

COMMUNITY BOARD 12, MANHATTAN
Executive Committee Meeting
Virtual via Zoom

April 20th, 2020
MINUTES

Executive Committee Members Present: E. Bueno (Chair); K. Diaz (1st Vice Chair); I. Medina (2nd Vice Chair & Chair, Licensing); G. Dengel, (Treasurer); E. Lorris Ritter (Secretary & Chair, Parks & Cultural Affairs); O. Kaminer (Asst. Secretary); A. Miranda (Housing & Human Services); W. Benjamin (Chair, Land Use); D. Nabavian (Chair, Traffic & Transportation); R. Allman (LGBTQ Task Force); J. Berlin (Parliamentarian); J. N. Frometa (IT Task Force); M. Anderson (Chair, Aging Committee); D. Estevez (Chair, Business Development); S. Simon (Chair, Health & Environment); C. Young (Chair, Public Safety); F. Florimon (Chair, Youth & Education)

Excused:

Absent:

Other Board Members Present: A. Ogilvie; T. Bonner, S. Fisher

Government Officials Present: N. Espino (MBPO)

Member of the Public Present:

Staff: Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by Chair, Eleazar Bueno

Chair's Report: Eleazar Bueno:

- We reassessed the work the District Office has done while working from home, sending out calendars, and other routine office work. The staff contacted FEMA and helped find contact information for funeral homes for many of the district residents that passed away and their families that need help with finding an appropriate place to hold services for their loved ones
- Zip codes 10032 and 10040 are the two areas hardest hit by COVID19
- Small business: we completed phase one of financial help, PPP, and other resources like legal services and consultations, insurance policies and other information and services for business; thanks to Debby Nabavian and Council Member Espaillat's office.
- There will be a conference call with the Legal Aid society tomorrow in regards to the businesses issues
- Cell phones will be distributed among staff members so they can answer calls from community members and continue to conduct business as if they were in the office
- Coogen's will not be able to reopen and will close down in a few weeks although NYP, the landlord, gave a two month waver to all businesses

District Manager Report, Ebenezer Smith:

- Just a year ago, CB12 helped Coogan's keep their lease but it appeared that they had financial issues and had to shut down
- Zoom platform is in operation and all meetings are already hosted on this platform. The office will try to have these meetings live on YouTube and Facebook in order to expand visibility on social media
- About 80% of the staff's work is now done remotely from home. The office contacted MBPO for guidelines for staff staying on virtual meetings past the working hours. Per the MBPO rep N. Espino, there is no approved overtime at this point but office staff can shift their schedule when

one has to stay late for a meeting and then start later the following day. N. Espino will come back to Ebenezer in regards to the ability to override the start of the workday

- The District Manager received an email from Josaline Cobilete of the NYC Census asking for help recruiting volunteers to work with NYC Census
- The office projects an \$8,000 reduction of personal services charges for fiscal year 2021
- The District Manager sent an email with a copy of the Crystal Report with the data that is available so far. Ebenezer was unable to update the form but advised that there is a negative \$4,000
- The District Manager had discussion with City agencies regarding early release of inmates with non-violent crimes from City jails. The Public Safety Committee passed a resolution looking to expedite the release during COVID19.
- DOT will install emergency CitiBike stations so essential workers can use bicycles when possible. CB12 Chair Bueno, T&T Chair Nabavian, and NYC DOT Commissioner had a conference call regarding this issue
- 181st Street charter school BSA application is calling for a discussion at the next T&T, Y&E, and H&E committees. The applicant already met with the LU committee in February. Per W. Benjamin, the applicant will come back to the LU Committee after they meet with the other committees with the EIS. The applicant should come back to LU for the June committee meeting
- Per I. Medina, some employees may lose their jobs when the school moves to it's new location
- The summer youth employment program was canceled for this year. CB8 started advocating for reinstating the program and it will be best to join forces to advocate for reopening it.

Secretary's Report: Liz Ritter:

- Attendance update: continuing to monitor member attendance but removing members for that reason is not a priority at this moment due to COVID situation. The secretary asks that the office send all attendance sheets so she can roll them into the existing sheet. There are a few members that are in danger of being removed due to poor attendance but this is not a priority right now and will be dealt with once we resume in-person meetings.

Treasurer's Report: Gerard Dengel:

- Ebenezer sent an email about an hour prior to the Executive Committee meeting. The Crystal Report is not what members are looking for at this point. In the past, the treasurer requested that the office complete the template with budgets and actuals. Please send this document out a week prior to the meeting so members and residents can view and have comments on this spreadsheet.

Calendars:

May:

- No changes
- All meetings will be virtual
- I. Medina is not sure a meeting will take place since the Precinct report is based on review of businesses that are closed at the moment

June:

- No changes

Committee Reports:

Parks & Cultural Affairs: Chair, Liz Ritter:

- Park are open but dog runs and playgrounds are closed. Tennis courts and Ping-Pong areas are closed, nets are down. People must wear masks and keep social distancing
- Pools will not be open this summer. It's not clear if the reason for that is budgetary or keeping social distancing
- NOMMA has had multiple virtual meetings and exhibitions. They also provide technical assistance to artists for art and financial assistance as well.

IT Task Force: Chair, Jonathan Nuñez-Frometa:

- Virtual meetings: there is still confusion between Q&A and chats in the virtual meetings. Panelists can answer questions. CB members do not use the correct link to join a meeting as a panelist and sometimes use the link for attendees.
- Please keep your mic muted at all time unless you get a permission to speak
- When you join the meeting, please use the same email address you use for CB12 communications

Health & Environment Committee: Chair Steve Simon

- The Health Department latest statistics: as of Thursday April 17th, there were 12,822 deaths in NYC due to COVID19
- The number of positive cases in our district by zip code (high to low): 10032 857 cases, 10033 735 cases, 10040 576 cases, and 10034 399 cases
- The NYP medical school 4th year graduate class graduated one month early and a significant number now work in the hospital
- NYP medical center is now conducting a clinical trial with hydroxychloroquine and mitromycins. The medical director said that he does not recommend these drugs to be used right now outside the clinical trial and should not be used as a cure for COVID19
- The operating rooms in the NYP Hospital are now converted to ICUs. It maybe the largest ICU in the City
- The field hospital at Baker Field opened on Thursday April 17th, and began accepting patients with mild symptoms that do not require ICU beds
- NYP promoted Virtual Urgent Care and will put out information flyers in English and Spanish to promote this idea
- NYP is very reticent to provide any statistics for the number of WH/I residents that are COVID19 patients and were treated at both NYP campuses. The NYP hospital system that extends outside our district reported 2,400 patients treated for COVID19
- NYP moved maternity and psychiatric units out of Alan and into 168th campus temporarily to make room for COVID patient. H&E Committee Chair Simon asked the hospital for a commitment to return these units back to Alan after the COVID19 crises is over but only received a semi-commitment
- CM Mark Levine was present at the meeting said that the final death toll will be higher than currently known. Levine stated that the City amended the death count to include not only those whose death certificate listed COVID19 as the cause of death but also where COVID19 is strongly suspected as the cause of death. The NYC statistics jumped by 3,800 deaths that day
- At the meeting, the FDNY representative stated that EMS calls are at a record high with 5,000-6,000 calls per day. Chair Simon asked for the specific number of calls from Base Station 13 on 172nd street for the 5-6 ambulances stationed there and will hopefully receive the information in the next few days. CM Levine indicated that once the number of death goes down to 500 cases

or lower per day, the City can start identifying techniques such as testing 100,000 people per day and tracing potentially infected people

- The representative from the NYS Nurses Association is concerned that there is still a shortage of PPE and staffing concerns about the ratio of nurses per patients (normally one nurse for every one to two patients; today it is 1 nurse for every three to four patients). There was also a concern for high risk nurses that are assigned to treat COVID19 patients and the negative reaction nurses get when riding the subway wearing work scrubs
- At Isabella they are taking the temperature of every person that enters the building. They received some PEE to alleviate the immediate shortage but not enough to cover long term need. They had one staff and 13 patient's deaths so far. There is a refrigerated truck parked outside their facility
- Arlene Shulman called Chair Simon and advised that someone is going to donate 100 N95 masks for Isabella.

