

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – May 3, 2018

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Allman

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Anderson, Osi Kaminer

GUESTS: Drew Weber, ALIGN; Dew Lizzardi, Neighborhood Renewal Team; Julio Batista, NY-Presbyterian Hospital; Sandra Harris, Columbia University Medical Center; Genesis Abreu and Lubna Ahmed, WEACT; Lovita Molohides; Gary Altheim, ExcelGDS..

S. Simon, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. and introduced the committee members who were present.

1. **Presentation on reforming the city's commercial waste collection system** – Drew Weber, Organizing Fellow, ALIGN: The Alliance for a Greater New York, gave a Powerpoint presentation:
 - Commercial waste makes up 65% of the city's waste
 - The current collection system by private carters is inefficient and unsafe
 - Trucks from over 90 companies are driving on the city's streets at night picking up waste from businesses
 - Trucks from 27 private carters serve 86 businesses in the area around Rockefeller Center
 - NYC has 3X the rate of crashes as cities with a zoning system
 - Worker fatigue is a factor; drivers work long shifts and are under pressure to rush through grueling routes.
 - Truck maintenance is poor; 53% of trucks fail inspections.
 - In the South Bronx, there are 150 commercial waste trucks per hour.
 - The solution would be to have exclusive waste collection zones that would be assigned to companies based on a bidding process. The awarding of zones by the city would take into account the companies; track records; cost; environmental, community impact and labor standards, and recycling,
 - The Dept. of Sanitation is working on a proposal that may provide for having 2-5 carters per zone, competition with a cap on prices. The change would have to be enacted by a Local Law.

S. Fisher: The new system should be tried as a pilot in a limited area before being implemented citywide. He should also make this presentation to the Business Development Committee.
2. **Update on Fairview Avenue lot renewal project** – Dew Lizzardi, Neighborhood Renewal Team, Uptown Community Church, gave a Powerpoint presentation on the work her group has been doing to clean the lot along Fairview Avenue up the hill from Broadway for the past two years:
 - The lot is behind four buildings on Wadsworth Terrace that are on stilts: 45-47, 49-55, 57-63 and 65-71.
 - Part of the lot is owned by HAP, which is planning to construct a new building on Broadway going up the hill. They have been helping to clean the lot.
 - The Neighborhood Renewal Team has collected a lot of garbage and educated residents about the proper disposal of household garbage and recycling.
 - At 65-71 Wadsworth Terrace, there has been a lot of water damage to the structure; dirty water has been leaking from the building down to Fairview Ave. This is the only landlord who has not been cooperative. There are a lot of problems in the building; we have been trying to help the tenants.
 - If the leak can be stopped, we can plant flowers and get neighbors more motivated.

The committee suggested that she seek assistance from the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp. in organizing the tenants and dealing with the landlord. CB 12 will ask the Buildings Dept. and DEP to look into the leak coming from the building.
3. **Columbia University Medical Center Report** – Sandra Harris, Assistant Vice President – Government and Community Affairs, reported as follows:
 - **All of Us Project** – This National Institute of Health project is an effort to gather data from 1 million or more people living in the U.S. to accelerate research and improve health. CUMC is one of the seven institutions helping to enroll participants, current patients who will be followed for 5 years. Goal is to enroll 100,000 patients. A Harlem rollout event will be held 5/6 at Abyssinian Baptist Church.
 - **Baker Field Scholarships** – Applications for 32 scholarships to summer sports camps at the Baker Athletic Complex are now available and are due May 18. Scholarships cover the costs of a full week of soccer, baseball, or Little Lions camp for each recipient. The lottery is held at the CB 12 office.

- **Uptown Games** – CUMC will be partnering with the Armory, New York-Presbyterian and elected officials to host the Uptown Games at the Armory on June 2. The event will be open to the community and will give children access to the Armory's New Balance Track and Field Center.
 - **WHICAP Forum** – CUMC will be holding a forum on June 16 (location TBD) about community participation in research studies. The goal of the forum is to gain a better understanding of local residents' views on participating in studies and to provide better outreach about these studies. Over 800 families who participated in WHICAP study will be invited and informed of the outcomes. Two presentations in English and Spanish.
 - **Late Night Science** – The next session of "Late Night Science," an informal lecture series led by CUMC graduate students, will be May 17 in the Jerome L. Greene Center, 3227 Broadway. This month's topic is "Getting in Touch with Somatosensation."
 - **Complimentary Lacrosse Tickets** – The Ivy League Men's Lacrosse Championship will be held this Friday May 4 (game 1 at 6pm, game 2 at 8:30pm) and Sunday May 6 (at 12pm) at the Baker Athletics Complex. Complimentary tickets are available to residents of Northern Manhattan.
 - **Office of Service Learning** – in collaboration with the P&S Class of 2018, Ft. Washington Men's Shelter will host a health and wellness day at the homeless shelter on May 11. Medical students will provide services to shelter residents.
 - **Health Careers Scholarships** – There are currently 19 students enrolled in the Stanley E. Michels Health Careers Scholarship through CUNY, and several more will receive them at the end of the spring semester once their clinical hours are completed. The total amount awarded to the current group of recipients thus far is close to \$50,000. We are in the process of planning an awards ceremony in June to honor these students as well as 34 other recent recipients who completed their internships and got licenses.
4. **NY-Presbyterian Hospital Report** – Julio Batista, Director of Community Affairs, reported as follows
- Dr. Corwin, NYPH president, sent a letter to the elected officials and CB 12 concerning the proposed closing of the 30 psychiatric beds at Allen Hospital and outlining a plan to create a comprehensive outpatient mental health services program in the community.
 - The State Health Dept. is expected to decide whether to approve the closing of the beds by the summer, and if approved, it has probably been delayed until next year. When there is space at Milstein, local patients will be accommodated there.
 - The hospital will make a presentation to the committee next month regarding its commitment to expand outpatient mental health services.
 - The Allen Hospital never had 300 beds although that was the original plan. The committee should take a tour of the building.
- S. Fisher: Out-patient services are not an alternative to the in-patient beds. She reiterated her request for data regarding the utilization of the beds.
- S. Simon: Have the doctors and nurses been notified that the beds will remain open after 6/30 and that their jobs will not be eliminated at that time? J. Batista said he will check and report back to us.
5. **Isabella Geriatric Center Report** – Betty Lehmann, Director of Marketing & Communications, reported:
- Lectures for Older Americans Month 5/25.
 - Hosting Uptown Arts Stroll exhibit, including work by residents, employees and community – 6/5 opening.
 - Annual health fair to be held 9/26.
 - Openings in Isabella House for seniors 62 and over- independent living with services.
6. **New Business** – S. Fisher: New hookah law is not being followed; it's still being used in restaurants.
S. Harris: The Washington Heights-Inwood Chamber of Commerce will hold a fitness challenge, ending with an International Family Dine-Out Festival at the Armory 9/15. Restaurants are being asked to add at least one healthy meal to their menus.
7. **Announcements** – Lubna Ahmed, Director of Environmental Health, WEAHT: A symposium will be held 5/16 on Community Benefits and Health Needs Assessments focusing on NY-Presbyterian, Mt. Sinai and Harlem

Hospital. Hospital representatives, researchers, CBOs will be invited. Hospitals are required to provide "community benefits" under IRS regulations to keep their tax-exempt status.

Genesis Abreu, Bilingual Community Organizer, WEACT: Topic of the next monthly meeting 5/12 will be "Is your home making you sick?" A recently passed Local Law requires landlords to remediate mold in apartments.

S. Fisher: Riverkeeper, Friends of Inwood Hill Park and the Girl Scouts will hold a "Clean the River" event on 5/5 at the Dyckman Pier.

D. Cochrane: The NYC Commission on Human Rights will hold a Small Business breakfast at CB 12 5/9. An LGBT Pride event will held at the Anne Loftus Playground 6/3.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Simon.