

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

January 21, 2020
DRAFT MINUTES

Executive Committee Members Present: E. Bueno (Chair); K. Diaz (1st Vice Chair); I. Medina (2nd Vice Chair & Chair, Licensing); G. Dengel, (Treasurer); E. Lorris Ritter (Secretary & Chair, Parks & Cultural Affairs); O. Kaminer (Asst. Secretary); M. Anderson (Chair, Aging Committee); W. Benjamin (Chair, Land Use); D. Estevez (Chair, Business Development); F. Florimon (Chair, Youth & Education) B. Frazier (Interim Chair, Housing & Human Services); D. Nabavian (Chair, Traffic & Transportation); S); C. Young (Chair, Public Safety); J. Berlin (Parliamentarian); R. Allman (LGBTQ Task Force).

Excused: S. Simon (Chair, Health & Environment)

Absent: none

Other Board Members Present: A. Ogilvie, A. Miranda, S. A. Fisher, J. N. Frometa

Government Officials Present: Natalie Espino (MBPO)

Member of the Public Present: Ryan Desso,

Staff: Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair, Eleazar Bueno

Chair's Report: Eleazar Bueno:

- The Chair plans to assess the staff's daily tasks and find ways to improve navigation of public complaints handled by the office. Also looking to address the navigation of complaints from community members on various issues
- MBPO meeting: a few Target stores, only 2 miles apart are scheduled to open. One in CB9 and one on 181st street. A joint task force will assess the impact on traffic and public transportation as well as the economic impact effects on small businesses in the area already struggling to survive
- Katharine Diaz 1st V.C. will meet with the office staff to help project manage the office work from small to large projects. She will meet with the staff on Friday to hear about the workflow in the office. Katherine is considering procurement process with MWBEs.

District Manager Report, Ebenezer Smith:

- Spent the last month transitioning from the last administration to the new one. The previous Chair wanted to complete some projects before the new administration took over
- Spent time with DOITT about the Text Recognizable (OCR) format requirement for CB12 website. Many of the documents are already in compliance but not all. Starting 2020 DOITT will help the office with processing document conversation so every PDF file uploaded on the website is searchable
- Request for a raise was made and will be presented at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Gerard Dengel:

- Reporting operational summary spreadsheet which outlines personnel services, OTPS rental expenses, and itemization of expenses by line items
- The District Manager will send the summary reports to all Executive Committee members

- There is about \$50k that is available for projects and funds can be shifted between PS & OTPS.

Secretary's Report: Liz Ritter:

- The Secretary compiled a report of attendance for the entire year of 2019 and the last two months of 2018. All Board members received a letter listing their unexcused absences and were invited to correct any information which may be incorrect regarding their attendance. If the secretary receives no reply by next Friday, January 24, 2020, she will prepare for the Chair's co-signature another letter to any or all board members who have 2 or more unexcused absences from their committees and/or the general meeting so these people know that they are in danger of being removed for cause pursuant to CB12 bylaws if they miss any more meetings. There are some members that have enough unexcused absences that they qualify for immediate removal.
- The Secretary is in conversation with the office about the procedure for taking and sharing the information members may provide about their absences
- The Secretary provided resolutions to remove for Cause 3 members who missed most or all meetings last year. The 2nd V.C. I. Medina moved to table the resolutions for a month until the next Executive Committee meeting, seconded by C. Young, the vote on the Resolution was 7(Y); 8(N); 0(Abs); 0(NV); the motion failed
- After further discussion, the Secretary Advised that she will be calling the 3 members first to advise them of the resolution for removal. These members will have the opportunity to resign before letters go out. If some members had a relevant issue that prevented them from being present at the scheduled meetings, but going forward, they are ready to be present at the committees and general meetings, they will be given the opportunity to correct the record and the letters for these members will not go out. The vote was 10(Y); 0(N); 4(Abs: EB, MA, RA, IM); 0(NV); the motion passed
- There are a lot of questions about excused and unexcused absences and the Secretary would like to have a Bylaws Task Force up and running.

Calendars:

February:

- The Aging Committee will meet on February 6th at 10:30 am
- The Youth & Education will not have a Saturday meeting in February

March:

- The Youth & Education will not have a Saturday meeting in March

Committee Reports:

Traffic & Transportation: Chair Debby Nabavian:

- The MTA presented the upcoming closure of the 191st Street elevator (#1 train) at the St. Nicholas Avenue exit. There was no additional information about the exit closure at the T&T meeting that was held on January 6th, 2020. Therefore, no information as to how the MTA will monitor the plan. It's not clear if there is enough frequent service during rush-hour to get people from 181st street to 191st street and there are specific concerns about evening service particularly because of shift changes in Isabella (300 employees) and an already dangerous condition on the 181st Street platform during evening rush-hours (i.e. many riders waiting for the elevators)
- The Chair D. Nabavian presented a resolution capturing the dangerous issues related to the 191st street elevator upgrade 13 (Y); 0 (N); 0 (Abs); 0 (NV) the motion passed.

IT Task Force: Chair, Jonathan Jonathan Nuñez-Frometa: gave updated information about the cameras and monitors system for transmission of CB meetings.

Licensing Committee: Chair Isidro Medina:

- There was a fatality at Floridita restaurant on 10th avenue and 207th street on Monday January 13th, 2020. This is an active investigation. Their licensing resolution was rejected at the December 2019 General Meeting
- 21 Licenses were scheduled for consideration
- 6 Licenses applications were for renewal licenses of which 1 was rejected and 1 was withdrawn
- 2 Licenses applications were for alteration of which 1 was withdrawn
- 3 Licenses applications were for change of method of operation of which 1 was withdrawn
- 10 Licenses applications were for new licenses of which 1 was rejected and 4 were withdrawn
- 3 approved licenses have stipulations.

Committee for the Concerns of the Aging: Chair, Mary Anderson:

- The committee reviewed their mission statement
- There was a discussion about the importance of the Census and where elderly residents can get the paper version
- Presentation about a research study that was done at NYP to treat muscle weakness.

Land Use: Chair, Wayne Benjamin:

- Presentation on an online digital tool called VivaCity like a Google search tool that allows those not versed in zoning to look at zoning and land use matters for to determine what is possible 'as of right'. VivaCity gathers data from DCP, the Department of Finance and other City agencies. It is a free tool to use but there is a fee for any report generated by the tool
- Rev. Dell from Holy Trinity Church Inwood gave an update about their development project. The former sanctuary was demolished, and the parish house will be renovated into a multi-purposed sanctuary. It is still unclear what the residential building to be developed on the site of the demolished former sanctuary will look like as the church's deal with the developer is not yet finalized, design work has not commenced and the Inwood Rezoning has been overturned so R7A contextual zoning no longer applies
- CB12 previously passed a resolution opposing for the BSA application submitted to facilitate a market rate residential development at Fairview and Broadway that would be at least twice the size permitted as-of right. The Committee would like the District Manager to contact BSA to obtain an update on the status of this development.

Business Development: Chair, Domingo Estevez:

- Big procurement event for small businesses development is planned for the spring. There is institutional money available for small businesses that some are not taking advantage of because of lack of certification. The committee would like to bridge that gap by having a small business / procurement fair highlighting the procurement process
- The committee voted unanimously on Tanya Bonner to be the Assistant Chair of the committee
- NYS Human Rights Commissioner Angela Fernandez will talk about what lease discrimination looks like and small business protections in February
- CM Rodriguez's legislative representative will discuss bills that pertain to small businesses
- Comptroller Stringer will send a representative to discuss the MWBE and MWBER conducted through our community
- Port Authority procurement officer, Veronica Smith, will also be at the procurement event.

Parks & Cultural Affairs: Chair, Liz Ritter:

- Please read the minutes
- Potential resolution for Seaman or Payson Avenues street co-naming to honor Lenape heritage and tradition. Most likely site would be corner of Seaman & W. 204th St., the area where the remains of a Lenape Chief, his wife, and their dog found during construction in the 1920's
- The New Leaf Café license expired, and an RFP was issued in 2018. A contract was awarded, and Parks was in negotiations w/the winning bidder. The current owner (who was also the winning bidder) shut down operations just prior to the end of the contract, thus putting them in breach of contract, so Parks is now in negotiations w/another bidder. Because it is an ongoing negotiation there is little available information, and there may be a lawsuit from the previous contractor.

Youth and Education: Chair, Fe Florimon:

- There was a discussion of the committee's accomplishments in 2019 and goals for 2020
- There was a presentation from Zeta Charter School at 187th Street
- The MBPO representative Natalie Espino came to facilitate an orientation meeting on Friday, Jan 17th, for applicants interested in join the Community Board. The event had a great turnout.

Public Safety: Interim Chair, Curtis Young:

- Shared stats from 2019: crime is down by 9% in the 33rd Precinct. There has been a continued pattern of burglaries and robberies especially during the holiday season, stealing Amazon packages. The 34th Precinct reported crime down overall last year
- Transit: there is a pattern of cell phone theft
- FDNY was a large part of the presentation due to substantial fire on Seaman Avenue. The investigation is ongoing. Some residents of the building came to the meeting to voice their concern about the wiring in the building. Summons issued by DOB for illegal work and wiring done
- Many community members have questions about theft committed by members of our community
- A resolution against anti-Semitic hate crimes in our community presented to the Executive Committee. Domingo Estevez suggested adding a "Be It Further Resolved" calling on more community education; this was accepted as friendly. The vote on the Resolution was 13(Y); 0(N); 0 (Abs); 0 (NV); the motion passed.

Housing & Human Services: Interim Chair, Barbara Frazier:

- Over 50 attended the January meeting at the Nagle Ave Y
- The committee interim chair announced that every meeting with agenda items related to Inwood, will be held in Inwood
- Philip Simpson the lawyer for the Inwood Legal Action gave his report about the effects of the new zoning and housing issues
- Staff from the office of Senator Jackson were present at some of the meetings and provided information about the rezoning issues
- For February meeting, Alicia Vasquez will be invited to discuss FDHC.

Curtis Young, for the Executive Committee Resolution, in lieu of Steve Simon, who was sick:

- Parliamentarian: James Berlin: The Resolution of Inclusion for CB12 from November 2019 General Meeting was sent back to the Executive Committee for further discussion. However, there was no quorum at the December Executive Committee meeting, so it was postponed until this evening. We must have the initial resolution in front of us and only then we can decide if we want to work on the initial resolution or the one now proposed

- Discussion ensued as to whether the new draft could be discussed. L. Ritter stated that several resolutions which were brought new this evening to the Executive Committee were discussed, including 1 from T&T, 1 from Public Safety, and 3 on attendance, so there was no reason not to discuss this one. A motion to table the resolution to February passed 8 (Y) (EB, IM, MA, WB, GD, BF, FF, DN); 6 (N) (KD, RA, DE, OK, LR, CY); 0 (Abs); 0 (NV)
- L. Ritter excused herself, as she was ill from a surgical procedure earlier in the day.

LGBTQ Task Force: Chair, Richard Allman:

- There is a determination to get the task force activated and focused this year
- 1st V.C. Katharine Diaz was very helpful in previous efforts to organize the task force
- A piece of the work the taskforce wants to take on is how to work with a wide range of committee chairs so that the taskforce's issues would be incorporated in all the committees' resolutions.

Health & Environment Committee: No report, the Chair is out

New Business:

- Sara Fisher asked about the status of the \$42.5K this year. Per Sara's budget calculation, \$10K has already been spent
- Did CB apply for a discretionary fund as we can receive amounts anywhere between \$5k to \$25k? The window for applying for discretionary funding closes on February 18th, 2020
- Per Sara, Census should be put on the agenda of every committee
- Ayisha Ogilvie asked to invite the Digital Equity Lab to a PCA committee meeting prior to September 2019
- In September 2019, Ayisha Ogilvie stated that a substantive amount of information in a H&HS meeting was summarized by one sentence in the committee's Minutes although there was an extensive discussion about FDHC at the meeting that should have been part of the record.

Announcements:

Natalie Espino MBPO: deadline for CB application extended to February 14th, 2020. If anybody is resigning, please resign to the MBPO.

Motion to Adjourn – made by R. Allman and seconded by I. Medina.

Adjournment: 9:59 PM

Minutes prepared by: Osi Kaminer
Assistant Secretary
January 21, 2020