

**Community Board 12, Manhattan ~ Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee**  
**November 3, 2014**

Attendance: Committee Members: Mitchell Glenn, Chair; Osi Kaminer, Assistant Chair, Richard Lewis, Juan Mejia, Kelley Boyd, and Patti Jacobs (Public Member). James Berlin and Liz Ritter were absent. Also present: Jennifer Hoppa, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation; Mary Moran, Pat Courtney, Carol Ward - Morris Jumel Mansion, Nellie Estevez, Paul Kittas, Helena Judd, Kevin McKeon - Inwood Canoe Club, Karen Jacoleur - Creative Art Works and Peter Bulow, local artist.

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm in the CB12 meeting room at 560 W. 166<sup>th</sup> St., 6<sup>th</sup> floor, with an intro & welcome by Chair, Mitch Glenn.

Isham Park Mural, Helena Judd Presenting

Helena Judd reintroduced a discussion from several months ago on the desire of her Girl Scout Troop 3210 to design and paint a mural at the entrance of Isham Park, on the side of a building at the southern edge of the Park at Broadway. Currently, the wall is regularly covered with graffiti, some of it offensive. Member of Girl Scout troop 3210, Alyssa Fermin, in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Elizabeth's and a 2nd year cadette, talked about the need for a positive mural as a response to all of the negative advertising, graffiti and other signs that we see every day around the neighborhood. 3210 is asking for a resolution from CB12 to help pave the way for this project. A partner in this project will be Creative Art Works (CAW), which has experience creating public art works. Karen Jacoleur, of CAW, picked up the presentation to discuss the collaboration between 3210 and CAW on this mural, and the 28 years of experience that CAW brings to this project. Because CAW works with SYEP hires to do their projects, the projects must be executed in the summer. Jennifer Hoppa mentioned that construction is ongoing in that area and the contractor is scheduled to leave in June. Jennifer also said that she needs to see community support, e.g., a CB12 resolution, to allow the project to proceed. If there is a delay, then this project will be delayed a full year, to the following summer. Also, because CAW will be intrinsic in completing the design and because CAW staff only start work in July, the Committee will have no final design to review before the end of the Community Board year. So, a discussion ensued as to how CB12 can support this project without the final design.

A resolution in support of the Girl Scouts and CAW and their mural proposal was agreed to by the members of the committee. The outline of the resolution is as follows:

- The Community Board will approve the concept and support the proposal now.
- The Community Board reserves the right to revoke its approval pending review of the final design.

Osi Kaminer differs on the intent of the resolution, maintaining that we voted on the following:

A resolution in support of DPR granting permission for access via the planting bed in Isham Park to the north facing wall on 4982 Broadway.

The vote tallies:

Committee Members -	6-0-0
Other Board Members -	0-0-0
The Public -	8-0-0

The resolution passes and will be brought to the whole Community Board for approval.

Peter Bulow, Artist

Peter's sculptures have been featured in Fort Tryon Park and many other places, to great acclaim. He came tonight to discuss a series of sculptures that he created that he calls the Subway Sculptures. They were recently on display, but now they are in storage. Peter approached the committee to get suggestions for other locations to exhibit these works. The committee and assembled public made numerous constructive suggestions, including the adornment of the CB12 offices and meeting spaces with his works.

Morris Jumel Mansion 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Carol Ward presenting

The mansion is the oldest house in Manhattan. Carol told us about a new logo design and 4 events over the course of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year designed to raise money and publicize this important and historic site. All events will have 'neighborhood pricing' to assure participation by the community. We invited Carol to return regularly to keep us updated on events at the mansion and sponsored by the mansion.

Proposal to control mayhem in Juan Pablo Duarte Square, Mary Moran presenting

Mary, and Jennifer Hoppa, discussed the deteriorating conditions at this park, located where St. Nicholas Avenue and Broadway say goodbye to each other north of 168 Street. A number of menacing individuals spend much time at the space – actually, a triangle – and make it very uncomfortable for others to use the park. Drug usage and smoking has been noted, garbage is often strewn around the space and members of the public and the Washington Heights Gardeners – who try to maintain the park – are harassed.

Currently, the curfew at the park is the standard 1am curfew on most city parks, though there is precedent for applying an earlier curfew at some locations, including J Hood Wright Park. Mary and Jennifer proposed putting a 10pm curfew on the park as a means of clearing the park of these individuals more easily and to provide another tool for the police to use to flush the park of these troubling individuals.

Committee members were dubious about the chances that this proposed change would do anything to improve the environment, and suggested that it could have the negative impact of keeping law abiding citizens, including dog walkers, out of the park at 10pm on a hot summer night.

A resolution to support the closing of Juan Pablo Duarte Square at 10pm was proposed and brought to a vote.

The vote tallies:

Committee Members -	3-2-1
Other Board Members -	0-0-0
The Public -	5-0-0

The resolution does not pass.

DPR Update, Jennifer Hoppa presenting

- Highbridge Skate Park is now open, entrance at Amsterdam Avenue and 181 Street. \$15 million project.

- Work continues on the Highbridge. Rumors are cropping up that the project is delayed another year (beyond the expected December 2014 opening). Jennifer responded vaguely, and suggested a call to Dept of Design and Construction to get details.
- Isham Park water provision project is proceeding after a brief delay.
- Fort Tryon Park work around the former Billings Estate is proceeding well. Estimated completion is June 2015.
- J Hood Wright has been outfitted with wifi. Next up, Highbridge Park around the Recreation Center.
- Permit was received for Eco-dock project at La Marina.
- Water line for bathroom service at Inwood Hill Park - adjacent to the nature center - has been started.
- Morris Jumel Mansion retaining wall work is proceeding.
- A delay has arisen on the Dyckman Street ADA ramp project.
- A dedication ceremony is being worked on to celebrate completion of the Bush Staircase project. No date has yet been set.
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- LaMarina: Committee member Kelley Boyd brought up a question to Ms. Hoppa regarding the winter season of LaMarina and what special events were scheduled for the holidays? Ms. Hoppa related that LaMarina puts all events on their website. Ms. Boyd was joined by some on the committee suggesting that was not enough and inquired into creating a process to review what events are slated for the park concession in advance. This would allow us to give input similar to the process the Licensing committee uses to manage liquor licenses in our community. We requested specific information from Ms. Hoppa regarding what the process is for events and special events permits at this parks concession. Jennifer directed us to the Parks Revenue Dept for further information, and the committee suggested that it would be helpful if Revenue visited the Committee at one of its monthly meetings to speak to this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mitchell Glenn