

COMMUNITY BOARD 12
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
April 24, 2000

Members Present

Anita Barberis	Leslie Foster	Manuel Mendez	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Abby Belkin	William A. García	Luis H. Minier	George Sánchez
James Berlin	Herbert Harwitt	Victor Moriste-Romero	Maria Sierra
Emilia G. Cardona	Joyce F. Holland	Norma Nadien	Barbara Smith Ramos
Fredericka Cuenca	Robert C. Liebeskind	Marcos Navarro	Ricardo Ureña
Walther G. Delgado	Maria Luna	Martha Pepín	Msgr. Gerald Walsh
Sybil R. Dodson	Isidoro Martinez	Zead Ramadan	
Isabel Evangelista	Miguel Martinez	Steven Rizick	

Members Absent

Rafael Beaumont (excused)	Helen Morik (excused)	Nelson Rojas (excused)
Ronald Botelho (excused)	William C. Ortega (excused)	Laura Sterling
Laurie T. Cohen	Dr. Pamela Palanque North	Cheryl Tidwell (excused)
Jack Fogle (excused)	Julio Peguero (excused)	Sandra Wachspress
Beatrice Hall (excused)	Bertie Ray III (excused)	Elouise Whitehurst
Soledad Hiciano (excused)	Julissa Reynoso (excused)	Juan Villar

Ex-Officio Members, Public Officials and Guests

Noah Pfefferbilt for Borough President Fields

Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr.

Gregoria Feliciano, District Manager

The General Meeting of April 2000 was held at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital and began with a scheduled public hearing.

Public Hearing

The matter of the application for a beer and wine license for the establishment known as Corazón I, located at 557 West 156th Street, was the subject of a public hearing presided over by William A. García, Chair of Community Board 12. Mr. García noted the concerns and problems with previous licensing requests for this location.

Mr. Cho Hyun Chin, a principal partner of Corazón I, noted that the business is a billiard hall, not a nightclub, bar or dance hall as previous applicants. Measures have been taken to improve security and clear windows for better lighting. If application is not approved, customers will bring in own beer and liquor.

In response to questions, Mr. Chin stated that the business would operate 24 hours a day. No provisions for customer parking have been made. He expects to have ten employees and will take measures to run a reputable billiard business. Expects to contribute to the community. Jukebox music is for the enjoyment of patrons and will not disturb neighbors.

Board members posed several questions to clarify the operations of the billiard business. Mr. Chin noted that the recent passing of his daughter has prevented him from giving this matter his full attention. His associate operates the billiard hall on West 145th Street.

Inspector Barrios of 33rd Precinct noted that it is the owner's decision to allow or prohibit liquor consumption. The hall is equipped with 28 to 29 pool tables. Mr. Chin agreed to consider closing for a few hours during the early morning hours.

James Berlin suggested a one-year conditional approval. Joyce Holland observed that recommendations made at a previous board meeting have not been adopted. There is no age limit to play pool, but beer is off limits to minors.

Frank Hess stated that Assemblyman Farrell and the community in the surrounding area are opposed to this application due to its potential for adverse impact. Landlord is not properly informing the tenants of prior problems.

Mr. Sung Soo Kim of the Korean Small Business Service Center noted the large investments already made by the applicant. He urged Board to give more time so that suggestions and concerns can be addressed.

A discussion followed regarding withdrawal of the application by the owner in order to give him more time. William García noted that the extension may not be in keeping with the State Liquor Authority (SLA). Several Board Members noted their concerns with the SLA's process and requirements for community input.

A vote on the application was taken. Members of the public voted 6 in favor and 21 were opposed. By roll call Board Members voted 1 in favor, 15 in opposition and 13 abstentions. The application by Corazón I was not recommended.

Community Board 12 was called to order at 7:45 p.m. to begin its Regular Session. The agenda was approved. The minutes were not approved due to missing pages. Review and approval of the minutes of March 2000 were held over until the next meeting.

Chair's Report – William A. García

Noted that new appointments to CB 12 reflect greater diversity. Announced that Mr. Luis Cerda has been appointed as a public member to work on the Communications Committee. Meetings are being held between 33rd Precinct and the community to strengthen relations.

District Manager's Report – Gregoria Feliciano

Summarized her written report included in member's meeting packet. Noted improvements in the district's sanitation scorecard. Administration for Children's Services expressed interest in the lots on Amsterdam Avenue for early childhood centers. Introduced a new numerical report of complaints received at the Board office. A private ambulance station is being proposed for Overlook Terrace;

will keep board posted. Ms. Feliciano was asked to track all complaints and to alert city agencies on the need to lock fire hydrants.

Public Session

Tom McIlvaine

Executive Director of Lifespire. Spoke about his agency's sponsorship of the mental health facility at W. 156 Street. Lifespire is a responsible organization and has been in contact with local precinct and block association. Staff is hired locally and supplies are purchased at local stores. Provided written materials on the organization. In response to questions, Mr. McIlvaine noted that Lifespire operates several facilities in the city. The 156 St. site would occupy an entire brownstone on the block. Also noted that this facility, although it is within a short distance from another mental health residence, is in a densely populated area and there is a need for these services.

Jose Rodríguez

Introduced himself as the new Crime Prevention Officer at the 33rd Precinct.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

Represents the Beth Am Temple. Urged participation in the Million Mom March.

Jeanne Dubnau

Riverside-Edgecombe Neighborhood Association will hold press conference regarding an eviction on W. 164th Street, which is symptomatic of gentrification. Bus trip to Albany to urge State legislators to strengthen rent protections.

Nelson Castro

Representing Northern Manhattan Coalition for Economic Development and the Street Vendors Association of Plaza Las Americas. Asked for Board's letter of support. The Coalition is the new sponsor for the project to construct coverings for the street market. Board members noted prior concerns with this project and urged Mr. Castro to work through committee.

Aldrin Bonilla

Director of the local Census Office. Upper Manhattan is topping all other offices in response rates; office is tops in New York City and 3rd in the country. Census jobs are predominantly filled by local residents. Office is meeting or exceeding all benchmarks established by the federal government. Leslie Foster added that a community-wide effort is being organized to augment response to the Census. The event is scheduled for May 7th. Mr. Bonilla stated that the idea of picture IDs for enumerators has not been addressed due to logistics.

Public Officials Report

Assemblyman Herman Farrell, Jr.

Thanked the Board for the action taken on the beer license application. The W. 156 Street location has been problematic for such type of establishment. Reported on discussions with the City's

highway department to address road grade problem on the Henry Hudson Parkway north of the bridge.

Noah Pfefferbilt

Director of Community Affairs for Northern Manhattan for Borough President Fields. Appointment process of new board members has concluded. Noted event at the Cloisters Museum honoring President Fields.

Committee Reports

Transportation and Public Safety/ Land Use Committees -- Fredericka Cuenca

Ms. Cuenca presented the resolution proposed by both standing committees. Provided background on the ULURP application proposed by the NYPD. Committees opposed the application due to lack of information. NYPD's planning unit did not attend the ULURP hearing. Added that NYPD has since reported that no action is expected in the immediate future.

The resolution was approved, as presented, by a vote of 26 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Housing and Human Services Committee

Isidoro Martinez, Assistant Chair of the Committee, introduced the resolution on rent issues. Elizabeth Lorris Ritter proposed changes to the resolution. Friendly amendments, mostly grammatical, were adopted. Item no. 10 in the resolution was deleted.

The resolution was approved, as amended, by a vote of 19 members in favor, 3 opposed and 3 abstentions.

Health and Environment Committee

Luis Minier, Assistant Chair to the Committee, presented (with the assistance of former Board member Patrick Eglantine) the proposed resolution objecting to the mental health facility sponsored by Lifespire. A discussion followed on the merits of the motion. The number of such facilities located in Community Board 12 is not known at this time.

The resolution as presented was not approved by a vote of 4 in favor, 20 opposed and 1 abstention.

The matter of Inwood Manor's cabaret license, which was disapproved at the committee level, was not taken up since it was not presented as a written motion.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Walther Delgado