

Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee- December 6, 2005

Committee Members Present

Zead Ramadan, Chair
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Asst. Chair
Emilia Cardona
Aaron Scott
Joseph Sanchez

Committee Members Excused

Board Members Present

Steve Simon

Guest: Jane Jackson, New York Restoration Project; Dawson Smith, NYCMTB; Ana Tavaréz, City College, Rex Curry, City College, Jane Schachat, NYC Parks and Recreation

Zead Ramadan welcomed everyone and introduced Jane Schachat, N. Man. Dir of Parks to the committee & briefly discussed a hope for continued progress in CB12 district parks.

1. Jane Schachat discussed the 2 1/2 mile mountain biking trail to be created in the FT. George area of Highbridge Park and introduced Dawson Smith, of NYC Mountain Trail Bikers to discuss the project.

Mr. Smith said that Michael Vitti of Concerned L.I Mountain Bikers - a professionally trained trail designer and Scott Benenburger were the main designers of this trail. NYC Parks Dept. Trail Design team and Natural Resources division approved of all designs and actually "learned a lot" from the trained mountain bike designers. Their "leave no trace" policy and expertise in avoidance of erosion and "run-off" impressed the Parks Dept.

NY Restoration Project rep, Jane Jackson expressed concern over those getting off the trail. Mr. Smith replied that the challenge of the trail and design will make it difficult for those looking to venture elsewhere. The top portion will be for a BMX track and learning area, a lower area will have a learning skills area and finally a skills development area. Zead asked how flora and fauna would be affected. Mr. Smith said that an educational component and signage has already been developed to educate on these issues and will work with Joseph Sanchez (Dir. of Highbridge Youth Rec Ctr.) to identify groups to teach them. NYC Parks Dept. determined that these trails will not affect native species but encompass invasive species that hamper native growth. There are no ground nesting species in that area and the habitat will be enhanced by the advanced non-runoff design. Int'l Mountain Bikers Assoc (IMBA), based in Colorado, who set the standard for the Olympics, will provide support and will send reps. to ensure the trail meets safety and environmental standards, while keeping it challenging and interesting. They will teach the "land-managers" how to complete the trail and address any "hotspots." They will also conduct informational lectures and do demonstrations for youth groups and others in our community, as well as address wound and CPR guidelines.

NYC Parks Legal Dept is involved because of the liability concerns and Parks will provide enforcement. It is not a hiking trail and its presence will discourage vagrancy as it has been present in that area of the park. It is a healthy activity and hopefully will positively affect the "at risk" youth in our community. A meeting with reps of local ambulance services will be conducted prior to

opening the trail so they can be informed on how to get there and best access when needed. Weekend volunteer trail patrols will be organized. Poison Ivy and Oak will be addressed.

Ozzie of Tread Bike Shop of Inwood has been a key to this project because of his local knowledge and ability to get the grassroots support. NYC Parks has helped in fund-raising efforts. The project's capital budget is fully funded by a state grant. They will organize local youth groups to help plan and clear the trail in order to give them "stake – ownership" in project.

Jane stated that this area has difficult topography and few other programs could have been feasible at the trail location, so if it fails, the worst that has happened if we've prevented future runoff in that area, and if it succeeds, we'll have created a new venue for youth and family in our Parks. There are considerations for connecting this trail to more southern bike trails in Highbridge Park. Trail development should begin in the Spring and scheduled to open by Fall of 2006. There are 37,000 youth under 16 years old in our community.

2. Rex Curry who is leading the CB12M district planning study requested input from committee members on 5 issues needing attention regarding the parks and culture in our community, and 5 contacts who may be able to help affect those changes.

Meeting ended at 9pm.

