

PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES 12/4/07
December 4, 2007

Committee Members Present

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair
Jennifer Araujo
Ines Saldana Olesen

Committee Member Absent

Emilia G. Cardona (excused)
Francisco Guzman

C.B.12M Staff Present

Jeffrey A. Laufer

Board Members Present

GUESTS: Tracy Eberhart, Harlem River Boat Club; Joe Wojak and Virginia Annibale, Inwood Canoe Club; Dana Hockenbury, Washington Heights Gardening Crew; Jacob Morris; Jennifer Hoppa, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation; Cynthia Rivelli, community resident

The meeting began at 7pm with opening and welcoming remarks by Chair Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, including announcements of upcoming events pursuant to a review of the mail.

- I. **NoMAA & Hintersteiner Gallery:** Ms. Ritter reported as a follow-up to last month's discussion of the Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance (NoMAA) curating the Hintersteiner Gallery that the Executive Committee discussed the matter at its November meeting, and agreed that CB12 is not an appropriate arbiter of public taste, nor is/should it be in the business of jurying art shows. The selected curator (in this case NoMAA) would be given artistic discretion to select artists and manage exhibitions, with opportunities for Board member/staff feedback during the installation process should the need arise.
- II. **DPR Recreation Centers:** A discussion of new rec centers as possible FY'10 budget items was deferred, pending input from the J. Hood Wright senior/rec center staff recommending such a proposal.
- III. An update/discussion of the **Inwood Shakespeare Festival** was deferred to the January meeting, which will be held in Inwood.
- IV. **Broadway Malls & holiday lighting:** Cynthia Rivelli, neighborhood resident reported that last year \$17k was raised from local businesses to light malls, but it is so expensive that the ultimate effect was sparse. This year \$1k has been raised; lighting is anticipated by 12/7. For the future, since most malls do not have electricity independent of the DOT street lights, and in the case of David Friedlander & Mitchell Squares tapping into DPR poles is either not possible or extremely difficult, it would be better if Con Edison were willing to provide electricity to the malls and squares. She and Dana Hockenbury agreed to work on a draft letter to Con Ed. Ms. Rivelli also suggested the permanent addition by DOT of street lights to Friedlander and Mitchell Squares to enhance their beauty and make them feel safer, noting that decorative fixtures such as are used elsewhere in the community would be preferable to the institutional "cobra head" style. There was a brief, tangential discussion of parking within David Friedlander Square, adjacent to Juan Pablo Duarte Blvd.; Ms. Hockenbury was referred to the Public Safety and Traffic/Transportation Committees for this issue.
- V. There was a brief discussion about the **elimination of elevator operators at five "A" and "1" train stations** in Washington Heights. Although this is not a parks matter per se, everyone was given contact information for the MTA/NYCT, and encouraged to write, and to spread the word to their neighbors.
- VI. **155th Street tribute to Sugar Hill:** There was a lengthy discussion as to whether and how to note the inclusion of the southern end of CB12 as part of Sugar Hill, including CB12's own contribution to the Harlem Renaissance, the luminaries who lived in Sugar Hill and their relationship to the history of CB12, not just of CB9. Although the land-marked Sugar Hill Historic District ends in the 140's, well south of CB12's southern border, the geographic rise and larger neighborhood known as "Sugar Hill" extends well north of 160th Street, and many residents of the SE corner of CB12 self-identify as living in "Sugar Hill". Since the dividing line between the two Boards – W 155th Street – bisects the larger area which reasonably can be considered "Sugar Hill", Mr. Morris proposed naming a small triangle of Highbridge Park at 155th Street and Edgecomb Avenue to honor CB12's own contribution to this piece of New York City's history. The group agreed on the importance of establishing a geographic and/or historic connection linkage when considering a street or other (co-)naming; there was specific discussion regarding the placement of historical signage in this case, possibly by DPR. There was extensive discussion of the appropriateness of this particular spot, noting that a co-naming could lead to a revitalization of this patch of the park, as well as unify "northern" and "southern" Sugar Hill. Irrespective of specific placement, there was clear consensus among the group that it is a good idea to honor this important piece of CB12's history in some way. Jennifer Hoppa will check on existing or previous requests for co-naming this triangle which may conflict with this latest request; if there is another such proposal, the Committee will work to identify another appropriate spot.

- VII. Joe Wojak of the Inwood Canoe Club raised some management issues regarding the Canoe Club's utility shed, which rests on DPR's Dyckman Marina property, which currently is vacant and pending the award of a new concession contract pursuant to a recent RFP. Ms. Hoppa will follow-up.
- VIII. **DPR Report:** Ms. Hoppa gave an update on the \$3M project in the former Con Rail building at the western terminus of Dyckman Street, to stabilize the building, remove waste and debris, and **install public bathrooms**. The project is expected to go into construction in the late spring '08, and is slated to open in the spring of '09. With regard to the **Dyckman Marina & Café RFPs**, Ms. Hoppa reported that DPR's Revenue Division Staff are meeting with various RFP respondents and allowing each to clarify various questions the agency had regarding their proposals. DPR hopes to identify the successful bidder(s) in the next month or two, with the understanding that any award would be subject to vetting by the Mayor's Office of Contracting Services and a VENDEX review. Depending on the actual services proposed by the successful applicant(s), it is possible that interim facilities and/or services could be available by summer.
- IX. The February Parks Committee agenda may include a presentation of the greening portion of PlaNYC.
- X. The next meeting will be on January 15th at PS/IS176 pending site availability. (Office staff to follow up.)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

Minutes taken by Elizabeth Lorris Ritter and transcribed by Angelisa Almanzar.

