# Community Board 12, Manhattan Minutes of the May 23, 2017 General Meeting Campbell Sports Center (565 W. 218th St. & Broadway, NYC 10034)

Board Members Present: Richard Allman, Shahabuddeen Ally, Yahaira Alonzo, Glennis Aquino, Wayne Benjamin, James Berlin, Jennifer Chung, Daryl Cochrane, Jason Compton (late), Robin Cruz, Gerard Dengel, Katherine Diaz, Natalie Espino, Domingo Estevez, Fe Florimón, Barbara Frazier, Mitchell Glenn, Fern Hertzberg, Osi Kaminer, Andrea Kornbluth, Elizabeth Lehmann, Richard Lewis, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Maria Luna, Jay Mazur, Isidro Medina, Deborah Nabavian, Ayisha Ogilvie, Liliana Saneaux, Steve Simon, Carlos Suero, Luis Tapia, Karen Taylor. Members Excused: Anita Barberis, Pamela Palanque-North, Jonathan Reyes, Javier Trejo. Members Absent: Mary Anderson, Isaiah "Obie" Bing, Wanda Garcia, Yosef Kalinsky, Rud Morales, Esteban Nembhard, Angela Sanchez. Staff: Ebenezer Smith.

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6:53pm Introductory remarks by Chair, Shahabuddeen Ally, in the absence of a quorum.

- Thanks to Columbia for hosting this evening's meeting. Housekeeping notes: please silence cellphones; please no eating/drinking in the meeting room, or if you must, take your trash with you.
- Apologies for lateness of Youth & Education/Housing & Human Services Committees' joint meetings minutes of May 8<sup>th</sup>; they will be online as soon as we get them.
- Happy birthday to CB12 member Liliana Saneaux whose birthday is tomorrow.
- Introduced three public speakers (see below).
- BP will be issuing 2017 reappointments and new appointments in the next couple of days.

## 6:53pm DA's Office for NY County / Joselyn Minaya

- Operation clean slate amnesty on summonses.
- NMIC got a grant, working with immigrant victims of domestic violence.
- Introduced Jennifer Araujo, the new Community Liaison.

7pm **Adoption of the agenda**: Motion by Gerard Dengel; second by Betty Lehmann. Add resolutions which inadvertently were omitted from the agenda. No other changes; no objection.

7:01pm **Adoption of April 2017 General Meeting minutes:** Moved and second; no corrections; no objection.

7:02pm **Big Apple Greeters, Bob Moore:** volunteer program, offering 2- to 4-hour tours to places that regular commercial tours wouldn't ordinarily go. These are "insider" resident tours. Take 7k visitors a year, from 50 countries and all over the US. Go to "places that are beyond the guidebooks". Looking to recruit volunteers, especially from uptown. Always use public transportation and walking, patronize local businesses, and encourage people to go other neighborhoods. Also create local profiles. <a href="www.bigapplegreeter.org">www.bigapplegreeter.org</a>. Great resource even for NYers. We never charge; greeters pay for their own meals/transport. Visitors welcome to donate to BAG; some do, some don't. We arrange outings for ourselves to familiarize ourselves w/ other areas in NC. We also have the "greeter for a day:" celebrities who join a greeter tour.

7:07pm West Side Coalition Against Hunger (WSCAH) Judy Bass one million meals served and many other services to the community. At W. 87<sup>th</sup> St. & West End Ave. Also Synagogues coalition on the refugee crisis. Raising awareness and interest in the problem, and what can we do. Marjorie Vandow, a lawyer and member of Congregation Bnei Jeshrun, also spoke. Also doing interfaith work in this area. We accompany people to ICE, etc. For more information email mvandow@gmail.com.

7:14pm Highlights of District Manager's report, the full text of which is NOT included in members' packets:

- Youth/NYPD march and info fair. Great event. Terrific weather. Congrats to Fé Florimón for organizing.
- DCP made presentation at the Borough Board that they will start ULURP to enact new measures regarding flood planes in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. Will be coming to the Board with a presentation next year.
- CLoTH town hall meeting re formulation of Broadway BID.
- 33<sup>rd</sup> & 34<sup>th</sup> Pcts reported a small spike in robberies; NYPD is working on this.
- FDNY announced that the hydrant cap program is now open: you can go if you are 18+ come with ID and they'll give you the cap to legally open it during summer.
- 2017 ArtStroll opening at United Palace next Wednesday, honoring, among others, CB12's own Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee Chair, Liz Ritter.
- Chairs: make any corrections to calendar tonight; corrected version will be distributed tomorrow.

• Q: Maria Luna: how will the BID control the conditions outside of the many vacant storefronts. It is an embarrassment. A: That's part of the point of the BID, to bring in new businesses and work on ambient conditions in a business district. A: (Shah): BP recently conducted a survey. Part of what's driving this is the rising rents in a push to finally pass some commercial rent regulations.

## 7:26pm Report from Lesley Almanzar, Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer. See report.

- Over 1000 applicants Borough-wide! Done with interviewing process; meeting with Councilmembers and anticipate making appointments by mid-April.
- Announced upcoming meeting on May 30<sup>th</sup>
- Screening Health Fair today 4p-6p. tested BMI, glucose, BP. 40+ visits. Cosponsored w/ Lennox Hill Hosp.
- Just Fix It apt repair website. Hosted ant northern Manhattan office. See newsletter for info.
- Upcoming rat management training for tenants, supers, community gardeners, etc.
- Waterfront photo contest. Submit on website, or via twitter or email.
- Q: Debby Nabavian what were results of the vacant storefront analysis? A: this was for CBs 9/10. Q: Richard Lewis: can you do in CB12 then? A: yes.

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7:32pm **Public Session** (Chaired by Shah Ally; time-keeping by Carlos Suero)

Joel Yoffie: read another poem that slandered a local non-profit and made unsubstantiated allegations of anti-semitism.

## 7:34pm Report from 10th Council District Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez

- The Inwood rezoning is part of a two-year process begun in 2015, and many many community meetings. We need affordable housing, and we need to make sure that our library services are adequate for a growing community. Also talked about yesterday's phone town hall.
- No one has all the answers. Not everyone agrees. We will be listening to everyone. There are legitimate concerns about height, affordability, density, and library services. But to be opposed to something without even listening, that's not working together. We must work together and do what's best for all of the community. The contextual rezoning comes from the community, and that's this process: that we work together. We should celebrate that, and the activists who drove that deserve applause. <applause>
- Spoke briefly about the budget. Also will have at least \$1m for senior citizens and other organizations working in the community. We are also securing capital funding for important projects, at least \$5m, at least \$3m of which will go to our public schools, which is our top priority.
- Street co-namings: Family of a fallen police officer (on Amsterdam by the baseball field); W. 168<sup>th</sup> St., btw. Broadway & Ft. Washington Ave. after the Armory's Dr. Norbert Sanders; W. 168<sup>th</sup> St. at Amsterdam after the Mirabal Sisters; W. 168<sup>th</sup> St., btw. Broadway & St. Nicholas Ave. after Albert & Dorothy Rose Bloomberg.

#### 7:44pm Public Session

Catarina Rivera, City Harvest/Food Council: Announced upcoming events; gave an update on these programs.

**Shaun Dougherty:** reconciliation program offered by the NY diocese. Registering for this program is not accepting compensation. I am working with lawyers who are working with survivors; will send info.

**Pat Courtney:** Broadway Corridor Historic District. Inwood tilts at 45-degree angle. Inwood starts at 193<sup>rd</sup> St (according to 1930s WPA), not at Dyckman St. Q: (Barbara Frazier) what about buildings that are named "Inwood" even though they are below Dyckman? A: good question. We will look at including that.

**Allegra LeGrand** spoke in opposition to the destruction of the Inwood Library, and Inwood rezoning. The addition of affordable housing is proceeding too fast and without community input. Also spoke passionately about climate change, about which "I am an expert".

**Denise Rickels** Spoke passionately about the importance of Inwood Library and that it must be saved. We must consider the factor of noise in construction. We must expand the library. We need a bigger library. Also, thinking about the Trump era, will developers actually have money, or will they go bankrupt like at Donnell library.

**Bennett Melzak:** has concerns about waterfront development. Also, why are electeds in favor of this library development when we don't know what it is. We don't know how tall this will be or what it will be so we oppose it.

**Natalia, Sylvania, & Melana:** Three young girl scouts (Troop 235), who were inspiring and fearless in their presentation in support of the Inwood Library. Submitted a petition.

**Cheryl:** spoke against El Presidente (item #9) for failure to comply with various regs, including sale of alcohol to minors. **Michelle Kohut:** We have a petition with a lot of signatures. We don't have all the details, but so far people who hear about the library project are against it. So we encourage our elected to oppose this until there is more information. People are grateful for the information we are providing as we go through neighborhood to collect petition signatures in opposition to this library project.

- **Sarah Keifer, Save Inwood Library:** We're not the "no" group. We are the "yes" group! Yes, we want affordable housing, but just build it somewhere else! <applause> Thank you so much that we can have the mic and speak from our hearts and minds, and speak our truth.
- Karla Fisk: we don't have all the information but that information has been kept from us by the HPD and the NYPL. There are multiple city-owned sites that could be sold for \$1, where there is no library, and you don't have to tear down a library. And the NYPL has not committed to an interim library and this is a problem for our community because we need a library. [note: NYPL repeatedly has stated at every presentation that they will provide an interim library.]
- Greg <no lastname given>: spoke in favor of libraries; opposed the sale of public land to developers for \$1.
- **Willy Polanco**, spoke in favor and passionately on behalf of libraries, where she learned to read, studied for school, prepared for tests, filed taxes, etc.
- **Fernando Sedeño** spoke about employment, housing, public accommodations, discrimination, harassment and biased-based profiling by law enforcement. In the last year alone we've seen a 60% increase; hate crimes have increased 50%. We have a campaign hitting subways, radio and other public furniture. #youhaverightsnyc / #tienederechosNYC for a list of resources.
- Dave Thom, Save Inwood Libraries HPD's report is flawed. I've attended the meetings and have read through the raw responses. The report doesn't accurately capture community input, but just presents pretty pictures to support the plan they already have in mind. The data are cherry-picked. It's a sham. They're promising a library of the same size, yet they can't say how big the library is, or if it will include book storage space. Please do not vote for this report.
- **Ariel Ferreira:** Asked support for item #20, which is on the agenda to be opposed. We will be closing at midnight, and I personally will be operating it. As a former board member I understand the community's concerns, am sensitive to the quality of life issues and am supportive of this community. Please support this application, by voting "no".
- **Sally Fisher, AIDS Walk, Save Library & FIRP:** Thanks to all who supported me in Sunday's AIDS Walk, largest single AIDS f/r worldwide. Announced upcoming NMAC meet-up. Thanks to C/M Ydanis Rodriguez and to WH BID for clean-ups. Announced Inwood Hill Park Cove cleanup event on June 3<sup>rd</sup>; Drums along Hudson on June 4<sup>th</sup>; Sing for Hope Piano arrives on June 6<sup>th</sup>; Summer Solstice on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

### 8:22pm Representatives of Elected Officials

- Frank Hess for Assemblymember Herman D. "Denny" Farrell: Assembly passed single-payor introduced by Dick Gottfried, and cosponsored by Denny. See report.
- Manny Belliard for NYC Councilmember Mark Levine: citizenship clinic on June 10<sup>th</sup>. 800+ people came to health fair as Riverbank State Park. See report.
- Laurie Tobias-Cohen for Congressman Adriano Espaillat: referred to report. During break in May, the Congressman met w/ 600+ constituents at various town halls, and at smaller venues. He tries to make himself available to the public when he is in town. Also highlighted why it is important to require ICE agents to wear body cams as we are now having many PD officers do. Cited the heartbreaking stories of working with DACA cases.
- Paola for Mayor's CAU: PR celebration on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Phone forum cosponsored w/ EDC & Councilmember Rodriguez had more than 1k people call in; thank you for participating.
- **Kiana Diaz for NYC Councilmembers Ydanis Rodriguez:** Summit on Latinos in NYC, Thurs., June 1<sup>st</sup>, 9am-6pm at Hunter College. Tech Fair in field of IS52 on Sat., June 3<sup>rd</sup>, noon-5; Microsoft, Google and other firms will attend.
- Jessica Reynoso, Public Advocate Tish James' Office: something about a new law. See report. Gave contact info.
- Claudia Carillas, from NYS Senate Marisol Alcantara: couldn't understand a word she said. Refer to report.
- Richard Allman for Assemblymember Carmen de la Rosa: also spoke on the health bill mentioned by Frank Hess, as well as a DV bill; see report. Co-sponsored a number of items of legislation and community events.

Regarding the Inwood rezoning process, the work of the Board is done in committee. There is no proposal that has been given to us yet, so we haven't yet voted on anything. This is part of an ongoing dialogue.

### 8:35pm Business Section

8:35pm Executive Session for the purpose of considering a resolution to hire a new staff (Shah Ally, Chair): As there was no discussion, there was no need to go into executive session.

8:37pm Traffic & Transportation (Yahiaira Alonzo, Committee Chair): couldn't accept the full package that DoT proposed, so we made modification regarding the left hand turn prohibition, we asked DOT to really look into also adding a light at 219<sup>th</sup> & Broadway. Make W. 219<sup>th</sup> & W. 220<sup>th</sup> Streets one-way in westbound and eastbound, respectively. Jim Berlin: amplified issue with car wash on W. 220, our suggestion to remove parking will provide better access to both the business and the school. Jim proposed an amendment to clarify wording which was accepted as friendly. Yahaira also presented Reso C regarding DOT lane change recommendations for W. 155<sup>th</sup> St. Refer to minutes.

8:47pm **Housing & Human Services (Ayisha Ogilvie, Committee Chair)**: Reso in favor of rent freeze. We have most regulated housing in NYC of any Community District. We voted for rent freeze for two years, and were looking at a rent rollback, but at least there should be a freeze. Amendments by Richard Lewis to correct dates to 2017 (not 2015), and eliminate 5<sup>th</sup> whereas which isn't applicable, and to eliminate the portion of the 6<sup>th</sup> whereas that also isn't applicable were accepted as friendly. Announced the upcoming public hearings on this matter w/ RGB. Final vote on this will be June 27<sup>th</sup>. Also noted potential loss of \$340m due to changes in federal funding. Maria: this reso only addresses rent stabilization, not rent control, which has larger annual increases.

8:54pm Licensing (Isidro Medina, Committee Chair): Met on Wednesday, had 22 applications. Noted typos on various resos, which have been corrected. Two resos being withdrawn without penalty: #16 & #19. Pct. Is not recommending approval #20. Osi: for #15, there were stipulations which were received; the minutes will be corrected to include that information. Domingo: we voted last month on #20, why are we voting on it again? A: Because they resubmitted it. Natalie: #13, what are the issues? It says there's the possibility of being over capacity, but do we have information about what is actually happening? A: we saw a video about some of the issues that go on in the back room, which puts it over capacity. Gerard: the method of operation request is very different than what appears to actually be happening. We have detailed information from the NYPD about what is happening in the establishment. Steve: In January we voted against an application by El Presidente. What has changed since then that leads us to vote in favor of this license? A: there was an SLA summons and hearing, but there was no documentation to substantiate the complaint so we voted in favor. Gerard: The 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct. Came to the meeting and didn't voice any objection. Barbara: #18, Baja Tapas which used to be Maja Tapas. We have two letters from local residents with serious objections, including very loud clientele and blasting music. Richard L: clarify re #20.

9:26pm Roll Call on 1 Executive, 2 Traffic & Transportation, 1 Housing & Human Services, and 20 Licensing Committee resolutions. (Note: #16 & #19 were withdrawn.)

Item#	Resolution	Yes-No- Abstain Not Voting	— Passed or Failed
A.	Personnel matter re: job offer for a Community Associate Position (Executive)	28-0-0-0	passed
В.	Change W. 219 <sup>th</sup> / W. 220 <sup>th</sup> Street from two-way streets to one-way westbound and eastbound, respectively, to improve pedestrian safety and traffic flow near PS/IS278 & PS18. (Traffic & Transportation)	28-0-0-0	passed
C.	Resolution opposing NYC DOT proposal for lane changes in the Amsterdam Ave. Corridor from W. 155 <sup>th</sup> - W. 162 <sup>nd</sup> Streets. (Traffic & Transportation)	27-0-1-0	passed
D.	Resolution urging the NYC Rent Guidelines Board to grant No Rent Increases for rent stabilized apartments for 1- or 2-year leases commencing 10/1/15. (Housing & Human Services)	28-0-0-0	passed
E.	Resolution to the NYS Assembly Supporting Bills A3677 & A3718. (Licensing)	28-0-0-0	passed
1.	Resolution of <b>No Objection</b> to the SLA Renewal of an On-Premise Liquor License: Chipotle Mexican Grill (4009 Broadway, btw. W. 168 <sup>th</sup> /169 <sup>th</sup> Streets.)	27-1-0-0	passed
2.	Resolution <b>Objecting</b> to the SLA Renewal of an On-Premise Liquor License: 1218 M&M Bar & Grill Inc. (1218 St. Nicholas Avenue at W. 171 <sup>st</sup> St.)	26-2-0-0	passed

3.	Resolution of <b>No Objection</b> to the SLA Renewal of an On-Premise Liquor License:		
	Opus Lounge (417 W. 202 <sup>nd</sup> St., btw. Tenth & Ninth Avenues.)	23-3-2-0	passed
4.	Resolution of <b>No Objection</b> to the SLA Renewal of an On-Premise Liquor License: Altus Café (4325-4327 Broadway, at W. 184 <sup>th</sup> St.)	20-6-2-0	passed
5.	Resolution of <b>No Objection</b> to the SLA Renewal of an On-Premise Liquor License: Vacca Grill & Lounge (420 W. 202 <sup>nd</sup> St., btw. Tenth & Ninth Avenues.)	21-5-2-0	passed
6.	Resolution of <b>No Objection</b> to the SLA Renewal of an On-Premise Liquor License: Coral Lounge (3801 Broadway at W. 158 <sup>th</sup> St.)	27-1-0-0	passed
7.	Resolution of <b>No Objection</b> to the SLA Renewal of an On-Premise Liquor License: Mi Ranchito Mexican Restaurant Inc. (1468 St. Nicholas Avenue btw. W. 183 <sup>rd</sup> /184 <sup>th</sup> Sts.)	27-1-0-0	passed
8.	Resolution <b>Objecting</b> to the SLA Renewal of an On-Premise Liquor License: Lucky 7 Tapas Bar (1455 St. Nicholas Avenue, at W. 183 <sup>rd</sup> Street.)	27-1-0-0	passed
9.	Resolution of <b>No Objection</b> to the SLA Renewal of an On-Premise Liquor License: El Presidente (3938 Broadway at W. 165 <sup>th</sup> St.) (Note: this becomes a negative resolution, to recommend that the SLA <b>not grant</b> the License.)	13-13-2-0	failed
10.	Resolution of <b>No Objection</b> to the SLA Renewal of a Restaurant Wine License: Café Tabu (227 Dyckman St., btw. Seaman Ave. & Broadway)	21-6-1-0	passed
11.	Resolution of <b>No Objection</b> to the SLA Renewal of an Eating Place Beer License: Don Panchito NY Corp. (2102 Amsterdam Ave. at W. 164 <sup>th</sup> St.)	26-2-0-0	passed
12.	Resolution <b>Objecting</b> to the SLA License Alteration Application Changing Method of Operation to include live music, DJ, and karaoke: Made in Mexico (3950 Tenth Ave., btw. W. 211 <sup>th</sup> /212 <sup>th</sup> Streets)	16-10-2-0	passed
13.	Resolution of <b>Objecting</b> to the SLA Alteration Application Changing Method of Operation to include live music, DJ, and karaoke: Sugary Goddess Corp. dba WAHI Oyster Arka Wahizza (4486-4488 Broadway, btw. Fairview Ave. & W. 193 <sup>rd</sup> St.)	18-9-1-0	passed
14.	Resolution of <b>No Objection</b> to the NYC DCA Renewal of the Unenclosed Sidewalk Café License to: dba The Park View (219 Dyckman St., btw. Seaman Ave. & Broadway)	27-1-0-0	passed
15.	Resolution of <b>No Objection</b> to the NYC DCA application for a New Unenclosed Sidewalk Café License: Guacamole Taqueria (5025 Broadway at W. 215 <sup>th</sup> St.)	24-4-0-0	passed
17.	Resolution of <b>No Objection</b> to an SLA New On-Premises Liquor License: Beans & Vines (4799 Broadway, at Academy St.)	26-2-0-0	passed
18.	Resolution of <b>No Objection</b> to an SLA New On-Premises Liquor License: Bajas Tapas Restaurant & Bar Inc. (229 Dyckman St., btw. Seaman Ave. & Broadway) Note: this becomes a negative resolution, to recommend that the SLA <b>not grant</b> the License.	11-15-2-0	failed
20.	Resolution <b>Objecting</b> to an SLA New On-Premises Liquor License: Sherman Creek Restaurant & Lounge Corp. (3795 Tenth Ave., btw. W. 203 <sup>rd</sup> /204 <sup>th</sup> Streets.)	19-7-2-0	passed
21.	Resolution of <b>No Objection</b> to an SLA New Beer & Cider License: 4986 Cocina Latina Restaurant Inc. (4986 Broadway, corner of W. 211 <sup>th</sup> St.)	27-1-0-0	passed

In consideration of time, refer to minutes.

**Land Use Committee (Wayne Benjamin, Chair):** Referred to the Committee minutes and recommended that everyone review previous months' meetings for a full picture of what is happening with regard to Inwood rezoning. The next meeting will take place on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Allen Hospital. The meeting will be a charrette which will invite input from all who attend.

Health & Environment Committee (Steve Simon, Chair): The May meeting included a presentation by Grow NYC about composting. It was announced that there will be a special program to dispose of food waste in the community in which residents will be able to dispose of food waste in three separate locations adjoining subway stops. The Inwood Community Church made a presentation at the May meeting about a clean-up project that they undertook in the area of Broadway Terrace. They are looking for a letter of support in recognition of their efforts. The June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will include a presentation about the clean-up plan for 2430 Amsterdam Ave. It will also include a presentation about NY

Presbyterian's Ambulatory Care Network. In addition, the Committee will consider a Resolution to expand curbside collection of electronic waste.

Committee for the Concerns of the Aging (Liliana Saneaux, Chair): We are concerned about the potential closing of senior centers in the District and will be meeting to address this issue. There are only three Committee members; we are looking for at least two additional Board Members to join the Committee. Richard Allman suggested that the recruitment of Committee Members and Public Members be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

**Youth & Education Committee (Fé Florimón, Chair):** The meeting on May 8th concerning the Inwood Library was well attended and substantive. There were 500 to 600 people in attendance at the march on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, which included participation from the NYPD, PAL, GWHS, the Mayor's Office and the Manhattan Borough President's office.

Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair): The Minutes from last month's meeting will be available shortly. Please refer to them. At the June meeting, there will be a presentation by the Coast Guard on safety issues. There will also be a presentation by New York City Parks on an update on the renovation of Audubon Playground and a discussion about how the \$19.9 million remaining Anchor Park allocation for Highbridge Park might be used for Phase II. There will also be a discussion about the possibility of changing the closing hours for the park area near Sherman Creek, i.e., to make it a little earlier due to noise and traffic concerns.

**Public Safety (Richard Lewis, Interim Chair)**: Last meeting was joint w/ Parks & Cultural Affairs, which minutes see. Still need a Chair for the Committee following resignation of former chair, Arlene Schulman.

Business Development (Jonathan Reyes, Committee Chair): No report - refer to minutes.

Voting results were announced (see above); all resolutions passed except for #9 (failed 13-13-2-0) and #18 (failed 11-15-2-0), which automatically become negative resolutions (i.e., recommending the license NOT be granted).

There being no new business, a **motion to adjourn** was made by Jason Compton, seconded by Yahaira Alonzo, and approved by acclamation at 9:38pm.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary