

Community Board 12, Manhattan
Minutes of the June 27, 2017 General Meeting
Alianza Triangle Building (530 W. 166th St., 2nd floor, NYC 10032)

Board Members Present: Richard Allman, Shahabuddeen Ally, Mary Anderson, Anita Barberis, Wayne Benjamin, James Berlin, Isaiah "Obie" Bing, Eleazar Bueno, Jennifer Chung, Daryl Cochrane, Robin Cruz, Gerard Dengel, Katherine Diaz, Domingo Estevez (late), Natalie Espino, Sara Fisher, Fe Florimón, Mitchell Glenn, Fern Hertzberg, Yosef Kalinsky, Osi Kaminer, Elizabeth Lehmann, Richard Lewis, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Maria Luna, Jay Mazur, Isidro Medina, Ariel Miranda, Rud Morales, Deborah Nabavian, Jonathan Nuñez-Frometa, Ayisha Ogilvie, Pamela Palanque-North, Victor Peña-Bastella, Derek Peralta, Hjordys Perez-Matos, Angelina Ramirez, Edgar Roman, Steve Simon, Luis Tapia, Christopher Ventura. **Members Excused:** Yahaira Alonzo, Andrea Kornbluth, Jonathan Reyes, Liliana Saneaux. **Members Absent:** Glennis Aquino, Jason Compton, Barbara Frazier, Wanda Garcia, Carlos Suero. **Staff:** Ebenezer Smith.

~~~~~

6:50pm **Introductory remarks by Chair,** Shahabuddeen Ally, in the absence of a quorum. Brief explanation of rules for new members. Noted that there were serious train disruptions and many members of the board and public who will be late due to the service disruptions. This is affecting us on a day-to-day basis. We will be having a town hall on this.

6:52pm **Adoption of Agenda** Motion by Maria Luna, second by Robin Cruz, no objection. No minutes for the May meeting; these will be submitted for approval at a subsequent meeting, with apologies from the Secretary, who just moved.

**Chair's report:**

- Back up to full complement of 50 board members. Introduced 10 new appointments: Eleazar Bueno, Sara Fisher, Ariel Miranda, Jonathan Nuñez-Frometa, Victor Peña-Bastella, Derek Peralta, Hjordys Perez-Matos, Angelina Ramirez, Edgar Roman, and Christopher Ventura.
- Full staff at Board Office with hiring of Ely Silvestre.
- There will be a Land Use meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup> regarding the proposed Inwood rezoning.
- Since Community Boards are not required per the NYC Charter to meet over the summer, there will be a meeting of the Committee of the Whole on July 18<sup>th</sup>, and, if there is no quorum, there also will be a meeting of the Executive Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> so that any required resolutions may be passed even while the Board is on summer hiatus.

7:02pm The **District Manager's report** was provided by Paola Garcia for Ebenezer Smith who is not here. In addition to a brief verbal presentation, she provided a written report (see attached):

- The Cliff Hotel on W. 181<sup>st</sup> Street is being used by the HRA for temporary emergency housing.
- Announced then-upcoming events with elected officials
- The MTA will be making schedule adjustments to 1-train service for repairs to the Broadway Bridge. Details to follow in the coming months.
- Reiteration of July CB12 meeting dates.

7:07pm **Public Speakers Session**

**Dew Lizzard** New business on Fairview Ave lot renewal. Committed to working with City agencies to get it cleaned up, though there are some structural mitigation and substructure issues.

**Jeffrey Wollock** spoke in support of Inwood Library and reiterated his strong objection to the proposed HPD/NYPL development. Feels the process was undemocratic.

**Karla Fisk:** spoke in support of Inwood Library and against proposed development. Believes process was deeply flawed.

**Joel Yoffie** quoted the Israeli poet Primo Levy, and read a poem of his own composition regarding perceived anti-Semitic acts by to him personally by a local business. Q (Elizabeth Lorris Ritter): Are you the person who is posting signs about Word Up Bookstore? He denied this and stated that his reference to Word Up in his poem did not refer to any particular business, and became very defensive at the suggestion.

**Marvin Billups** Spectrum is still on strike. There are some people coming to their worksites. They have a class-action lawsuit by NYS AG regarding false claims on internet speeds.

