

Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, May 16, 2022
Virtual Meeting
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to order – 6:40pm

II. Board Chair's Report

- a. Chair called for a moment of silence in remembrance of those who were killed in Buffalo.
- b. After a conversation over which taskforces should be included on the agenda, the agenda is approved as presented with two task force reports including the LGBTQ and IT/TECH taskforces.
- c. Jim Berlin presented a memo the board received from the Manhattan Borough President's general counsel on procedures to allow for hybrid meetings.
 - i. Committee members are called on for questions and comments about the memo, which are compiled in a Google doc by the first vice chair to submit to the Manhattan Borough President's office.
 - ii. It is agreed that before June 9, 2022, selected Executive Committee Members will work with the Parliamentarian to draft procedures for hybrid board meetings, the procedures will be presented at a public hearing, and finally the board will be called to meet for a full board vote on the final procedures.
- d. Isidro Medina voiced concern over the development of the new hotel property on 181st Street and whether representatives from the project have been contacted to provide an update on local hiring, as promised when the land use committee submitted a resolution supporting the development.

III. District Manager's Report

- a. Ebenezer participated in the Inwood Greenway briefing where he was provided an update on the park development. Representatives from the development will be coming to the community board next month to provide an update.
- b. Confirmed that there is enough funding in the office's budget to purchase the equipment we need to run hybrid meetings.
- c. Received a phone call from a State Farm Insurance representative who wants to expand their footprint in northern Manhattan by recruiting young adults. Ebenezer shared the representative's contact information with the Chair and the Business Development Committee.
- d. Has been working on staff evaluations.
- e. Steve Simon received clarification on the deadline to use the City Council discretionary grant for the e-waste collection program. He must use the \$5,000 allocation within the first 2-3 weeks of June for the vendor to be fully paid before the end of the next month.
- f. Marielle Ali posed two follow up questions and received clarification from the District Manager. Marielle and Ebenezer will meet this week to discuss the

community fair her committee would like to plan, including a date for the fair. Additionally, the District Manager has not heard back from elected officials on a proposed public hearing on the Armory Foundation. Marielle and Ebenezer will meet to discuss a different outreach strategy to the elected officials and other stakeholders.

IV. Review of Future Meetings Items

- a. Mary Anderson mentioned the calendar needs to reflect that the Concerns of the Aging Committee meeting in June will occur at 10:30am, not 10:30pm.
- b. Wayne mentioned that no July calendar was put out for him to review, but that the Land Use Committee will have a committee meeting in July so that the Department of City Planning can deliver their Zoning 101 training. The committee will meet on Wednesday, July 7 at 7pm.

V. Committee Chair Reports

- a. Traffic & Transportation
 - i. As part of her day job, Debby attended the 34th Police Precinct Commanding Officer job interviews and noticed that the community board did not have representation. There were a lot of stakeholders present, but there seemed to be no representation from the community board. Chair Bueno clarified that the board received an invitation and he attended the first few minutes. Participants were not allowed to ask questions and he had to move on to the board meeting.
 - ii. The committee finally received a presentation on Haven Plaza. The presentation covered a lot of the programming happening in the plaza and the work done around parking and truck on/off loading. The committee asked that programming outreach be improved.
 - iii. The committee provided the public another opportunity to comment on the resolution to making Seaman street between Dyckman and Riverside Dr. a two-way street. Most of the public commentary was supportive, with a few concerns about enforcement. The committee unanimously voted in support of the resolution, which will be presented to the full board next week.
 - iv. Emergency construction on 181st Street by the George Washington Bridge has been completed. Three lanes are open in each direction.
 - v. On 181st Street A-train subway station, people are shocked that the escalators are not working for replacement. People knew the replacement was coming, but didn't know it was coming now. The MTA will be at the June meeting presenting on ADA accessibility at the subway station.
 - vi. Isidro Medina shares that DOT will be coming to the commercial corridor on 181st Street to conduct a walkthrough of the businesses on the street and check to see how the bus lane has affected them.
- b. Business Development
 - i. No report.
- c. Public Safety
 - i. Report delivered by Assistant Chair, Barbara Frazier.

- ii. Barbara presented a resolution on the public safety issues occurring in the tunnel connecting the Broadway and the 190th Street 1-train subway station as well as the 168th Street subway station. The committee was one person short of quorum to vote on the resolution. After engaging in a discussion about the resolution, the 1st vice chair motioned to send the resolution back to committee and Sally Fisher seconded the motion. The executive committee unanimously voted to send the resolution back to committee for further edits.
- d. Parks & Cultural Affairs
 - i. No report.
- e. Concerns of the Aging
 - i. The committee received a presentation from Fe Florimon and an additional gentleman on an international guitar show for seniors happening at the Nagle Y on Sunday, June 19 from 2-4pm. This is a free event for all of the public.
 - ii. The committee will continue to work with Fe Florimon from the Youth and Education Committee on intergenerational events, such as this guitar show.
 - iii. The LGBT aging panel has been cancelled for the moment due to unforeseen circumstances. Instead the committee meeting will take place on June 2 at 10:30am that will include a participatory discussion on cultural competency.
 - iv. Briefly discussed the budget items in anticipation to the work we do in the fall on the budget.
- f. Land Use
 - i. The committee was supposed to have a presentation on the Manhattan waterfront greenway, but it has been postponed until the June meeting. The presentation may go to Parks and Culture instead.
 - ii. The vast majority of the meeting was spent on a discussion about contextual zoning options for the area of Washington Heights from 155th Street to 177th Street, west of Broadway. City planning wants input from the community, in part because people are concerned with proposed developments in the area.
- g. Housing and Human Services
 - i. The committee made a contact with HPD and the Alternate Enforcement Program because the committee wanted to learn more about the program as it relates the number of buildings on our distressed list.
 - ii. Beginning to have preliminary conversation about the resource fair the committee would like to host.
 - iii. Spent a significant amount of time on the Rent Guidelines Board. The committee will be putting forward a resolution calling for 0-1% on 1-year leases and 1-2% on 2-year leases.
 - iv. Looking to secure a date on the hearing on the Armory Foundation matters.
- h. Licensing

- i. We had 1 application for a new on-premises liquor license, which was approved.
 - ii. Most applications were for renewals and changes to a method of operation.
- i. Health and Environment
 - i. COVID-19 positive rates have been going up dramatically since our last board meeting.
 - ii. Total number of deaths at 923 for the community.
 - iii. Vaccination rates have not moved up too much and are very behind the rest of Manhattan and the city.
 - iv. Submitted to the State Department comments regarding the Brownfield area on 207th street—asked that additional protections be provided.
 - v. There are cultural resources in the community including the Dyckman Farmhouse and the Slave Burial Ground.
 - vi. The committee voted to reinforce the request that the psych unit at the Allen Pavilion be reopened. Allen Pavilion plans to eliminate 30 beds—everyone seems to agree that we cannot afford to lose these 30 beds. The hospital needs to agree that at some point the psych unit needs to be restored.

VI. Task force Reports

- a. LGBTQ
 - i. The task force was put on pause about a year ago. In the time since then, a lot of effort has been made to get things going on.
- b. IT/TECH
 - i. Provide more details about the 360-degree cameras we will use for our hybrid meetings; there will be two of these cameras with the ability to have 360-degree view, which will enhance the experience of the participants who are joining remotely.
 - ii. The camera will be in the center of the room to have a full view of the room and will automatically focus on the speaker.
 - iii. We can use the built mics in our Community Board rooms because of their smaller size.
 - iv. This is some new equipment that we will have to purchase because not all the equipment we currently have is equipped for hybrid meetings.
 - v. The equipment can be taken to various locations in case a meeting takes place outside of the community board meeting space.

VII. Old Business/New Business/Adjournment

- a. There will be an election for Secretary during the next General Board Meeting.
- b. Final agreement that we the Executive Committee authorize a group of Executive Committee members to draft procedures for hybrid meetings, host a public hearing before June 9th, and host a virtual special meeting of the board by June 9th to vote on the procedures.
- c. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm