

## HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – October 5, 2017

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steve Simon (Chair), Daryl Cochrane, Elizabeth Lehmann, Beatrice Hall (Public Member).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Richard Allman (excused), Wanda Garcia, Andrea Kornbluth (excused).

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mary Anderson, Sara Fisher, Osi Kaminer.

**GUESTS:** Julio Batista, NY-Presbyterian Hospital; Rebecca Gafvea, NYC EDC; Nancy Bruning; Karla Fisk; Valinn Ranelli; Catarina Rivera, City Harvest; Mary Anne Segal; Rosalba Traranto (?).

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S. Simon, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and introduced the committee members who were present.

**1. Columbia University Medical Center's Institutional Review Boards and Clinical Research Trials** – Brenda Ruotolo, Executive Director, Human Research Protection Office, Columbia University, reported as follows:

- There are 7 IRBs at Columbia – one at the Morningside Heights campus (Dr. Edgar Nau, former CB 12 member, is a member of that board) and 6 at the Medical Center (one board has just one member who reviews low-risk research). Staff of 29.
- The IRBs oversee 6,000 active studies, 80-85% at the Medical Center. Not all involve interaction with people, some are just surveys.
- There must be at least 5 people on each board, at least one of whom must be unaffiliated with CUMC. (She distributed a fact sheet on the role and responsibilities of non-affiliated members.) There are generally 9-12 members on each board. They must have a non-scientist at each meeting who looks at consent documents and research from the participants' perspective. Non-affiliated members receive a \$5,000 annual stipend.
- The boards meet on Wednesday afternoons, twice a month.
- Federal regulations on informed consent have changed; forms are now more comprehensible. The essential information is on the cover sheet.
- There is no requirement that an independent party explain the consent form to participants.
- A majority of the studies are reviewed after one year, including the risk to participants.
- The public can find out about active studies at CUMC on a new website "RecruitMe," which shows enrollment criteria. You can register for future studies, say what you're interested in, and you will be notified if such a study is initiated.
- All FDA-regulated trials must be listed on "ct.gov" website.
- NIH-funded "All of Us" research program created by the Obama Administration started in July at CUMC, one of four institutions in the country that are participating (includes NYPH/Columbia, NYPH/Cornell and Harlem Hospital). Objective is to develop a database on the health conditions of one million people.
- In response to a question, she said she would find out how many local residents are participating.
- A separate IRB at NYS Psychiatric Institute reviews psychiatric research.

S. Simon asked whether more community residents had been recruited as non-affiliated IRB members.

Kimberlee Gonzalez, who found out about the IRBs by attending past H&E meetings, has become a member, but more community residents are needed.

**2. Discussion and Vote on FY 19 Expense and Capital Budget Priorities.** The committee reviewed its FY 18 budget priorities. It was agreed that we should request funding so that all local public schools have health clinics and that this item should be ranked #5 on the list. Other items on the Expense Budget list were then re-numbered. It was agreed that the two items on the Capital Budget list should remain as they were for FY 18. Motion by Lehmann/Hall to adopt the FY 19 list of Expense and Capital Budget priorities was approved by the following vote: Committee Members 4-0-0, Other Board Members 2-0-0, Members of the Public 4-0-3

**3. Inwood Rezoning Proposal: Draft Scope of Work (DSOW) for the Environmental Impact Statement.** The committee, together with members of the public, discussed various issues related to tasks in the DSOW that fall within the purview of the H&E Committee: Open Space, Shadows, Hazardous Materials, Water and Sewer Infrastructure, Solid Waste and Sanitation Services, Energy, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change, Noise, Public Health and Construction. After considerable discussion, a list of comments related to how these issues are addressed in the DSOW was compiled.

Motion by Lehmann/Cochrane to submit these comments to CB 12, which will send them to EDC for its consideration before issuing the Final Scope of Work, was approved by the following vote:  
Committee Members 4-0-0-0 Other Board Members 3-0-0-0 Members of the Public 7-0-0-1

4. **NY-Presbyterian Hospital Report** – Julio Batista, Director of Community Affairs, reported as follows:
  - NYPH has donated \$1 million to the Puerto Rico hurricane relief fund. A trustee donated an additional \$1 million. Teams of NYPH health care workers are now in P.R. More teams are being recruited to go there for two-week periods. The hospital is making a long-term commitment to help P.R.
  - Walk Against Cancer was held on Sept. 30 by Latin Family Advocacy Counseling Education Support (FACES) Cancer Foundation, co-sponsored by NYPH. 700 people walked from Anne Loftus Playground in Fort Tryon Park to Highbridge Park. NYPH provided free blood pressure screenings, health tips, etc.
  - Clergy Summit being held by NYPH to discuss mental health issues – 10/10.
  - Annual Medical Center Neighborhood Fund award reception being held 10/24. 39 community groups are receiving \$60,000. 100% of donations from NYPH/CUMC/NYSPI employees go to WH-I organizations.In response to question from S. Simon, he said that the hospital has set up a task force to look at the spike in hospital-acquired infection rates among patients.
5. **Columbia University Medical Center Report** -- Sandra Harris, Assistant Vice President, Government & Community Affairs, provided a written report.
6. **Isabella Geriatric Center Report** – Betty Lehmann, Director of Marketing & Communications, reported as follows:
  - 15<sup>th</sup> annual health fair on 10/13. 35 community organizations are participating. Screenings, entertainment, education.
  - Received approval to continue the NNORC in the area east of Broadway around 168<sup>th</sup> – 170<sup>th</sup> Streets.
7. **Old Business** – S. Simon reported on the following:
  - Street and Sidewalk Cleanliness Ratings: The rating for acceptably clean streets in our district for August was 84%. Only the Inwood sector was above 90% (92%). Sidewalks were rated as 95% acceptably clean.
  - DEP Service Complaints from CB 12 Residents: Top two complaints in August were for Hydrant Running Full (91) and Hydrant Running (51). There were 25 complaints for Noise: Construction Before/After Hours.
  - The Port Authority has final agreed to start installing a temporary fence to prevent suicides on the George Washington Bridge.
8. **New Business** – C. Rivera: we should get up and stretch every hour instead of sitting down through the meetings.  
O. Kaminer: we should be the first district to have a vertical farm, should be in the rezoning area,
9. **Announcements** – D. Cochrane: ribbon cutting ceremony was held for LGBT drop-in center for homeless and displaced youth at Holyrood Church  
N. Bruning: has started a forest fitness program and a yoga walkabout program, both in Inwood Hill Park  
C. Rivera: City Harvest stakeholder breakfast – 10/11 @ NMIC; WH-I Food Council meeting – 10/26 @ Holyrood Church, 715 W. 179<sup>th</sup> St.; Garden Day at Riley-Levin Children's Garden, Swindler Cove Park – 10/29.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Simon.