

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – September 7, 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Simon (Chair), Richard Allman, Daryl Cochrane, Wanda Garcia, Andrea Kornbluth, Elizabeth Lehmann, Beatrice Hall (Public Member).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Anderson, Sara Fisher.

GUESTS: Genesis Abreu, WEAFT; Alejandra Aguirre, Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC); Robert Fullilove, Mailman School of Public Health, CUMC; Sandra Harris, CUMC; Mari Millery; Catarina Rivera, City Harvest; Julia Rubin.

S. Simon, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. and introduced the committee members.

1. **Presentation: “Public Health Needs of the Community”** -- Associate Dean Robert Fullilove, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University Medical Center, spoke as follows:
 - He was active in the civil rights movement with the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee in 1964-67.
 - Has been doing public health work in the community since 1/90 at the Mailman School.
 - Started working on HIV-AIDS issue.
 - Found two different kinds of communities in Washington Heights-Inwood.
 - Neighborhood led the city in homicides at that time.
 - Produced three different reports on violence and trauma.
 - Tuberculosis issue emanating from the large men’s shelter at the Armory. Overcrowding contributed to the problem.
 - Many assets in the community. Able to bring people together over health issues.
 - Created Hike the Heights, in which people walk from 110th Street on the south and Dyckman Street on the north to Sunken Playground in Highbridge Park at W. 167th Street in June for the past 15 years. Includes young people and adults.
 - We have the ability to affect obesity, one of the most important risk factors in diabetes, high blood pressure.
 - You can be overweight and healthy if you have a good diet and exercise.
 - The easiest thing to do is walk. Walking is a preventive strategy.
 - Increased physical activity in people over 60 reduces Alzheimer’s disease.
 - CB 12 should encourage people to participate in Hike the Heights and walk in the park.
2. **Presentation: Results of survey of 17 non-profit organizations on the health needs of the community** – Dr. Mari Millery, consultant and former professor at Mailman, and Alejandra N. Aguirre, MPH, Community Engagement Core Resource, Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, CUMC, reported as follows:
 - Information on survey is posted on website: GetHealthyHeights.org
 - Survey dealt with how health-related organizations interact and collaborate in Washington Heights-Inwood.
 - Asked about neighborhood needs and organizational relationships, resources and contributions.
 - Data was collected in 2016. 28 organizations were invited to participate. 17 responded.
 - Top priority needs: housing and homelessness; food/nutrition; mental health; abuse and neglect, diabetes.
 - Most important need: mental health (depression, anxiety, eating disorder, hoarding and other obsessive-compulsive disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, suicide or other).
 - More resource collaboration leads to better health outcomes.
 - Plan to do another survey in a couple of years.
3. **Initial Discussion of FY 19 Expense and Capital Budget Priorities** – The committee reviewed its FY 18 budget priorities and the agency responses. Follow-up on several issues is needed, such as the request for increased trash basket collection on weekends. Further discussion next month when budget priorities will be ranked for consideration by the full board.

S. Simon: members should come to the next meeting with ideas of new requests, but we should try to limit the number of items on the list since the board’s overall list is very long.

S. Fisher: should include request to DEP for storm water infrastructure. The Statement of District Needs from past years and the budget requests and responses should be on the CB 12 website.
4. **Columbia University Medical Center Report** -- Sandra Harris, Assistant Vice President, Government & Community Affairs, reported as follows:
 - Neighbors Day to be held at Columbia vs. Wagner football game at Baker Field on 9/16.

- Columbia Ride to End Cancer to be held on 10/7.
 - 250th anniversary of Columbia Medical School in 2018. Lots of activities planned.
 - Autumn Haven Festival at pedestrian plaza on Haven Ave. – 9/18.
 - Summer camp at Baker Field – 32 scholarships were given out; all were used.
 - Learning to Row program with local schoolchildren at Muscota Marsh.
 - Medical Center Neighborhood Fund generated more donations this year. Awards to be made next week.
 - Bone marrow drive in two locations at Milstein and Lerner Hall downtown – 9/15.
5. **Isabella Geriatric Center Report** – Betty Lehmann, Director of Marketing & Communications, reported as follows:
- Health fair on 10/13.
 - Open house for Isabella House 9/16. Studio and 1-bedrooms available. Supportive housing.
6. **Old Business** – S. Simon reported on the following:
- Update on Street Cleanliness Ratings: The average monthly rating for FY 2017 for our district was 92.9i%. Allman: would like to see stats broken down by commercial and residential streets.
 - DEP Service Complaints from CB 12 Residents: Three of the top four requests for FY 2017 involved hydrants: Fire Hydrant Emergency (765), Hydrant Running Full (697) and Hydrant Running (367). There were 402 Lead Kit Requests.
7. **New Business** – Draft Scope of Work for the Environmental Impact Statement for the Inwood Rezoning Proposal – Committee members agreed that CB 12 should request an extension until November 1 to submit comments to EDC to allow the CB 12 committees sufficient time to review the lengthy document.
C. Rivera: Outreach must be made to the Dominican community. Document should be translated into Spanish.
8. **Announcements** – C. Rivera: Family garden day at Swindler Cove.
S. Fisher: Monarch butterflies to be released at various locations by Friends of Inwood Hill Park, including Good Shepherd Church and the firehouse on 9/11. Was able to view the eclipse with 20 viewing glasses from NASA.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Simon.