

LAND USE COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES

January 7, 2015

Committee members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair  
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair  
Isaiah Bing  
Osi Kaminer  
Jason Miller  
Tamara Rivera  
Arlene Schulman

Committee Members Absent

Steve Simon

Board Members Present

Public Member

Vivian Ducat

Public Member Absent

Staff: Debra Blow

Guests: Mary Anderson, S. Wadsworth

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm. Land Use Committee (“Land Use” or the “Committee”) Chair Wayne Benjamin began the meeting by wishing committee members and guests a Happy New Year. He stated that prior to the start of the meeting committee member Jason Miller advised that he took a new job and will be resigning from Community Board 12-Manhattan (“CB12M”) since he no longer works for Edison Properties, which constituted the interest in Washington Heights and Inwood that qualified him for membership on CB12M. He also stated that Land Use will miss Jason’s contributions and that CB12M will miss his contributions to the Business Development Committee.
2. The Committee discussed CB12M’s record with respect to historic preservation including: resolutions passed supporting the designation of new historic districts and structures, modifications to designated structures and the evaluation of proposed historic districts and structures; the CB12M/CCNY District-wide Planning Study (the “Study”), which included a chapter on historic preservation; and the recent action proposed by the Landmarks Preservation Commission (“LPC”) to de-calendar 96 properties from consideration for designation, including the United Palace, the only property located in Washington Heights and Inwood. Since 2009 CB12M passed 10 resolutions that evidence its support historic preservation. The Committee agreed that LPC has not sufficiently engaged in dialogue with CB12M or Land Use to discuss its progress evaluating proposed new or expanded historic districts or new historic structures. After further discussion a resolution was proposed calling upon LPC to engage with CB12M to advance activities related to the designation of historic districts and structures in Washington Heights and Inwood. **The resolution passed based on the following votes.**

Committee Members:	8-0-0
Board Members:	0-0-0
Members of the Public:	2-0-0

The Committee expressed interest in having guest speakers from the Historic Districts Council and the Municipal Art Society invited to review the historic preservation chapter of the Study and meet with it to discuss their ideas with respect to which of the many properties included might be prioritized for evaluation by LPC and how to work more effectively with LPC.

3. The Committee discussed the status of the Board of Standards and Appeals (“BSA”) application for 290 Dyckman Street which Land Use and the CB12M supported in 2014. Chair Benjamin agreed to ask District Manager Ebenezer Smith to provide the Committee with an update.
4. After further discussion the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Benjamin