

**Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting**

**KAJ Congregation
90 Bennett Avenue
May 28, 2019 - 6:30 pm**

Board Members Present: Richard Allman; Mary Anderson; Lilliam Arias; Wayne Benjamin; James Berlin; Tanya Bonner; Eleazar Bueno; Carolina Charles; Daryl Cochrane; Robin Cruz; Waldys Cruz; Gerard Dengel; Domingo Estevez; Sara Fisher; Fe Florimon; Mitchell Glenn; Miriam James; Danielle Jettoo; Osi Kaminer; Elizabeth Lehmann; Matthew Levy; Richard R. Lewis; Elizabeth Lorris Ritter; Maria Luna; Jay Mazur; Nicholas Martinez; Cindy Matos; Isidro Medina; Ariel Miranda; Rud Morales; Deborah Nabavian; Ayisha Ogilvie; Bruce Robertson; Steve Simon; Karen Taylor; Omar Tejada; Christopher Ventura; Curtis Young

Board Members Absent: Francisco Alvarez; Nobles Crawford; Katherine Diaz; Francisco Lopez; Noquel Matos; Jonathan Nunez-Frometa; Rosy Perez;

Board Members Absent - Excused: Glennis Aquino; Naysha Diaz; Gabriela Estrella; Barbara Frazier; Yosef Kalinsky;

Staff: Ebenezer Smith; Paola Garcia

Call to Order: Chair Richard Lewis calls the meeting to order at 6:39 pm. He welcomes everyone. Quorum is attained at 6:54pm. Agenda is adopted. Last month's minutes adopted.

Chairman's Report: Richard Lewis' report covered the following topics:

- A warm welcome to our 7 new fellow board members.
- A meeting with NY Presbyterian regarding their planned development at Broadway and West 169 Street.
- A discussion of how the community and John Catsimitides may possibly find common ground on 2 issues facing the community: the NY Presbyterian development mentioned in the previous bullet and which will displace the Gristedes supermarket at that location and the empty triangle owned by Catsimitides at St Nicholas Avenue and West 162 Street, which he may be open to developing as affordable housing.
- A listing of events that the Chair attended over the past month.
- A discussion of the Emergency Resolution (Resolution A) that advocates for increasing all Community Boards' budget baseline.

District Manager's Report: Ebenezer Smith's report covered the following topics:

- An update on office staffing issues and the hiring of a new staff member, and a thank you to Paola Garcia for keeping the office operating while missing 1 staff member. There are 4 candidates to fill the position recently vacated by Ely Silvestre. The candidates will be presented to the board at a future general meeting.
- A review of various board housekeeping issues.

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**Pubic Speakers Session:**

**Fred Riley** – Representing the NYC Dept of Consumer and Worker Protection (formerly Dept of Consumer Affairs). He provided an explanation of the reinvented agency's priorities, which will now focus on defending the interests of both workers and consumers.

**Ray Adler** – Speaking on issues related to the planned elevator replacement at the A train 181 Street station. He maintains that seniors will be imprisoned during the year that the project will go on. Shuttle buses must be provided to move people from up the hill around Fort Washington Avenue to down the hill around Overlook Terrace (and vice versa).

**Lenishe Lopez** – Community Liaison for Growth and Development Services (GDS). She speaks about a GDS leadership development seminar in the recent past. And she provides a listing of future events at GDS. She asks us to please support GDS with donations and there are also ways to volunteer.

**Alberto Aquino** – Program Director for The Armory Foundation. A review of the upcoming Uptown Games, for grades 1 – 8. Also, he discussed other upcoming programs at the Armory.

**Dr Gary Altheim** – GDS. He notes that GDS is 3 different programs – a training institute, Excel Alive and the Community Advocacy program. He provides an update on GDS’ current status after the eviction from the Armory. GDS is now homeless. Dr. Altheim requests help to find an alternate space.

**Dave Crenshaw** –Community Coach. He provides a review of recent events and offers thanks for the help of the Community Board. The Coach follows with a discussion of the upcoming track and field games this coming weekend at the Armory, followed by a mention of the upcoming Hike the Heights day with its inaugural Obie Bing Talent Show.

**Sara Fisher** – Representing Sing for Hope and Friends of Inwood Hill Park. She thanks the 75 volunteers who came out for the recent Riverkeeper cleanup of Inwood Hill Park, at which 1000 lbs. of garbage was removed. She then provides a listing of upcoming events on the Friends of Inwood Hill Park calendar. Sally offers a vote of support for the Corner Project resolution (as a private citizen).

**Shelley Bulman** –Housing Director for the YM & YWHA of Washington Heights & Inwood. She maintains that the upcoming elevator replacement at the A Train W 181 Street Station will be a tremendous hindrance for the movement of seniors in the neighborhood and makes a request for provision of a service to get people around the neighborhood during the construction period.

**Margarita Pascual** – Representing Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners, a not for profit in the neighborhood to help with financial accounting and financial literacy. She invites people to come to the office at 530 West 166 Street 4<sup>th</sup> floor.

**Kailin See** –Director of Programs for the Washington Heights Corner Project (WHCP). She asks people with substance abuse problems to call and WHCP will help. Right now, the WHCP working out of a Winnebago at 181 Street at St Nicholas Avenue. A permanent location is desperately needed. Please support WHCP and vote for Resolution C.

**Graham Ciraulo** – Rent Laws. The Rent Law fight is underway in Albany. There will be a march on Albany on June 4<sup>th</sup> in support of the strengthening of the rent laws. June 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to get the new set of 9 laws passed. Other upcoming events are mentioned. Separately, he asks that we please support the WHCP with a yes vote on Resolution C, and also asks that the Board vote yes on Resolution E asking that the Roman Catholic Archdiocese repurpose old church properties for affordable housing only.

**Jacob Morris** – Speaking on Women’s Suffrage and William Tryon. Tryon was the ringleader of a plot to kill George Washington in 1776. He was a brutal murderer. He should not have a park named after him, but the Parks Dept does not want to change the name. Separately, he mentions that the plaque honoring Margaret Corbin needs to be changed to reflect the fact that she fought at Fort Washington, not Fort Tryon.

**Jeanne Ruskin** – She invites us to the Espaillat Forum next week which will be an in depth look at the rezoning of Inwood.

**Samson Jacobson** – Location manager for In the Heights, filming over the summer in Washington Heights. Resolution D is under consideration tonight in favor of allowing the closing of the 1 train tunnel street at 190<sup>th</sup> Street for one night on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Please support it. There will be shuttle buses during the shutdown. He is also looking for opportunities to make donations to 501c3 community groups in the neighborhood and asks for requests.

## **Government Officials:**

**Natalie Espino**, Community Liaison to the Borough President, covers the following topics:

- It is recommended that every board member use a separate email address for board business only.
- Welcome to all new and reappointed board members.
- A review of upcoming events.
- The BP is gearing up to make sure that the 2020 census counts Manhattan residents accurately.

**Laurie Tobias Cohen**, Community Liaison in Congressman Adriano Espaillat's office, covers the following topics:

- A listing of upcoming events, in particular the Inwood rezoning town hall next week.
- The Congressman supports a bicameral bill providing for stable housing for victims of natural disasters.
- A new local office is opening at 720 W 181 Street (next door to a liquor store).

**Chris Nickell**— Deputy Chief of Staff, State Senator Robert Jackson, covered the following topics:

- A review of upcoming events.
- Rent Laws are due to expire June 15. 9 bills to strengthen protections for tenants are being supported by the Senator.
- The Senator strongly supports the Corner Project resolution.

**Manuel Belliard**, Councilman Mark Levine, covers the following topics:

- The Community Health Academy of the Heights won \$250,000 in Participatory budget money for new computers.
- A listing of upcoming events.

**Kiana Diaz**, Constituent Liaison for Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez, covered the following topic:

- A review of upcoming events.

**Carmen De La Rosa** – Member of the Assembly from the 72<sup>nd</sup> District covered the following topics:

- She is on the Assembly Housing Committee and working hard toward getting all 9 rent bills passed by June 15. Please support this effort.
- She is a member of 5 Assembly committees.
- She is sponsoring a bill to help children visit incarcerated parents for free. This would be the reinstatement of a program that was cut in 2011.
- She is the sponsor of a law strengthening domestic violence and sexual harassment protections.
- Please visit our office if you need help.
- She supports the Board's position as stated in last month's resolution on the homeless shelter at Audubon Avenue, and would prefer truly affordable housing in the community. She asks Dept of Homeless Services (DHS) to look at alternative services for this location.
- A listing of upcoming events is provided.
- Steve Simon asks about the Allen Hospital psychiatric bed closing. She reports that the application to close the ward is on hold, and hopes it remains this way.

**Maria De La Cruz** – Uptown representative for Comptroller Scott Stringer's office.

- A listing of upcoming events and parades at which the Controller will participate. Community involvement is encouraged.
- The Controller supports the adequate childcare bill.

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**Committee Reports:** - refer to minutes unless otherwise noted

**Parks and Cultural Affairs** – Chair Liz Ritter told us that corrected minutes from this month's committee meeting will go onto the website. Javits playground renovation is on schedule. The next committee meeting will discuss the Inwood

Rezoning plan for an Immigration Research Center and Cultural Center. She mentions the Art Stroll which started tonight, and other cultural events upcoming. Richard Allman publicizes the LGBTQ event at Indian Road Café.

**Business Development:** Chair Eli Bueno thanks the BP's office for choosing new board members. He provides a brief overview of May's committee meeting with an agenda check on next month's meeting.

**Land Use** – Chair Wayne Benjamin referred all present to the committee minutes for details. There will be a joint resolution with Parks and Cultural Affairs next month that will go directly to the Board Chair due to timing issues.

**Traffic & Transportation,** Interim Chair Nicholas Martinez briefly discussed the work of the Committee this past month, listed the main topics of the meeting and asked us to refer to the minutes. Jay Mazur asks why the elevator replacement projects shut down all elevators in each station at all times.

**Housing & Human Services:** –Chair Ayisha Ogilvie spoke briefly. She asks that we support the Universal Rent Bill in Albany. She believes that there should be a rent roll back but is willing to support no increase.

**Public Safety:** refer to the minutes

**Health & Environment:** Chair Steve Simon discussed highlights of May's meeting during presentation of Resolution C.

**Concerns of the Aging:** Chair Mary Anderson. Liz Ritter commends Mary for rotating meetings throughout the district. Chair Anderson reviewed highlights of this month's meeting: a discussion of scams perpetrated against seniors and a review of last month's resolutions, including the homeless shelter resolution. She finished with a review of next month's agenda.

**Youth and Education** – Chair Fe Florimon recounted the high points of the committee meeting. The Inwood library branch will stay open this summer. She thanks everyone for supporting last week's event.

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Resolution Reports:

Resolution A - Requesting Community Board Baseline Budget Increases for FY 2020

Richard Lewis, Chair, begins the discussion:

- This is a request for additional operating funds for the Community Boards, currently averaging \$230,000 per Community board annually.
- Wayne Benjamin offers some clarifying wording suggestions. Chair Lewis accepts these suggestions.
- Tonya Bonner and other board members ask to what goals would additional funds be expended, and suggested funding outreach efforts.

Resolution B - To Amend By-Laws regarding the Length of Public Session & Individual Speaking Time.

Richard Lewis, Chair, begins the discussion:

- This is the 2nd time that this is brought to the assembled board, as per the bylaws.
- Steve Simon offers a friendly amendment, asking that people on the same topic be grouped together during the public session. The amendment is accepted.
- Ayisha Ogilvy states that she will vote against this resolution to allow the public to speak as they do currently.

Resolution C: In Support of the WHCorner Project's Possible Move to the George Washington Bridge Bus Station

Health & Environment: Steve Simon, Chair, begins the discussion:

- The Corner Project is homeless right now, functioning out of a van. This situation is not beneficial to the community.

- A site in the George Washington Bridge Bus Station has been identified as a potential home for the Corner Project. An application has been filed to occupy space there.
- The resolution supports the move to the bus station.
- The Corner Project has saved 362 people in the course of its existence.
- Lilliam Arias supports the Corner Project but wants to see it sited somewhere else. Eli Bueno would like to see the Corner Project reach out to the community, including the businesses, to work jointly to find an appropriate location for the organization. Chair Simon states that these concerns have been met.
- Isidro Medina states, in his role as a member of the WH Heights BID, that the Corner Project has at times not been truthful about its aims. Kailin See responds that she was put in a difficult situation by her former boss, who is no longer involved, and she asks for an opportunity to work with the BID.
- Liz Ritter recounts the story of her nephew, who left the army as an opioid addict and later died of an overdose. Liz strongly supports the resolution.

Resolution D: Supporting the Proposed Overnight Closure of Tunnel Street for Filming of “In The Heights”

Parks & Cultural Affairs and Traffic & Transportation Joint Resolution: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair, Nicholas Martinez, Interim Chair, begin the discussion:

- This tunnel will be closed for 10pm to 6am on the proposed date, July 19th.
- The resolution supports this effort, but would prefer to see this work done on a weeknight.
- There will be a shuttle bus during the closure.
- Karen Taylor asks why Computer Graphics (CGI) couldn’t do the job and not cause the community to be subjected to the closure.
- Liz Ritter suggests that this will serve as a wonderful introduction to Washington Heights.
- Maria Luna asks that the opening of the movie happen here in Washington Heights.

Resolution E: Calling upon the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of NY and other religious institutions when Repurposing Property to create 100% Affordable Housing or related Human Services Institutions

Housing & Human Services Committee: Ayisha Ogilvie, Chair, begins the discussion:

- Daryl Cochrane asks why solely 100% affordable housing? Ayisha responds that it will include other appropriate projects.
- Steve Simon offers a friendly amendment to include the St Rose of Lima school site in the affordable housing plan. This is accepted.

Resolution F: Opposing change in SNAP Benefit Requirements for “Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents” (ABAWD)

Housing & Human Services Committee: Ayisha Ogilvie, Chair, begins the discussion:

- No discussion ensued.

Resolution G: Supporting an NYC Soccer Initiative Soccer Pitch in J. Hood Wright Park

Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair, begins the discussion:

- The space in question is already in use as a soccer pitch.
- The resolution supports a renovation of this space.

Licensing Committee Resolutions

Chair Isidro Medina opened the discussion. Highlights follow:

- 3 of the 20 resolutions on the calendar have been withdrawn, numbers 9, 10 and 20.
- All stipulation requests of the committee were fulfilled by all establishments prior to this meeting.
- Clarifications on various topics and resolutions were requested by board members and Chair Medina and Osi Kaminer responded to all the questions.
- A friendly amendment from Steve Simon on resolution 14 was accepted by the Licensing Committee Chair.

Voting on the Resolutions:

