaane will take over the Business Development Committee.
- ~ Thank you to Jason Miller, Tamara Rivera and Lorena Jimenez-Castro for their service to Community Board 12 and who will be moving on.

***A Motion to adopt the Minutes of the February 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting and March Agenda (with an amendment to add a speaker- the NYC DOT- was made and accepted. All were in favor and there was (1) abstention in the adoption of the minutes.***

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District Manager's Report:

- ~ District Manager, Ebenezer Smith reported:
 - Ebenezer Smith attended a meeting with the Mayor's office on PLAN NYC to get ideas on how PLAN NYC will affect CB 12. He suggested that the everyone in the community also provide input through the PLAN NYC web site.
 - The Department of Sanitation reported that they are enforcing the new collection bins law which allows the Department to remove illegally placed clothing collection bins on public property. 2,093 bins were removed in 2014, up from 593 in 2013. In the first 2 months of 2105, 1545 bins have been removed. Call 311 and CB12 offices with the complaint number.
 - The 33rd and 34th Precincts reported a slight increase in crime due to the increasing number of identity thefts.
 - The 95 Engine Vermilyea Station of the NYC Fire Department got a new truck this month.
 - EMS reported that the local station received 5,000 calls from January 1 to February 28th and the response time was 5:21 minutes compared to the city average of 6:17 minutes. EMS will also be providing mobile CPR training in May.
 - The NYC Emergency Management Service is offering a paid fellowship this summer. Log in to www.nyc.gov/nyem for more details.
 - The Manhattan Borough Presidents Office held a meeting with the local USPD office concerning community complaints. An open community meeting is suggested to resolve certain matters.
 - The NYC Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over the path leading to the Little Red Lighthouse. A site visit will soon take place and an MOU will be drafted to concerning ongoing upkeep. There is a flier in the back concerning planned

roadway repairs that had been delayed due to the harsh winter weather.

- The Manhattan DA held an ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the Washington Heights office. Joseline Minaya is the new Director of the Northern Manhattan office. The DA's office is offering a high school internship program this summer. Applications must be received by March 27th
- DDC Projects:
 - ~ 215th Step Street – north staircase is opened. South staircase to be renovated by June.
 - ~ Groundbreaking ceremony on March 20th for the Plaza de Las Americas. Vendors have been relocated to the north side of 175th between Wadsworth and St. Nicholas
 - ~ Wadsworth Terrace construction is being monitored and will be reviewed in mid-April.
- Highbridge Project is due to be completed by June 2015.
- Please read the April calendar and agenda for corrections and/or updates.

Borough President's Report

Northern Manhattan Liaison, Giovanni Puello presented the following:

- Copies of the Borough President's Report can be found in the back of the room.
- Applications for Community Board membership are in. Interviews have been conducted and all applicants will be notified in April.
- A community-wide meeting with the US Post Office in Washington Heights will be held in order to resolve matters.
- There is an interest in getting community input on the proposed locations of City Bikes and City Bike racks. Residents are encouraged to consult the Borough President's web site to provide input.
- The Manhattan Borough President's office is sponsoring legislation to limit the size of buses.
- A meeting regarding the City-wide Text Amendment regarding zoning will take place on March 25 and all are encouraged to attend.
- A Technology Mixer will be held on Monday, March 30 from 4:30 to 6:30 at 136 Fifth Avenue.
- The Manhattan Borough President's office has relocated to 431 West 125th Street. and has street-level access. The office will be open 7 days a week.

Presentation:

NYC Department of Transportation (DOT)

Acacia Dupierre, Project Manager, Greenways Unit

Nina Haiman, Deputy Commissioner for Manhattan Borough

Highbridge Park Project is in response to the opening of the Highbridge this coming summer:

- 165th Street will be the entrance to the Park
- The project is intended to improve bicycle and pedestrian access to the park.

- 170th Street will be the first cross-town path in Manhattan for protected bicycle access. The will include the narrowing of lanes, the retention of parking and the creation of 2-way bicycle lanes.
- The impact on Edgecombe will include the loss of some parking near the entrance to the park.
- This is a 30 block project that is intended to accomplish the following:
 - ~ Creation of safe cross-town bicycle and pedestrian access to the park
 - ~ Removal of (16) parking spaces near the park and the addition of (8) parking spaces on West 165th Street - nighttime hours only
 - ~ Increase visibility & access to the park
 - ~ Improve the crosswalks and reduce speeding on Edgecombe
 - ~ Create better crossings at 158th & 159th Streets – i.e. Vision Zero

In the Q & A, the following issues were raised by Board Members:

- The maximum loss of parking spaces is anticipated to be (12).
- The loss of parking is a big issue for the community due to the lack of public parking
- The Traffic & Transportation Committee did a strong outreach to the community and had many meetings of these proposed changes.
- Commissioner Forgione of DOT agreed to help the community find more parking spaces.
- Suggestion was made to consider Fort Washington instead of Haven Avenue as a location for bicycle access.

Public Session – chaired by First Vice Chair, Isaiah Obie Bing

Joel Yoffie
Martin Collins

Read a poem “Sabbath of Ashes” about the need for kindness
 NOMAA moved to 5030 Broadway – Suite 723.
 There will be a reception for the exhibit “Women in the Heights: The Human Essence” on March 31, 2015 from 6:30 to 8:30pm in the Ground Floor Gallery.
 The Uptown Arts Stroll is planned for this coming June. A call for artists is underway. An Opening Reception is planned for Thursday, May 28th from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Rio li Gallery on 583 Riverside Drive at West 135th Street. Fliers are in the back.
 Thank you for the support you provided me on the recent death of my mother.

Analea Reyes and Mike Anjano (supported by 25 fellow students from the George Washington High School campus)

Young community residents and bicyclists who expressed support for the DOT planned improvements. #Cycling Smart.

Katie Weaver – Community resident

Opposes the renewal of a liquor license for Alberto Mofongo. (217 Dyckman & Broadway). Indicated that the restaurant did not state the truth at the Licensing Committee and do not comply with the hours of operation that they committed to.

Hector Gerardo - Community Organizer of “We Act” on 152nd & Amsterdam

All are invited to a workshop on climate change at the Mary Bethune Center at Amsterdam between 157th & 158th Street on April 4th .
Fliers are in the back.

Larry Scalone - Physical Educator & community resident
Supports the proposed bike lanes.

Brad Conover - representing "Bike Upper Manhattan"
Supports the proposed bike lanes.

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**Chairs' Reports & Resolutions**

**Anita Barberis, Assistant Chair, Land Use**

Introduced a resolution to support the installation of air conditioning in the Octagon Room of the Morris Jumel Mansion.

**Yosef Kalinsky, Chair, Traffic & Transportation Committee**

Introduced (4) resolutions:

- ~ Support for CUMC/NYPH Streetscape Project
- ~ Support for DOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Connection to Highbridge at Edgecombe -  
West 170<sup>th</sup> Street, West 159<sup>th</sup> Street and West 158<sup>th</sup> Street  
(4 Friendly amendments made by Steve Simon were accepted).  
(1 Friendly amendment made by Jim Berlin was accepted)
- ~ Support for a public art installation at West 155<sup>th</sup> Street & Riverside Drive West
- ~ Request for DOT to consider a Slow Zone area within CB 12 (noted as previously voted on & approved as a resolution 2 years ago according to Elizabeth Lorris Ritter)

**Aldemar Diaz, Chair, Licensing Committee**

Introduced (14) Applications concerning:

- 5 - Renewals of on-premise liquor licenses
- 2 - New on-premise liquor licenses
- 1 - Summer Vessel Liquor License Renewal
- 1 - Alteration Application for a new kitchen to licensed facility
- 1 - Removal Application
- 1- Unenclosed Sidewalk Café License Renewal
- 1 – New Enclosed Sidewalk Café License
- 1 - New Wine License
- 1 - Wine License renewal.

Aldemar Diaz had the following comments concerning developments since the Licensing Committee met:

**International Food House** has agreed to stipulations since the meeting and will meet with the 34<sup>th</sup> Pct and Councilman Rodriguez. They have also agreed to sound containment and have implemented same. They will also post "Good Neighbor" signage.

**Mama Sushi** is to meet with Councilman Rodriguez and has agreed to operate within the proper hours of operation (10pm on weeknights and midnight on weekends).

**M&M Bar and Grill** has met twice with the 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct. and has complied with all requirements on security.

**Rush Tapas Bar** has agreed to close at 2am and agreed to a walk-through with the Precinct .

**Steve Simon, Chair, Health & Environment Committee:**

There was no meeting in the month of March. The next meeting will take place on April 13, 2013 as a joint meeting with the Youth & Education Committee. The meeting provide a forum of community organizations to address the issue of mental health services for youth in the community.

**Richard Lewis, Chair, Housing & Human Services Committee:**

- ~ There will be a public hearing on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the CB 12 office to consider a 421 Application or a new building that is applying for 421 Tax Relief application.
- ~ The Committee is considering supporting the right to free counsel for community residents facing eviction proceedings in housing court.
- ~ The Committee supports the renewal of rent stabilization regulations
- ~ There will be b meeting on NCYHA matters on March 26<sup>th</sup>

**Osi Kaminer, Assistant Chair, Parks & Cultural Affairs:**

- ~ Jennifer Hoppa, Northern Manhattan Parks Administrator, presented an update on Isham Park and indicated that the trees that were removed will be replaced by (25) new trees.
- ~ (20) Eagles have been spotted at Sherman Creek according to the New York Restoration Project ( NYRP).

**Betty Lehmann, Committee for the Aging** – Refer to the minutes.

**Jason Miller, Chair, Business Development Committee:**

Thanked the Borough President, Councilmen Levine & Rodriguez, District Manager Ebenezer Smith , and George Fernandez for making the March Business Development Forum a success.

**Maurice Owen-Michaane, Chair, Public Safety Committee:**

The will be a meeting of the Civilian Complaint Review Board on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm.

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Presentation by Elected Officials and /or their Representatives:-

Natalie Espino, Community Liaison, Office of NYC Councilman Mark Levine

Report is in the back

Thank you to all who agreed to testify at meetings.

Participatory budgeting is underway in District 7.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Northern Manhattan Community Liaison, Office of NYS Senator Espaillat

Report is in the back

The Port Authority on 42nd Street is due for a \$10 billion – 15 year – renovation. Senator Espaillat in focusing on what we have not gotten with the GWB terminal and wants the Authority to make good on its promises regarding area employment.

Uptown Games are on Saturday, March 28th

Jessica Reynosa, Outreach Coordinator, Office of Public Advocates Office
 Introduced herself as new in the position
 Spoke about new legislation being proposed by Public Advocates Office
 (212) 669-2121 – Contact phone number

Nina Saxon, Community Liaison, Office of the NYC Controller Scott Stringer
 Housing Courts lack proper translation services.
 Immigration Resource Guide is available will be available on line
 in many languages.
 Income disparities in New York City are very bad and pay is too low.
 There will be a report on all the Playgrounds in terms of claims against
 the City. CB 12 is second in terms of complaints.
 Contact information: (917) 969-5742 and nsaxon@comptroller.nyc.gov

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**Voting on the Resolutions:**

| Item # | Resolutions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Voting<br>Y-N-A-NV | Passed or<br>Failed |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1.     | Resolution supporting the Air Conditioning Project Proposed for The Octagon Room of <b>Morris Jumel Mansion</b>                                                                                                                                                   | 26-0-01            | passed              |
| 2      | Resolution in Support of <b>CUMC/NYPH Proposed Streetscape</b> Project.                                                                                                                                                                                           | 27-0-0-0           | passed              |
| 3.     | Resolution in Support of <b>DOT Bicycle &amp; Pedestrian Connection</b> to Highbridge at Edgecombe Avenue, W. 170th Street, W. 159th & W.158th Streets.                                                                                                           | 26-1-0-0           | passed              |
| 4.     | Resolution in Support of a <b>Public Art Installation</b> at W. 155th Street & Riverside Drive West.                                                                                                                                                              | 27-0-0-0           | passed              |
| 5..    | Request for DOT to consider <b>Slow Zone Area within CB12.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 27-0-0-0           | passed              |
| 6.     | Resolution <b>to recommend</b> the SLA to grant a Renewal of its On-Premises Liquor License to <b>International Food House Inc. dba International Food House</b> - 217 Dyckman Street, AKA 4762A - 4762B Broadway, (at the corner of Broadway Ave. & Dyckman St.) | 13-10-4-0          | not passed          |
| 7.     | Resolution <b>to recommend</b> the SLA to grant a Renewal of its On-Premises Liquor License to: <b>Sushi Vida Inc. dba Mama Sushi</b> - 237 Dyckman Street, (at the corner of Seaman Ave.)                                                                        | 21-5-0-1           | passed              |
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| 8.  | Resolution <b>to recommend</b> the SLA to grant a Renewal of its On-Premises Liquor License to: <b>209 Pinehurst Restaurant Group LLC. dba Rusty Mackerel</b> - 209 Pinehurst Avenue, (at the corner of W. 187th Street.)                      | 24-2-0-1 | passed |
| 9.  | Resolution <b>to recommend</b> the SLA to grant a Renewal of its On-Premises Liquor License to: <b>1218 M&amp;M Bar &amp; Grill Inc.</b> - 1218 St. Nicholas Avenue, (at the corner of W. 171st Street.)                                       | 23-3-1-0 | passed |
| 10. | Resolution <b>to recommend</b> the SLA to grant a Renewal of its On-Premises Liquor License to: <b>Locksmith Wine Bar Inc. dba The Locksmith Wine Bar</b> - 4463 Broadway, (bet. Fairview Avenue & W. 192nd Street.)                           | 24-3-1-0 | passed |
| 11. | Resolution <b>to recommend</b> the SLA to grant a Renewal of its Summer Vessel Liquor License to: <b>Metropolitan Museum of Art</b> - 99 Margaret Corbin Drive, (at Ft. Tryon Park.)                                                           | 26-0-0-1 |        |
| 12. | Resolution <b>to recommend</b> the SLA to grant a Renewal of its Restaurant Wine License to: <b>Jade Chen 88 Inc. dba Jade Garden</b> - 4028-4030 Broadway, (bet. W. 169th & W. 170th Streets.)                                                | 24-3-0-0 | passed |
| 13. | Resolution <b>to recommend</b> the SLA to grant a Removal Application to move from 4842 Broadway to 4799 Broadway to: <b>Beans &amp; Vines Corp. dba Beans &amp; Vines</b> - 4842 Broadway, (at the corner of Academy Street.)                 | 26-1-0-0 | passed |
| 14. | Resolution <b>to recommend</b> the SLA to grant an Alteration Application to Add Kitchen to Licensed Establishment: The Monkey Room Inc. dba Monkey Room - 589 Ft. Washington Avenue, (at the corner of W. 187th Street.)                      | 25-2-0-0 | passed |
| 15. | Resolution <b>to recommend</b> the DCA to grant a Renewal of its Unenclosed Sidewalk Cafe License to: <b>Sushi Vida Inc. dba Mama Sushi</b> - 237 Dyckman St, (at the corner of Seaman Ave)                                                    | 21-5-0-1 | passed |
| 16. | Resolution <b>to recommend</b> the Department of City Planning to grant a New Enclosed Sidewalk Café License to: <b>El Conde Nuevo Bar &amp; Restaurant Corp. dba El Conde Restaurant</b> - 4139 Broadway, (at the corner of W. 175th Street.) | 23-4-0-0 | passed |
| 17. | Resolution <b>to recommend</b> the SLA to grant a New On-Premises Liquor License to: <b>Vapor Lounge &amp; Bar, Corp.</b> - 4160 Broadway, (at                                                                                                 | 19-6-2-0 | passed |

|     |                                                                                                                                                                              |          |        |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|
|     | the corner of W. 176th Street.)                                                                                                                                              |          |        |
| 18. | Resolution <b>to recommend</b> the SLA to grant a New On-Premises Liquor License to: <b>Rush Tapas Bar, Inc.</b> - 586 W. 207th Street, (at the corner of Vermilyea Avenue.) | 21-5-1-0 | passed |
| 19. | Resolution <b>to recommend</b> the SLA to grant a New Restaurant Wine License to: <b>Pick &amp; Eat 2, Inc.</b> - 4930 Broadway, (at the corner of W. 207th Street.)         | 22-5-0-0 | passed |

**The meeting adjourned at 10:17pm.**

**Respectfully submitted:** Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann  
April 28, 2015