Committee Members Present

Dr. Pamela Palanque North, Chair
Kotie Cannon, Asst. Chair
Aidee Camacho
Julissa Gomez
Adam Eggers
Andre Harris
Joyce Holland

Committee Members Excused

Board Members Present

Martin Collins, Board Chair
Fern Hertzberg

Public Member

Ernest McNamee

Guests: PO Albert Triana, NYPD -34th Pct; PO Patrick Goetz NYPD-34th Pct.; Lt. Garcia, NYPD-33rd Pct.; PO Vizcaino, NYPD-33rd Pct; PO Koterba, NYPD 33rd Pct.; PO Melendez, NYPD-33rd Pct.; Geprge Lewis, NYPH DOVE Program; Wendy Garcia, Centro Altigracia; Cindy Espinoza, Councilman Martinez office; Joselinne Minaya, District Attorney's Office; Joe McNearmey, Councilman Jackson's office; Wendy Olivo, Assemblyman Farrell's office; Ana Espinal, Dominican Women's Development Center; Ana Tavarez, City College; Rex Curry, City College; Rebecca Carel, FT. Washington House Services;

Domestic Violence Roundtable II

Councilman Miguel Martinez Office, Cindy Espinoza

- Cindy Espinoza representing Councilman Martinez Office provided an overview of the findings from a recent Assessment of Domestic Violence incidents and local services. Some of the findings were: Funding levels for DV programs have remained the same since '04 but utilization levels for this community are low.
- There is needed guidance from service providers to the public about the existence of DV programs and how to access and utilize them.
- Women who died from DV in CB12M were more likely to be foreign born and were not using DV programs, hotlines or resources.
- Women killed due to DV are counted as homicides. Homicides are not tied to previous incidence.
- DV service providers must look at the injuries and previous history of homicide victims.
- Councilman Martinez has secured 4 million dollars from the city budget, which will be spent on Domestic Violence services.

Councilman Robert Jackson's Office

- Joe McNearmey, representing Councilman Jackson's Office stated that his office collaborated with Councilman Martinez to acquire the funds for Domestic Violence Services for the community.

Assemblyman Herman Farrell's Office

- Wendy Olivo, stated that they have many walk-ins' who are victims of domestic violence and are overwhelmed with fear. Most women are unaware of the services available to them such as those in attendance at the meeting.

NYPD

- 33RD Precinct Officer Melendez DV Unit Officer Melendez reported that there is a DV Officer on duty 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. When an officer responds to a DV complaint and he/she is not a DV Unit officer there are limits as to how much time they can devote to the DV victim.
- Officers complete a Domestic Incident Report (DIR) when there is a Domestic Violence complaint. Occasionally, people will call about a DV incident but after investigation it has been found to be a minor dispute and not a DV incident at all.
- Officers have several options when they respond to a DV complaint they are: complete a DIR; arrest a suspect; conduct further investigation.
- A digital camera is used to capture bruises and abuse. Photos are used as evidence of abuse in court.
- DV victims often have a strong emotional bond with the assailant, this complicates the situation.
- 33 Precinct statistics indicate a 2% increase in domestic violence and harassment the week of 12-04-05.
- 34th Precinct – Officer Goetz: DV complaints have decreased in the 34th precinct YTD

Manhattan District Attorneys Office

- Joselinne Minaya, representing the M-DA's Office stated that her office does not handle DV complaints.
- There have been 507 arrest in the 33rd and 34th Precinct YTD; 2,200 Northern Manhattan (59th – 220th Street)
- 3,500 arrest Manhattan Borough YTD

- DA relieves stress of the victims by providing privacy. This assist in getting the victims cooperation
- A Domestic Violence coordinator is located at the DA's Office on W.125th Street and 7th Avenue
- The DV Coordinator will assist the victims in getting an Order of Protection and counseling services.
- Definitions for Domestic Violence were discussed
- DV Cases that will be processed in Family Vs Criminal Court were reviewed

New York-Presbyterian DOVE Program

- George Lewert, Director of the Domestic and Other Violent Crimes Program provided the meeting participants with a listing of the comprehensive services they provide to clients/victims.
- Medical, counseling and legal services are available and are free.
- Most clients are referred via the Emergency Unit
- DOVE operated 24 hours a day and are a part of a Network of Clinics
- Volunteers are on-call to provide victims with coaching on safety and building a safety-plan
- All staff bilingual, Will help clients with cost of changing door locks, Works with Harlem Legal Services, Medications issued
- Will take digital photo's for use in court proceedings

ALIANZA DOMINICANA

- Milagros Perez, representative from ALIANZA stated that their past programs were known to city officials and local police officers. The City Administration has restructured the office, which deals with Domestic Violence and created distance between themselves and the community service providers.
- Past success in public education on DV was due to funding that supported door-to-door outreach. That funding has ended and the problem of DV has increased in CB12M, Limited NYPD DV Unit officers and vehicles are problematic.
- Service Providers need access to information from the NYPD as soon as the crime or violent act occurs.

