

**Members Present**

Dora Maria Abreu	Martin Collins	Jay D. Mazur
Jackie Rowe Adams	Sybil Dodson-Lucas	Renato Mena
Anita Barberis	Adam Eggers	Helen Morik
Emmanuel Barrientos	Beatrice Hall	Dr. Pamela Palanque-North
Rafael Beaumont	Mark Levine	Julio Peguero
Wayne Benjamin	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter	Zead Ramadan
James Berlin	Maria Luna	Barbara Smith Ramos
Emilia G. Cardona	Glenda Swanson Massa	Julio Rodriguez

**Members Excused**

Kotie Cannon  
Peter Ferrara  
Leslie Foster  
Fern Hertzberg  
Joyce F. Holland  
Cleofis C. Sarete

**Members Absent**

Aidee Camacho  
Jose Lopez  
Llewellyn Seaborn  
Bienvenido Toribio

**7:10 Call to attention** by the Chair, Martin Collins. In the absence of a quorum, he began with the **Chair's report**:

- Announced that six new board members were appointed by Councilmember Miguel Martinez: Raquel Batista; Adam Eggers; Julissa Gomez; Albania Jimenez; Joseph Sanchez; Manny Velasquez. [Secretary's note: due to the late notification of their appointments, new members unable to attend are not reflected in the attendance, although new members who were present are counted as such.] Also thanked Mason Almeida, Jackie Aristy, Rose Santo and Dago Suarez, "four of the hardest working people I have ever met," whom Councilmember Martinez declined to reappoint. The Chair praised their substantial contributions to the Board, and expressed his personal disappointment that they no longer are on the Board. He also noted recent letters of resignation from Sandra Wachspress, Bishop Walsh, Luis Facundo and Pablo Santos, and thanked them for their years of service.
- Acadia Realty Trust, developer of Dyckman Job Center property, anticipates it will remain at location for a year; Center is looking for relocation venue.
- BRISC and UMEZ boards currently looking for members; if interested, applications available at CB12 Office.
- The Borough President is working on '06 capital needs; her priority areas are parks, education and mental health; deadline is Friday (4/29).
- City Council immigrant services -- pushing for increased funding and programs. There have been 25,000 deportations since the passage of immigration reform legislation in 1996, and subsequent revisions pursuant to the "Patriot Act" in 2001, often for minor legal infractions such as parking violations. This is destroying the fabric of our community.
- Possible development by ET Management near Sherman creek, just north of the 207<sup>th</sup> St. Bridge: two 15-story condos -- no concrete plans yet; will make presentation to Board when there is a concrete plan.
- Housing Committee & RENA meeting on housing crisis on 4/13 at 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct was successful; attended by all the electeds.
- Arts Stroll 6/18 & 6/19; kickoff event at Highbridge Park, Tuesday June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Edwin Gould's application to DMRMHAS for a residential facility in this building is in the State's hands, CB12 having passed an opposing resolution.

**7:15 District Manager's report, Renee Tirado**

- Crime still is down in all NYPD divisions (precincts, transit and housing), although rape and domestic violence continue to increase. Precincts are doing outreach; Public Safety committee is working with them. Theft of small devices such as iPods still on the rise; can register w/ NYPD for recovery.
- The Department of Health's anti-rodent campaign continues to be a success; getting 500 new rodent-proof trash containers. Noted recent death of 2-year-old due to lack of window guards, and urged all to get window guards for all windows in any apartment with children under the age of 10.
- Update regarding Post Offices and overflowing mailboxes; working with task force, which was attended by the PO station manager.
- Met w/ PANYNJ regarding a retail facility on Broadway & 179<sup>th</sup> Street in the space being vacated by Rite Aid.
- Met w/ Councilmember Martinez regarding Sherman Creek and schools construction in our area.
- FDNY is offering free CPR training.
- Also gave an update regarding the Dyckman Job Center, noting that the developers are trying to find something in the community as over 100k people serviced through this facility each year, and it provides a vital service (and employment) within the community.
- Annual lien sale 5/23 -- still time to pay off liens; information available at Board office.
- Quick reminders re: upcoming seminars, conferences, meetings, events and opportunities.
- NYC has funds available for fencing in City-owned open lots -- report any such open lots to Board office.
- Thank you for welcome breakfast last week.

Board member Mark Levine announced that due to City Council's imminent passage of a law calling for more extensive reporting of 311-data calls w/ a veto-proof majority, the Mayor has announced that all 311 calls will be "geo-coded" and the info turned over monthly to CB District Managers. Resolutions such as the one passed by CB12 some months ago were instrumental in pressuring for this action.

**7:24 Elected Officials**

**Adriano Espaillat, 72<sup>nd</sup> NYS Assembly District:**

- The Assembly "passed an on-time budget, but in our dash, we left over 1.1 million children behind, so I voted against the budget, due to not funding CFE mandate to provide a sound, basic education."
- Affordable housing is in crisis; we must represent the people who actually elected us, not the people who may come later.
- Spoke in support of legislation mandating translation services in hospitals, as a vital component to quality healthcare.

**Question from Sybil Dodson-Lucas** regarding the possible sale to the School Construction Authority of the Northeastern Academy (on 215<sup>th</sup> Street between Park Terrace East & Park Terrace West.) A: it is important to work publicly and through the Community Board to discuss this matter.

**7:34 Presentation of certificates** to Francina Calderon, Florangel de la Cruz, Pedro Estrella, Samir Hamad, Ammish Jorgensen and Henry Salamanca, for scholarships for local residents (primarily CUNY students) to provide income while pursuing the unpaid internships in health professions of 1000+ hours required for certification. This program is funded pursuant to an agreement w/ CU, former Councilmember Michels and CB12 as part of the Audubon I development. A total of 22 residents to date have received funding through this award. Mr. Estrella made brief comments.

**7:37 Public Speakers' Session**

**Yvonne Stennett, Community League of the Heights:** submitting application to DHCR to work on a "main street" along Broadway storefront enhancement, streetscaping, etc. Working in partnership with the Hispanic Society of America for their benefit and that of the other not-for-profits on Audubon Terrace.

This grant will help us do what we need to do to help keep the Hispanic Society in the neighborhood. Richard Gonzalez of Davis, Brody, Bond Architects also spoke about the project, as did Douglass Thornton of Seedco., which provides legal and technical assistance to small businesses in the community, and Savona Bailey McClain of the West Harlem Arts Fund. Steve Simon asked several questions about the proposed funding, which Ms. McClain clarified. Claudette Robb Ross, community resident: regarding proposed high school on West 215<sup>th</sup> Street. Concerned about sanitation, noise and traffic impact on neighborhood, which is a residential cul-de-sac, and would like to know to whom to direct questions/concerns. Helen Morik: what is currently in the area? A: a school. But the rumor is that the convent on the corner, which has been boarded up for 20 years, would be used to make a larger school. Q: would you object if the school stayed the same size? A: I would call for a study to make sure that the area could handle a school.

James Kushner, community resident: spoke to same issue as previous speaker.

Karim Bouscou & Natalie Weiss, Park Terrace Bistro: applied for sidewalk café. Passed Consumer Affairs inspection; asked for CB12 support/approval.

Dave Dubnau, community resident: proposed that the Board pass a resolution opposing the war in Iraq. Although this is a matter of international policy apparently well outside of the purview of CB12, it actually is an appropriate matter for the Board's consideration, because the federal budget for local services is directly and negatively impacted by continued expenditures in support of the war effort. The \$82 billion that congress just allocated for Iraq could better be spent on social services, employment and other human needs here at home, in this community, rather than to the occupation of foreign countries.