Traffic and Transportation: Chair Debby Nabavian

- DOT needed approval for a prospective project to improve access to Ft Washington Park and Riverside Drive. The proposal is looking at am intersection that has no crosswalk, no sidewalk, no pedestrian ramps, and no traffic lights
- Safety improvement for Riverside Oval, not sure when the construction can start
- Expansion of CitiBike is coming to the lower part of our district. With this crisis, there is a rush to install temporary locations for bikes and DOT will come to the next meeting to present the next phase.

Licensing: Chair Isidro Medina:

- The committee was suppose to meet on April 6th but was unable to meet due to the crisis. No licenses were scheduled for consideration
- Chair Medina approached 70 license owners to find out how they survived the closing of their business. The most concern is with the SBA. Out of 37 merchants only two contacted the SBA program.

Housing & Human Services: Chair, Ariel Miranda:

- The rise in unemployment and the number of people that are unable to make rent for March and April was discussed. Also the needs of immigrants that are not being met
- The Committee discussed price gouging of basic items, not just toilet paper
- The issues above and support for Senate bill S8125A presented as a resolution at the Executive Committee meeting for a vote

Public Safety: Chair, Curtis Young:

- The 34th Precinct shared that there were a substantial number of officers (40) that tested positive for COVID19
- Commercial burglary is a major issue at this time and there is a continued Grand Larceny Auto crime in our district. There is a pattern of people stealing cars and unloading materials from stores into the stolen cars. This is a continuing issue in both the 33rd and 34th Precincts
- Commercial burglary and packages theft is an ongoing trend. Delivered packages left in vestibules and not delivered to recipient's doors due to COVID19
- Public safety passed a resolution in support of early release of the most vulnerable population in the jail system. These who are incarcerated on technicalities, and minor infractions; these who miss their parole date, and those who are serving low level offences. The resolution is also calling on the City to invest in soap and sanitary stations for the incarcerated, and PPE for correctional officers.

Land Use: Chair, Wayne Benjamin:

- The Committee did not meet this month.
- All ULURP applications, as well as some discretionary action, is on hold. LPC will start holding their meeting virtually. Chair Benjamin requested that the office be on the lookout for any land use application that requires our attention such as BSA, LPC, and any other land use related application.

Business Development: Chair, Domingo Estevez:

- The committee held a virtual event with 20 panelists, 157 RSVP of which about 90 individuals attended. This was a learning experience for all with an overwhelming amount of information and with dual translation English Spanish at the same time
- Tomorrow there will be another virtual event entitled What You Need To Know about commercial lease contracts and insurance; the Legal Aid Society will have pro-bono lawyers available that will have information for small business that they can request. There are 20 businesses that signed up for this event.

Youth and Education: Chair, Fe Florimon:

- The meeting for April was canceled although the office did not send out an email announcing the cancellation
- Chair Florimon is talking with different schools in the district about instability and coping with virtual learning
- The MBPO will hold a virtual youth employment meeting on April 22nd.

LGBTQ Task Force: Chair, Richard Allman:

- No report.

New Business: none

Old Business: none

Announcements:

- Natalie Espino from the MBPO is very pleased and grateful for the continued work done by CB12 using virtual meetings to get information out to the public during this difficult time. The office is in touch with the SLA regarding their meetings and so far, the SLA only canceled one 500ft hearing and postponed their board meeting for a few weeks before going virtual. The MBPO is hosting some events virtually and is working with the Greater Harlem Chamber hosting a conversation with uptown arts organizations. There will be a panel with WH/Inwood arts stakeholders at the next teleconference on Thursday at 6PM. Tim Anderson is the new urban planner for CB12
- Due to COVID19, the service for former Chair R. Lewis was not announced or decided
- New board members will be announced within a week.

Motion to Adjourn – called by L. Ritter, 2nd by J. Berlin.

Adjournment: 9:22 PM

Minutes prepared by: Osi Kaminer

Assistant Secretary
March, 2020