

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

February 19, 2019
Executive Committee
DRAFT MINUTES

Executive Committee Members Present: R. Lewis (Chair); E. Bueno (1st Vice Chair & Chair, Business Development); I. Medina (2nd Vice Chair & Chair, Licensing); G. Dengel, Treasurer; M. Glenn (Secretary); B. Lehmann (Asst. Secretary); M. Anderson (Chair, Aging Committee); W. Benjamin (Chair, Land Use); Fe Florimon (Chair, Youth & Education); Nick Martinez (Interim Chair, Traffic & Transportation); A. Ogilvie, (Chair, Housing & Human Services); M. O'Shaunessey (Chair, Public Safety); S. Simon (Chair, (Health & Environment); James Berlin (Parliamentarian); Richard Allman (Chair, LGBT & By-laws Task Forces)

Absent: E. Lorris Ritter (Chair, Parks & Cultural Affairs)

Other Board Members Present: ***D. Young; T. Bonner***

Others Present: Natalie Espino, Community Liaison, and Manhattan Borough President's Office (MBPO); Stan Kalthanesh; Joshua Goldberg, PIN Pharma; Sarah Ellmore (NYC Dept. of City Planning); Curtis Young; Orlando Rodriguez, MBPO's office & Urban Planner

Staff: Ebenezer Smith, District Manager – Absent due to vacation

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Chair, Richard Lewis

Chair's Report: Richard Lewis reported the following:

- He is in the process of reorganizing the CB 12 office structure including locating all needed records and assuring that all CB 12 members' resumes are on file.
 - He is signing all staff time sheets.
 - He is ascertaining all time and leave accruals for each staff member.
 - "Grammarly", a software app. has been introduced to assist staff with writing needs.
 - The job responsibilities for all staff members will be reviewed and updated.
- He has sent out an interest form to all CB12 members to ascertain their interest in committee membership.
- February 25th is the new deadline for community board applications for new or renewed membership.
- An audit underway with regard to all equipment. All equipment has been properly tagged.
- The CB 12 Personnel Committee will be meeting with the District Manager upon his return from vacation.
- There will be a street-co-naming on 162nd St. & Edgecombe Ave. on Saturday, January 23rd in memory of Pamela Palanque North. All CB 12 members are invited to attend.
- An Inwood Rezoning Task Force will be formed based on the Resolution that was passed in November.
- The preliminary budget for the next fiscal year is ready for review in each committee.
- He has met with all Committee Chairs to review with them how they run their meetings.
- Nicholas Martinez will be the new Chair of the Traffic & Transportation Committee

- He will complete all Committee assignments by the end of March
- There is a 3 minute limit on Board Chair reports in Executive Committee meetings.
- The Mayor is proposing dramatic budget cuts for next year.

Review of Draft Calendars with the following changes:

March The Aging Committee will meet at Isabella.

The Youth & Education Committee will meet at 10:00 am on Sat. March 2nd at Isabella.

The Business Development Committee will meet at Community Health Academy of the Heights (part of CLOTH) 504 West 158th Street

The street co-naming for Isaiah Obie Bing will take place on March 16th.

April - The Youth & Education Committee will meet on Saturday, April 6th at Isabella.

James Berlin (Parliamentarian) – Review of by-laws with regard to committee appointments:

- The Board Chair appoints Committee Chairs, Asst. Chairs and committee members.
- The MBPO's office is creating a uniform template of by-laws that will apply to all Boards.
- Natalie Espino of the MBPO's office will forward the template when it is ready.
- There was a discussion about re-convening a by-laws task force.

Treasurer's Report: Gerard Dengel reported the following:

- He has met with Ebenezer and has reviewed the budget categories of personnel services, rent, and OTPS and created a spread sheet with which to work going forward.
- There is \$46k less in the budget this year than last due to the loss of a one-shot payment.

Secretary's report: No report at this time.

Presentation: "Residential Towers Mechanical Void Zoning Text Amendment" Presented by the New York City Department of City Planning ***Presenters:*** Sarah Ellmore, New York City Department of City Planning and Orlando Rodriguez, MBPO's Office and Urban Planner:

- The goal of the Text Amendment is to limit unnecessary mechanical voids that artificially raise the heights of buildings.
- CB 12 is not currently affected by this type of construction since there are no R10 zoning districts and only 1 R9 zoning district – but that may change in the future so it is suitable for CB 12 to consider the text amendment.
- The Text Amendment would limit mechanical void floors to 25 feet in residential buildings. Space taller than that should be counted as floor space. Mechanical void floors must be 80' away from other mechanical void floors. Commercial and community facility buildings are not affected.
- Response to the Text Amendment is due on March 8th – leaving insufficient time for review it in the Land Use Committee which is why it is being considered in the Executive Committee.
- A motion was made to vote on a ***Resolution of support*** for the text amendment:
 - Proposed by Wayne Benjamin; Seconded by Gerard Dengel
 - ***Vote: Executive Committee: 11 – 0 – 0 – 1 (Abstain)***
Other Board Members: 2 – 0 – 0 – 0
 - ***The Resolution passed.***
- Wayne Benjamin will create the Resolution language for consideration at the General Board meeting.

Committee Reports:

Health & Environment Committee: Chair Steve Simon, reported the following:

- Emma Hulse of CHALK (Choosing Healthy & Active Lifestyles for Kids) made a presentation about the purpose, community partners and resources that CHALK continues to provide to the community.
- Anthony Ciampa, President of the NYSNA Executive Committee provided an update on contract negotiations with NYP, Mt. Sinai and Montefiore Hospitals. He addressed the matter of nursing staff ratios. He also provided an update on matter of the closing of 30 beds at the Allen Hospital.
- Joshua Goldberg of PIN Pharma spoke about the loss of his lease at the Audubon Research Center and the fact that other incubator research organizations in that building may suffer the same fate. He is requesting CB 12 to review this matter with CUMC.

Traffic & Transportation Committee: - No formal report at this time.

- Richard Lewis attended this meeting and reported that Yeshiva University will make a presentation at the next meeting regarding their planned plaza.

Land Use: Chair, Wayne Benjamin reported the following:

- A Resolution in support of the Waterfront Alliance's WEDG Initiative was reviewed and passed by the committee. It will be presented at the General Meeting.
- A Resolution was passed by the Committee to encourage the owner (Catsimides) of a vacant site on 162nd & Amsterdam (formerly a Rite Aid Store) to work with NYC and/or a non-profit developer to facilitate the development of the site. It could accommodate up to 50 housing units and 20k feet of commercial space.
- A Resolution was passed on the residential mechanical voids.
- The Manhattan DA is scheduled to attend the next meeting of the Committee.

Licensing: Chair, Isidro Medina reported the following:

- Sixteen licenses were considered.
- Fourteen applications were renewals or a change of operation.
- Two OPL's were reviewed. One application was denied. Two wine license applications were approved.

Parks & Cultural Affairs: No formal presentation at this time.

- Chair Richard Lewis attended the meeting and reported that there was a discussion about changing a basketball court to a playground for children with special needs in the Ann Loftus Park.

Housing & Human Services: Chair, Ayisha Ogilvie reported the following:

- The Committee will review current rent regulations in the March meeting and will create a Resolution concerning the same which will be presented in March.
- She attended a Black & Latino Legislative Caucus in Albany over the weekend where rent reform was discussed at length.
- There is a Public Member opportunity on her committee.
- Carrot Top Bakery on 214th Street is to close due to a lack of gas.
- DHS has not attended meetings of the Committee when the subject of the Armory is on the agenda. They prefer a private meeting which will not fly. The meeting must be an open meeting.

Public Safety: Chair, Mary O'Shaunessey reported the following:

- The Manhattan District Attorney's office has (2) paid internships for qualified young people in areas of:
 - Gun violence

- Criminal justice
- Noquel Matos is a new member of the Committee
- Comp Stat will be distributed at the next meeting.

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

- The meeting took place at the Church of Our Savior's Atonement.
- Giovanni Feliciano spoke about the Highbridge Open House.
- The NCO's made a presentation about the NCO Program and crime prevention.
- They were made aware of a safety & sanitation issues at the SE corner of 179th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue. The NCO's will look into this.
- The Social Worker from the Y spoke about the "Safe at Home" Project.
- The next meeting will take place at Isabella on March 7th.

Business Development: Chair, Eleazar Bueno had to leave. Asst. Chair Tanya Bonner reported the following:

- A food court, the first in Washington Heights, is being constructed at 183rd Street & Broadway. Sugar Hill Properties is doing the construction. They are working with Work Force 1. More than 25 jobs will be created when the food court is completed.
- As with restaurants, street vendors are now being graded as of December 2018. The committee will review the results when they are released by DOH.
- There was a discussion about the need to monitor that Sugar Hill Properties hires residents of Washington Heights. CB 12 will reach out to them regarding this matter.
- They will need to come before the Licensing Committee in order to secure a liquor license.

Youth and Education: Chair, Fe Florimon, reported the following:

- The Committee met at Gregorio Luperon High School.
- The Committee agreed on goals for 2019.
- The Committee reviewed the Mayor's announcement at PS 128 concerning a dual language program.
- The 33rd Precinct participated in the last meeting and is seeking more youth participation in planning the Youth/NYPD march in June.

New Business:

- Ayisha Ogilvie: Microsoft may partner with Block Chain in an effort to help our community by recording all buildings and providing a record of institutional memory.
- Steve Simon mentioned that the DOT is holding a public hearing on Monday, February 25th regarding the viaduct. This is a 3.5 year project. CB 12 should be there.

Old Business:

- Committee evaluation forms should be translated into Spanish.

Motion to Adjourn: Wayne Benjamin; Seconded by Isidro Medina

Adjournment: 9:05 pm

Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann
March 18, 2019