**Catarina Rivera** recently had a training for bodega owners organized by the 181<sup>st</sup> Street BID and NYC Small Business Services. Six owners came for a full day of training in Spanish in operations, management, inventory, etc. The goal is to have greater accessibility of more healthful foods. Re WH Food Council: finding pathways to food justice. We had

a potluck and shared healthy dishes and people also shared their family food traditions. Announced then-upcoming event. Check us out on Facebook/WHIN.

**Marshall Vanderpool** First VP of Dyckman Houses Tenants Association. Spoke against Sherman Creek Restaurant & Lounge. Opposed based on plethora of clubs, with many problems: traffic, noise, public urination/defecation. Assertions by elected officials that the club has reached out to residents of Dyckman Houses, and so we oppose this application. Urges Board to reject this application. (Item #21.) Q (Osi Kaminer): how many meetings have you had with the Councilmember about this? A: none.

**Ernest Timmons:** Senior Team Leader for HEAT (Hydrant Education & Action Team); looking to increase outreach on this important education/outreach initiative to minimize open hydrants.

**Katherine O’Sullivan:** commends Licensing Committee for their work. Re Inwood Preservation / Save Our Library: Democracy is important; we urge CB12 to protect our democratic process. Opposes rezoning of Inwood. “I’m for R-7A.”

**Indhira Ramirez** Youth connect DYCD. Spoke about youth services from DYCD and gave contact information. Referred people to flyers in back of room.

**Elizabeth Abraham** Brain Injury Assn of America, NY chapter. Anyone, anywhere can have a traumatic crisis of the brain. Not just car accidents or shootings, but falls and other accidents. Cost of \$600billion+. Our organization promotes awareness and understanding.

**Tiffany Lee** Centro Altagracia, Justicia, y Fe. Centro is closing as of June 30<sup>th</sup> due to budgetary constraints. We will ease operations at our 511 w. 164<sup>th</sup> location. Reconstituting a new organization, Altagracia Faith & Justice Works, at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church on Arden Street.

7:36pm: **Leslie Almanzar for Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer:**

- 87 new members appointed borough-wide, including 10 new members to CB12.
- Thanks to all who attended the community leadership series; we had a good turnout.
- Nuisance abatement meeting. Planning a breakfast.
- Manhattan supermarkets report. Call for copy
- Federation of modern painters/sculptors showing at the MBPO gallery, open 10am-6pm.
- No newsletters until blackout is lifted.
- Q: Wayne Benjamin: will the Leadership Training be repeated on a weekend? A: we’ll try for more sessions this Fall.

7:44pm **Business Section**

**Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee:** Elizabeth Lorris Ritter presented two resolutions: a conceptual plan for the Highbridge Phase II project using the \$19.9million remaining from the \$30mm Anchor Parks Initiative, and design plan for the full renovation of the Audubon Playground (including removal of the “temporary” school building which had been in the middle of the playground for decades. There were clarifying questions, but no amendments to either reso. Announced successful ArtStroll, and tomorrow’s closing event. Also announced the Toast to Ft. Tryon on 7/13 honoring people (including the PCA Chair) who joined Trust in a lawsuit opposing the Sherman Plaza development on Broadway.

7:53pm **Representatives of Elected Officials**

- **Frank Hess for Assemblymember Herman D. “Denny” Farrell:** Wished everyone a safe summer. The Assemblymember would have been here but there’s a special session called for tomorrow beginning at 1pm, supposedly to extend Mayoral control for one year. There might be other things that the Governor puts on the table which may or may not help everyone to come to an agreement. The pedestrian bridge to Riverside Park at W. 153<sup>rd</sup> St. should be finished sometime in August. Wished all a safe and happy summer. Q (Maria Luna): what happened with Charter Schools? A: Senate was looking to include that in whatever deals were being made. It’s not on the table at the moment, but it might be added; you never know what will happen in Albany, especially with the Senate thinking one thing and the Assembly thinking another. Q: What about the IDC? A: They are an independent group; I cannot speak to what they are doing.
- **Assemblymember Carmen De La Rosa:** Happy summer. Tomorrow we’ll be back in Albany to vote for Mayoral Control. Our office is here to serve. We are on 210 Sherman. Introduced staff: Orlando Ovalles and Richard Allman

(the latter of whom is known to the Board as a Member). Looking forward to spending time in the District this summer: while we're on break from Albany we are not on break from the people. During session, the Assembly took up matters of reproductive health, banning discrimination for prior status or history of incarceration, the NY Health Act, but as we know because of the dynamics in Albany a lot of those bills did not get enacted. I am glad we are going back tomorrow to get Mayoral Control; if it lapses there would be an issue with NYC's 1.1million children being forced to pay for our inaction. During the last few months I've focused attn on my committees, focusing mostly on legislation relating to mental health. First bill on autism and what resources are coming down to children and families who need those resources, especially in poorer communities and communities of color. Also dealing with suicide prevention, which is a problem not only in our schools but also at the GWB. Introduced a bill to create an adolescent advisory council for young people with suicidal ideation. Passed both houses; awaiting the Governor's signature. Also re housing: reform of preferential rent. We have late-night Office hours on Thursdays. We also have partnered with the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation to provide legal services at our office. Also the LGBT Center is providing a navigator to help people negotiate the system of getting healthcare.

- **Laurie Tobias-Cohen for Congressman Adriano Espaillat:** referred to report. Also mentioned a constituent case regarding a man from Yemen, an academic, who came to the US seeking political asylum. ICE is making it very difficult for people such as this man, who worked with and for US government interests, and we should be protecting him, not sending him back to Yemen where he has a bullet on his back. Helping him and people like him are what our Office is able to accomplish.
- **Kihani Diaz for NYC Councilmembers Ydanis Rodriguez:** Working to create a vendor plaza on W. 207<sup>th</sup> to the curve by Post Ave. Working with DoT, NYPD, and the Mayor's office on this initiative. Also the Councilmember has been working on the budget. Mentioned several specific projects, including \$5m for Dyckman Houses to provide various upgrades and ADA compliance, and a TV lab at GWHS. Announced Participatory Budget projects, including 600 laptops for IS218, tree guards around pits near PS187 and in other areas throughout the district, A/C at PS 128, and countdown clocks for MTA buses.
- **Manny Belliard for NYC Councilmember Mark Levine:** street fair 8/30 3p-6p by office (500 W. 141<sup>st</sup>). Announced composting sites in parks at Ft. Washington Ave & W. 184<sup>th</sup> St., Edgecombe Ave. & W. 145<sup>th</sup> St., Broadway & W. 157<sup>th</sup> St. Visit our website for information on what can be composted. See report.
- **Mariel de la Cruz, NYC Comptroller's Office:** NYC pension fund has fully divested from private prison corporations. Announced July 13<sup>th</sup> Iftar (post-Edi feast), 6pm-8pm.
- **Claudia Carillas, from NYS Senate Marisol Alcantara:** Refer to report. Announced an upcoming summer youth program. If you need information call us.

#### 8:18pm **Business Section, continued**

8:18pm **Licensing Committee (Isidro Medina, Chair)** Introduced spiffy new shirts for all Committee members (note: paid with personal funds, not CB12 funds) for a more professional Committee look and to enhance Committee solidarity. Many Board Members approved of this fun idea and thought they might try for other colors for other Committees. Also introduced uniform good neighbor signs, as well as an improved application which helps to focus the conversation and make better questions. Thanks to residents who attend meetings. Please tell other people to come. This is a community process. Thanks also to the 34<sup>th</sup> Pct. Which sends a representative to every meeting with a wealth of intelligence about businesses and local conditions. For this month 6 items were withdrawn. There was some discussion as to whether they should be on the agenda since they are not being voted on. They should be in the minutes. It was suggested to keep them in the agenda so there is a record of their having been withdrawn, not ignored. How these are presented will be discussed for the September meeting. But for now, we will not be voting on them and people should refer to the minutes for details on those applications and why they were withdrawn. Richard Lewis: proposed amendment to #21 to reflect the testimony of the representative of the NYCHA Dyckman Residents Assn. was accepted as friendly. Isidro also announced a program by the SLA to educated licensees on best practices. He also clarified the nature of the changes in the method of operation in #6 & #7 for the same establishment?

#### 8:33pm **Traffic & Transportation (Debbie Nabavian, Committee Assistant Chair):** Presented four resolutions.

- C: Street co-naming of W. 183<sup>rd</sup> St. between Wadsworth & St. Nicholas Avenues as Rafael A. Estevez Street. Wayne: what ties him to that location? A: the family lives on that block, and it's near to PS132 to which he had ties.

- D: asking NYC DoT and the Port Authority to prioritize fixing the streets along St. Nicholas & Audubon Avenues. Since there wasn't a clear timeline or purpose to the reso, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter made a motion to table which was and seconded by Natalie Espino but failed by show of hands so a discussion of the resolution ensued. Several amendments were accepted as friendly: correct "Trans-Manhattan expressway", remove reference to Isabella Geriatric Center, add "with all deliberate speed".
- E: asking for expanding current Transportation Options in Washington Heights/Inwood. We need another Metro North station to expand service to northern Manhattan, and more ferries. Jay Mazur: given that census shows a population decrease, we can't say that ridership is up. A: MTA data demonstrably show an increase in ridership, which may well be different than population. Other amendments accepted as friendly. Richard Allman: buses are very crowded. Maybe this should go to agencies, and copied to elected. Our elected are fierce advocates already; we need to move the agencies. Richard Lewis: we have two waterfronts, Harlem and Hudson; add "on both waterfronts". Sara Fisher: we need to address infrastructure. We have problems with the elevators and more; why are we having MTA study more transportation options without demanding they fix what we have. A: we've already done that. Wayne Benjamin: What about City Bike? A: not specifically included, but it is an "additional modality".
- F: Resolution regarding Improvements to Dyckman Street and Broadway to Dyckman Street and Nagle Corridor. An amendment by Steve Simon clarifying the language was accepted as friendly.

9:02pm **Housing & Human Services (Ayisha Ogilvie, Committee Chair):** Reso that city agencies should certify projects and forward to CBs for review, or not put forth business during the summer when we're not in session. Much discussion as to the focus, and that it should be targeted to city agencies, not to private individuals: as an advisory body we can't tell people what to do, but we can make recommendations to and/or requests of governmental agencies. We can (and should) demand that agencies not work on a timeline that requires us to take action when we are in recess. This isn't just an issue for Land Use but routinely for the Licensing Committee and occasionally for other Committees. This reso would be targeted to the Borough President to bring to the Borough Board, and to our Councilmember for legislation. Jim Berlin: this was an issue 36 years ago when I first joined the Board, and should be directed to the Council.

9:12pm **Health & Environment (Steve Simon, Committee Chair):** reso regarding the cleanup initiative on Fairview Ave. We need not just a reso but our deep gratitude! It's the least we can do, we should extend our hand. <Much applause.> In other work of the Committee regarding research and the medical center's Institutional Review Board (IRB), we've been pushing hard to get more community representation as is required by law.

9:26pm **Roll Call on 2 Parks & Cultural Affairs, 4 Traffic & Transportation, 1 Housing & Human Services, 1 Health & Environment, and 18 Licensing Committee resolutions.** (Note: there are no #9, #14, #17, #19, #22, & #24.)

| Item # | Resolution                                                                                                                                                            | Yes-No-Abstain<br>Not Voting | —<br><i>Disposition</i> |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| A.     | Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee: Highbridge Phase II conceptual plan                                                                                               | 40-0-0-1                     | <i>passed</i>           |
| B.     | Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee: Audubon Playground proposed design                                                                                                | 40-0-0-1                     | <i>passed</i>           |
| C.     | Traffic & Transportation Committee: Street co-naming                                                                                                                  | 38-0-2-1                     | <i>passed</i>           |
| D.     | Traffic & Transportation Committee: PANYNJ / DoT roads                                                                                                                | 40-0-1-0                     | <i>passed</i>           |
| E.     | Traffic & Transportation Committee: expand public transportation options                                                                                              | 28-9-4-0                     | <i>passed</i>           |
| F.     | Traffic & Transportation Committee: improvements to Dyckman Street                                                                                                    | 28-9-4-0                     | <i>passed</i>           |
| G.     | Housing & Human Services Committee: no required actions during July & August                                                                                          | 40-0-1-0                     | <i>passed</i>           |
| H.     | Health & Environment Committee: Fairview Ave. lot development                                                                                                         | 41-0-0-0                     | <i>passed</i>           |
| 1.     | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> the SLA grant a renewal On-Premise Liquor License to Don Coqui (186 Dyckman St. @ Vermilyea Ave.)                                      | 29-10-2-0                    | <i>passed</i>           |
| 2.     | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> the SLA grant a renewal On-Premise Liquor License to Liffy II Bar (5009 Broadway bet. W. 212 <sup>th</sup> /213 <sup>th</sup> Streets) | 39-2-0-0                     | <i>passed</i>           |
| 3.     | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> the SLA grant a renewal On-Premise Liquor License to 21 Bar Corp. (4318 Broadway @ W. 184 <sup>th</sup> St.)                           | 35-5-1-0                     | <i>passed</i>           |
| 4.     | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> the SLA grant a renewal Restaurant Wine License to Hudson View Restaurant (770 W. 181 <sup>st</sup> St. at Ft. Washington Ave.)        | 37-3-0-1                     | <i>passed</i>           |

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |           |                      |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 5.  | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> the SLA grant a renewal Restaurant Wine License to La Fiesta Restaurant (3789 Broadway, btw. W. 157 <sup>th</sup> /158 <sup>th</sup> Streets)                                                                                                                                                        | 38-3-0-0  | <i>passed</i>        |
| 6.  | Resolution to recommend the SLA grant an application for a change in the Method of Operation to Floridita (add live music, DJ, karaoke; and/or change closing times)                                                                                                                                                                | 29-9-3-0  | <i>passed</i>        |
| 7.  | Resolution to recommend the SLA grant an application for a change in the Method of Operation to Floridita (add live music, DJ, karaoke; and/or change closing times)                                                                                                                                                                | 30-8-3-0  | <i>passed</i>        |
| 8.  | Resolution to recommend the SLA <b>not grant</b> an application for a change in the Method of Operation to Fat Pig (add live music, DJ, karaoke; and/or change closing times)                                                                                                                                                       | 36-3-2-0  | <i>passed</i>        |
| 10. | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> DCA grant a renewal Sidewalk Café License to Mamasushi (237 Dyckman St. at Seaman Ave.)                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 33-7-1-0  | <i>passed</i>        |
| 11. | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> DCA grant a new Sidewalk Café License to Piratas Tapas (3950 Tenth Ave. at W. 211 <sup>th</sup> St.)                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 22-15-4-0 | <i>passed</i>        |
| 12. | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> DCA grant a new Sidewalk Café License to Altús Café (4325 Broadway at W. 184 <sup>th</sup> St.)                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 22-15-4-0 | <i>passed</i>        |
| 13. | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> DCA grant a new Sidewalk Café License to Brown Sugar (5060 Broadway btw. W. 215 <sup>th</sup> /216 <sup>th</sup> Streets) NOTE: since this resolution failed, it automatically became a NEGATIVE resolution which passed, i.e., a resolution recommending that the SLA <b>not grant</b> the License. | 19-15-5-2 | <b><i>failed</i></b> |
| 15. | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> the SLA grant a new On-Premise Liquor License to AC Weirton 137 LLC (3898 Broadway at W. 163 <sup>rd</sup> St.)                                                                                                                                                                                      | 35-6-0-0  | <i>passed</i>        |
| 16. | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> the SLA grant a new On-Premise Liquor License to 3821 Café (corner of Ft. Washington Ave. & W. 159 <sup>th</sup> St.)                                                                                                                                                                                | 35-6-0-0  | <i>passed</i>        |
| 18. | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> the SLA grant a new On-Premise Liquor License to Lake Erie Group LLC / 4300 BB Kitchen LLC (4300 Broadway, btw. W. 183 <sup>rd</sup> /184 <sup>th</sup> Sts.)                                                                                                                                        | 35-6-0-0  | <i>passed</i>        |
| 20. | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> the SLA grant a new On-Premise Liquor License to Las Tapas (808 W. 187 <sup>th</sup> St., btw. Pinehurst & Ft. Washington Avenues)                                                                                                                                                                   | 28-9-0-0  | <i>passed</i>        |
| 21. | Resolution to recommend the SLA <b>not grant</b> a new On-Premise Liquor License to Sherman Creek Lounge (3795 Tenth Ave. btw. W. 203 <sup>rd</sup> /204 <sup>th</sup> Streets)                                                                                                                                                     | 37-1-3-0  | <i>passed</i>        |
| 23. | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> the SLA grant a new On-Premise Liquor License to El Conde (4139 Broadway/700 W. 175 <sup>th</sup> St.)                                                                                                                                                                                               | 34-6-1-0  | <i>passed</i>        |

~~~~~  
Refer to Committee meeting minutes for reports from Committees not presenting resolutions.

There being no new business, a **motion to adjourn** was made, seconded, and approved by acclamation at about 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary