

COMMUNITY BOARD 12, MANHATTAN
Executive Committee Meeting
Virtual via Zoom

March 24th, 2020
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); W. Benjamin (Chair, Land Use); D. Estevez (Chair, Business Development); S. Simon (Chair, Health & Environment); C. Young (Chair, Public Safety); J. Berlin (Parliamentarian); R. Allman (LGBTQ Task Force); J. N. Frometa (IT Task Force); D. Nabavian (Chair, Traffic & Transportation); F. Florimon (Chair, Youth & Education); A. Miranda (Housing & Human Services)

Excused: M. Anderson (Chair, Aging Committee)

Absent:

Other Board Members Present: A. Ogilvie; T. Bonner, S. Fisher

Government Officials Present: N. Espino (MBPO)

Member of the Public Present:

Staff: Ebenezer Smith, District Manager, Paola Garcia

Meeting was called to order at 7:26 pm by Chair, Eleazar Bueno

Chair's Report: Eleazar Bueno:

- The office purchased a virtual meeting license from Zoom and others to run CB12 meetings
- Jonathan was extremely helpful in helping to operate the virtual meetings
- The office participated with MBPO and Fresh Direct with help from Ayisha to distribute 200 packages of food, each weighing 10lbs and distributed at the Dyckman houses. Fresh Direct will continue to distribute food on a weekly basis for the duration of the crisis
- A. Ogilvie suggest that community members can utilize their cameras to take photos of businesses engaged in price gouging; the office will create a record of them and then distribute to the right agencies
- Business Development will put together an instructional video for small businesses to complete the Small Business Relief Fund documents required by NYC for small loans and payroll relief.

District Manager Report, Ebenezer Smith:

- The office has been working from home since March 15, 2020 supporting meetings, agendas, e-blasts and preparing resolutions
- The office helped out in putting together virtual meetings and is ready to live stream
- The new Facebook page is under Ebenezer's name and CB12 members received an invitation to this new page
- The office is planning on purchasing laptops from CDW so the office staff can work from home
- Ebenezer spoke to Richard Lewis' sister regarding funeral arrangements but due to COVID19 it is highly unlikely to take place prior to April 2020. Natalie Espino from the MBPO has been helping Richard's sister get access to his apartment.

Secretary's Report: Liz Ritter:

- Attendance update: Karen Taylor resigned from CB12, Francisco Lopez's wife had a baby but is now back to his assigned committees with good attendance. We have not heard from Francisco Alvarez. He showed up to one general meeting and has not attended any of his assigned committees and should be removed. The Secretary will circulate a letter addressed to the MBPO for the removal of Francisco Alvarez.

Treasurer's Report: Gerard Dengel:

- Sent a request on February 25th asking for updates and actuals for the report. Will follow up with Ebenezer tomorrow
- Per Ebenezer, the discretionary fund is now stands on \$29,500.

Calendars:

April:

- PCA will meet on Monday 3/15/20 due to Passover
- LC will meet on another date

Committee Reports:

Parks & Cultural Affairs: Chair, Liz Ritter:

- On-going issues in playgrounds where people are not practicing social distancing. Steve Simon advised that playgrounds are not sanitized and people use them at their own risk
- Community members gave recommendations for their choice of concessioner for the New Leaf Café that closed down
- All parks are open at this time and people should use the parks but keep social distancing per NYS guidelines.

Health & Environment Committee: Chair Steve Simon

- NYPH will give a presentation at the April GM
- Rep from the DOH gave presentation about the Coronavirus
- Presentation on the Hospital Community Service Plan that was submitted to the State. The plan includes additional programs in our district. However, it does not include some of the outpatient mental health programs the Committee previously discussed with NYPH. The Committee is looking for a mechanism by which to submit comments to NYS DOH so we can be on record. We hope to do so by the next H&E meeting
- Committee Chair request to expend services for underserved and uninsured people. Asked to have flyers in Spanish and English and have Spanish-speaking operators on the telephone line to avoid people with symptoms showing up at the hospital.

Traffic and Transportation: Jim Berlin

- DOT Vision Zero priority corridor resolution addressing 178th street between Ft Washington and Wadsworth, where there are a high volume of accidents. Pedestrians are crossing with the light and when cars are turning left from 178 street onto Broadway. The resolution asks for a separate signal for the ramp going up the bridge and coming from the upper level vs coming from 178th street. Distinguish timing for crossing, different lane markings, bus layover spot for the buses that have stops there, left turn lane only and Pedestrian Island on Broadway since it's a long crosswalk. The Committee approved this resolution unanimously

- The MTA will dramatically reduce services on Subways and buses. The focus is to get essential workers to and from work.

Licensing: Chair Isidro Medina:

- The committee had 18 Licenses scheduled for consideration
- 7 License applications were for renewal licenses
- 1 License application for renewal of sidewalk café
- 1 License application for alteration
- 2 License applications for a change of method of operation
- 7 License applications for new licenses, 2 of which had been withdrawn prior to the meeting, 1 was withdrawn at the meeting, applicant did not show up. 3 new applications were approved
- One applicant already sent the required stipulation
- Parliamentary note to LC: Controversial applications should wait for the entire board approval at the next GM. Non controversial resolutions can be signed by the CB12 Chair and sent to the SLA.

Housing & Human Services: Chair, Ariel Miranda:

- No meeting took place in March
- Next meeting: services for the homeless & their experiences during COVID, seniors facing eviction, renters experience during eviction freeze
- Precinct council meeting was cancelled today
- Bail reform meeting was very successful, reps from the District office, New York Defender and Local New York presented and answered questions at the meeting.

Public Safety: Chair, Curtis Young:

- Updates from the 33rd and 34th Precincts. There was a huge increase in car theft and burglaries
- There is concern over looting of businesses that are completely shut down.

Land Use: Chair, Wayne Benjamin:

- The Municipal Arts Society (MAS) presented its "Fight for Light" initiative which seeks stronger protections for sunlight to help promote a more equitable and healthy city, alternative energy sources, economic development, ecological diversity and active use public spaces. LU invited MAS to keep it updated on this initiative and to also make presentations to the Parks and Cultural Affairs and Health and Environment Committees
- NY Presbyterian Hospital presented its proposed mixed-use development at Broadway between West 169th Street and 170th Street. LU recommended that NYPH discuss the Early Childcare Hub component of the project with the Youth and Education and the Health and Environment Committees.

Business Development: Chair, Domingo Estevez:

- Two small business owners presented at the meeting, one of which was from the owner of a hair salon that has been in business for 25 years. The committee listened to their concerns and experiences and wanted to know what areas they need support in
- NYP is waving rent for the next 3 months. There is a need to look into what happened after the pandemic is over and how this is affecting small business
- Home aid company identified a void in services for elderly day care
- The Committee is focusing on bringing information to business owners and there will be several virtual info sessions coming up
- Businesses should deposit cash in their bank as soon as possible; a business in the Bronx was robbed of \$300K.

Youth and Education: Chair, Fe Florimon:

- Dr. Susan de Jesus, co-founder and liaison of the charter school, reported that starting September of 2020, their school will provide 3 languages, English, Spanish and Mandarin for K and 1st grade
- The Committee is creating a directory of 25-30 arts organizations.

LGBTQ Task Force: Chair, Richard Allman:

- No report.

IT Task Force: Chair, Jonathan Nuñez-Frometa:

- No report.

New Business: none

Old Business: none

Announcements: none

Motion to Adjourn – 2nd by Eleazar Bueno.

Adjournment: 9:34 PM

Minutes prepared by: Osi Kaminer
Assistant Secretary
March, 2020