99 Fort Washington Housing Services and ARC

- Rebecca Carel and Fern Hertzberg, stated that Elderly Abuse exist and should be considered as Family and Domestic Violence
- Elderly experience intimidation and many are at risk.
- Elderly family members have bruises, which are often overlooked when they are examined by medical staff.
- Elderly are vulnerable to abuse when they are the only source of regular income for a family. Neglect of the authorities to take bruises seriously.

Dominican Women's Development Corporation

- Provides counseling, shelter placement and childcare services
- Seeking funding to build a Shelter for Women from CB12M
- Liaison/advocate for victims in court system, schools, ACS and other organization interfaces where the client may feel intimidated.

Jesuit Order Dominican Outreach Center

- Work with grandparents caring for children removed from parents due to Domestic Violence
- Ten Parish vicariate meet every Thursday to discuss issues such as Domestic Violence.
- Networking with service providers is essential.

Committee will consider a resolution to

- Support funding of CB12M CBO's providing Domestic Violence services
- Request better and more responsive services for the Elderly
- Call for funding for a DV Shelter within CB12M
- Support funding for public education in schools to prevent Teen Partner Violence

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15PM

Minutes written by: Pamela Palanque North

Minutes of the Traffic & Transportation Committee –December 5, 2005

Committee Members Present

Jay Mazur, Chair
James Berlin, Asst. Chair
Anita Barberis
Obed Fulcar
Renato Mena

Committee Members Absent

Dago Suarez, Public Member

Board Members Present

Martin Collins, Board Chair

Guests: Leslie Sonn, Resident; Phyllis Smizaski, Resident; Ethan Cohen, City College; Julio Batista, NYPH; Peter Perez, Resident

Chair Mazur opened the meeting at 7:05pm announcing that our scheduled guest from Transport Workers Union had cancelled.

He then introduced Ethan Cohen from City College Architectural Center (CCAC), the group selected to guide CB#12 in its District-Wide Planning and Land-Use Study. CCAC will meet with each standing committee of our Board to ensure that each area has input into this study. He asked that each member of the committee complete the Feedback sheets that requested important issues, places where these issues are critical and resources.

In that our other schedule guest from DOT had not arrived, the Committee addressed concerns raised by residents located at 875 West 181 St. (NW corner of Riverside Drive). Resident, Diane Battle documented her concerns in a letter to Chair Mazur regarding traffic/pedestrian safety in her neighborhood. Last month, her dog was killed by a hit and run driver, who ran the red light at Haven Avenue. Instead of stopping, the car sped on to the Henry Hudson Parkway (HHP) and no one got the license plate. Further, another resident, Peter Perez, advised us that his wife suffered injuries when a speeding car swiped her while she was cleaning snow off their car in the front of their building. Traffic in this area is not only congested, but confusing due to:

- 1) Ramp to northbound HHP is closed due to the collapse of the Castle Village wall and the residents state that there are no signs alerting traffic heading west on 181 at Fort Washington Avenue advising traffic that there is no access to HHP. It is only when you reach Riverside Drive that drivers are made aware of the detour, which is a little late.
- 2) Cars exiting the HHP to 181 St. speed through the intersection before turning west on 181 St. to a traffic light and may be held there indefinitely due to the traffic coming off Rte 95. Residents suggested that maybe a Stop sign at that intersection would slow traffic down.
- 3) Traffic exiting Rte 95 (last exit in Manhattan) queue into westbound traffic on Rte 95 due to the light at Haven Avenue.

Committee will ask DOT to review the timing of all the traffic lights in this vicinity to not only have traffic flow evenly, but primarily for the safety of pedestrians in the area. Further, the residents asked for more enforcement of traffic rules with either a camera or traffic officer on site to document and ticket vehicles running red lights or stop signs and also to move the double-parked cars in front of Espanola restaurant located at Cabrini and 181.

With reference to the time frame needed to rebuild the Castle Village wall, Jim Berlin offered an estimate of 1-2 years assuming work begins spring '06. He also stated that the northbound ramp at 181 would probably be the staging area for the equipment required to complete this task.

The issue of the M101 bus and its abuse to our neighborhood prompted us to review and draft another resolution requesting MTA to address the unacceptable rerouting of these articulated busses from St Nicholas Avenue to Amsterdam Avenue, where they double-park and leave engines idling causing havoc to the neighborhood.

Meeting adjourned: 8:35pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by A. Barberis

Land Use Committee - Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2005

Committee Members Present

Wayne A. Benjamin, Chair
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair
Dora Maria Abreu
James Berlin
Julissa Gomez
Julio Rodriguez
Aaron Scott

Committee Members Absent

Board Members Present

Obed Fulcar
Steve Simon
Beatrice Hall

Guests: Margery Perlmutter-NYPH/Bryan Cave LLP, William E. Lenihan Jr., Rashel Hochstadt, Kristin Boraofen-resident, Dorota Socha-NYPL, Phyllis Smizaski-resident, Edwin Marshall-NYC Dept. of City Planning-Manhattan, Rex Curry – City College Architectural Center, {call Rex or Ethan to get the other CCAC team members who were present}

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.
2. Margery Perlmutter of Bryan Cave LLP made a presentation to the Land Use Committee ("LU") concerning the construction of a four-story 10,000-square-foot infill office building proposed by NY Presbyterian Hospital ("Presbyterian"). The site of the proposed building is a courtyard of the Millstein Pavilion; it is not visible from the street. Presbyterian needs the approval of the Department of City Planning ("DCP") to construct the project because of an existing Large Scale Development approval (the "Approval") that was granted by DCP in 1984; any modification to buildings constructed within the DCP-approved development area requires its consent. The application submitted by Presbyterian to DCP for this project has not yet been certified. DCP may request modifications to the proposed design/construction scheme. Community Board 12-M will be advised of any such modifications.
3. Edwin Marshall, DCP provided LU with background information on Community Benefits Agreements ("CBAs"). Mr. Marshall indicated that CBAs are relatively new in New York City - Boston and California has more experience with them. The CBA executed by Forest City Ratner for the Atlantic Yards Project is first CBA executed for a project in NYC. CBAs are also being discussed by Manhattan Community Board 9 ("CB 9") in the context of its 197-a Plan and Columbia University's Manhattanville expansion project. The CBA is a document that would allow CB-9 to ask for things that cannot legally be considered under ULURP or Environmental Reviews, i.e.: while DCP is prohibited from making its approvals contingent on matters unrelated to land use considerations a CBA will allow CB 9 to have any concessions Columbia may agree to codified in an official document/contract that has legal standing. CB 9 is giving consideration to the creation of a Local Development Corporation ("LDC") to oversee the implementation of any potential CBA since Columbia build-program is over 30 years, i.e. a long term project. It is possible that monitoring the implementation of CBAs for short term projects can be done by committees of the community board or designated community-based organizations. The implementation /monitoring mechanism for a CBA must be consistent with the term of the project to which the CBA is related. Mr. Marshall noted that CBAs should be project specific, enforceable, have teeth and realistic for the project at hand, i.e. ask for what can be achieved by the specific project being considered. It was further noted that CBAs should be thought of as one of many tools that community boards can use to negotiate benefits from private developments. A Letter Agreement or a Memorandum of Understanding can be used for

smaller projects. CBAs can be useful for large projects where the developer has deep pockets and public approvals are needed. The Audubon Research and Development Project was cited as an example of a project where a CBA could be applicable if the rezoning that was approved several years ago was currently being considered. Mr. Marshall also noted that the enforcement of CBAs is a grey area. It is assumed that the courts may treat them as contracts but further investigation on this matter is needed. Finally, it was suggested that the Chair of CB-9 be invited to address CB -12 to talk about its vision of the use of CBAs.

4. Rex Curry, City College Architectural Center ("CCAC") provided LU with a brief update on the District-wide Planning Study (the "Study"). Existing Land Use and Zoning maps were reviewed. Maps that spatially display socio-economic data will also be created. CCAC requested a copy of CB12-M list of resource organization and recommendations on which organizations it should contact for input on the Study. Mr. Curry reminded LU members to provide their comments on the Study goals and objectives on the forms distributed at the initial kick-off meetings for the Study (additional copies of the forms were also distributed). CCAC will provide LU with a presentation on work completed under Phase I of the Study on January 11, 2006 (LU agreed to meet on the second Wednesday of January instead of the First Wednesday in order to accommodate this presentation).
5. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Wayne A. Benjamin