

Committee for the Concerns of the Aging

Thursday, April 5, 2018

CB12M Minutes

The attendees were: Mary Anderson, Chair; Fern Hertzberg, Assistant Chair; Eleazar Bueno, Committee Member; Norma De Candido, Public Member; Imogene Hooker, Rosario Cepin, Celsa Cepin, Mitchell Harris, Safe-At-Home; Paola Ruiz, EDC.

Today's meeting was at CB12 conference Room, 6th floor. Review of meetings externally held, which have included ARC XVI Fort Washington Senior Center, Riverstone Senior Center, and Dyckman Houses Senior Center. Mary Anderson and Fern Hertzberg have been presenting on "What is a Community Board?" Lively discussions ensue about the meetings and the issues that can and do come up before the Community Board.

Norma said that she likes having the meetings at the senior centers, recognizing that the issues differ at each part of the community. Eli felt that we can serve as a conduit between senior needs and opinions and the politicians. We have a unique opportunity to raise the bar of awareness and bring the political attention to senior issues.

The committee focused on whether to continue the external locations. It is important that the community's seniors recognize the impact of the Board on the changes and the potential changes in our community, i.e. Inwood Rezoning. All agreed on the plan to continue the external meetings. Next meeting, May 3 will be held at STAR Senior Center at 650 West 187th Street, and June 7th at the Y at 54 Nagle Avenue.

Eli provided an update on supermarket grabbers and staff assistance to get items from the shelves. He has raised the issue with other supermarket owners, and Eli recommends an awareness campaign to supermarkets, maybe jointly with the BID and Chamber of Commerce.

Site visit to Seniors Helping Seniors program with Assemblyman Al Taylor will be on Tuesday May 1 at 2pm. Review of prior discussion of their weak financial situation and possible merger with other senior service organizations.

Paola Ruiz of EDC gave an update on the current status of the Inwood Rezoning from the EDC perspective. They are working on the CB12 resolution. She recommended continuing participation in ongoing public hearings. Discussion on the Inwood Library and the ULURP; also discussion on the accessible storefront needed as that redevelopment takes place. The day the library closes, the storefront will reopen with no interruption of library services. She mentioned the advantages of 100% affordable housing, pre-K, 20,000 feet of library space (remains the same) and a cultural center of 7,000 sq. ft.

Next meeting will take place at STAR Senior Center, 650 West 187th Street, and the speaker will be Mitchell Harris on the Safe at Home program of the Y. Future potential speakers include

Steve Miller of Quality Health Care; Ryan Dubois, NYC Commission on Human Rights (June 7); and topic of nursing homes, propriety vs. non-profit.

Adjourned meeting (Norma De Candido / Mitchell Harris) at 12:25pm.

Submitted by Fern Hertzberg.