

LAND USE COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2019

Committee Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair
James Berlin
Osi Kaminer
Chris Ventura, Asst. Chair
Omar Tejada

Committee Members Absent

Steve Simon
Cindy Matos
Nicholas Martinez

Board Members Present

Public Members Present

Vivian Ducat

Public Members Absent

Staff: Shinelle Paniagua

Guests: Nancy Preston, Annie White (City Planning), Jocelyn Contreras, Maca Carrisoza

- 1) The meeting of the Land Use Committee (“Land Use,” “LU” or the “Committee”) of Community Board 12 Manhattan (“CB12M”) was called to order at 7:10 PM. Chair Benjamin greeted guests. Committee members introduced themselves. Omar Tejada was welcomed as a new Committee member.
- 2) Annie White of the Department of City Planning introduced herself to the Committee. Ms. White stated that she is the new City Planning team leader for Upper Manhattan (Community Boards 9, 10, 11 and 12) and formerly served as the planner for Manhattan Community Board 4. She also stated that Ryan Cody is the planner assigned to CB12M; he was unable to attend the December LU meeting but will attend the January 2020 LU meeting. Chair Benjamin stated that LU’s two Capital and Expense Budget Priorities were each ranked in the top 5 by the full board and that DCP can be of assistance in furthering these budget priorities as well as in helping LU and CB12M to monitor the City’s commitments in connection with the Inwood Rezoning, which include investments in parks and open space, transportation, infrastructure, workforce training, education and a new cultural center. The Committee shared with Ms. White various comments on the EDC-led Inwood rezoning and planning objectives such as workforce and job development that received inadequate attention. The Committee also discussed how DCP might advocate with the Landmarks Preservation Commission to help advance historic preservation initiatives in Washington Heights and Inwood; assist LU to review ULURP, BSA and other applications; evaluate the affordable housing plan submitted by Congressman Espaillat in the context of the Inwood Rezoning, and update the Land Use and Neighborhood Planning Study completed by CB12M in 2007.
- 3) **Old Business.** Nancy Preston reported that the demolition phase of work has commenced for the Holy Trinity Church development project. She also noted, as did Chair Benjamin, that recent communication with the church was with someone from the Episcopal church’s central office, not Rev. Dell.
- 4) **New Business.** Committee Member Kaminer reported on the Municipal Art Society’s (“MAS”) initiative to advocate for protecting sunlight at street level, noted that it is consistent with the resolution passed by CB12 advocating for the protection of sunlight on rooftops as a source of renewable energy, and recommended that MAS be invited to present to Land Use.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Submitted by Wayne Benjamin