

## HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – June 6, 2019

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steve Simon (Chair), Richard Allman, Tanya Bonner, Sara Fisher, Rosy Perez.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Daryl Cochrane, Elizabeth Lehmann (Excused), Beatrice Hall (Public Member, Excused).

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mary Anderson.

**GUESTS:** Julio Batista, Dr. Mara Minguez and Andres Nieto, NY-Presbyterian Hospital; Al Santino, Dew Lizzard and Yolanny Rodriguez, Uptown Community Church; Jahneille Edwards, Columbia University Irving Medical Center; Alexis Marnel, Raj Raput, Jeanne Ruskin, Phil Simpson.

---

S. Simon, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m. and introduced the committee members who were present.

**1. Presentation on NY-Presbyterian Hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment /Community Service Plan --** Andres Nieto, Director, Community Health Education and Outreach, Ambulatory Care Network, gave a Powerpoint presentation:

- The plan is required by state law every three years and also by IRS as part of the Affordable Care Act.
- Describes health status of the community; identifies priorities and resources. Looking at publicly available data.
- Community input will be solicited. Several focus groups will be put together with the help of CBOs in the next couple of months. Surveys of community leaders will be conducted.
- This year the state is requiring that we target populations in need.

The committee discussed groups/issues/services that should be included in the plan: Latina teenagers at risk of suicide, public housing residents, homeless, LGBT and other youths, seniors, immigrants, mental health services.

**2. Update on Fairview Avenue Lot Renewal Project –** Al Santino, Neighborhood Renewal Coordinator, Uptown Community Church, submitted a report:

- First cleanup in 2016: collected hundreds of pounds of litter.
- Neighbors have kept the lot fairly clean since then, less dumping.
- Problems at 65-71 Wadsworth Terrace: 14 pipes leaking, eroding the slope, causing trees to fall.
- State Senator Jackson got involved, helped with cleanup, called Dept. of Buildings.
- DOB issued a violation for failure to shore up the stilts and for leaking pipes.
- He saw super cleaning up under the building for the first time.
- Two trees fell on the HAP property. HAP is no longer cooperating.
- Homeless people are living on the lot.
- He asked CB 12 to “advocate for our cause.” S. Simon said he spoke to District Manager Ebenezer Smith and that we would be following up.

**3. Resolution in support of pending state legislation to eliminate non-medical exemptions for vaccinations –**

S. Simon passed out copies of draft resolution based on discussion at last meeting. He read a Daily News editorial, “Infected with cowardice,” urging the State Legislature to pass this legislation. After further discussion, Fisher/Allman moved that the committee pass the resolution, which was approved by the following vote:

Committee Members 5-0-0      Other Board Members 1-0-0      Members of the Public 4-0-3

**4. Columbia University Irving Medical Center Report --** Jahneille Edwards, Community Affairs Associate, reported as follows:

- **Project Medical Education** – The PME program provides for an up-close and personal look at medical education and the day-to-day activities that take place at CUIMC. This year's session will take place tentatively on July 22 or 29. Please inform us if you would like to attend.
- **Summer Youth Employment Program** – CUIMC is currently recruiting over 120 youth participants from local organizations to place in departments throughout the medical center. Students as young as 16 will begin on July 8. For many participants, this is their first paying job and an excellent opportunity to gain valuable work experience, especially for students interested in pursuing science and medicine.
- **Late Night Science** – The most recent session of “Late Night Science,” an informal lecture series led by CUIMC graduate students, was held on Thursday, May 30, at Jerome L. Greene Science Center, 3227 Broadway. This month's topic was “Convergent Evolution between Animals and Machines.”

- **VELOCITY Ride** – Columbia's Ride to End Cancer will take place on October 6, 2019. There is a community participation rate for those interested in riding. However, there are no exceptions to the fundraising goal.
- **Stakeholder Summit on the Opioid Crisis** – In conjunction with the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce and City College, CUIMC hosted a second summit to discuss the state of and methods to address the opioid crisis on May 15 at the Forum located on the Manhattanville campus.
- **Suit UP, Men's Suit Drive** – We completed the third annual drive with NewYork-Presbyterian to provide dress clothing for residents of the shelter. To secure permanent housing, nearly 100 residents attend interviews for prospective apartments. The suits help make a great first impression for a new start. We received over 100 ties, dress shirts, suits, belts and other related clothing items.
- **Baker Field Summer Sports Camps** – 34 full one-week scholarships were awarded to local youth to participate in summer camps held at Baker Athletics Complex. Participants will join either the Little Lions Camp or the Soccer Academy.

5. **Old Business** – S. Simon reported on the following:

- The NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation responded to the comments we submitted regarding the brownfield remediation plan for 3875 Ninth Ave. They agreed to provide results of the Community Air Monitoring as well as the monthly reports of the remediation to CB 12. The response regarding the route to be used by dump trucks removing contaminated soil from the site was incomplete and did not indicate how they would be leaving Manhattan. Follow-up is needed.  
P. Simpson noted they would be going through a crowded intersection at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue & W. 207<sup>th</sup> Street.  
R. Raput, Tae Kwon Do Warriors, located down the block from the site, agreed to keep an eye out for any problems with trucks leaving the site.
- Street and Sidewalk Cleanliness Ratings: The rating for acceptably clean streets in our district for April was 95.8%. The rating for acceptably clean sidewalks was 97.2%.
- DDC provided a written status report on its four current projects in our district:
  - installation of sewer/water main in Inwood – 35% complete
  - water main/fire hydrant/water valve replacements on Haven Avenue, Fort Washington Avenue, Riverside Drive, W. 165<sup>th</sup> – W. 172<sup>nd</sup> Streets – 90% complete
  - installation of water main on W. 170<sup>th</sup> Street – 7.7% complete
  - pedestrian safety project at the Broadway/Nagle/Bennett/Hillside Avenues intersection – 15% complete

In response to the question raised at the last meeting about there not being any work in Inwood for two months, Simon checked with DDC and was told, "Vibration monitoring operations are ongoing and have taken longer than expected. During this time, the contractor has not been able to work but expects to resume work as soon as the surveys are complete, which will be within the next few weeks. We have reached out to construction management in regards to the possibility of restoring parking spaces and will get back to you shortly."

[On June 10, DDC reported: "This week the contractor will be on site to restructure and consolidate the storage areas, merging them into one storage area on W. 217<sup>th</sup> Street, in this way allowing for the restoration of most of the parking spaces that were occupied by storage. Please note once work resumes, it may become necessary for the contractor to occupy the allowable storage areas once again. If parking becomes restricted again, advanced notification will be provided."]

6. **New Business** – S. Simon reported that CB 12 has received a Brownfield Cleanup Program application for 4778 Broadway (former car wash site) and that we would be submitting comments to DEC regarding this application. Among other things, the environmental consultants apparently were only able to locate one of seven possible underground storage tanks responsible for gasoline leakage on the site.

T. Bonner: the committee should look more deeply into how the noise issue in the community can be remedied.

Work with NYPD Neighborhood Coordination Officers, possibly a joint meeting with the Public Safety Committee.

T. Bonner/S. Fisher: We should look at marijuana legalization as a public health issue.

S. Fisher: Possible future issues: glysohate, goats in parks, water quality. Each committee should have a representative on the Inwood Rezoning task force.

A. Marnel: Sidewalks on Edgecombe Avenue bet. 155<sup>th</sup> – 163<sup>rd</sup> Streets are not being cleaned. The east side along Highbridge Park is a dumping ground.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Simon.