

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

October 16, 2017
Executive Committee
MINUTES

Board Members Present: R. Lewis (1st Vice Chair); E. Lorris Ritter (Secretary & Chair, Parks & Cultural Affairs); B. Lehmann (Asst. Secretary); Y Alonzo, (Chair, Traffic & Transportation); M. Anderson (Chair, Aging Committee); Eliazar Bueno Asst. Chair Business Development; W. Benjamin (Chair, Land Use; Fe Florimon, (Chair, Youth & Education); Isidro Medina (Chair, Licensing); Ayisha Ogilvie (Chair, Housing & Human Services); J. Berlin (Parliamentarian)

Absent: S. Ally (Chair); R. Allman, (Chair, LGBT and By-Laws Task Forces); S. Simon (Chair, (Health & Environment)

Excused: J. Reyes (Treasurer & Chair, Business Development);

Staff: Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Others in Attendance: Lucian Reynolds, Manhattan Borough President's Office; Karla Fisk, Inwood Library & Community Resident; Clifford Elkind, Community Resident; Bernadette Elkind, Community Resident

Meeting was called to order at 7:24 pm by First Vice Chair, Richard Lewis.

Chair's Report: First Vice Chair Richard Lewis reported the following:

- He attended the State of the District Address on October 15th.
- Comments about the draft scope of work were submitted to the EDC.
- There was a discussion about the following:
 - The brevity of time allotted by the Mayor's office for the response to the draft scope of work
 - The fact that some committee chairs (I. Medina & Y. ALonzo) did not receive the original notice from the EDC. In addition their comments were not included in the response comments from CB 12.
 - The EDC will release an updated draft scope of work which will permit CB 12 a chance to review and comment

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

- He attended a ribbon cutting at the GWB terminal and reported the following;
 - GWB personnel indicated they will be bringing additional services to the community and that they will make upcoming job opportunities available to community residents.
 - Liz Ritter suggested that CB 12 be made aware of upcoming ribbon cuttings so they have an opportunity to attend.
- He attended a meeting with Work Force 1 and they announced they are offering bi-lingual commercial driver training to enable community residents to obtain jobs that have a starting wage of \$17per hour.

Secretary's Report: Liz Ritter indicated the following:

- Letters have gone out to all CB 12 members regarding the attendance requirements and each individual's attendance record. She received some responses to correct the record. This should make the nominating committee process fairly smooth.

Presentation: Lucian Reynolds, Economic Development & Technical Policy Analyst, Manhattan Borough President's office spoke about Intro 1472 & Intro 799A

- The proposed legislation is to amend the NYC administrative code to exempt certain grocery stores from the commercial rent tax. .
- This proposed legislation affects grocery stores from Murray Street north to 96th Street.
- The cost of this change is a loss of tax revenue of \$5 million.
- Most of the independent store owners are part of co-ops and the cost of the commercial rent tax is passed along to all within the co-op – so it hurts business borough-wide..
- Intro 799 A raises gross annual rent from \$250k to \$500K for local grocery stores to qualify as being considered a small business.
- To qualify, the store must be a full service food store and must have more than 50% of their revenue from grocery sales – excluding K Mart and Target, for example.
- He asked for CB 12 to support this legislation.

Vote on a Resolution for Support of this legislation:

- Motion made by Yahira Alonzo and seconded by A. Ogilvie
- Vote by a show of hands. 10= Yes, 0= No; 0 = Abstain; 0 = Not Voting

The Resolution passed unanimously.

- The Resolution will be presented at the next Borough Board meeting and will be ratified by the entire CB 12 Board at the next General Meeting.

Committee Reports:

Health and Environment Committee: No report.:

Traffic and Transportation Committee – Yahira Alonzo reported the following:

- The Haven Avenue Pedestrian Plaza proposal was discussed. CUMC is planning to hold one more workshop and will come back to the committee to review the result.
- The Resolution to revise the street directions of 219th & 220th Streets passed in Committee and at the General Meeting. Consequently, both streets will become one-way streets. No left turn will be permitted to Broadway from 219th Street going south. Parking will be restricted during school hours and safety will be enhanced.
- The BX 6 Select Bus route was instituted without any notice to the community. The MTA has been invited to the next meeting to address the matter of local bus service. .
- There was a discussion about the milling for new bike lanes set for 155th to 170th Streets. There has been no opportunity for input from the community. It was recommended that Yahira Alonzo and Shah Ally send a letter to the NYC DOT.

Land Use Committee – Chair Wayne Benjamin reported the following:

- There was a presentation by the historic districts council.
- There was a briefing by Cheryl Pahaham on the formation of the Northern Manhattan Community Land Trust. They are considering weighing in on the Inwood Library matter.
- The West 158th Street Row House district application is getting no response from the Landmarks Preservation District (LPC). This is similar to the response received by Inwood applications. There was speculation concerning the possible intrusion of MIH plans in the process.

- The Borough Presidents' office is offering an Advanced Land Use Committee training on the same date. The next Committee meeting may take place at the at the training instead.

Licensing Committee: Chair, Isidro Medina, reported the following:

- Thirty licenses were presented:
- 9 – withdrawn due to insufficiently completed permit applications
- 4 – rejected

Parks & Cultural Affairs –Chair, Liz Ritter, reported the following:

- There was a detailed discussion about budget priorities. There was a discussion that the topic of budget priorities should come up in the spring rather than the fall.
- There will be a discussion at the next meeting about the possibility of a Bennett Park Dog Run.

Business Development Committee – Asst. Chair, Eliazar Bueno, reported the following:

- City Harvest made a presentation concerning food vending
- The Haven Avenue Pedestrian Plaza proposal was discussed. Most of those attending are opposed to the plaza.
- There was a discussion that CUMC may have a master plan for the area that they are not sharing.

Public Safety: Chair, Richard Lewis, reported the following:

- More than 100 people attended the last meeting.
- Public Safety issues were discussed related to homelessness in the community, The following was agreed to
 - The 33rd and 34th Precinct will monitor parks and other areas where the homeless population is congregating. They will report back to the Committee.
 - Project Renewal that runs the homeless shelter at the Armory will work with the community to deter the population from congregating where they shouldn't. Very few of the Project Renewal clients are among those who are congregating.
 - The hours for Duarte Park will be adjusted to close at 9:00pm.
- There was a presentation about the newly installed information kiosks in Northern Manhattan.
- A group of residents from the 162nd Street area complained about one kiosk where there may be some criminal activity. The police are monitoring the situation and will report back.

Committee for the Concerns of the Aging – Chair, Mary Anderson, reported the following:

The budget priorities were reviewed and revised.

Ideas to improve committee attendance were discussed.

The Committee participated with an information table at the Isabella Health Fair on October 13th.

More than 200 seniors attended.

There will be a 2% COLA increase in Social Security payments in 2018.

Youth & Education Committee Chair, Fe Florimon reported the following:

- Budget rankings were reviewed and completed.
- Josh Karin came to the meeting requesting an approval of a Resolution as a follow-up on the Resolution passed by the full Board. The follow up Resolution passed in Committee- but without discussion. It was decided to take the Resolution back for further discussion.

Housing and Human Services Committee – Chair, Ayisha Ogilvie, reported the following:

- There was a presentation about the Northern Manhattan Community Land Trust Working Group.
- They reviewed the 65-page Inwood Community report (EIS).
- They reviewed budget priorities.

Review of Calendars for November and December:

- New member orientation will take place on November 9th at 7:00 pm
- The CB 12 Holiday Party will be held on December 21^s

New Business:

Ayisha Ogilvie said the following:

- She suggested that the audio of the Board meetings be uploaded on the CB 12 web site..
- She expressed concern that the CUMC Report not be taken at face value and that sufficient public notice has not been given. She said that the report may not be factual

Yahira Alonzo said that she has concern about the new 40 condos going up on Pinehurst. Wayne Benjamin reviewed the subject of when it is required for a developer to come before the community board.

Executive Session was moved by Liz Ritter and seconded by Richard Lewis and was convened at 9:25 pm. It ended at 9:40 pm

Motion to Adjourn – made by Liz Ritter, seconded by Richard Lewis

Adjournment – 9:40 pm

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann
] Assistant Secretary
November 20, 2017