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Resolutions</u>	<u>Voting: Y-N-Abst- Absent-NV</u>	<u>Result</u>
A	Requesting Community Board Baseline Budget Increases for FY 2020	37-0-0-0-1	Passed
B	To Amend By-Laws regarding the Length of Public Session & Individual Speaking Time.	28-10-0-0-0	Passed
C	In Support of the WH Corner Project's Possible Move to the George Washington Bridge Bus Station.	28-0-10-0-0	Passed
D	Supporting the Proposed Overnight Closure of Tunnel Street for Filming of "In The Heights	36-1-1-0-0	Passed
E	Calling upon the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of NY and other religious institutions when Repurposing Property to create 100% Affordable Housing or related Human Services Institutions	34-1-3-0-0	Passed
F	Resolution Opposing change in SNAP Benefit Requirements for "Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents" (ABAWD)	37-0-1-0-0	Passed
G	Supporting an NYC Soccer Initiative Soccer Pitch in J. Hood Wright Park	37-0-0-0-1	Passed
1	Resolution of Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: 160 Dyckman Rest Corp. dba Republica – 160 Dyckman Street, (at the corner of Sherman Avenue.)	30-6-2-0-0	Passed
2	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: Barrow Tavern Inc. dba Liffy II Bar – 5009 Broadway, (W. 213th & W. 214th Streets.)	37-1-0-0-0	Passed
3	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its On-Premise Liquor License to: 21 Bar Corp. – 4318 Broadway, (at W. 184th Street.)	36-2-0-0-0	Passed
4	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA Renewal of its Restaurant Wine License to: 181 Restaurant Corp. dba Hudson View Restaurant – 770 W. 181st Street, (at the corner of Ft. Washington Avenue.)	36-2-0-0-0	Passed
5	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA for a Corporate Change of its License to: La Lomita Mexican Deli Corp. – 3868 10th Avenue, (at the corner of W. 207th Street.) Change of Principal	36-2-0-0-0	Passed
6	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA for an Alteration of its License to: Boxers Washington Heights LLC. dba Boxers – 3820 Broadway, (at the corner of W. 159th Street.) To add existing license to Sidewalk Café	26-9-2-1-0	Passed
7	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA for an Alteration of its License to: Francisco & Francisco dba Pop & Pour – 200 Dyckman Street, (btw. Vermilyea & Broadway Avenues.) To add existing license to Sidewalk Café	31-6-1-0-0	Passed
8	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA for a Change in the Method of Operation its License to: Locksmith Wine Bar Inc. dba The Locksmith Wine Bar – 4463 Broadway, (btw Fairview Ave & W. 193rd Street.) To add DJ	32-6-0-0-0	Passed
9	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA for a Change in the Method of Operation its License to: Margarita Mexican Tapas Inc. dba Brasier Ceviche Wine Bar – 3775 10th Avenue, (at the corner of W. 203rd Street.) To add Live Band, Hookah, and Security Withdrawn at meeting		Withdr awn
10	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA for a Change in the Method of Operation its License to: International Food House Inc. dba Albert's Mofongo 217 Dyckman Street, AKA 4762A - 4762B Broadway, (at the corner of Broadway.) To add Recorded Music Withdrawn prior to meeting		Withdr awn
11	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA for a Change in the Method of Operation its License to: 839 W. 181 Food Inc. dba LE CHEILE – 839 W. 181st Street, (at the corner of Cabrini Blvd.) To add Live Music and Comedy Shows	30-5-2-0-0	Passed
12	Resolution of No Objection to the NYC TLC Renewal of its Livery Car Base License to: Gallant Car Service – 5030 Broadway, (btw. W. 213th & w. 214th Streets.)	37-1-0-0-0	Passed
13	Resolution of No Objection to the NYC DCA Renewal of its Unenclosed Sidewalk Café License to: Francisco & Francisco dba Pop & Pour – 200 Dyckman Street, (btw. Vermilyea & Broadway Avenues.)	33-5-0-0-0	Passed

14	Resolution of No Objection to the NYC DCA New Unenclosed Sidewalk Café License to: Bocaditos Bistro & Espresso Bar LLC. dba Bocaditos Bistro & Express Bar – 4863 Broadway, (btw Academy & W. 204th Streets.)	32-6-0-0-0	<i>Passed</i>
15	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New On-Premise Liquor License to: Inwood Social Corp. – 101 Sherman Avenue, (btw. Dyckman & Academy Streets.)	30-7-1-0-0	<i>Passed</i>
16	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New On-Premise Liquor License to: 172 West Corp. – 621 W. 172nd St. aka 4083 Broadway, (at the corner of Broadway.)	33-5-0-0-0	<i>Passed</i>
17	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New On-Premise Liquor License to: C.D.B Kitchen Corp. – 4996 Broadway, (at the corner of W. 212th Street.)	31-6-1-0-0	<i>Passed</i>
18	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New On-Premise Liquor License to: FAA Bar & Grill Corp. -141 Nagle Avenue, (btw. Arden & Thayer Streets.)	33-5-0-0-0	<i>Passed</i>
19	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New On-Premise Liquor License to: JRI Urban Corp. dba Lot 203 Kitchen – 3775 10th Avenue, store #5 (at the corner of W. 203rd Street.)	31-6-1-0-0	<i>Passed</i>
20	Resolution of No Objection to the SLA New Eating Place Beer License to: La Simpatia Restaurant Corp. dba Elsa La Reina del Chicharron – 4840 Broadway, (at the corner of Academy Street.) <i>Withdrawn at meeting</i>		<i>Withdrawn</i>

Motion to Adjourn- passed and seconded at 9:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Mitchell Glenn, Secretary
Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann, Assistant Secretary
May 28, 2019