

COMMUNITY BOARD 12, MANHATTAN
Executive Committee Meeting
530 West 166th Street, New York, New York

September 18, 2017
Executive Committee
DRAFT MINUTES

Board Members Present: R. Lewis (1st Vice Chair); J. Ryes (Treasurer & Chair, Business Development); E. Lorris Ritter (Secretary & Chair, Parks & Cultural Affairs); B. Lehmann (Asst. Secretary); Mary Anderson (Chair, Aging Committee); W. Benjamin (Chair, Land Use; Isidro Medina (Chair, Licensing); Ayisha Ogilvie (Chair, Housing & Human Services); S. Simon (Chair, (Health & Environment) J. Berlin (Parliamentarian)

Absent: S. Ally (Chair); R. Allman, (Chair, LGBT and By-Laws Task Forces); Fe Florimon, (Chair, Youth & Education); Y Alonzo, (Chair, Traffic & Transportation);

Staff: Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Others in Attendance: Sandra Harris, Asst. Vice President, CUMC; George Nelson Preston; Clifford Elkin; Bernadette Elkin; Brad Nassau; Karla Fisk; Michelle Harnett; Sara DiMaggio; Kerfe Roig; Rose Deler; Sabrina Heeker; Peter Thiele; Judy Freeman; Ben Lopez ; Elena Greet

Meeting was called to order at 7:17 pm by First Vice Chair, Lewis.

Executive Committee Rule Clarification: Secretary Liz Ritter provided an Overview of the Executive Committee rules at the request of Asst. Chair, Lewis. This was due to the fact that there were many members of the public who were there to address a particular issue. She suggested that they take their particular issue to the Public Safety Committee. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is Tuesday, October 4, 2017. Some guests left the meeting following this explanation.

District Manager's Report: Ebenezer Smith reported the following:

- Ely Silvestri, the newly hired CB 12 assistant, is doing well.
- The responsibilities of the office were re-organized over the summer.
- All meeting minutes have been posted on the web site
- Richard Lewis is assisting the office on a new web site.
- Corrections to the Community Resources Guide need to be made. Please submit changes.
- New computer software was purchased over the summer.
- CB 12 received a certificate from the EEOC that we are in compliance.

Treasurer's Report: Jonathan Reyes reported the following:

- \$210,574 was budget for 2018. Balance is currently \$200,235 as of now.
- Rent budget allocation for the year may run a deficit.
- On average our rent is \$10k. Security fee was not taken into account.
- We will speak with OMB about changes in the allocation.

Secretary's Report: Liz Ritter reported the following:

- She has prepared a letter for each Board member concerning the rules governing attendance and reported the attendance record for each member at the end of the month.
- Excused absences include the following:

- ✓ Illness of self or family member
 - ✓ Death of family member
 - ✓ Attendance at another NYC meeting (if requested by Board Chair, Borough President or Mayor)
 - ✓ Jury Duty (if sequestered)
 - ✓ Business travel (if no more than 1/3 of scheduled meeting)
 - ✓ Military service
 - ✓ Changed date for regularly scheduled meeting.
- Vacation is not an excused absence.

New Board Member Orientation: Asst. Chair Richard Lewis suggested that the Board hold an Orientation for new Board members. Following discussion, it was decided to table if for the present and to plan an Orientation in November.

Budget Process: There was significant discussion regarding the timing or the review and submission of capital and operating budget items. Some comments included:

- S. Simon suggested we not ask to items for which funds are already allocated. In addition, he suggested that we limit the number of items in each category.
- L Ritter suggested that we do a better job at advance planning.
- W. Benjamin suggested more clarity on budget items.
- The Committee asked Ebenezer to clarify with OMB whether the renovation of subway platforms should be included in the budget requests.
- The Budget ranking meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 17th at 6:30 pm in the Board office.

Calendar Review: The October meeting schedule was reviewed and edited as needed. The District Service Cabinet will be added. Budget meeting is being added. Meeting times for Youth and Aging Committees are being adjusted.

Update on Haven Avenue Plaza Plan: Sandra Harris, Assistant Vice President, CUMC reported that CUMC would like to install a pedestrian plaza on Haven Avenue between 169th and 170th Street. An application was submitted to the City in the Spring of 2016. Since then there have been 5 one-day closings of the planned plaza. They will make a presentation at the Traffic & Transportation Committee meeting to obtain their support. The Committee reported that the biggest obstacle to approval will be the loss of parking spaces. Ms. Harris indicated that CUMC is looking to find additional parking opportunities.

Committee Reports:

Licensing Committee: Chair, Isidro Medina, reported the following:

- The committee met this past Wednesday. There were 26 agenda items.
 - ✓ 3 – withdrawn
 - ✓ 13 – renewals
 - ✓ 3 - new licenses approved
 - ✓ 2 – not approved
 - ✓ 8 – had stipulations imposed – but were approved
- The Committee is changing some of the processes. Committee member, Jennifer Chung is a public notary and will be notarizing documents at the time of the meeting. This should streamline things.

- The Committee is requesting the Ebenezer set up a training regarding SLA regulations. They would also like the 33rd and 34th Precincts to be in attendance – and both precincts would like to attend.
- Some important applications that came up included Casa de Mofongo that had 8 stipulations to limit the number of clients (300 instead of 548) closing times, contact information of manager, etc.

Health and Environment Committee: Chairman Simon reported the following:

- Presentation of fiscal year 2017 for Clean Streets – was 97.9 % clean – so we can maintain the status of street cleaning once a year.
- The committee discussed the impractical deadline for a CB 12 response to the scope of work by EDC concerning the plan to rezone Inwood.
- He suggested that the Executive Committee ask for an extension of the deadline to allow for sufficient time to review the scope.

Discussion of Executive Committee Resolution about an extension of time for the response of CB 12 to the EDC scoping document.

- Discussion of what transpired at public scoping meeting.
- Land Use and Business Development Committees recommended a 90 day extension of time
- Housing & Human Services Committee Chair, Ayisha Ogilvie, concurred with the request.
- **The Executive Committee drafted and approved a Resolution** to request an extension of time. The request is for a comment period to be extended until October 31, 2017.
- Isidro Median abstained. Approval by the remainder of the Executive Committee was unanimous.

Land Use Committee – Chair Wayne Benjamin reported the following:

- He was not at the most recent meeting but has been made aware of what transpired.
- There was a discussion about the need to extend the time allotted to respond to the EDC on the Inwood Scoping Plan.
- There was a presentation by the Cloisters regarding the installation of a green house on the grounds in an area that is not readily visible to the public. A Resolution was drafted
- There was a discussion about the use of solar energy within the community. Osi Kaminer and James Berlin spoke about the need to not block sunlight from buildings that may plan to use solar energy and suggested that zoning regulations speak to this issue. A proposal is to follow.

Parks & Cultural Affairs –Chair, Liz Ritter, reported the following:

- The Committee discussed (2) probable Resolutions:
 - J. Hood Wright Park – Fitness Green gym (budgeting to go from \$100k to \$250k)
 - Sherman Creek Boathouse – (NY Restoration Project) – need for actual design
- The committee worked on the budgeting process.
- A ribbon cutting will take place September 26th for the 185th Street Plaza of Yeshiva University.
- There will be discussion of a dog run at Bennett Park at the next Committee meeting.

Business Development Committee – Chair, Jonathan Reyes, reported the following:

- Asst. Chair, Jason Compton chaired the meeting in his absence.
- Budget priorities were discussed.
- There was a discussion about job fairs and the fact that Workforce 1 had (2) recent job fairs for jobs at the newly opening Marshalls – but these job fairs were held in (2) Harlem and (1) in the Bronx and not in Washington Heights. SBS had arranged these job fairs. Apparently there were some small job fairs held subsequently in the district, but no details are available.

There is a commitment by Tim Currier, Director of SBS, that 20% of the new hires would come from the local community.

- Betty Lehmann reported that the Chamber of Commerce and Congressman Espaillat's office had contacted Isabella to request the use of space for job fairs. Requests for space were granted – but the requests kept being cancelled by the Chamber or Congressman Espaillat.
- The Business Development Committee will follow up with SBS and WF 1 on this endeavor.

Public Safety: Chair, Richard Lewis, reported the following:

- The District Attorney, the 33rd and 34th Precincts were present at the most recent meeting. Each presented statistics on their areas of responsibility.
- The Committee sponsored a Resolution in support of legal protection for sanctuary cities. The Resolution passed unanimously and will come before the full Board. This was done in response to the federal government action regarding DACA.

Committee for the Concerns of the Aging – Chair, Mary Anderson, reported the following:

- Liliana Saneaux, previous Chair, has resigned from the Board.
- Mary has been appointed Chair and Fern Hertzberg has been appointed Asst. Chair.
- The committee reviewed budget priorities and plans for the coming year.

Housing and Human Services Committee – Chair Ayisha Ogilvie reported the following:

- There are (2) new members of the Committee (Ariel Miranda & Victor Pena). The committee brought them up to speed on what has transpired so far.
- They reviewed the RFP and rezoning documents on the Inwood Library.
- Rezoning was discussed – especially with respect to the lowering of the limit on street rezoning.

Traffic and Transportation Committee – **No** report at this time

Youth & Education Committee – No report at this time.

New Business –

- Steve Simon announced that the NY & NJ Port Authority has indicated that they will install a fence on the south side of the George Washington Bridge. The plan is to begin the installation on September 25th. He indicated the CB 12, Assemblywoman Carmen de la Rosa, and other community organizations played a role in getting this accomplished.
- Wayne Benjamin announced that the BX 6 Select Bus service has gone into effect – but there is no Express Stop at the C Train entrance. This matter will come up again in committee.
- Josh Karin, Community Resident, spoke about the planned co-location of a charter school in a public school building. He asking the Board to oppose this plan and to request a 60 day extension. He said that there have not been public hearings, the materials are not bi-lingual and the matter has not come before CB 12. Upon discussion, it was agreed that Y & E Committee should consider this in October and that the CB 12 will pass a Resolution about the need for an extended review period until October 31, that there be adequate public notice, that a hearing be held. **The Resolution passed – with Steve Simon abstaining.**

Motion to Adjourn – made by Liz Ritter, seconded by Richard Lewis

Adjournment – 9:45 pm

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth (Betty) Lehmann

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Assistant Secretary

October 16, 2017