

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

December 14, 2017

Executive Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

Board Members Present: S. Ally (Chair); R. Lewis (1st Vice Chair); B. Lehmann (Asst. Secretary); M. Anderson (Chair, Aging Committee); Y Alonzo, (Chair, Traffic & Transportation); W. Benjamin (Chair, Land Use; Fe Florimon, (Chair, Youth & Education); I. Medina, Chair, Licensing Committee; A. Ogilvie, (Chair, Housing & Human Services); James Berlin (Parliamentarian)

Other Board Members Present: Gerard Dengel, Osi Kaminer, (Asst. Chair, Licensing); Natalie Espino

Absent: J. Reyes (Treasurer & Chair, Business Development); E. Lorris Ritter (Secretary & Chair, Parks & Cultural Affairs); R. Allman, (Chair, LGBT and By-Laws Task Forces); S. Simon (Chair, (Health & Environment));

Staff: Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Others in Attendance: Clifford Elkind, Community Resident; Bernadette Elkind, Community Resident; Karla Fisk, Community Resident, Keisy Dulan, Community Resident

Meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by 1st Vice Chair, Richard Lewis who indicated that Chairman Ally would be delayed in arriving. He re-ordered the agenda accordingly.

Review of January & February 2018 calendars:

- Discussion of CB 12 holiday party to a date in January – date to be determined
- Aging Committee will be holding its meetings at various senior centers:
 - January – ARC XVI Senior Services – 4111 Broadway (174th St)
 - February – to be determined
- Land Use Committee will meet on January 9th
- Executive Committee will meet in Tuesday, January 16th
- Youth & Education Committee – will meet on January 13th and February 3rd (Saturday mornings)
- The Public Safety Committee meeting in February may be off-site – TBD.

Secretary's Report: Asst. Secretary Betty Lehmann presented the draft minutes from the Nov 20th meeting:

- **Correction:** Wayne Benjamin requested that the narrative “The Committee passed a Resolution concerning sunlight...” be replaced with “The Committee passed a Resolution requesting DCP to revise zoning to protect sunlight on rooftops.”

CB 12 Resignations:

- R. Lewis announced that there are (2) resignations from the Board:
 - Wanda Garcia
 - Carlos Suero
- There was a lengthy discussion about the process of removing a Board Member who has had too many absences. This matter concerned Hjordys Perez-Matos, whose work apparently requires extensive travel and her attendance is a problem. Ebenezer Smith has reached out to

her. The Executive Committee passed a Resolution (8 Yes, 2 Abst) to remove her from the Board. This however became moot as Chair Ally arrived and informed the Committee that she had submitted her written resignation from the Board.

Chairman Ally began to chair the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Committee Reports:

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

- A Resolution was introduced in the Committee to support the expansion of a restorative justice program in the schools. This is a pilot program that started in District 18 in Brooklyn and is going citywide that provides justice training in the schools.

Licensing Committee: Chair, Isidro Medina reported the following

- There were 21 Agenda items in total
5 were withdrawn
3 applications failed
- Of note, the Armory applied for liquor license and we told them to withdraw it due to an incomplete application. It was a request for a seasonal license and will probably not be renewed.
- A restaurant at 172nd & Amsterdam came to the December meeting after a prior appearance at the November meeting. There is a new owner for this restaurant as well as a history of complaints. After he made a number of concessions about continuing follow up, we approved his applications.
- There was another case of 2 applicants claiming ownership of the same entity at 190th & Broadway – however neither was present and the matter was deferred for future consideration. We are asking the SLA not to approve.

Housing & Human Services Committee: Ayisha Ogilvie reported the following:

- Nicholas Silverstock of the Comptroller's office made a presentation and a report recommending that an individual's credit score include the fact of timely rent payment. He also said that this is a social justice issue since mortgage payments count toward credit scores.
- There was a discussion about under-banking in certain communities and what can be done to improve the situation.
- There was a Resolution brought by Jeannie Dubneau of RENA that recommends the creation of a Community Land Trust to preserve the lots at 654 West 158th Street, 543 West 156th Street as well as others - including one at 203rd Street. This trust would enable the development of affordable housing on these city owned lots. There will be a more extensive list of potential sites by the General Meeting.
- Wayne Benjamin proposed linking this Resolution to the previous CB12 Resolutions for the same purpose and Ayisha agreed.

Traffic & Transportation Committee – Chair, Yahaira Alonzo reported the following:

- Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) made another presentation regarding the Haven Plaza proposal. They offered additional inducements to encourage approval. A Resolution was considered by the Committee and voted down.
- After the meeting CUMC appealed for reconsiderations and asked for a meeting with Chair Shah Ally and the Committee Chairs. They will probably follow up on this.

- There was a discussion about speed bumps in front of two local schools. DOT was present and agreed to look into this matter and get back to us.
- Isidro Medina brought up the matter of bike lanes on both sides of Dyckman Street. This matter will be brought to the attention of DOT as the community did not approve this.
- Jim Berlin brought up the offer made by CUMC to offer half-price parking in their garage, but indicated that the community is not interested in this.

Land Use Committee: Chair, Wayne Benjamin, reported the following:

- There was a presentation by a group on a proposed historic district in the neighborhood around Inwood Hill Park. We recommended that the group reach out to the Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee since the request does not include residences. There was further discussion about this request in conjunction with the rezoning project.
- There was a discussion about the redevelopment of the Rite Aid site on St. Nicolas Avenue & 164th Street. It is 10,500 sq. ft. site that could be used for affordable housing. Wayne made a suggestion that Chair, Shah Ally, reach out Mr. Catsimitidis who owns the property.
- There was a discussion about the timeline concerning the Inwood Rezoning Proposal. It is scheduled to be certified on January 16th. Nine days later – January 25th – the 60-day clock starts for community response. The response is due by March 27th. Supporting documents were shared with the committee.
- Chair Shah Ally indicated that the March General Meeting will need to move to the third Tuesday in March in order to provide an opportunity to consider the community's response on a timely basis.
- There was a discussion by Jeannie Dubneau about the development of city-owned land into locations for affordable housing. Land Use will work with Housing & Human Services Committee concerning this project.

Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee: Asst. Chair, Natalie Espino, reported the following:

- The Committee met on November 12th to consider a dog run in Bennett Park. It is a very heated issue. The Committee did not consider a Resolution at this time and needs more time to gather information and review the cost, etc.
- There was a discussion about some problems at the park on Amsterdam Avenue behind GW High School.

Public Safety Committee – Chair, Richard Lewis reported the following –

- He presented the talking points that were brought up during their meeting.
- The police provided their crime data from Comstat.
- The Small Business Services Agency came to the meeting to provide an update on what they are doing to assist the businesses who were displaced by the fire on Nagle Avenue.
- There was a discussion about homelessness and the opioid addiction issue in our community. There were 8 overdoses in the past month including 2 deaths.
- The Homeless Outreach Program of CUCS is conducting a survey of homelessness in our community. They provided a list of the areas they have visited and we provided additional sites to examine.
- There was a presentation by the Department of Health about harm reduction training which would include the application of naran where and when needed. They are working in partnership with the Corner Project which is giving away needles to those who need them.
- It was suggested that they may want to come to a General Meeting and make a presentation about their work.

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

- Shirley Saxton of the Social Security Administration came to the meeting to announce that the Social Security Office has moved from 184th Street to 207th Street & Broadway. In addition she noted that everyone will be receiving new Social Security cards this year that are red, white and blue and do not include the individual's social security number or signature.
- The January meeting of the Aging Committee will take place at Arc XVI Senior Services, 4111 Broadway at 174th Street.

Health & Environment Committee – No report at this time.

Business Development Committee – No report at this time.

Executive Session:

A motion was made at 8:50 pm by Wayne Benjamin and seconded by Ayisha Ogilvie to go into Executive Session to consider a personnel matter.

The Executive Session ended at 10:05 pm. It was agreed that Shah Ally, Ayisha Ogilvie and Betty Lehmann will follow up further.

New Business:

- Ayisha Ogilvie indicated that the IT task force has not met but suggested that the task force be revived to include some of the new members. New initiatives will improve efficiency and communications
- Richard Lewis indicated that the new web page will be available on January 16th,
- Ayisha Ogilvie requested that CB 12 get some of the books available from the City to establish a CB 12 library.
- Ayisha Ogilvie spoke with Oscar Garcon regarding individuals to take notes at our meetings. These would be stenography students.
- Sha Ally agreed to use these students if they need the experience.

A motion was made and seconded by acclamation to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann
Assistant Secretary
January 16, 2018