Rose Santo, former CB12 Second Vice Chair: thanked Board members for their support in voting her into the position and spoke out against her non-reappointment by Councilmember Martinez on 3/31/05 for having voted in a way that was not satisfactory to the Councilmember. Reiterated her efforts in this community and on this Board, whether or not she is an appointed member. Also welcomed new Board members, and reminded them that they are here for the betterment of the community as a whole; must put personal feelings aside and think of the community. Please: continue the hard work. Ms. Morik: do you know who wrote the anonymous letter that we all received this evening? It does a disservice to you. A: I received one just as you did, and do not know who wrote it; I did not. Ms. Dodson, on behalf of a member of the public: why were you not reappointed? A: Not sure; cannot speculate, but I was warned that there would be ramifications for not having voted as I was told. Barbara Smith-Ramos reminded the assembly of Ms. Santos' years of service to Board as a public member of various committees.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, AIDS Walk NYC: 10k walk 5/15 to raise money for GMHC. Urged people to sign up to walk, or to give pledges to those who are walking.

Charles McLaughlin & Carol Shreefer, Northern Manhattan Neighbors for Peace & Justice: spoke in support of a resolution against the war in Iraq, and in favor of bringing the troops home. We have these tough fights with the Federal government against Medicaid cuts on the same day that the President proposes additional funding for the war effort. This is literally costing our community services that we desperately need, as well as the lives of our local soldiers.

Urged CB12 to support such a resolution. Chair noted that the Health & Human Services committee will be considering this resolution at its next mtg.

Eddie Albino, RENA: thanked CB12 for support of meeting earlier this month, and proposed a resolution for the Housing Committee's consideration to speak to crisis of affordable housing for middle-class and low-income families.

Chair brought up Mr. Ammish Jorgensen, another of the scholarship winners, who also made brief remarks.

Bob Schwab, community resident, re: noise in Ft. Tryon Park, near the Cloisters – cars parking in lots behind the museum and blasting music. Parks Dep't, Met Museum and NYPD were unable to solve problem last year. It's starting again, and we are begging 34<sup>th</sup> Pct and CB12 for help so we can sleep at night.

Jeannie Dubnau, RENA: urged public and electeds to attend Rent Guidelines Board hearings and testify against increases; big push this year for 0% increase.

Ana Jiménez-Bautista, CU Center for Community Health & Education: operates school-based clinics at IS152, IS143, IS164, IS136 & GWHS. Urged letter of support from CB12 for a grant proposal for a curriculum-based pregnancy prevention program. Shared examples of classroom materials and children's work product, including posters, poetry and writings. Wayne Benjamin: have you presented to health committee? A: Deadline is next week; hoping for a letter of support right away. Jim Berlin: are you aware that "abstinence only" programs actually are linked to increases in pregnancy rates. A: yes, and that is not the service we provide. We believe children have the right to age-appropriate information, which is not limited to "abstinence only".

Carole Guss Mulligan, community resident: spoke in support of Park Terrace Bistro's application for a sidewalk café. Her comments were glowing, describing the proprietors as gracious hosts and their establishment as a jewel.

Ellen Count, community resident, also supports the Park Terrace Bistro, praising the food, the venue, the ambience and the overall dining experience.

Encouraged CB12 support, and encouraged all to try the restaurant.

Stan Michels, community resident and former Councilmember: praised scholarship winners. Spoke in support of affordable housing, and urged all to attend RGB hearings. Spoke in support of education, and encouraged development of site on Broadway between Academy and 204<sup>th</sup> Streets as a school.

Dago Suarez, former CB12 Assistant Secretary: spoke about his service to the Board, continued commitment to this community and appreciation of the hard work of his colleagues. Asserted that he was not reappointed by Councilmember Martinez on March 31<sup>st</sup> due to his vote for the current Chair.

Karen Greene, ABADA-Capoeira NYC: classes in Brazilian martial arts. Also working in the school system in after-school programs, though not yet partnered with a CBO locally, though they have worked with the Highbridge Rec Center and Fresh Youth Initiatives. Gave contact info. Also presented at Youth & Ed.

8:37 **Adoption of agenda** as revised: moved by Zead Ramadan; seconded by Ms. Dodson-Lucas; no objection.

8:37 **Approval of minutes** of March meeting moved by Bea Hall; seconded by Julio Rodriguez; no objection.

8:38 **Elected Officials** (this portion of the agenda resumed with those elected officials who arrived subsequent to its conclusion previously.)

**Miguel Martinez, NYC Council, 10<sup>th</sup> District**

- The Council is proposing to add \$6 million to budget for domestic violence programs.
- There is a meeting in the Councilmember's office later this week with Verizon and the School Construction Authority concerning the building at Broadway & 215<sup>th</sup> Street. The SCA just wants the Broadway side of the Verizon building for a school; perhaps the remaining space will be of interest to CUNY's Dominican or Puerto Rican Studies Institutes, or possibly the HRA as a replacement for the displaced Dyckman Job Center.
- The developer of the current Dyckman Job Center lot will extend the HRA's lease for another year if HRA will commit to leasing build-to-fit space on another lot that the developer owns in the neighborhood.
- The Council plans to allocate an additional \$10 million for immigration opportunity initiative, which will provide legal services, ESL and other needed programs. "We are going to engage in the process of the budget process."

**Questions from Milagros Vicente**: can CB12 be invited to the meeting with SCA? A: Not yet; it's an official meeting. To have three agencies present, we need Mayor's approval, so we cannot invite CB12 without the Mayor's approval. Mr. Collins: why not invite CB12? A: I am not ready to open up the meeting to other groups. Zead Ramadan, on behalf of a member of the public: On May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Consumer Affairs Committee Councilmember Phil Reed will be considering Intro #64, which will open up vending on all streets in NYC, up to three vendors per block. A: that's an important and interesting question. We are trying to see how to energize public sector so vendors can stay on 175<sup>th</sup> street. But we are concerned about opening up every street or every other street to vendors. I haven't taken a position on this intro: I am still looking at it. Emilia Cardona: since you're talking with the SCA, ask them if they've looked at former Rite Aid site on St. Nicholas

& 163<sup>rd</sup> Street; it is a terrific site for elementary school. A: Thank you; no one has identified that site, but we will look at it. Ms. Dodson-Lucas: Concerned about an apparent lack of transparency with regard to possible siting of a public school on West 215<sup>th</sup> Street, which is causing problems in that area of the community. A: site recommendations have been an inclusive process based on input from the Community Board, community members and all of the electeds. We are committed to open dialogue, but I yield to Councilmember Jackson (in whose district is the area in question) for his leadership. Elizabeth Lorris Ritter: Why did you decline to reappoint four members? I know that we serve at the pleasure of the electeds, but will you share your thinking on that process? A: No. The Board is a process in which new things and new items evolve. Board is moving forward, and I thank the members for their work and we are moving forward.

**8:53 Robert Jackson, NYC Council, 7<sup>th</sup> District**

- With regard to CB12 appointments, I make seven recommendations; I have three renewals and one vacancy this year; next year I will have two renewals and one vacancy. I am looking for a representative from the Jewish Community Council, and a rep from the lower end of the district. We do not appoint – we make recommendations to the Borough President and she makes appointments. I asked the BP if I could recommend to appoint one of the members who was not recommended for reappointment by Councilmember Martinez, and she indicated she would consider that. Members serve at no pay and at the pleasure of the Councilmembers or Borough President, and I have not gotten involved in the politics of the Board or in the elections process of the Board.
- We met with the SCA, with Councilmember Martinez and representatives of other electeds. District 6, runs from 135<sup>th</sup> Street north, up through tip of Inwood, and we explored many possible locations. We should not look at schools and siting in isolation, but we should look at all sites in district, and at all possible needs of schools for siting. Anyone with concerns about that siting, or any other siting should contact electeds, especially myself and Mr. Martinez, as well as state officials and the Borough President. The Gregorio Luperón High School is a hot issue, because it needs the space. SCA has not entered the Park Terrace location or even visited it, and while it is on the list of possible sites, there are no clear commitments for what, if anything, might be sited in that location. Although this is an important issue, middle schools are in a total crisis, even by the admission of the DoE deputy chancellor.
- Budget: scheduled to have been in the red, but current projections for this year is \$1.5-2 billion in the black. Mayor would like to roll over to reserves, but due to surplus and the fact that it's an election year, we likely will see increased services.

