

**Community Board 12, Manhattan**  
**Minutes of the February 28, 2017 General Meeting**  
**Riverstone Senior Center (99 Fort Washington Ave., NYC 10032)**

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

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6:45pm **Introductory remarks by the Chair**, no quorum. Thanks to Riverstone for hosting this evening's meeting. (Note: If people have ideas on other venues to host, please let me or the DM know.) Shah Introduced Ilene Dunner, Executive Director of Riverstone, who spoke about the Memory Center and other vital programs offered. He further introduced Committees and their Chairs. Katie Henner, DSNY Sold Waste Advisory Board: gave away reusable bags, talked a little about what SWAB is. Shah introduced Ulysses Grasso, Director of the new WH Workforce One Career Center on W. 181<sup>st</sup> St. (btw. Audubon/Amsterdam, who spoke about the services they offer. They offer free training. All bilingual. Spanish orientation in the afternoon. Specialized workshops. Chair also shouted out the Daily News op ed on suicides from GWB; thanks to Health & Environment Chair Steve Simon for his work on that.

7:00pm **Adoption of the agenda:** Motion by Gerard Dengel, second by Isidro Medina. Suggested removal of items in licensing – table items 1, 7,8,9,10. Removed from vote as items were tabled so there's actually nothing to vote on. No other changes. No objections to agenda as amended.

**No Minutes of January 2017 meeting:** will be submitted in March along with Feb. minutes; apologies from Secretary.

7:04pm **Highlights of District Manager's report**, the full text of which is NOT included in members' packets:

- MTA elevators. Still a problem. Town Hall meeting on 3/16.
- Website now has minutes and resos since Sept 2016. We are continuing to add. Thanks to DoITT and most especially Richard Lewis for his efforts.
- Job vacancy for Community Assistant has been posted; deadline to apply is March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Announcements about various then-upcoming events.

7:05pm **Report from Giovanni Puello, Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer. See attached report.**

- Over 1000 applicants! Interview dates 3/1, 3/14.
  - Meeting w/ City Council nuisance abatement laws. Received community input from local biz. MBPO submitted comments and provided suggestions/concerns from local merchants.
  - Various updates on upcoming meetings, especially regarding 3/6 meeting w/ DDC re repairs and disruption on Jumel Terrace, MTA elevators on 3/16, etc.
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7:17pm **Public Session** (Chaired by Secretary, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter; time-keeping by Gerard Dengel)

**Joel Yoffie:** read a poem

**Anita Burgos & Elena Carazo:** Saturday Science at the Zuckerman Institute on 125<sup>th</sup> St. Science Building. Late-night science. Graduate students give presentations about their research. It's a family event so it's interesting to adults but accessible to kids. You get to see a real lab, microscopes, etc. Also offered in Spanish. More info: zuckermaninstitute.columbia.edu, or check at EventBrite.

**Catarina Rivera, City harvest/Food Council:** Sat 3/11. Cooking matters at the store event day. Learn about shopping healthy, cooking demos. At Super FoodTown 600 W. 160<sup>th</sup> St. @ Bway. Noon-3. Incentive giveaways, \$10 voucher.

**Sharon Pope:** Free programs for youth for biking from BikeNY. Free presentations to established youth programs. Provide FREE bikes and helmets but we need summer youth & afterschool programs. We will teach bike safety skills. We are in Inwood Hill Park. 212-870-2074.

**Phil Simpson:** community resident, spoke against the sale of our library to a private developer for \$1. We will be without a library for five years and we cannot afford this hidden cost.

**Dave Thom:** community resident spoke against the proposed rezoning of the library because it is spot-zoning and we need contextual zoning that preserves the low height of residential buildings.

**Katherine O’Sullivan, Moving Forward Unidos:** Spoke against Pato Palo. Gave a long timeline and expressed outrage over the granting of a license based on faulty documentation, when the Community Board in fact opposed this application. Also opposes the NYPL development, echoing previous speakers.

**Graham Ciralo, Northern Manhattan is not for Sale:** no privatization of public land. No transferring owe demand deep and permanent affordability – 60-70% making 50%AMI, and at least 10% homeless, and 10% for seniors. Must be union labor and union management, and apprenticeship programs. And the library should continue to operate during construction. We insist on a non-profit developer.

**Zoya Kocur, Inwood Preservation:** should include community input early. Repurpose existing building. No sale to private for profit developers, must be a community land trust. Redevelopment should adhere to current zoning or R7A. replacement library of same or greater size must be in place before any demolition.

**Jeanne Ruskin:** we are an immigrant community in Inwood and in this United States. Properties should not be sold and developed. We need our library to keep ourselves informed and educated in these times. We need to come together as a community. Don’t want to happen here what happened with Donnell Library, which is now too small.

**Valinn Ranelli:** Spoke movingly and passionately in favor of libraries; expressed concern about the loss of the library during construction, and converting a new library into a media center without books. We need housing and technology access, but not at the expense of libraries.

**Dmitri Daniel Glinski & Benenson Vuli, RCCMB:** still looking for elected officials to honor commitments to Russian community to include representation within government to the Russian community. We are at a disadvantage to other organizations that have been funded by the Russian government. Two or three minutes per month at a CB meeting are not enough.

**Alberto Aquino, The Armory Foundation:** When I found soccer, my life changed. Free youth program for middles school (6/7/8 grade) includes academic program. I’m in touch w/ Manny Ramirez of D6, and w/ principals. M/W afternoons aftgerschool, plus academic help. Spoke about various programs. Also free tours of hall of fame.

**Sally Fisher, Veronica Liu, Aaron Simms of NMAC:** monthly meetups. Weekly grant-writing clinics. (bilingual). Also building an arts/cultural database usual performing spaces, but also businesses that can provide gallery space, etc. s of both artists, and of spaces – spaces can include not just . [info@nmac.nyc](mailto:info@nmac.nyc). Aaron also talked about Inwood Film Festival on 3/17 & 3/18. Vern: doing a series of capacity-building workshops. In April. Also gave Julia Alvarez at Word Up? Other events.

**Betty Lehmann, Isabella Geriatric Center:** we have some housing for seniors at Isabella. Open House on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Liz Ritter, UP Theater:** Announced March 6<sup>th</sup> fundraiser honoring Dichter Pharmacy’s Manny Ramirez.

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7:57pm Representatives of Elected Officials

- **Frank Hess for Assemblymember Herman D. “Denny” Farrell:** written report. Governor proposes cutting \$65 million in education funds. We should stand up for our kids.
- **Laurie Tobias-Cohen for Congressman Adriano Espaillat:** referred to report. 650+ people attended inauguration at YU. He has come out swinging against Trump Administration and Republicans in Congress. We are a remarkable community for our degree of engagements. Couldn’t carry over lists from Senate to Congress so if you’re not getting our emails, please call me so we can add you. 212-663-3900.
- **Manny Belliard for NYC Councilmember Mark Levine:** coming later to discuss new Right to Council legislation. Announced upcoming events: session on “what’s next”; see flyers. Rat Academy on 3/23. 3/8 Small business event w/ C/M Rodriguez.
- **Kiana Diaz for NYC Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez:** reiterated transpo Town Hall. Also collaborating w/ HPD on the NYPL redesign workshops. Everyone deserves to have a say; this is our community.

- **Jennifer Araujo for Manhattan DA's Cy Vance:** 3/15 deadline for the DA internship. DA announced \$45m in asset forfeiture funds to create youth programs with a variety of community partners in East/Central/West Harlem, WH, and the Lower East Side. Among the awardees in NYPH, getting \$10.3 million, including up to \$4 million in capital funding. Visit [www.CJII.org](http://www.CJII.org) or [www.manhattanda.org](http://www.manhattanda.org) for more info.
- **Claudia Carias from NYS Senator Marisol Alcantara:** announced town hall next week on health care access.
- **Richard Allman for Assemblymember Carmen de la Rosa:** See report.

8:10pm **Business Section / Chaired by 1VP Richard Lewis**

8:10pm **Licensing (Isidro Medina, Committee Assistant Chair):** Beginning 3/8, we will start meetings at 6:30. Items 1, 7,8,9,10 removed from agenda as they had been tabled at Committee b/c applicants didn't applications ready. So we are voting on 2,3,4,5,6., the presentation of which was well-summarized in the minutes; there were no questions.

8:12pm **Roll Call on 5 Licensing Committee resolutions.**

| Item # | Resolution                                                                                                                           | Yes-No-Abstain<br>Not Voting | <i>Passed or Failed</i> |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2.     | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> that the SLA grant a renewal On-Premises Liquor License to Mamasushi                                  | 26-3-0-0                     | <i>passed</i>           |
| 3.     | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> that the SLA grant a renewal Restaurant Wine License to El Gran Valle                                 | 22-7-0-0                     | <i>passed</i>           |
| 4.     | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> that the SLA grant Restaurant Wine License to La Essencia                                             | 27-2-0-0                     | <i>passed</i>           |
| 5.     | Resolution to <b>recommend</b> that the SLA grant a change from a Restaurant Wine to an On-Premises Liquor License to Anchor Heights | 23-5-1-0                     | <i>passed</i>           |
| 6.     | Resolution to recommend that the SLA <b>NOT GRANT</b> an Eating Place Wine License to Sazon y Mas                                    | 29-0-0-0                     | <i>passed</i>           |

8:19pm **Public Safety (Arlene Schulman, Committee Chair):** Refer to minutes

8:20pm **Traffic & Transportation (Yahaira Alonzo, Committee Chair):** Refer to minutes. DoT launching a citywide transit plan. In advance we can go to website and provide input on transit. Series of workshops to follow. Provided report on recent transportation forum at which neither MTA nor PANYNJ showed up. Having DDC at next meeting to discuss Jumel Terrace construction project.

8:21pm **Land Use (Wayne Benjamin, Committee Chair):** brainstorming session on NYPL/HPD proposed project. Holy Trinity Church came at the very beginning to open discussion w/ community on future prospective development and how this shrinking congregations (fewer than 35 members) can best leverage their real estate assets for best community good that continues mission of the Church, the Diocese, and community need.

8:23pm **C/M Mark Levine:** Just passed landmark legislation providing free legal representation to tenants below a certain income level. Most tenants are unrepresented in court, and virtually all landlords are represented, which is why the results tend to favor landlords. This legislation will help level the playing field. Q: Maria Luna re HDFCs / TIL buildings. A: My district has 200+ HDFCs, #1 or #2 in city. I don't support HPD's proposals. There are some HDFCs that are suffering, maybe 25-30%, but most have succeeded because hardworking residents have fought to turn around their buildings, their blocks, their neighborhoods. Their apartment is often their only asset. To then harm them as shareholders is not fair. I would love to talk w/ HPD about solutions that can help shore up the weaker ones but that wouldn't harm the healthy ones. HPD isn't willing, but I will continue to reach out to them. CB12's housing committee will be taking this issue up and I will continue to work with you on hammering out smart policies. Q: Steve: Have you taken a position on the United Palace. A: Because it's not in my district I haven't taken a formal position. We are about to pass landmarking for Morningside Heights in my district, which I've pushed in the past three years. Wayne asked that Ebenezer send C/M Levine CB12's resos re landmarking United Palace/Lowes. Q: Liz Ritter: news of parks? A: lots of good news in budget,

but loss of 150 parks workers is a problem, and I will be fighting to bring those back. And to support parks. You can count on me fighting for parks in a big way.

8:34pm **Parks & Cultural Affairs (Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Committee Chair):** Read minutes. Next meeting "\$30m anchor park, Audubon murals, While We Are Still Here project.

8:36pm **Health & Environment (Steve Simon, Committee Chair):** Refer to minutes. Next month: guest speakers from SWAB. Gave more information on Daily News op-ed and issue of suicides from GWB. Have we heard from PANYNJ? A: (Ebenezer) No. Steve: we need fencing. PANYNJ has promised us, but is saying it will take 8 years. And they might do a temp fence, but they've given no time frame.

8:41pm **Business Development (Jonathan Reyes, Committee Chair):** Refer to minutes.

8:pm **Concerns of the Aging (Liliana Saneaux, Committee Chair):** Refer to minutes.

8:pm **Youth & Education (Fe Florimón, Committee Chair):** Announced upcoming meeting. Refer to minutes.

8:pm **Housing & Human Services (Ayisha Ogilvie, Committee Chair):** Refer to minutes.

There being no new business, **Motion to adjourn** was made by Jason, seconded by Yahaira, and approved by acclamation at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary