

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
JULY 24, 2001

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jacqueline Aristy	Herbert Harwitt	Ron Peterson
Jim Berlin	Joyce F. Holland	Zead Ramadan
Martin Collins	Maria Luna	Nelson Rojas
Fredericka Cuenca	Benjamin Mantell	Maria Sierra
Walther G. Delgado	Manuel J. Mendez	Barbara Smith Ramos
Sybil R. Dodson	Marcos Navarro	Juan Villar
Leslie Foster	Julio Peguero	Sandra Wachspress
William A. Garcia	Martha Pepin	Elouise Whitehurst
Beatrice Hall		

Walther G. Delgado, Chair introduced himself. All action of the Board has to be ratified in the fall.

Discussion of whether required to have program. Mr. Delgado noted that his reading of the By-laws, we are not required to have quorum.

Chair's Report: Walther G. Delgado

He was pleased to be one of the first Chairs to preside over a full board of 50 members.

A few items to report on:

- Inwood Library reopened beautiful facility. Modern computers, good to see libraries getting funds they need, nice parting gift to Cynthia Smith.
- New volleyball and basketball courts reconstructed in Highbridge Park.
- Toured nearly completed 33rd Pct. can plug computer in anywhere, possible to accommodate over 500 officers/detectives. Possibility of having board meeting at the precinct. Very welcoming designed by local architect. Commander asked for input on Police parking issues. He is also consulting the Board of Ed.

Summer planning:

- Has taken advantage of transition time. Successfully reached new understanding of use of office space to have access to full meeting area. Gallery will display on outside with emphasis on community art. Outside groups will also be able to meet with advance notice. Both parties are satisfied.
- By September will try to get you a yearly calendar of meetings. Talking to Columbia to get alumni auditorium. Wanted Russ Berrie but would have to have meeting begin at 8PM. Wants to have 2 offsite meetings in Inwood – East of Broadway. This does not preclude committees from meeting offsite.

Calendar published in advance on as many community calendars to improve outreach. Also preparing calendar of significant dates in budget, statement of district needs.

Statement of needs has been edited to take out description of assets and focus more of what we want as part of the budget.

Committee assignments: anticipate some changes and some continuity. The focus is on service delivery.

Want to get Malcolm X to hold December meeting.

Announced that RFP for parking garage on Broadway between 184th and 185th Street has been reissued. Responses are due 9/26/01. Expect deal will be locked in before the end of this administration.

Encouraged board members to attend the District Service Cabinet meetings. Chiefs appreciate hearing directly from the community.

Try to introduce housing clinic before the housing committee. APED housing volunteered to start it off.

Saw article in Sunday Times about token booth closings. MTA planning to close part-time booths at 207th, 175th, 168th Street 1 & 9. Could take it up as new business. Pass resolution and ratified in September. Could write a potent letter. There are other community boards mobilizing against the closings. Token booths are a form of security that are cheaper than a cop.

Ms. Foster asked that people be given addresses to write to.

Ms. Feliciano spoke to Steve Strauss. Metrocards can be bought from the vending machines.

Need to communicate to MTA the potential scenarios of maintenance of machines, security issues and vandalism.

District Manager's Report: Gregoria Feliciano

Met with District Manager of Postal Service in our area. Borough President's office has met with Postal Service also. DM will follow up.

DEP discussion, bulk of complaints have been regarding open hydrants. It has been difficult to follow up immediately. Supposed to close hydrants within 2 hours but in reality are taking days to respond. Other departments cannot respond to this issue. Trying to get DEP to tell the Board what the intended response time is.

Sidewalk obstruction task force.

Ms. Sierra: Report deals with illegal vendors, but there are also established legal businesses that are encroaching onto sidewalk. New offenders of St. Nicholas and 180th Street are taking up the sidewalk with merchandise.

Mr. Delgado: When will they do sweeps?
2 sweeps were done in the 34th Pct.

Ms. Feliciano: The Dept. of Technology is asking for input on how to assess public telephones in CB 12; locations, conditions. They will remove those that are not legal and hold companies responsible for maintaining.

Inspection of the 33rd Pct. brought up parking issues at DSC meeting. They suggested an interagency meeting with DOT and Board of Ed. The meeting will be on July 31. Encouraged members to attend.

DDC came to the Parks Committee with scope of work on 181st step street. The project will be postponed until 2/02; will have walk through of garden work.

Announced vacancy at CB 12 due to Mr. Danny Ramos' departure.

Mr. Delgado: Looking for Board input on what position should do and focus.
Should reports from DM and Chair have a structure? What would members like to know?

Ms. Luna: Should discuss with Ms. Feliciano, we cannot tell them what to do.

Mr. Delgado: Should have input from the Board and the community and get away from the idea that the Chair is the supervisor.

Ms. Luna: Do not want to create the opportunity for DM's authority to be undermined.

Ms. Sierra: Have to work with office staff. This person's responsibilities should be clearly defined to avoid confusion.

Ms. Dodson: There is a description of the position since these are City positions.

Public Session

Leslie Foster – Isabella Geriatric Center

Last Monday the Mayor signed a law for protection of nursing homes from excessive noise. The Board started this effort through the transportation and aging committees, Councilman Stanley Michels office and council committee. DEP supported this. It passed council unanimously. The process bore fruit. It will help the elderly throughout the City. The next step is for DOT to post signs although signs are not required for enforcement.

Susan Rosari

Improve cultural programming in the area. Work with other organizations to expand music programs. Last free concert was 6/24 at the Hebrew Tabernacle. Next concert will be in October at St. Judes. African, Creole and Spanish classical music. Have applied for \$2K to Borough President's office. Will also work with other organizations to apply for funds.

Alonzo Rico Speight, Director – African Film Festival

Dedicated to African and African diaspora films to get across understanding and knowledge of African show films, documentaries, short. Mr. Speight began as the Education Coordinator for the Walter Reade Program – have started outreach to schools. Have proposals as to how films at Riverbank Park in the Summer. Have had good program at schools with film makers. Would like a letter of support and also to let people know about program. Have already sent proposals to funders.

Ms. Holland: have attended programs. They are fantastic

Partners with community organizations will be back in our community in May 2002.

Jose Ortiz – The Cloisters

The Café just opened in Tree Cloister 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Seasonal café open May – October. Only service until the other café opens. Just received \$5 million for repairs to building. Has been lots of water intrusion. Trying to address issue of accessibility. Ultimately want to address climate control. Museum will stay open although some galleries will close. Capital campaign is 7 years campaign so will take another 5 years. Cannot do work in winter.

Prof. Felipe Hall – African American Integrated Orchestra

36 elements. Excited to see that things are happening up here. Received funds for therapeutic music workshop. Will use proceeds of premiere to fund therapeutic workshop. Have received contributions of instruments will be doing project in J. Hood Wright Park in October.

Josh Koran – Community School District 6

Chair of committee established last Wednesday. The Board declared a space emergency district. All capital spending for this district eliminated so plans to acquire lot on Broadway and 204th Street etc. on hold. Issue call for rally on 9/8 support for rally and for permit for street closure immediately after opening of school 9/6 and before primary. Will approach all candidates for council offices. Ask for public commitment that creation of classroom space should be a priority. Two streets were suggested – 175th between St. Nicholas or 173rd between St. Nicholas and Audubon. Hoping for 500 – 2000 people.

Ms. Luna: Cannot endorse closing of the street. There is a process we have to follow.

Mr. Delgado: Go directly to the street activity permit office and then CB 12 will be part of the process. They will take care of sensitivities around large demonstration. Many people will sign off on the application.

Mr. Berlin: Board may consider passing a resolution in support of.

Mr. Collins: Suggests to have events at schools that are most overcrowded. Do after the primaries. Parents and children can attend. More locations would be more effective.

Mr. Delgado: No difference in purpose with School Board 6 always put education as top priority.

Committee Reports

Committee for the Aging – Herbert Harwit

The Aging Committee will meet on August 14, 2001.

Public Officials Report

Socrates Solano, Liaison – Speaker Vallone's Office

Liaison to CB 12 and to the Dominican Community Citywide. Announced reception/celebration.

- 8/6/01 - 38th Anniversary of Jamaica Independence
- 7/25/01- Committee on Public Safety – Require NYPD to report info to Council Committee on Finance – est. East Mid Manhattan BID

Carlos Rodriguez, Liaison – Manhattan Borough President's Office

Thanked the Board for cooperation in ground breaking ceremony for lead safe house. Looking for licensed contractors in community to do projects.

Ms. Luna: Rest of apartments are going for institutions only 6 apartments going for people with lead problems.

Mr. Rodriguez: They were told by experts that they only needed 4 but pushed for 6.

Ms. Luna: but there are people in the neighborhood that need apartments.

Mr. Delgado: The problem is that HPD does not consult the Board with projects that start at the top.

Announcements

Ms. Luna: ARC's new facility will be opened in September all will be invited.

Mr. Collins: On August 7th there will be a March vs. Crime starting at 5:30 PM on 183rd Street and Broadway and ending at the RING Garden. Organizations are encouraged to march.

Mr. Peterson: August 15th Health Fair Screenings at 159th Street between Amsterdam and Broadway.

August 7th is National Night Out.

Mr. Berlin introduced new business; the resolution on the token booth closing.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: Fredericka Cuenca