**Questions from Ms. Dodson-Lucas:** will you actively engage the community in dialogue with regard to school siting on Park Terrace East? Also, will you work on including people of color in the boom on construction trades? A: if you have a meeting and invite me, I will come – invite all the electeds for an open meeting; do not have private or secret meetings; so far there has been no public meeting, and a lack of transparency on the part of electeds or agencies. As far as contracting, there is a lot of pressure on city contracting administration to engage minority- and women-owned firms. Rafael Beaumont: asked a clarifying question regarding geographic balance in the Councilmember's Board appointments. A: I want diversity on the Board in terms of ethnicity, geography, religion, gender, occupation, etc. Ms. Vicente: thanked Councilmember Jackson for inviting CB12 to meetings with the SCA. Did they give any follow-up regarding their commitment to go forward with the development of Broadway/204<sup>th</sup> site? A: they were waiting for CB12 approval, and I reminded them that CB12 already passed resolution supporting a school at this site.

**9:13 Roxanne Dodds for Borough President C. Virginia Fields:**

- Thanked the Councilmembers for their candor during the reappointment process. We heard from everybody, and I'm asking you to move forward and work together. Commend all of the former and current Board members, and welcomed the new members on board.
- You have excellent representation in your Chair and District Manager; additionally commended Ms. Tirado for her follow-up on rodent issue.
- Voiced strong support for Dyckman Job Center, and offered a letter of support for the record.
- Also noted an upcoming roundtable discussion of MTA crisis, with constant breakdowns and service problems.
- Offered written report for the record.

**9:17 Lilliam Perez for NYS Senator Eric Schneiderman:**

- The Senator is representing the Straphangers Campaign in a lawsuit against MTA for the sale of rail yards for \$210 million, even though the property was appraised for \$923 million. This suit was initiated by Senator Schneiderman, and other electeds have joined with him.
- Offered additional congratulations to scholarship winners.
- Urged all Board members to continue to working with departing board members. You are an example of what board members should be. You don't have to be a board member to be a good leader, and I look forward to working with you still. Spoke highly of incoming board members as well, and encouraged the Board to welcome its new members and work with them.
- Thanked CB12 members who attended the Sosua presentation last weekend at the Holocaust museum.
- The Senator is working with Ms. Stennett and the Community League of the Heights on how best to collaborate with CBOs and other interests at southern end of district to improve the Broadway malls and connect the board to the rest of Manhattan.
- Spoke in support of Luperón HS, which has been in its current location without a single incident. These are well-mannered kids who have 90+ averages, wear uniforms, and have no behavior problems. These kids are different: 85% go on to college. This isn't your run-of-the-mill school; it isn't a failing school.

**Questions from Ms. Dodson-Lucas:** when will we be included in the dialogue? We are not hearing about 350 well-mannered kids; we're hearing rumors about 650 students, and 350 staff for a total 1000 people. A: As you said, those are rumors; we made clear to SCA that we do not want a large school in that location, and we do not want Luperón to be a large school. What's going around is rumor, not fact. There hasn't been a dialogue yet, so there isn't anything to have been left out of. First the SCA has to go into the location to see if it's even a feasible site. At that point there absolutely will be open dialogue. To circulate rumors at this point is not helpful. Jim Berlin: praised Luperón's principal, Juan Villar, to whom the quality of the school is directly attributable. Ms. Perez concurred. Ms. Morik asked why the school would create a problem among local residents if its size is comparable to the school that is already there. Ms. Perez reiterated that she does not have all the facts, and asks that residents remain in contact with her. Wayne Benjamin, on behalf of a member of the public, stated that it is important for a school's population to reflect the diversity of the community. (It was not clear if the public member was in favor of the school, and referring to the ethnic diversity of the District; or against the school, and referring to the ethnicity of the smaller residential enclave in which the school might be sited.) Ms. Perez responded that immigrants are an important component of our community, and that all are welcome to apply to the school. The current population of the school reflects the fact that most newly arrived high-school aged immigrants are from the Dominican Republic. Mr. Collins recommended that everyone with an opinion on the subject come to the next Youth & Education Committee meeting (on May 2<sup>nd</sup>), and work together through CB12.

**9:32 Frank Hess for NYS Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell:** handed out written report; waived presentation in consideration of time.

**9:33 Special Election for Second Vice Chair and Assistant Secretary:** The Chair stated that, pursuant to our by-laws, we must have a Special Election for the newly vacated positions, as there are more than 90 days until the end of the terms, which expire December 31<sup>st</sup>. Only those members who have been on the Board for at least a year and actually attended a minimum of two-thirds of their required meetings (General and primary Committee) are qualified; moreover, the nominated member must be present in order to accept the nomination and stand for election. There was a lengthy discussion about whether or not Julio Peguero

qualified based on his attendance; as two of his excused absences were due to his attendance at a conflicting CB12 meeting, it was agreed that he did, and should be added to the list of members qualified to stand for nomination.

For the office of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Ms. Barberis nominated Mr. Berlin, who accepted. Mr. Simon nominated Mr. Peguero, who declined. Mr. Peguero nominated Ms. Smith-Ramos, who accepted. Glenda Swanson-Massa moved that the nominations be closed. Mr. Berlin said that nominations are closed when there are no more nominations. Ms. Vicente asked a clarifying question about process, and then nominated Maria Luna, who declined. Seeing no other nominations for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, the floor was closed with two nominations, Mr. Berlin and Ms. Smith-Ramos.

The floor was opened for nominations for the position of Assistant Secretary. Ms. Dodson-Lucas nominated Ms. Barberis, who accepted. Mr. Simon nominated Dora Maria Abreu, who declined. Ms. Vicente nominated Jackie Rowe-Adams, who declined. Mr. Ramadan nominated Steve Simon, who declined. There being no other nominations, the floor was closed.

Ballots with a single blank line for each position were distributed. Members were instructed to print and sign their names, and to write in the name of the candidate for whom they were voting for each position on its appropriate line. Members were reminded that pursuant to City Charter and our by-laws, anonymous ballots would not be counted, and that, pursuant to our by-laws, a signed ballot with no candidate voted would count as an abstaining vote. Mr. Collins asked for volunteers to collect and count the ballots; Mss. Abreu, Cardona, Morik and Swanson-Massa and Mr. Mazur volunteered.

#### 10:01 Committee Reports

**Pamela Palanque North, Public Safety:** next month looking at issue of marijuana (ab)use. Arrests are numerous, but it's a revolving door. Also looking at issue of rape w/in the context of family violence. Also looking at issue of Patriot Act, and if the Federal government will put money where their mouths are to support grassroots initiatives.

**10:03 Wayne Benjamin, Land Use:** please look at minutes in packages, and please review attachments which are available in the office – these will give a better understanding of the issues of contextual zoning and what it means for CB12; there are many new developments.

**10:05 Milagros Vicente, Youth & Education:** emphasized that the Department of Education submitted a list of potential school sites to CB12, and one was for Luperón. This is information we all had, and there was nothing secretive about it. Again thanked Councilmember Jackson for including CB12 in dialogue with SCA, which emphasized that they needed to go into sites which DoE recommended and do a feasibility study. She reiterated that nothing has been confirmed – or will be confirmed in terms of moving forward with the 215<sup>th</sup> Street site – until that happens. Mr. Collins and Ms. Vicente both reiterated to SCA that the 204<sup>th</sup>/Broadway site was approved by CB12; SCA will look into it. Ms. Vicente stated that the Committee also supports use of Verizon building for educational use, but SCA said that a resolution to this effect actually hurts their bargaining position, hence that resolution was pulled from consideration by the full board.

**10:11 Report of the Ballot-Counting Committee:** For the office of Assistant Secretary, Ms. Barberis received 23 votes in favor and 6 abstentions. Ms. Smith-Ramos and Mr. Berlin tied with 12 each and 5 abstentions. Mr. Berlin withdrew from the race; the second vote was 21 for Ms. Smith-Ramos, and 7 abstentions by show of hands. (By the time of the second vote, one Board member had left.)

**10:16 Julio Peguero, Economic Development:** presented a resolution in support of unenclosed sidewalk café seating at the Park Terrace Bistro, which passed unanimously (28 votes) with no discussion. Presented a second resolution in support of a "Main Street" grant from NYS DHCR. Steve Simon made some friendly amendments for clarity, which were accepted, including a "Be It Further Resolved" calling upon HSA to make a commitment to remain in Washington Heights. The resolution passed unanimously (28 votes) with no discussion.

**10:24 Julio Rodriguez, Housing Committee:** feels personally depleted at the loss of four Board members, but is satisfied that the momentum that Ms. Aristy provided for the Housing Committee makes his job easier in assuming the Chair. Ongoing discussions of relocation of the Dyckman Job Center. Echoed comments of earlier speakers with regard to the joint meeting w/ RENA on housing and RGB; important to make our voices heard and our presence felt. Control of rent guidelines sits not here, but in Albany, especially with the Senate and its Republican leadership. Urged all with friends/family in other areas of the state to reach out to their senators to use that influence to help NYC; how would they feel if NYC controlled suburban/rural housing issues?

**10:27 Sybil Dodson-Lucas, Aging:** no report. Thanked Fem Hertzberg for stewardship during Ms. Dodson-Lucas' absence in April.

**10: 28 Steve Simon, Health & Environment:** gratifying to see tonight's scholarship winners; this is a program he personally negotiated while on staff with then-Councilmember Michels as a giveback to the community for the approval of Audubon I. Next Committee meeting will deal with issue of environmental health & safety (EHS) at Medical Center laboratories/facilities, including the Audubon I building. Upset that Columbia University hasn't provided a copy of recently-completed audit report of EHS inspections, despite a promise to provide at least the extensive summary. Also lamented the loss of four hardworking colleagues.

**10:33 Zead Ramadan, Parks & Cultural Affairs:** Update on latest developments in planning the Uptown Arts Stroll, which will be June 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, with lead-up events including an art exhibition sponsored by Audubon Partnership on June 11<sup>th</sup>, and poetry, dance, fashion, music and film events the week of June 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. Ralph Paniagua will present another concert series in Anne Loftus playground this summer: eight Saturday evenings of free family entertainment, 5p-8p in July and August. Also announced Drums Along Hudson/Shad Festival this Sunday. Ms. Dodson-Lucas asked Mr. Ramadan to discuss the impact that the siting of a high school might have on the ecosystem of Inwood Hill Park. Also requested that he follow-up with DPR Administrator regarding baiting for rats in parks, as this is an increasing problem. Ms. Palanque North asked Mr. Ramadan to follow up with FDNY regarding setting of fires in parks.

**10:36 Chair** thanked River Terrace co-op for its hospitality in hosting the meeting. Congratulated Ms. Smith-Ramos and Ms. Barberis on their new positions. Expressed again his sadness at the loss of four fine colleagues and thanked Mr. Almeida, Ms. Aristy, Ms. Santo and Mr. Suarez for their hard work, support and dedication. The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary