

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
April 23, 2002

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jacqueline Aristy	Venecia Fernandez
Anita Barberis	Leslie Foster
Rafael Beaumont	William A. Garcia
Abby Belkin	Nelson Gomez
James Berlin	Beatrice Hall
Nelson Castro	Herbert Harwitt
Martin Collins	Joyce F. Holland
Mireya Cruz	Jose Lopez
Fredericka Cuenca	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Walther G. Delgado	Maria Luna
Sybil R. Dodson	Benjamin Mantell
Rafael Escano	Renato Mena
Luis Facundo	Kirk Miller
Ivelisse Fairchild	

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Rev. Lee Arrington
Edward Beaty
Emilia Cardona(Excused)
Soledad Hiciano
Dr. Pamela Palanque North
Ron Peterson
Juan Villar
Msgr. Gerald Walsh (Excused)

Quorum reached at 7:35 PM

(7:38) Welcome from Board Chair. Thanks to St. Jude's Church for hosting our first offsite meeting this year.

(7:40) Motion to adopt agenda by Martin Collins; seconded by Zead Ramadan; unanimous.

Minutes: several changes/corrections/clarifications. Kirk Miller moved; Beatrice Hall/William Garcia seconded; unanimous.

(7:50) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Walther G. Delgado

- Importance of periodic offsite meetings.
- Concerned about the NYC Department of Homeless Services action to establish a facility, "Lexi's House," in the community without any community involvement and little prior notification. Beatrice Hall and the Housing Committee will be hosting representatives of the Dept. of Homeless Services at next meeting on May 1st.
- CB 12 membership – thanks to those members not returning, especially to Steven Rizick and Maria Sierra for their long service.
- Welcome to new members of whom there are 15, 2 of whom are returning to the Board having served previously. Twelve of the new Board Members in attendance were called up and briefly introduced themselves.
- Introduced Captain Jason Wilcox, new Commanding Officer of the 33rd Precinct, who made brief remarks. He grew up in this neighborhood and worked at the 33rd Precinct 1994-1997. He is committed to quality of life enforcement, especially noise. He is working with Captain James Kehoe of the 34th on this issue. Invited all to attend precinct community council meetings on the 4th Wednesday of every month.
- Breakfast on Friday, May 3rd at 8:30 AM at the Columbia University Faculty Club to welcome Captain's Kehoe and Wilcox.
- New Members will not be grouped to committees. Asked that all new members attend at least 1 committee each month, and then appointments will be made over the Summer.
- New member orientation and reception at Board office on May 21st at 6:30 PM. Emphasized new policies regarding attendance, conflict of interest, briefly reminded that all Board Members are eyes and ears of community and importance of advocacy role.
- Memo in packets regarding proposed By-laws changes. Please review and respond to Board office or By-laws committee Chair, William Garcia.
- Zead Ramadan is now the Chair of the Economic Development Committee.
- Funds restored to CB 12 budget and will be used in part for new computers, to upgrade very out-of-date, inefficient equipment.
- Heritage Area follow-up: very good proposal, but outreach by two Board Members to West Harlem Arts Fund not fruitful in terms of resolving outstanding questions/issues. No additional action to be taken.
- Cautioned all members and attendees regarding water conservation and drought.

(8:23) NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTION

Beatrice Hall, Anita Barberis, Fredericka Cuenca, Benjamin Mantell. Invited additional members to volunteer. Julio Peguero volunteered. Walther Delgado named Fredericka as Chair. Expressed hope that the committee will nominate more than one person to positions so that there will be choices. The Committee will report the slate at May meeting, during which time nominations from the floor will be accepted. Elections at June meeting for positions which begin 7/1. A discussion of criteria for nominations including restriction on new members ensued. William Garcia suggested that perhaps the Nominating Committee could make recommendations to the By-laws committee regarding process. Barbara Smith Ramos asked why a current officer should chair the Nominating Committee. Answer: few volunteers available who are willing to serve on committee and also not wanting to be nominated to a position.

(8:30) DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – Gregoria Feliciano

- Introduced Deborah Blow: soon to be promoted from Community Service Aide to Community Assistant, with a new Community Service Aide to be hired. Kathy Olivo (not present) has been promoted to Assistant District Manager.
- Highlighted complaint log and progress on resolving quality of life and other issues; discussed the district service cabinet process.
- Gave highlights from written report (attached): DOT milling/repaving; DOH form for reporting regarding standing water for West Nile virus activity; Selfhelp community services; DEP campaign regarding fire hydrants; Mayor's office working on getting wrenches for 33rd and 34th pcts.; PAL has scholarships for 5 boys for summer camp in Colorado; SYEP looking for young people; Manhattan District Attorney's office has openings for summer internship.
- Beginning of budget process for fiscal year 2004 with committee rankings in preparation for district consultations in September.

Q: Steve Simon: has board been notified of capital projects which have been frozen? Some approved priorities may have been removed from budget and will need to be added back in.

A: We just got budget today.

Q: Norma Nadien: update on 215th Street bridge?

A: gave update on work citywide and statewide on repainting and lead abatement for all bridges.

Q: Sybil Dodson: did you receive DDC's quarterly report mailed out last week?

A: No. Ms. Dodson asked DM to follow up with DDC.

(8:44) PUBLIC SESSION

Areli Gonzalez – ACCION NY (non-profit micro-lending program) – Introduced program; having an event at Good Shepherd on May 8th.

April Humphrey – State Senator Eric Schneiderman's office - Written report available. Rent regulation bill senate discussed at last month's meeting was passed by Assembly and he is encouraging senate to approve version as well.

Marianna DePaola – Community Resident – Spoke about graffiti and how it ruins the beautiful architecture. Food vendors on the streets in front of established restaurants – not fair. Issues of garbage especially at 190th Street 1 train and all along St. Nicholas Avenue. Superintendents should not put out garbage Saturday for Monday pick up. There are not enough beat officers.

Ben Mantell – Friends of Ft. Tryon Park – Upcoming Earth Day event including pot-luck and party with live music after clean-up.

(8:59) PUBLIC OFFICIALS REPORT

Miguel Martinez – Councilman for District 10 – Congratulations to new members and welcome back to familiar faces. Urged attendance, not only at general meetings but at committee meetings where most work is done. Noted that budget priorities Community Boards put together really do guide him in decision making during this budget crisis. Addressed immigration issues. Also discussed recruitment incentives for police and firemen who speak more than one language. Addressed capital budget cuts. His office will provide lists to CB 12 of items that have been cut so they can be considered for restoration in future budget. Priorities of new budget – "Education First", including the construction of new school in soon-to-be-former 33rd Pct, as well as two other proposed schools in as-yet undetermined sites.

Robert Jackson – Councilman for District 7 – Just came from Education Committee meeting in Queens; these have been very well attended in all boroughs. Co-chaired "Living Wage Bill" hearing with Deputy Majority Leader William Perkins. The bill proposes to guarantee that lowest paid workers (home care, etc.) be paid at least \$8.10 per hour plus benefits. Encouraged activism at grassroots level with letters, e-mail, phone calls and faxes to Council members and Mayor to "raise the temperature in the teakettle". Was principle for a day at PS 129; Councilman Martinez was at George Washington High School. Moving this budget cycle to ensure that services are not cut and that council will raise taxes to ensure intact services. Restore commuter tax; stock transfer tax; personal income tax. The Mayor has declared that these tax increases will run people out of NYC, but decreased services and bad schools will run people out of NYC sooner. Also raised issue of property tax on 1-2-3 family homes, which have not been raised in eleven years despite rising property values. Taxes are not in line with property taxes paid by renters and co-ops. This is the only tax that council can raise – other taxes require NYS approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(9:19) Executive Committee Resolution (attached) regarding an outdoor café at Wendy's on 165th Street & Broadway – This resolution would have been voted on by full board at last meeting, but quorum was lost by that point in the meeting. Executive Committee passed resolution, so current action (regarding unenclosed café at corner of 165th Street and Broadway by Wendy's is for affirmation only.

Ivy Fairchild: People complain to Columbia University regarding vermin in that location as they think that Columbia University owns the building. Urged board staff to follow up on monitoring vermin in addition to monitoring of garbage, which is not CU's responsibility as they are not landlord.

Luis Facundo: Question regarding layout.

Walther Delgado: clarified the Dept. of Consumer Affairs process; Sybil Dodson: clarified thoroughness of review by committee.

Kirk Miller called the question and Norma Nadien seconded; no objection.

Vote was unanimous (38 in favor)

Maria Luna pointed out that it is important for members to stay in meeting.

Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee – Marcos Navarro, Chair - General information meeting at committee meeting including representatives from Parks Dept. on May 7th at 7:00 PM at the board office. Expects good turnout from community.

Land Use Committee – Fredericka Cuenca, Chair - Next meeting is on May 1st. The committee will be discussing with City Planning of zoning on Audubon Avenue. City Planning will be giving a preliminary report and will be attending general meeting in May to present these findings.

Housing & Human Services Committee – Beatrice Hall, Chair - Hopes to have HRA representatives for follow-up to March meeting, as many concerns were raised regarding Dyckman House and other HRA facilities in community.

Youth & Education Committee – Sandra Wachspress, Chair - Discussed tennis camp scholarships – total of 15 to be awarded (1 week for week-long camp); doing outreach with various agencies who receive funding through CB12 supported expense budget priority project.

Barbara Smith Ramos: rodent abatement – called on all board members to report any rat problems to help identify CB 12-wide solution.

Health & Environment Committee – Sybil R. Dodson - Written report will be available next month. Committee hopes to appeal NYS decision regarding placement of residential facility at 790 Riverside Drive. Gave update on clinical trials at Columbia University or Columbia University's IR B. Also shared a USDA report on live poultry storefronts of which there are 4 in this community.

Ivy Fairchild: Can committee get involved in public education regarding mandatory Medicaid managed care?

Committee for the Aging – Herbert Harwitt – Chastised Council Members Martinez and Jackson for their presentations which focused exclusively on the budget cuts, needs and priorities of education and completely ignored the draconian cuts proposed for many social services for the senior population of New York City in general and the 7th and 10th Council districts in particular.

Robert Jackson: budget gap grew from \$4.7 billion to \$4.95 billion, with projected losses in FY'06 of \$6 billion. Council supports services; needs help from citizens, including seniors, to raise taxes in order to avert budget cuts.

Energy Task Force – Jim Berlin - Meeting planned w/ Con Edison.

(9:43) REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Miosotis Muñoz, Congressman Rangel's Office – Welcomed new members. Regarding housing, the Congressman is fighting against community service requirements for public housing residents. He is fighting to keep current SSI requirements, w/ no age raise. Regarding immigration, important to reunite families and fight current "post 9/11 anti-immigrant agenda". Co-sponsoring farm bill to increase food stamp availability for undocumented aliens. Expanded EIC for families earning up to \$30K.

(9:48) Motion to adjourn by Elizabeth Lomis Ritter; multiple 2ds.

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 9, 2002

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Barbara Smith-Ramos

CB MEMBERS ATTENDING

Ron Peterson
Beatrice Hall

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Sybil R. Dodson, Chair (excused)
Helen Morik(excused)
Dr. P. Palanque North, Asst. Chair
Herbert Harwitt(excused)

Walther G. Delgado, Chairman
Gregoria Feliciano, District Manager
Kathy Olivo, Asst. District Manager
Deborah Blow, Community Assistant

GUESTS

Joseph Franklin, Borough Manager – Manhattan & Bronx, Lillie Farrell, Dep. Director, DOH,
Diane K. Vaughn, Partnership for Innovative Comprehensive Care(PICC), Griselda Santana(PICC)
Martin Smith, Councilman Robert Jackson's Office, Jennifer Griffin, Betty Chen, Paul William, Students
Columbia University, R. Basilia Gomez, West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc.

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Meeting convened at 7:15pm

Sybil Dodson, Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the guests, she apologized for early departure due to work related matters at the Northern end of our community. Her colleague, Ms. Barbara Smith-Ramos, convened with the meeting.

Our guests presenters of the evening were Mr. Joseph Franklin, Borough Manager of Manhattan and the Bronx, of the Department of Health. Ms. Diane Vaughn, Executive Director of the Partnership for Innovative Comprehensive Care, Inc.(PICC).

The committee reported the excessive rodent infestation in the Washington Heights/Inwood area. Our board members, Beatrice Hall and Ron Peterson shared their personal experiences while in transit to and from the workplace. Along the IND line Mr. Peterson reported excessive rodent presence. Locations mentioned were 155th and 163rd St. in St. Nicholas Ave.

Mr. Franklin reported DOH is able to monitor the problem and have been since 9/11/01. There were comments about the rodents at 157th Street & St. Nicholas Ave. He advised that the Mayor's office and the City Council are all about accountability, and for us to keep in mind that our last three winters were mild, therefore the rodent population increased rapidly. As a result of these conditions, the rodent population is less prone to die off. The careless disposal of garbage is also a primary factor that continues to attract these vermin.

DOH shared some of their procedures for Landlords who do not dispose of their garbage properly. After placing a call with regard to excessive garbage, an inspector is dispatched. If the conditions warrant a summons, it is issued to the owner, who is expected to respond within 30 days. Should the owner not comply within the 30 day time period, an inspector will oversee the compliance, send a crew from DOH to clean up affected area, and additional penalties are imposed on the landlord.

Mr. Franklin reported that not many complaints are registered from this vicinity. He suggested it is the responsibility of neighbors, community based organizations, tenant associations, residents and all interested

parties to call DOH with any information that relates to unhealthy conditions that jeopardize the well being of others. DOH indicated that restaurants owners be informed as well about handling their garbage for pick up.

It was agreed that an initiative to do an educational outreach should be implemented throughout the schools before June. It was also suggested that a task force be coordinated to do a tour of some of the neighborhoods affected, where the rodent burrows are thriving.

DOH will contact our committee liaison, Ms. Blow for additional information.

The committee's next speaker, was Ms. Diane Vaughn, Executive Director – Partnership for Innovative Comprehensive Care, Inc. (PICC). Ms. Vaughn came to the committee to report on an upgrade services which has been implemented at their Resident Facility(Site I) at 1 Broadway Terrace. This facility was established in 1995. She is notifying the committee that presently, the facility is housing a young male who is autistic and severely mentally retarded. The maintenance of this individual will be supervised 24 hours a day including weekends, there is also an Assistant Resident Manager on site.

Ms. Vaughn conveyed that the purpose of the program is to provide housing, meals recreation and companionship for mentally challenged clients on a continuous basis, with the supervision of a homelike environment staffed by professionals.

She also reported that the client requires day treatment/training. Currently the client is a student in the Board of Education system. He gets peer support along with family participation and daily care.

Ms. Smith-Ramos inquired about a former participant of PICC's program whose mother she knew back in 1996 when she co-chaired the Health Committee. Ms. Vaughn reported that client had improved, very confident and enjoying having his own place. Ms. Smith-Ramos commended PICC on their sensitivity on embracing all the different nationalities and languages such as; Spanish, French, Russian, Creole and Asian dialects. The committee thanked Ms. Vaughn for coming.

The location of their main office is 120 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005, (212)480-9169. There was no old business or new business, mail was reviewed.

Meeting adjourned 9:30pm

Respectfully submitted by: Barbara Smith-Ramos