

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

November 19, 2018

Executive Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

Executive Committee Members Present: Shah Ally (Chair) R. Lewis (1st Vice Chair); I. Medina (2nd Vice Chair & Chair, Licensing); M. Glenn (Secretary); B. Lehmann (Asst. Secretary); M. Anderson (Chair, Aging Committee); W. Benjamin (Chair, Land Use); Eleazar Bueno, (Chair, Business Development); Fe Florimon, (Chair, Youth & Education); E. Lorris Ritter (Chair, Parks & Cultural Affairs); D. Nabavian (Chair, Traffic & Transportation); A. Ogilvie, (Chair, Housing & Human Services); S. Simon (Chair, Health & Environment); Richard Allman (Chair, LGBT & By-laws Task Forces)

Other Board Members Present: Matt Levy (Asst. Chair, Business Development); Vivian Ducat (Public Member); Andrea Kornbluth (Public Member); Nicholas Martinez; Tanya Bonner; Jay Mazur; Sally Fisher

Absent: James Berlin (Parliamentarian;

Staff: Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair Ally.

Public Hearing regarding a proposed resolution in support of a Landmarks Preservation proposal to landmark as a historic district consisting of 15 properties between 215 and 218 Streets near Park Terrace West.

- Shah Ally indicated that this matter needs to be addressed in the Executive Committee due to the timing of the Landmarks Preservation Commission in deciding on the possibility of historic status for this area.
- Wayne Benjamin received notice on November 8th that the LPC is holding a vote on Wednesday, November 20th and indicated that there is a need for the Executive Committee to pass a Resolution in support of this designation.
- Dave Thom of Landmark's Preservation Commission made a presentation about this area:
 - 10 of the 15 property owners support a historic designation.
 - There was an original request for historic designation in 2016 – but it was denied. This current request involves a smaller number of buildings.

Public Speakers:

- Graham Cirillo, Community Resident: Supports historic designation and believes the area should be expanded.
- Pat Courtney, Community Resident: Supports historic designation and provided a letter of support. Indicated that this would be the 80th historic district in NYC.
- Allegra LeGrande, Community Resident, lives in Park Terrace, supports designation but questioned the economic fairness of the choice of the 15 buildings.
- Elizabeth Lorris-Ritter, Board member, questioned whether there had been any advance communication by the LPC and CB 12. There are (3) options: Yes, No, or Yes but with changes.
- Ayisha Ogilvie, Board Member, questioned why there are no other areas in the community under consideration for similar designation.

- Richard Allman, Board Member, questioned the process with limited information and whether it is a good idea to landmark a part of Inwood following the recent rezoning.
- Sally Fisher, Board Member, supports the designation and suggested that it should be expanded.
- Vivian Ducat, Public Member, supports the designation and referenced a row of houses near Audubon Park that should have been landmarked but were not.
- Jay Mazur, Board Member, questioned the impact that landmark status on the current occupants. These buildings are rentals but not under rent stabilization laws.

Resolution: A motion was made by Elizabeth Lorris Ritter and seconded by Isidro Medina to consider a Resolution in support of the land marking of this district. **The Resolution passed.**

Vote: Executive Committee 13-0-0-0

Other Board Members 6 -0-0-0

Public 7-0-2 (Abs) – 0

Wayne will draft the final language of the Resolution.

Shah Ally will attend the Landmarks Preservation Commission meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 20th.

Public Session ended at 8:15 pm. Executive Committee meeting resumes.

Chair's Report: Shah Ally stated the following:

- The 2019 Charter Revision should be added to the Agenda
- Shah and Ebenezer Smith met with representatives from Warner Brothers who plan to do extensive filming in the community for the movie "*In the Heights*".
- The staff of the Manhattan Borough President's office has been expanded in an effort to help oversee the rezoning efforts in the community. These staff members would be part of a community task force.
- Shah introduced Orlando Rodriguez, Esq, Urban Planner and Natalie Espino, Community Liaison, who will represent the MBPO's office.
- A discussion ensued as to the role of community task force with the following points:
 - The Public should be included on this task force in addition to CB 12 members.
 - It's a way to improve the communications with the Landmarks Preservation Commission.
 - The Task Force will be able to oversee the work of multiple committees.
 - The Task Force will function much the way the LGBTQ Task Force operates.'
 - The Task Force should include a member of each of the CB 12 committees.
 - Representatives of the EDC should be part of the Task Force.
 - The Task Force should be accountable to CB 12.
 - All meetings should be open meetings.

Resolution: A motion was made to support the creation of a Task Force by Elizabeth Lorris Ritter and seconded by Eleazar Bueno. **The Resolution passed.**

Vote: Executive Committee 13-0-0-0

Other Board Members 2-0-0-0

- Shah brought up the prospect of naming streets after Isaiah Obie Bing and Pamela Palanque North who passed away earlier in 2018.
- Debbie Nabavian, Chair of Traffic & Transportation, represented that the Committee had decided long ago not to consider naming streets for anyone until at least 2 years after their death.
- A decision was made to comply with the procedure outlined by Ms. Nabavian.

Manhattan Borough President's Office: Natalie Espino, Community Liaison, discussed the importance for the community to review the current City Charter for revisions in 2019. She will receive suggestions from anyone who wishes to submit them. Shah Ally indicated that CB 12 will examine the Charter with an eye toward certain revisions and will create a consolidated document to reflect the interests of the Board and its various committees.

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

- There is a request for West 170th Street to become a play street to accommodate the students in the Castle Bridge School.
- On December 13th, there will be a Small Business Forum to be held at 530 West 166th Street on the 2nd floor. It was suggested by Board member, Tanya Bonner and is being sponsored by the Business Development Committee.
- The upgrading of the CB 12 office by Spectrum is continuing and some new construction must be completed before the upgrade can be completed.

Secretary's Report: None at this time.

CB 12 Nominating Committee: *Board Member Matt Levy, Chair of the Nominating Committee* reviewed those who had expressed interest in the various elected offices of CB 12. No one had registered an interest in the position of Assistant Secretary. The roster would be presented to the full Board in the upcoming General Meeting and a vote would be scheduled for the December meeting.

Resolution about funding the work of Assistant Secretary if the position remained unfilled:

There was a discussion about whether or not it makes sense to hire someone to function as Assistant Secretary of the Board if the position cannot be filled. A motion was made by Elizabeth Lorris Ritter and seconded by Mitch Glenn to support this effort. **The Resolution passed.**

Vote:	Executive Committee members	11-2-0-0
	Other Board Members	1-0-1(Abs)-0

A review of which Committees would be offering Resolutions in the upcoming General Meeting:

- The Parks Committee will be submitting a Resolution concerning the repair of the step street on West 183rd Street.
- The Licensing Committee has a total of 25 Resolutions: 11 are Renewals; 7 were rejected; 5 were withdrawn.

Executive Session to review a Personnel matter began at 9:51pm and ended at 10:40pm.

Committee Reports: Tabled to next meeting in the interest of time.

Motion to Adjourn by Acclamation: 10:42 pm

Minutes Prepared: Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann
Assistant Secretary
December 13, 2018

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