

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – June 1, 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Simon (Chair), Andrea Kornbluth, Elizabeth Lehmann, Beatrice Hall (Public Member).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Mitchell Glenn (Asst. Chair), Richard Allman, Daryl Cochrane, Wanda Garcia.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Anderson, Obie Bing, Sara Fisher.

GUESTS: Stuart Knoop, Langan; Bryan Woo, Young Woo & Associates; Julio Batista, Andres Nieto and Monica Hidalgo, NY-Presbyterian Hospital; Sandra Harris, Columbia University Medical Center; Heidy Hernandez, WaHi Chamber of Commerce; Catarina Rivera, City Harvest; Eric Waite.

S. Simon, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. and introduced the committee members.

1. **Presentation on the brownfield cleanup plan for 2420-2430 Amsterdam Ave.** – Stuart Knoop, Senior Project Manager, Langan, reported on the remedial action work plan that has been submitted to the NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. The public comment period began May 17 and runs until July 1.

- The site has a 70-year history of being used as a gas station and auto repair shop
- The plan is to remove all contamination from the site, excavate down to the bedrock as part of the construction. 19,000 cubic yards of soil will be removed and replaced with clean soil. Will be implementing Track 1 cleanup, most restrictive standards. No other requirements after cleanup.
- There will be several hundred, maybe 1,000 truck trips in total: 16 trucks, 32 runs/day to the disposal site (yet to be determined, maybe in New Jersey or Pennsylvania).
- Do not believe that there has been any migration of polluted groundwater off site. Will be installing wells on W. 180th & 181st Streets to take baseline samples prior to and after construction.
- Water will be filtered on site. Chemical re-agents will be used to dissolve petroleum in groundwater.
- Community air monitoring plan: two stations upwind and downwind on site.

S. Simon voiced concern about the potential for groundwater migration to adjacent residential buildings.

A: Will try to put a monitoring well in courtyard of adjoining property. Results from wells should be available within four weeks.

S. Simon suggested they minimize truck traffic along W. 181st Street during busy hours.

O. Bing asked whether they had checked the condition of the infrastructure, especially the Con Edison cables. Bryan Woo, from Young Woo & Associates, the developer, said they have had “extensive negotiations with Con Ed” and have been assured that the cable infrastructure is OK.

2. **The activities of NY-Presbyterian Hospital's Ambulatory Care Network in 2016** – Andres Nieto, Director of Community Health Education, and Monica Hidalgo, Manager of Marketing, Communications and Outreach, NYPH ACN, distributed copies of the 2016 annual report and reported as follows:

- Reached 2,000 people in the community through targeted outreach efforts, such as the health fairs for taxi drivers, cosmetologists and grocery workers
- Family Peace Trauma Treatment Center provides services to children who witness domestic violence.
- Mental Health first aid – trained 200 people last year at churches, schools, parent groups, etc. to identify when someone is in crisis and refer them to services. Have already trained 200 people this year.
- Lang Youth Medical Program – enrolls middle school students for 6-year program. 15 graduates this year are all going to 4-year colleges.
- CHALK (Choosing Healthy & Active Lifestyles for Kids) – addresses childhood obesity, gets kids physically active, expanding to churches,
- ACN has a tent at the 175th Street Greenmarket on Thursdays 6/29-10/26.
- School-Based Health Centers – seven in the community. I.S. 52 facility is being upgraded. The facility at George Washington H.S. campus was rebuilt; services were expanded, including mental health services.
- HIV/AIDS program – work with community collaborators such as The Corner Project, where a primary care physician is assigned.
- Community Health Workers – working with 50 CBOs, majority in Washington Heights-Inwood
- Youth Hub in Washington Heights – recently received funding, will provide mental health services, social activities, looking for space, maybe in Alianza Triangle building.
- ACN Practices – volume is steady, plan to expand specialty care and hours. Audubon practice open Saturdays. Patients pay sliding fee scale, many no-pays. Reasonable timeframe for appointments.

- Emergency Room – more sections are open. Rapid Evaluation Unit was expanded; people are being seen more quickly. Only one section left to be constructed.
3. **Resolution supporting the Fairview Avenue Lot Renewal Project** – tabled due to lack of a quorum.
 4. **Columbia University Medical Center Report** -- Sandra Harris, Assistant Vice President, Government & Community Affairs, reported as follows:
 - Submitted application to DOT for pedestrian plaza on Haven Avenue at W. 168th St. Public workshop to be held 6/13.
 - Next Community Research Forum will deal with global health research in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Africa, to be held 6/19.
 - The new School of Nursing building will be dedicated 6/8.
 5. **NY-Presbyterian Hospital Report** -- Julio Batista, Director of Community Affairs, reported as follows:
 - Met yesterday with health committee of Northern Manhattan Agenda, chaired by Charlie Corliss. Plan to organize a forum with mental health service providers.
 - Plan to hold a meeting with clergy and First Lady Chirlane McCray on mental health issues 10/10.
 6. **Old Business** – S. Simon reported on the following:
 - Update on Street and Sidewalk Cleanliness Ratings: The ratings for April for our district were 91.7% for streets and 97.1% for sidewalks. .
 - DEP Service Complaints from CB 12 Residents: The top requests in April once again were for lead testing kits (24), followed by noise from ice cream trucks (22) and dirty water (21).

S. Fisher: water quality testing at four sites in area started in May and continues every Thursday until September. Worst results found at North Cove. Info is useful for people who go swimming, boating or fishing in the rivers. She commended the ACN for participating in the AIDS Walk. She also said people are concerned about the environmental impact of the proposed project at the Inwood Public Library and the Inwood rezoning plan.
 7. **New Business** – S. Simon reported on the following:
 - GrowNYC's Commuter Food Scrap Drop-off program begins 6/7 in Wednesdays at three locations in area: Broadway & W. 157th Street, Fort Washington Avenue & W. 184th Street and Dyckman Street & Broadway.
 - State Senator Alcantara issued a report and proposed a bill calling for a study and remediation plan on asthma rates in Manhattan.

Eric Waite, president of coop at 70 Have Ave.: NYPH has installed LED lights on the exterior of 720 W. 170th St. that shine into the apartments of his building. He asked that the NYPH install shades on the lights so that they would shine only on the sidewalk. J. Batista said the lights were installed on the recommendation of the 33rd Precinct to deter drug dealing and promised to look into how the lights might be adjusted.

Caterina Rivera: City Harvest is working on a proposal for "community-based participatory research." The topic would be "the effect of the home kitchen environment on healthy meal preparation for Medicaid-eligible Latino families." The proposal is being submitted to the Irving Institute for Translational Research at CUMC. She also wants to do an assessment of gardens in schools, churches, etc.
 8. **Isabella Geriatric Center Report** – Betty Lehmann, Director of Marketing & Communications, reported as follows:
 - Open house for Isabella House will be held 6/10.
 - Uptown Arts Stroll exhibit by artists in the community 6/7-6/18.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Simon.