

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

October 13, 2015

FINAL MINUTES

ATTENDING: G. Fernandez [Chair]; P. Palanque-North (Treasurer); B. Lehmann [Secretary]; L. Saneaux (Assistant Secretary); S. Ally [Chair, Public Safety]; Y. Alonzo (Chair, Traffic & Transportation); W. Benjamin [Chair, Land Use]; F. Florimon (Chair, Youth & Education); R. Lewis (Chair, Housing & Human Services); Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, (Chair, Parks & Cultural Affairs); Maurice Owen-Michaane (Chair, Business Development); Arlene Schulman (Asst. Chair, Health & Environment); G. Vanterpool (Chair, Aging); R. Allman, (Chair By-Laws Task Force); Ayisha Ogilvie, (Chair, IT Task Force)

Excused: A. Diaz, (1st Vice Chair & Licensing);

Absent: Bing, (First Vice Chair); S. Simon [Chair, Health & Environment]

Staff: Ebenezer Smith [District Manager]

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fernandez at 7:15 pm. Quorum was reached.

George Fernandez, Chair's Remarks:

- The Budget Ranking meeting will take place on October 21st. Please review all documents prior to that meeting.
- Elizabeth Ritter suggested that the various committees work together so that duplication of requests does not occur.
- The staff of CB 12 is off the day after Thanksgiving
- Make sure you send in your agenda items so that Osi Kaminer can post them on Facebook
- The numbers of the resolutions need to match the numbers of the resolutions on the Agenda.
- Elizabeth Lorris Ritter had a suggestion to better enumerate the Resolutions so they are not confusing.

District Manager's Report: Ebenezer Smith reported the following:

- He has attended 3 sessions of OMB Budget Consultation meetings
- He suggested that we request special funding for additional sanitation pick-ups at night. The OMB Commissioner has indicated that the trucks are available.
- The Neighborhood Trust organized an event to bring all city agencies together to provide information to local businesses. Ebenezer presented about the role of CB 12. The meeting was well organized but not well attended.
- He held a discussion about the dates for the November and December meetings. Each is scheduled for November 24th and December 22nd.
- The Business Development Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 5th at 7:00pm at Isabella – even though it's Election Day.
- Licensing will take place on November 12th – since November 11th is a holiday.

A discussion ensued regarding the need for additional sanitation pick up shifts at night. It was suggested the matter be referred to the various BID's. In addition, George suggested that the matter be referred back to the Health & Environment Committee for further follow-up and for the possibility of ensuring this request is contained on the Budget Expense requests for 2017.

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**Committee Reports:**

**Richard Allman, Chair, LGBT Task Force**

- CB 10 has an LGBT Task Force.
- CB 12 had various committees but the needs of the LGBT community are not always reflected in the matters that come before each committee.
- There was a discussion regarding the benefits of initiating a Task Force for this purpose.
- A motion was made to establish an LGBT Task Force and was subsequently seconded.
- A discussion took place as to the composition of the Task Force and it was suggested that there be at least 1 member from CB 12 and to have the rest of the Task Force be made up on members of the public.
- A suggestion was made to reach out to SAGE, Legal Aide, and the Human Rights Commission for recommendations and support.
- The matter will be referred to the full Board at the next meeting.

**Yahaira Alonzo, Chair Traffic & Transportation Committee:**

- There was a resolution that was made and passed at the most recent committee meeting to name the corner of 214<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway for the recently deceased Rene Mancino. Ms. Mancino was a pillar of the community and the corner would be named Rene Mancino Way.
  - The Executive Committee made and passed a motion in support of this naming.
  - There was a discussion as to the steps that the Traffic and Transportation takes in considering the possibility for street or corner naming. The process is as follows:
    - Meeting 1 – Discussion – no decision. Fact checking to take place thereafter.
    - Meeting 2 - Presentation of facts and consideration of a possible resolution
    - Committee votes thereafter.
- A motion was made and approved to affirm the committee's steps as noted above.

**Gloria Vanterpool, Chair for the Concerns of the Aging**

- A discussion took place as to the value of continuing the Aging Committee as a separate committee or whether it made sense to dissolve the committee and convene instead a Task Force.
- It was discussed that on CB 10 in Manhattan has a separate Aging Committee and that the other districts handle matters regarding the aging population in other committees.
- There was a discussion as to the difficulty the Committee has regarding adding and keeping the required number of CB 12 members.
- A discussion took place with regard to moving the time of the meeting to improve attendance.
- Ayisha Ogilvie had some suggestions as to how social media platforms can be used to generate interest in topics and attendance.
- Richard Lewis reviewed Article 15 with regard to next steps should there be a decision to dissolve the Aging Committee.
- Shahabuddeen Ally had several suggestions as to how the meetings should be re-considered in terms of time and place before proceeding further.

- A motion was made and approved to table the decision to dissolve the Aging Committee until additional efforts are made to change the time, etc.
- After substantive discussion, the motion was withdrawn in lieu of exploring other options.

**Maurice Owen-Michaane, Chair, Business Development Committee**

- We had quorum at our meeting and completed our committee rankings.
- There will be a Small Business Forum on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Isabella from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. It is being co-sponsored by the MBPO.
- We are planning an April 2016 Job Fair.

**Richard Lewis, Chair, Housing and Human Services Committee reported:**

- At the most recent Committee meeting, the members ranked the priorities for both expense and capital appropriations.
- The Mayor held a Town Hall Meeting regarding Housing on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Among the topics covered were the possibility of a rent freeze, additional tenant protections and the need to better monitor and control real estate development and management.

**Wayne Benjamin, Chair, Land Use Committee:**

- A presentation from the MBPO's office did not take place and has been rescheduled for November.
- There was a discussion regarding the land marking of the United Palace Theater by the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The community is in full support of the landmark status. A Resolution was made and passed at the Land Use Committee to support the re-calendaring.
- The Church was not in favor of the land marking proposal but the son of Rev Ike indicated that they will reconsider based on the latest information presented at the meeting.
- Following a discussion, it was decided that the Land Use Committee will work with the Church to explore the landmark matter further and to find common ground on which all can agree.
- There was also a discussion regarding the possibility of the Church being able to get additional support from the City to support the many community based programs they provide for community residents.
- There was a discussion regarding the rezoning being presented by EDC concerning the Inwood Rezoning Project. There was concern expressed that the community feels that it is not being properly included in the decision making process.

**Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair, Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee:**

- At the recent meeting, there was a discussion concerning the capital needs of the Hispanic Society. These needs will be included in the capital requests being made by the committee.
- There is a need to reach out to the Parks Department to learn how the various concessions work in each park. A letter is being prepared for review to make this inquiry to the Parks Department.
- The Committee is in the process of drafting a letter of thanks to our local politician's to thank them for their successful efforts at limiting the height of the LG Building in the Palisades.
- Ms. Ritter will be out of the country in the next several weeks and Osi Kaminer,

Assistant Chair, will represent the committee.

**Shahabuddeen Ally, Chair, Public Safety**

- There was a general discussion regarding the matters that came up for review at the meeting.
- The 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Precincts are represented at each meeting – but it is not always the same officers.
- The 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct has come up with an Idea Scale which is a resident sharing portal that addresses Quality of Life issues.
- November 21<sup>st</sup> is Amnesty Award a Day when individuals who have low level warrants can come into the precincts to address the underlying issues.

**Fe Florimon, Chair, Youth & Education Committee:**

- She announced that Gary Altheim and Nisa Spitzer will make a presentation about the need for additional tobacco free areas.
- There is an interest in convening a Community Fair in March or April of 2016.
- There was a discussion about making available a list of community resources for Youth
- There will be Town Hall meeting to be held on December 15<sup>th</sup> at a public school to be determined and announced.\
- Fe Florimon is President of the Community Education Council and indicated that there will be an effort to improve communication between the CEC and CB 12.

**Arlene Schulman, Assistant Chair, Health & Environment Committee:**

- At the most recent meeting, there was a presentation regarding the City Harvest markets in the area of 155<sup>th</sup> Street.
- The Committee considered a resolution regarding the prospect of charging fees for the provision of plastic bags by stores.
- The Committee reviewed the various rankings for capital and expense categories for Health and Environment.

**George Fernandez, Chair, CB 12:**

- He has interviewed several individuals for appointment as Public Members and announced the following:  
Natalie Espino – Public & Cultural Affairs  
Angelina Ramirez – Business Development
- Nayma Silver and Rashid Young are to be interviewed

**Committee Rankings**

There was substantial discussion regarding the Capital and Expense Rankings and what will be done in the October 21<sup>st</sup> Budget Meeting.

**The meeting adjourned at 10:05pm**

**Respectfully submitted:** Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann  
November 10, 2015