

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – February 1, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Simon (Chair), Daryl Cochrane (Asst. Chair), Richard Allman, Sara Fisher, Andrea Kornbluth, Elizabeth Lehmann.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Beatrice Hall (Public Member).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Osi Kaminer, Chris Ventura.

GUESTS: Maggie Clarke, Unified Inwood/Inwood Preservation; Allegra LeGrande, Unified Inwood; Charlie Samboy, EDC; Claudia Carias, State Senator Marisol Alcantara's office; Judith Anuada-Gumban, Lela Brooks, Anthony Ciampa, James Ferris and Odetty Tineo, members of the N.Y.S. Nurses Assn.; Michael Ashby, Roger Cumberbatch and Ray Wilson, members of 1199 SEIU; Erica Christensen and Samantha Cinnick, WHIN Food Council; Rita Gorman; Paul Hintersteiner; Chris Nickell; Javier and Tatiana Paulino.

S. Simon, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and introduced the committee members who were present.

1. **Initial discussion of the Inwood Rezoning Plan Environmental Impact Statement** – S. Simon reviewed responses to the comments submitted by the committee to the Draft Scope of Work.
2. **Presentation on Inwood Rezoning Plan by Unified Inwood** – Allegra LeGrande, Ph.D, climate researcher, said she was disappointed by many responses that said the public's comments were outside the scope of the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR), including concern for increased air pollution / aerosol emissions.
 - EDC hired Philip Habib's firm to do the EIS, but the work was done by people with insufficient expertise.
 - The EIS says that 14,305 additional people could end up living in Inwood as a result of the rezoning.
 - 10034 now has 35-40,000 people, so that would be a substantial change to our daily lives.
 - CB 12 public hearing is being held during the school break after Presidents' Day.
 - EIS does not take into account sea level rise of 1'8½" over 100 years and the effect on the waterfront. Climate projections say storm surges that took place every 500 years could now take place every 5 years.
 - Federally mapped floodplains for 100-year and 500-year floods are being redrawn. Future flooding risk attributable to glacial melting should preclude maximum development on the waterfront.
 - EIS ignored cooling degree and heating degree days, and the increase in energy demands.Maggie Clarke, Ph.D, environmentalist, continued the presentation:
 - Rezoning will produce several dozen tall buildings, between 9-30 stories, creating an extreme amount of density. Inwood is now almost uniformly 5-7 stories.
 - The "cookie-cutter" draft EIS "blew off" most of the 61 pages of comments submitted by Unified Inwood.
 - She was part of a task force that included the Borough President's office and other elected officials that just issued recommendations for legislation to revise CEQR and the ULURP process.
 - EDC is "low-balling" the number of new apartments and only considering development on 33 sites. The projected 5100 new apartments with 14,000 new people represents only 36% of total rezoning area.
 - A more reasonable projection: 50% of new residential capacity would result in 18-19,000 new residents, 80% of whom would be high-income.
 - The extent of development, and the environmental and social impacts, were underestimated.
 - Weekend events at La Marina bring 5-15,000 more people into the community.
 - Unified Inwood is preparing an alternative plan.
3. **Discussion regarding NY-Presbyterian Hospital's plan to decertify 30 psychiatric beds at the Allen Hospital** – Anthony Ciampa, R.N., president of the NYS Nurses Assn. local at NYPH, said as follows:
 - Serious concerns were raised at last month's meeting.
 - NYSNA members are joined tonight by members of 1199 SEIU.
 - Over 50 jobs of RNs and health care workers at risk. NYPH made "disingenuous" offer to relocate them.
 - The psych unit has been at or near full occupancy over the last 7 years, absolutely no need to close it. Patients would be shifted to Westchester or Gracie Square, which is at full occupancy.
 - Closing the unit would encourage people to stay home and not seek health care.
 - We believe the reason behind this is money. The patient population at Milstein is different from that at Allen: at Milstein, 50-75% are private pay; at Allen, the majority are underserved. They are treated for

drug use, mental health disorders, violent behavior, and would end up homeless if their psych disorders are unchecked.

- Responding to the chair's statement last month that Allen originally had 300 beds, he said the two wings on the third floor only contain private doctors' offices, no beds.
- NYPH sent the Certificate of Need application to the N.Y.S. Dept. of Health. N.Y.S. Office of Mental Health makes the final decision. No timeframe.
- NYPH already implementing the plan by not renewing contracts with psych doctors, which expire in June.
- NYPH's application to the state for the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program says Inwood is in high need for psychiatric care.
- The patient satisfaction rating for the Allen psych unit has been high.

The committee discussed whether it should take a position on this issue. S. Simon noted that the committee's recommendation that mental health services be increased in the community has been ranked as CB 12's #1 expense budget request for FY 18 and FY 19 and cited several other points to be included in a resolution.

Motion by Allman/Fisher that the committee pass a resolution opposed to the closing of the psychiatric beds at the Allen Hospital. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Committee Members	6-0-0
Other Board Members	1-0-0
Members of the Public	26-0-0

4. Old Business – S. Simon reported on the following:

- Street and Sidewalk Cleanliness Ratings: The rating for acceptably clean streets in our district for December was 92.7%. Sidewalks were rated as 95.1% acceptably clean.
- Responses to the Community Board 12 FY 19 Budget Requests: The committee reviewed the agency responses to the various items proposed by the committee for both the capital and expense budgets.

5. New Business – S. Fisher: We should invite CLOTH to report on how it spent \$100,000 it received from Council Member Rodriguez through the NYC Clean initiative.

P. Hintersteiner: We should do something about the "brownfield" at the 191st Street subway tunnel. There are leaks coming through the roof. He said he would bring info to the next meeting showing that it is a brownfield.

S. Simon: CB 12 Chair Shah Ally has asked that we hold a forum in April or May on the opioid crisis, jointly with the Public Safety Committee.

O. Kaminer: Where can we put a vertical farm? We should be the first place in NYC to have one.

6. Announcements – S. Fisher: Earth Day activities will be held in Inwood Hill Park 4/20-4/22. Car Free Day will be held again this year with a location in our district.

S. Cinnick: WHIN Food Council is holding three events – a pot luck dinner with storytelling on 2/6 at Our Savior's Atonement Church, a general meeting on 2/20 at the Inwood Library and a food preservation workshop on 2/24 at the church.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Simon.