

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

April 15, 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); Fe Florimon (Chair, Youth & Education); E. Lorris Ritter (Chair, Parks & Cultural Affairs); Nick Martinez (Interim Chair, Traffic & Transportation); James Berlin (Parliamentarian); Richard Allman (Chair, LGBT & By-laws Task Forces)

Absent: W. Benjamin (Chair, Land Use); A. Ogilvie, (Chair, Housing & Human Services); S. Simon (Chair, (Health & Environment); TBD - Chair, Public Safety

Other Board Members Present: T. Bonner

Others Present: Natalie Espino, Constituent Liaison, Manhattan Borough President's Office, Dana Hockenberry, Community Resident

Staff: Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

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

Chair's Report: Richard Lewis reported the following:

- He chaired the Public Hearing held on April 5th in which about 200 people attended. The Department of Human Services (DHS) was present with about 6 or 7 representatives. Help USA, who has been selected to manage the shelter was also present. About 30 people spoke in opposition to the shelter including our local elected officials. The main issue was toe lack of consultation and notice to the community. Neither DHS nor Help USA was able to answer specific questions.
- The posting for the job vacated by Ely Silvestre has been completed. The Salary for the positon has been raised from \$39k to \$45k. IT is on the NYC Jobs Portal but has not as yet been posted on the CB 12 website yet. The closing date for applications is May 15th.
- The office of John Catsimatidis has called to set up a meeting to follow up on their letter concerning the use of space for two of their properties in Washington Heights.

District Manager's Report: Ebenezer Smith reported the following:

- The posting for the position vacated by Ely Silvestre has been posted.
- About 20 resumes have come in so far.
- He spoke about the need for clarification about the need for staff during committee meetings.
- Elizabeth Lorris-Ritter spoke about the need for a part-timer to do posting of fliers, and other tasks, etc.

Secretary's Report: No report at this time.

Treasurer's Report: Gerard Dengel reported the following:

- A Report will be provided at the next meeting.

Review of Draft Calendars for Changes:**May Calendar**

- The Aging Committee will meet at ARC XVI Senior Center on May 2nd.

June Calendar

- The Aging Committee will meet at the Board Office on June 6th.
- The Licensing Committee will meet at 6:30 pm on June 12th.
- District Service should read District Cabinet for the meeting on June 20th.

September Calendar

- Business Development will meet on September 10th at 7:00 pm.
- Parks & Cultural Affairs will meet on September 10th at 6:30 pm.
- The Aging Committee will meet at 10:30 am on Thursday, September 5th.
- The Licensing Committee will meet on 6:30 pm on September 11th.
- The Youth & Education Committee scheduled for September 7th is cancelled.

Planned Executive Committee Resolution on Planned Homeless Shelter:

- Richard Lewis introduced a proposed Resolution on the planned homeless shelter providing a background as why this is needed now and its location at 179th Street & Audubon Avenue.
- There was a substantive discussion among committee members including the following comments:
 - Elizabeth Lorris Ritter supports the shelter. She said that she thought the DHS was doing the right thing but had their communication was poor.
 - James Berlin indicated that we need more statistics about homelessness in this community.
 - Isidro Medina indicated that small businesses in the area will be adversely affected.
 - Fe Florimon indicated that the proposed location is too close to a methadone clinic and to schools.
 - Betty Lehmann suggested that the shelter should be used to house the elderly.
 - Eleazar Bueno objected to the fact that the families now being housed in the Cliff Hotel will be displaced and the new shelter will house only homeless men.
 - Mitchell Glenn said that he would support a homeless shelter if it would provide housing for diverse populations.
 - Wayne Benjamin requested a better report as to why a shelter is needed in this area for homeless men and suggested that it would be better to construct apartments rather than an open floor shelter. In addition, he suggested that a Community Advisory Board might be better able to manage the shelter rather than Help USA.
 - Richard Lewis suggested that the priorities might be: (1) families with children; (2) adult families (including seniors) and (3) women.
- Richard Lewis summarized that he will write an opposition Resolution and circulate it to the Executive Committee and that the elements would concern:
 - The priority population would be families with children, then adult families and then women.
 - A reduction in the number of beds to (50) families with children or (50) adult families including seniors.
 - The possibility of another location if possible west of Broadway.
 - Additional Support Services beyond what will be offered by Help USA
 - Suggestion that Help USA be replaced by a better management group.
 - The possibility of a Community Advisory Board as an overseer.

- A better long-term solution to the problem of homelessness rather than the construction of shelters or other short-term housing.
- **A Motion** in support of the Resolution was made by Eleazar Bueno and seconded by Mitchell Glenn.

Vote: 10 – 1 – 0 – 0 - Resolution Passed

Planned Executive Committee Resolution regarding an Amendment to the By-Laws:

- Richard Lewis introduced a Resolution to amend the By-Laws in the following ways:
 - Limit each public speaker to 2 minutes rather than 3 minutes
 - Limit the time for the Public Session to 45 minutes, except at the Chair's discretion.
- **A Motion** in support of the Resolution was made by Elizabeth Lorris Ritter and seconded by James Berlin.

Vote: 10-1-0-0. – Resolution Passed.

Committee Reports:

Parks & Cultural Affairs: Chair Liz Ritter presented the following:

- A Resolution was introduced supporting the schematic renovation plan for Fort Tryon Park's Ann Loftus Playground. I received unanimous support from the Committee and all present.
- The Art Stroll will begin in late May and will continue through June.
- Urban Wildlife Day will be celebrated on May 4th.

Health & Environment Committee: No Report at this time.

Land Use: Chair, Wayne Benjamin reported the following:

There were two Resolutions approved by the Committee that will be presented at the General Meeting:

- A Resolution supporting the proposed Board of Standards & Appeals Rule Change
- A Resolution supporting the proposed designation of the Park Terrace West – West 217th Street Historic District.

Traffic & Transportation Committee: Acting Chair, Nicholas Martinez, presented the following:

There were two Resolutions passed by the Committee:

- A Joint Resolution calling for the MTA to add ADA Compliant Accessibility to any Planned Subway Renovations. The Resolution is also the work of the Aging Committee.
- A Resolution supporting a proposed Amsterdam Avenue Pedestrian Plaza at 185th Street & Amsterdam Avenue.

Licensing: Chair, Isidro Medina reported the following:

- Eighteen licenses were considered.
- Three are new
- Two were withdrawn
- 3 Were Rejected

Public Safety: no report at this time.

Concerns of the Aging: Chair Mary Anderson reported the following:

- The Committee worked on a joint Resolution with the Traffic & Transportation Committee concerning ADA compliance at subway stations.
- Mr. Dilem Valenzuela of NYC Poison Control spoke at the last meeting.
- Mr. Giovanni Feliciano of NYC Parks spoke about senior programs at the Highbridge Recreation Center.

- Fred Riley of the Dept. of Consumer Affairs will attend the next meeting.

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

- There was a presentation by a multi-cultural youth choir who indicated that they would like to perform in the community.
- The “Building Bridges” March scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 18th expects to attract 1,000 participants.

Housing & Human Services: No Report at this time.

Business Development: Chair, Eleazar Bueno reported the following:

- There was a presentation on “Census 20/20”. Two areas were covered: an on-line census and the need for intensive outreach.
- A Resolution was drafted and passed supporting the community as a partner in the Census effort and seeking \$40 million in funding for the NY Community for outreach efforts.

Motion to Adjourn: Gerard Dengel: Seconded by: Mary Anderson

Adjournment: 9:40 pm

Minutes prepared by: Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann
May 20, 2019