

Community Board 12, Manhattan
Minutes of the April 26, 2016 General Meeting
Myrna L. Daniels Auditorium / Milstein Family Heart Center / NY-Presbyterian Hospital
(173 Ft. Washington Ave., NYC 10032)

Board Members Present: Richard Allman, Shahabuddeen Ally, Yahaira Alonzo, Mary Anderson, Glennis Aquino, Anita Barberis, Wayne Benjamin, James Berlin, Isaiah "Obie" Bing, Jennifer Chung, Daryl Cochrane, Jason Compton, Robin Cruz, Gerard Dengel, Katherine Diaz, Natalie Espino, Domingo Estevez, Fe Florimón, Wanda Garcia, Mitchell Glenn, Fern Hertzberg, Osi Kaminer, Andrea Kornbluth, Elizabeth Lehmann, Richard Lewis, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Maria Luna, Jay Mazur, Isidro Medina, Deborah Nabavian, Esteban Nembhard, Maurice Owen-Michaane, Jonathan Reyes, Liliana Saneaux, Arlene Schulman, Steve Simon, Karen Taylor, Javier Trejo, Felipe Wytik Sanchez. **Members Excused:** Aldemar De Jesus Diaz, Yosef Kalinsky, Ayisha Ogilvie, Pamela Palanque-North, Angela Sanchez, Carlos Suero. **Members Absent:** Barbara Frazier, Rud Morales, Priscilla Mota-Willis, Luis Tapia. **Staff:** Ebenezer Smith, Debora Blow, Paola Garcia

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7:02pm **Call to order & introductory remarks by the Chair**, quorum having been achieved.

7:05pm **Presentation by 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct**, introducing new C/O Capt. Reymundo Mundo and various Precinct personnel.

7:15pm **Adoption of the agenda:** motion by Arlene Schulman; seconded simultaneously by Richard Lewis and Mary Anderson; approved with no objection.

7:17pm **Approval of Minutes of March meeting:** motion by Richard Lewis; seconded by Isidro Medina; approved with no objection.

7:19pm **NoMAA, Joanna Castro, ArtStroll.** Deadline for program is 4/29. Opening at Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Stroll covers 135-220<sup>th</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup> year of expanded area. Also including workshops for artists. 2<sup>nd</sup> annual artist-in-residence \$7k honorarium, studio space and an exhibit; deadline is 5/16. Informational meeting Thurs 4/28 7-8p. more info at nomaanyc.org. WH/I rec'd BCC grant from DCA. (explanation from PCA minutes. Capacity building. 16 months. \$138,750k. projects include artists' registry, space registry, etc.

7:246pm **Highlights of Chair's report**, the full text of which is included in members' packets:

- Introduction of 10 new members
- Brief discussion of obligations of Board members, importance of showing up, and cross training, i.e., serving on a variety of Committees to get a full view of all the various functions of the Board. Also introduced all of the Committee Chairs, and the Board Officers.

7:30pm **Highlights of District Manager's report**, the full text of which is included in members' packets:

- 5030 Broadway issue. Slope of street exceeds recommended 5% angle, per an April 6<sup>th</sup> review by a representative of the Mayor's Disability office. Also we must still allow for there to be metered parking on Broadway.
- At DSC had open and deep discussion regarding street vending issue. Complaints I have received were very high even during the winter, which typically is lower than in the warmer weather. Also issues with possible food-borne illness from one of the street vendors. Spoke with NYPD, DoH, Small Business Services, DSNY, etc. 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct willing to enforce. They did enforcement on 207<sup>th</sup> and even made some arrests of people who were disturbing the peace. A few years ago we met with C/M Rodriguez and struck a balance, but the problem has gotten out of hand again. C/M Rodriguez looking forward to working with possible relocation of vendors to Plaza de Americas.
- Gave out new member directory. Advised that this is for internal use only; private contact info not to be given out.
- Also included street activity permit applications for the summer.
- Announced DPR RFP for vending in Parks.
- CU summer camperships now open. Lottery drawing will be in May.
- Announced various upcoming events, and street closures approaching GWB for construction.
- Q: Richard L regarding gas hook-ups and DoB approvals. A: new procedure for ConEd to talk with DoB before making the appropriate connections.

7:39pm **Report from Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez, 10<sup>th</sup> CD**

- Celebration of car-free day. 2<sup>nd</sup> will be Sat 4/22/17. Lots of support from CBOs, in terms of participation on the closed street with activities, as well as providing buses for their employees to get to work, and encouraging them to take public transit. On April 4th there will be a City Council hearing in the Transportation Committee on car-free days. Rentals of bikes will be 2-for-1, and there will be other kinds of deals. We are looking to reduce the number of city vehicles that are in use on Earth Day (Friday, April 22nd). 1.4million NYers use cars. Encourage them to support a car-free day. This will be the first US city, following the examples of Bogota and Paris and other international cities to have car-free days. We Looking to close some blocks in this community (Wadsworth in the W. 170's) for Earth Day, and also have there be a car-free day on Earth Day.
- Budget released. Increases in funding for DoT and road infrastructure, Parks, schools, and other important services.
- No interest in ice skating rink in Highbridge Park. We are working on relocating that \$1.3m
- Re street vendors, it's a hot potato; many street vendors need this income to support their families. We are working with the street vendors to come up with some reforms. 207<sup>th</sup> Street situation is not sustainable; we must do something very quick. We would like to create 2 additional plazas, such as like on 176: on W. 183<sup>rd</sup> St. btw. St Nicholas & Wadsworth or W. 182<sup>nd</sup> St. btw. Audubon & St. Nicholas Aves., and on Post Ave. by W. 207<sup>th</sup> St.
- As chair of Transportation Committee, working hard on Vision Zero. Also epidemic we must eradicate is hit-and-run. 40,000 h/r per year, 4k of which result in hospitalization. I have introduced 2 bills, 1 to increase the number of investigators, increase from current 40; also we should have a hit-and-run alert, like an amber alert. Also create a \$5-10k reward for people who report information leading to arrest.
- Save the Date: State of the District address will be September 25<sup>th</sup>, instead of in the Spring, as usual.
- Re re-appointment: thanks to all who served, and to all who applied; welcome to all the new members.
- Rezoning in Inwood is moving. It's also a hot potato. Where I need the help is to make sure that we get a higher percent of affordable housing.

8:07pm **Public Session** (Chaired by Secretary, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter; time-keeping by Esteban Nembhard)

**Phillipe Luciano, NYC Department of Consumer Affairs:** gave information regarding a number of worker benefits, including commuter tax-free transportation savings account, and paid family leave act.

**Francisco Knipping, Majas Tapas:** spoke in support of his client, who is applying for an OPL (item #14). Prior partner was embezzling and had several felonies. Don't hold that against my client, which will employ people.

**Danita Nichols, Inwood & WH NYPL:** Announced upcoming events at branches. Legal help once a week plus a financial advisor 2x/month for ppl working towards citizenship at Inwood starting May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Kassandre Innocent, NYC neighborhood library awards.** Nearly 19,000 submissions. As finalists we get \$10k; we will get \$20k if we get the final prize, which will be put into our operations. Also spoke about advocacy for NYPL. May letter-writing campaign. Selling library shirts in Adult and children's sizes, w/ 6 languages.

**Aurelia Taveras, Majhas Tapas** Spoke on behalf of the applicant. This is not a new application; they voluntarily surrendered it. They have never had an incident with the NYPD or SLA; met with the Councilmember. Corked the ceiling so as not to disturb the neighbors. Upgraded a new security company. We need jobs in WH/I. Please give them a license.

**Luigi Ghidetti, Anchor Heights** Support #15. Soundproofed. No hookah, just food. We need a wine license.

**Elliott Leviouff, Seniors Orchestra Society of NY** new concert series: for the last 3 years we put on 4 concerts/year in various geographic areas of the city. I want to explore the idea of having the community support a community concert here in WH/I. This adds value and demonstrates the strength of the community: vibrant cultural life = vibrant economic life. Councilmember Rodriguez surprised the entire assembly by announcing that Liliana Saneaux, Aging Committee Chair, raised this issue w/ him, and he has awarded \$5k to the organization, which, since it doesn't have 501(c)(3) status will go through ARC Ft. Washington as a fiscal conduit, with thanks to Fern Hertzberg.

**Ricardo Peña, Third Security** spoke about the need for a good security guard company, registered through the state. I have a license, and am trained and registered by the state. Represents a number of clients. Lives in the community for 25+ years.

**Someone who hadn't signed up** spoke about basketball.

**Joel Yoffie, community resident:** read a poem, "2 minutes to speak, allowed for me by the state".

**Fe Florimon or the D6 Community Education Council, Al Kurland of the PAL, and Troopmann of the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct** regarding poor relationships between youth/NYPD announced a joint initiative and event on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Officer Troopmann spoke of the tremendous disconnect between PD and youth, we need to create opportunities for positive interactions, and open up communications. This event will be a march starting from CB12 to the area back behind GWHS, culminating with a BBQ and resources fair.

**Erika Lozano, Food Bank for NYC** introduced her services, potential for partnering with us to connect clients in need to food security services. Gave contact info.

**Catarina Rivera, City Harvest:** described successful recent event. WH Food Council, local org looking to change the food environment. Next Thursday, documentary, "Weight of the Nation (Part I)" at the NYPL Inwood. Free; RSVP; refreshments provided. This will be the continuation of working together on healthier food initiatives.

**Harrisena Lopez, HEAT Program** Hydrant Education & Action Team. Public education on dangers of open hydrants. "Put a cap on it".

**Ana Reyes, I Challenge Myself** need volunteers for two events taking place at GWHS: a new phys ed class, 2-hr obstacle course, this Saturday; needs time keepers and other volunteers. Teaching fitness as a lifestyle. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 6/5 we are only program we know of training students to ride 100 miles in 1 day.

**Senator Espailat arrived, and was given time to speak during the Public Session:** spoke about moratorium. Almost doubling of liquor licenses in one year. I have introduced legislation to put a hold on new licenses in this area of Inwood, OPLs only. What we've seen so far, without it being law, is that the SLA has noticed it and referred to it in some of their proceedings. I would like to be able to come back to you and report that we have had no increase, or maybe even a decrease. It doesn't impact east of 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., or south of Hillside Ave. We need to stand together as a community, and speak in one voice. So I ask you to vote against any new OPLs in the catchment area.

**Cheryl Millar, Catherine O'Sullivan, Moving Forward/Unidos:** Opposed to Majas Tapas. This is a terrible QOL problem. We have enough on Dyckman. Prior owner is a convicted felon, and her partners would like to continue this business. We are against this new license in solidarity w/ Sen. Espailat. Please vote against #14.

**Veronica Guerrero, for 151 Restaurant Corporation:** spoke in support of item #17 requesting an OPL.

**Kay Cid, DoE/Pre-K for All:** gave information about application process, online, family welcome centers at school district offices, or calling 311. Pre-K linked to success rates in school as older children, and increased vocational success and earning power as adults.

**Lea Holzel, community resident:** on behalf of 1825 Riverside Drive on whose board she sits. Opposes Majas Tapas. Characterizing this as a technicality is disingenuous at best. Crisis of saturation in Inwood, specifically on Dyckman between Broadway and Payson. Residents in solidarity regarding #7, still problems with La Marina; stop amplified music after 10pm.

**Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, UP Theater, Cornerstone Chorale & Barack Obama Democratic Club:** announced upcoming UP Theater fundraiser honoring Martin Collins on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 809 (112 Dyckman), upcoming UP production of "the Drum Circle", beginning May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Tabernacle Theatre (551 Ft. Washington Ave., @ W. 185<sup>th</sup> St.), and the Cornerstone Chorale Spring concert, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 4pm at Holyrood Church. Also: Obama Club Spring event on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 2-5pm at the Rio II Gallery, W. 135<sup>th</sup> St. & RSD, honoring James Bosely of UP Theater and WeACT.

8:58pm **Report from Giovanni Puello, Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer:** refer to written report.

8:57pm **Committee Reports**

8:57pm **Wayne Benjamin, Land Use:**

Last month: ULURP re Sherman plaza. Our reso which was not in support. It is now in the hands of the BP. They are using CB12 reso as a framework for how they are moving fwd on that issue.

Resolution supporting a Limited Renewal of The Existing BSA Zoning Variance for The Public Parking Lot located at 465-469 west 165th Street and 458-464 West 166<sup>th</sup> Street.

Explained process regarding proposed zoning variance. Parking lots not permitted as of right in R7; need a variance. We gave a variance 10 years ago, and now it is up again. Supports a limited renewal of 3 years to accommodate construction, but would like to see it develops the site that include affordable housing. No discussion.

9:01pm **Fe Floimón, Youth & Education:** Presented a “Resolution in Support of the Establishment for an NYC Commission that Proposes Reform in District 6 (and Other Needed Districts) on School Overcrowding, and the Capital Process Plan.” Refer to Committee minutes for salient discussion points. Richard Lewis moved that language be added about accommodating additional classes if class size is reduced. This was accepted as friendly. Maurice Owen-Michaane: this isn’t about eliminating zoned school in this district? A: correct. This is about adding resources. Richard Allman: is this solo or being done in partnership with other organizations and CBs? A: It was drafted in conjunction with the CEC, but for procedural reasons the CB and the CEC will adopt identical resolution, not a joint reso. Wayne Benjamin: you reference the Blue Book. What were the recommendations and why did City Hall reject it? A; yes, we will incorporate some of the specific recommendations of the working group. Debby Nabavian: many of these problems relate to gaps in funding from the State. Why is this presented as just a D6 thing, when at a minimum this is city-wide, if not also state-wide. How and why are we doing this alone? A: We are calling on the Council to do this city wide, but we are speaking from the perspective of D6. Jim: by doing this unilaterally we don’t have much clout. Move to table, second by ELR. Motion fails, 17-17-3-0. Discussion continued until there were no further questions, and this moiunt the agenda moved to the next item.

9:27pm **Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Parks & Cultural Affairs:** Ms. Lorris Ritter laid out the salient features of the proposed capital renovation of the High Bridge Water Tower. The 2.316 million project is Phase I to stabilize exterior; strong recommendation by committee to include a new carillon in the belfry. Phase II is an additional \$2.5-3 million; not yet funded.

**Isidro Medina, Assistant Chair), Licensing** Aldemar injured en route to meeting; we wish him well. Richard Lewis noted that #1 and #18 should read “to not recommend” (not “to recommend”).

**Roll Call on Land Use, Youth/Education, Parks/Cultural Affairs resolutions, plus 19 Licensing resolutions:**

| Item # | Resolution                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Yes-No-Abstain<br>Not Voting | Passed or Failed |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
|        | Motion to table Youth & Education resolution.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>17-17-4-0</b>             | <i>failed</i>    |
| A.     | Resolution supporting a Limited Renewal of The Existing BSA Zoning Variance for The Public Parking Lot located at 465-469 west 165th Street and 458-464 W. 166 <sup>th</sup> Street. (Land Use)                                               | 35-0-0-0                     | <i>passed</i>    |
| B.     | Resolution in support of the establishment for a NYC Commission that proposes reform in district 6 (and other needed districts) on school overcrowding, and the Capital Process Plan. (Youth & Education)                                     | 29-1-8-0                     | <i>passed</i>    |
| C.     | Resolution in Support of the Renovation of the High Bridge Water Tower. (Parks & Cultural Affairs)                                                                                                                                            | 37-0-0-1                     | <i>passed</i>    |
| 1.     | Resolution to not recommend the SLA grant a Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: Café Mathias Inc. dba Café De Broadway – 4996 Broadway, (corner of W. 212 <sup>th</sup> Street.)                                                     | <b>38-0-0-0</b>              | <i>passed</i>    |
| 2.     | Resolution to recommend the SLA grant a Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: Vida Mexican Inc. dba Papisito Mexican Grill – 223 Dyckman Street, (bet. Broadway & Seaman Avenues.)                                                     | 34-4-0-0                     | <i>passed</i>    |
| 3.     | Resolution to recommend the SLA grant a Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: 3920 BWY Rest Inc. dba PAR – 3920 Broadway, (bet. W. 165 <sup>th</sup> & W. 164 <sup>th</sup> Streets.)                                                  | 34-3-1-0                     | <i>passed</i>    |
| 4.     | Resolution to recommend the SLA grant a Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: South Beach Restaurant & Bar LLC. dba South Beach Rest. & Lounge – 1390 St. Nicholas Avenue, (bet. W. 179 <sup>th</sup> & W. 180 <sup>th</sup> Streets.) | 34-4-0-0                     | <i>passed</i>    |

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| 5.  | Resolution to recommend the SLA grant a Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: Pipers Kilt of Inwood Inc. dba Pipers Kilt of Inwood – 4946 Broadway, (bet. W. 207 <sup>th</sup> & Isham Streets.)             | 35-2-0-1         | <i>passed</i>        |
| 6.  | Resolution to recommend the SLA grant a Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: La Casa del Mofongo Inc. – 1451 St. Nicholas Avenue, (bet. W. 183 <sup>rd</sup> & W. 182 <sup>nd</sup> Streets.)               | 33-5-0-0         | <i>passed</i>        |
| 7.  | Resolution to recommend the SLA grant a Renewal of its Cabaret License to: Manhattan River Group LLC. dba La Marina – 348 Dyckman Street, (off Henry Hudson Parkway.)                                               | 25-10-1-2        | <i>passed</i>        |
| 8.  | Resolution to recommend the SLA grant a Renewal of its Restaurant Wine License to: Ma Ruey Corp. dba Tung Thong Thai Restaurant – 561 W. 169 <sup>th</sup> St., (bet. Audubon & Broadway.)                          | 35-3-0-0         | <i>passed</i>        |
| 9.  | Resolution to recommend the SLA grant a Renewal of its Restaurant Wine License to WAHI Diner LLC. dba WAHI Diner – 3915 Broadway, (corner of W. 164 <sup>th</sup> St.)                                              | 36-2-0-0         | <i>passed</i>        |
| 10. | Resolution to recommend the SLA grant a Change in the Method of Operation to: Entre Amigo Restaurant & Bar Corp., 2244 Amsterdam Ave., (corner W. 172 <sup>nd</sup> St.)                                            | <b>15-21-2-0</b> | <b><i>failed</i></b> |
| 11. | Resolution to recommend the TLC grant a Renewal of its Livery Car Base License to: R. C. Audubon Car Service Inc. – 2129 Amsterdam Avenue, (corner of W. 166 <sup>th</sup> St.)                                     | 36-2-0-0         | <i>passed</i>        |
| 12. | Resolution to recommend the TLC grant a Renewal of its Livery Car Base License to: Seaman Radio Dispatcher, Inc. – 4020 10 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, (bet. W. 214 <sup>th</sup> & W. 215 <sup>th</sup> Sts.)            | 36-2-0-0         | <i>passed</i>        |
| 13. | Resolution to recommend the TLC grant a Change of Location of its Livery Car Base License to: Xpress Transport & Multi Service – 2326 Amsterdam Avenue, (corner of W. 176 <sup>th</sup> Street.)                    | 35-3-0-0         | <i>passed</i>        |
| 14. | Resolution to recommend the SLA grant a New On-Premises Liquor License to: Maja’s Tapas Restaurant Bar, Inc. – 229 Dyckman Street, (bet. Seaman Avenue & Broadway.)                                                 | <b>10-26-4-0</b> | <b><i>failed</i></b> |
| 15. | Resolution to not recommend the SLA grant a New On-Premises Liquor License to: Anchor Heights LLC. dba Anchor Heights Wine Bar – 575 W. 207 <sup>th</sup> Street, (corner of Vermilyea Avenue.)                     | <b>33-3-2-0</b>  | <b><i>passed</i></b> |
| 16. | Resolution to not recommend the SLA grant a New On-Premise Liquor License to: Dyckman Billiards Café Inc. – 100 Dyckman Street, (corner of Nagle Avenue.)                                                           | <b>35-1-2-0</b>  | <b><i>passed</i></b> |
| 17. | Resolution to not recommend the SLA grant a New On-Premise Liquor License to: 151 Nagle Restaurant Corp. – 151 Nagle Avenue, (corner of Thayer Street.)                                                             | <b>35-1-2-0</b>  | <b><i>passed</i></b> |
| 18. | Resolution to not recommend the SLA grant a New Restaurant Wine License to: Company 47, Inc. dba Company on Edgecombe; Company Catered Events – 537 Edgecombe Avenue, (corner of W. 159 <sup>th</sup> Street.)      | <b>36-1-1-0</b>  | <b><i>passed</i></b> |
| 19. | Resolution to recommend the SLA grant a New Eating place Beer License to: Bocaditos Bistro & Espresso Bar, LLC. dba Bocaditos Bistro & Espresso Bar – 4863 Broadway, (bet. Academy & W. 204 <sup>th</sup> Streets.) | <b>17-17-4-0</b> | <b><i>failed</i></b> |

All of the remaining Committee Chairs referred the members to the respective Committee’s minutes distributed in members’ packets.

**Motion to adjourn** was made, seconded, and approved by acclamation at about 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary