

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – April 5, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Simon (Chair), Richard Allman, Sara Fisher, Andrea Kornbluth, Elizabeth Lehmann, Beatrice Hall (Public Member).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Daryl Cochrane (Asst. Chair).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Lewis.

GUESTS: Tayyaba Alzal, Emmanuel Amoate, Victor Anosike, Sabrina Ariot, Danielle Bonand, Elvis Cruz, Walkiris Cruz-Perez, Abelard Desrosiers, Paul Epstein, Rose Gedeon, Javier Guevolrol, Julia Hakim, Paul Hintersteiner; Leslie-Ann Jerez, Terry-Ann Lawrence, Dew Lizzardi, Ikpechuvwu Obayi, Gillian Perez, Maya Rajapakse, Valinn Ranelli, Dina Rybak, Dawa Sangmo, Al Santino, Phil Simpson, Jeidy Vazquez.

S. Simon, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and introduced the committee members who were present.

1. Presentation by NYC Economic Development Corp. on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Inwood Rezoning Plan – Dina Rybak, Vice President – Planning, EDC, continued her presentation from last month covering the following topics:

Air Quality: Mobile sources (traffic) and stationary sources (heat and hot water building systems) were studied. Intersections chosen as the three worst – 9th Ave. & W. 207th St., Broadway & 219th St. and Major Deegan Expressway and Fordham Rd. in the Bronx – were screened. Conclusion: Rezoning would have no significant adverse impacts on air quality because of traffic and if new development sites use natural gas to fuel boilers, use low-emissions boilers and place stacks at certain locations and heights to allow dispersion. This would be enforced by the Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation.

Noise: Mobile sources (traffic) did not reach threshold for significant impacts. Stationary sources – they monitored 20 locations in the neighborhood to establish existing levels. Façade attenuation and/or alternate means of ventilation will be needed at development sites. Con Ed substations and MTA train yard don't contribute to noise levels. Noise was measured during the day and night.

Energy: This topic was covered by Con Edison last month. The projected development would increase annual demand by .5%.

Construction: Some community facilities, including schools, may experience increased noise levels.

Shadows: Methodology uses four seasonal snapshots. No significant impacts on Inwood Hill Park and Fort Tryon Park. Potential impacts on P.S. 18 schoolyard, W. 215th Street step street (greenstreet), Sherman Creek park @ W. 205th St., and Good Shepherd Church. Tested lower density alternative with lower building heights, but no mitigation possible in these four cases. All projected or potential development sites were tested.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change: Construction would conform to updated building codes regarding floodplains and resiliency.

Questions were asked throughout the presentation, and various comments made by committee members and members of the audience. The committee discussed issues raised by the presentation and compiled a list of comments on the DEIS. Motion by Kornbluth/Fisher to forward these comments to the Executive Committee for inclusion in the board's submission to the Department of City Planning was approved by the following vote:

Committee Members	5-0-0-1
Members of the Public	8-0-0-0

2. Columbia University Medical Center Report – Julia Hakim, Community Affairs Associate, reported as follows:

- March for Science will be held on 4/14. Starts at Washington Square Park, ends at City Hall Park. Columbia University and Columbia University Irving Medical Center are sponsors and are organizing a group of faculty, staff and students to march together. Community members are welcome to join.
- The National Institute of Health's "All of Us" project is an effort to gather data from 1 million or more people in the United States to accelerate research and improve health. By collecting data about people from all backgrounds and communities, the project will serve as a national research resource to inform thousands of future studies. CUMC is one of the organizations helping to enroll participants. Data collected includes basic demographic information, overall health and certain lifestyle factors (tobacco, drug and alcohol use). A rollout event will be held on May 6th at Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem.
- Scholarships to summer sports camps (soccer, baseball or Little Lions camp) at the Baker Athletic Complex will be available later this month.

3. **New York-Presbyterian Hospital Report** – In the absence of an NYPH representative, S. Simon reported that he had raised the issue about the hospital's plan to decertify 30 psychiatric beds at the Allen Hospital at a meeting of the NYPH Community Leadership Council with the hospital's president, Dr. Steven Corwin. Dr. Corwin firmly insisted that it would carry out the plan to decertify the beds and replace them with Labor and Delivery, Neonatal Intensive Care and surgical beds. Dr. Corwin also discussed the hospital's plan for an as-of-right development on Broadway between W. 169th-170th Streets, currently occupied by a vacant apartment building and a row of stores including a Gristedes supermarket. The plan is to build 200 apartments, both market-rate and affordable, for hospital employees and the community, a "guest facility" for visiting families, "an early child development hub" for infants between 0-3 years old and retail stores including a supermarket and restaurant. Construction would start this year and last for 2-3 years.
S. Fisher: NYPH has not provided info requested on type of patients using psych beds at Allen and source of pay. The elected officials sent a letter to the State Dept. of Health objecting to the closing of the beds.
4. **Isabella Geriatric Center Report** – Betty Lehmann, Director of Marketing & Communications, reported:
 - An education workshop on Medicare will be held 4/11.
 - National Healthcare Decision Day – elder law attorney will speak 4/20
 - Walking Works Wonders program on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8-9 a.m. – free with professional coach
 - Dancercise to the Oldies – Tuesdays until 4/24
5. **Old Business** – S. Simon reported on the following:
 - Street and Sidewalk Cleanliness Ratings: The rating for acceptably clean streets in our district for February was 92.1%. Sidewalks were rated as 97.7% acceptably clean.
 - DEP Service Complaints: The total number of complaints from CB 12 residents in March was 178. The highest number (26) involved Construction Noise Before/After Hours. There were 19 requests for lead testing kits, 14 complaints about leaking hydrants and 12 for running hydrants.
6. **New Business** – S. Fisher: We should invite CLOTH to report on how it is spending \$170,000 it received from Council Member Rodriguez through the NYC Clean initiative.
P. Hintersteiner: Pollution at the 191st Street subway tunnel from contaminated water coming through the roof. He said he knows how it can be solved.
7. **Announcements** – S. Simon: The Riverside Oval Assn. is holding its annual birthday party for John James Audubon on 4/28 starting at the Oval on Riverside Drive & W. 156th St. and then going to 800 Riverside Drive.
S. Fisher: Fountain House is holding a run/walk in Riverside Park 4/7. WEACTION is holding its monthly meeting 4/14. Earth Day celebration will be held in Inwood Hill Park 4/21-4/22. Car Free Day will be held on St. Nicholas Ave. on 4/21. The WH-I Food Council has a special presentation on food procurement at the Mailman School of Public Health on 4/26.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Simon.