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION MINUTES

December 3, 2007

Committee Members Present

Mark Levine
Anita Barberis
James Berlin
Dr. James Freeman
Edith Prentiss

Committee Members Absent

Jonathan Tasini

Board Members Present

Manny Velazquez, Chair
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Martin Collins
Beatrice Hall
Wayne Benjamin
Maria Luna

CB12 Staff: Deborah Blow, Community Coordinator

Guests: Josh Orzeck-DOT, Courtney Turay-Resident, David Frust, Resident; Neil Rolnick, Resident; Barbara Futterman, Resident; Elizabeth Kelly, Resident; Inge Tuncay, Resident; Lokshmi Gendh, Resident; Cheyenne Gross, Resident; Jane & John Broaddus, Resident; Flora Huang, Resident; April Humphrey, Resident; Robert Tortojello, Resident; Julio Orengo, Resident; Carol Blagmar-Resident, Michael Kniat-Resident, Pat Young-Resident; Frank Hess, Office of Assemblyman Herman "D" Farrell; Wendy L. Olivo, Office of Councilman Robert Jackson; Wendy Garcia, Office of the Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer; Raquel Ratif, Office of State Senator Eric Schneiderman

Chair Levine opened the meeting at 7:15pm and welcomed the community.

- Budget cuts targeting the elimination all elevator operators in our community

Flora Huann, an active resident in pursuing the NYCT's rationale for eliminating all subway elevator operators due to budget cuts. She has documented the severe overcrowding of the subway elevators at 181st St. A train and has had correspondence with MTA representative, Marcus Book, who was to appear at our meeting tonight but was a no-show. Although a majority of elevator operators were cut in 1994, the NYCT promised to retain one 24/7 operator at each station in our community. That pledge was reiterated in 2004. Discussion ensued as to the rationale for maintaining an elevator operator as their presence is a deterrent to crime, permits public safety, controls crowds, eliminates graffiti and vandalism while insuring cleanliness of the elevators.

Wendy Garcia, of the Manhattan Borough President's Office, advised the community that they are coordinating efforts with all of our local elected officials to produce a positive and strong front to insure that NYCT's prior commitment will be honored. Some of their plans are to write to Gov. Spitzer, get a flier out to the community and have a press conference at the 190th subway station on Sunday. Frank Hess of Assemblyman Denny Farrell's office asked that we keep the pressure on while the elected officials coordinate their efforts to stop the diminution of services

Submitted attached resolution addressing this situation. With some minor corrections, it was accepted to forward to the full board at our next meeting. The vote was: 5 in favor – T&T Committee,

4 in favor -- CB#12 Board members

21 in favor -- members of the public (no negative votes or abstentions)

- Closure of 184th St. & Overlook Terrace entrance of A Train due to construction

Hints of sealing the entrance of the A train station at above location are presently not founded. Although the entrance doors have been reduced from 4 to 2, there is no change in the width of each doorway. Vibrations are being monitored to ensure no cascading rock, etc.

- Changing signals at 181 St and Haven Avenue to ensure pedestrian safety

DOT study has been done which as present does not warrant any changes at this time. However, when the Lafayette Plaza is opened to traffic (which may not be for another 18 months, as DOT will be working on the wall), DOT is willing to survey it again. To assist, DOT asked the community to document time and day of week that traffic is extremely heavy. Another request from the community was to do the survey in warmer weather, when there is more traffic. At present, this is pending investigation.

- Status of Traffic signals at Edward Morgan Place (157-158 Sts RSD)

The study is still in progress and DOT will report when it is completed.

- Removal of curb lane that permits right-hand turn to Henry Hudson Parkway (corner of Dyckman and Broadway)

Robert Tortorello, owner of meat market on Broadway & Dyckman, requested the removal of the curb lane that permits a right-hand turn to the Henry Hudson Parkway. Submitted photos and stated that 18 traffic accidents have occurred through 11-30-07 along with the tragic death of an eight month old. Vehicular traffic is in conflict with pedestrians attempting to cross those streets. Asked DOT to do a complete study of Dyckman, Broadway and Riverside Drive, as there are five to six options of traffic flowing in all directions.

Submitted attached resolution addressing the situation. With some minor corrections, it was accepted to forward to the full board at our next meeting. The

Vote was: 5 in favor – Traffic & Transportation Committee

3 in favor – CB12 Board members

14 in favor – Members of the public (no negative votes or abstentions)

- Update on Safety issues at Dongan Place & Broadway

DOT reported that lane markings have been done. Community requested status of flashing light, camera and an actual report. There is no funding for a red-light camera (given the 15% cut in services across the board), but will put it on list for the future. Access to any report is by FOIL. Although the speed was surveyed at 35(?) miles, survey not done in the early morning hours when the accidents normally happened. In fact, another accident just happened. Query to make Dongan Place one-way needs to come from the Board, but that too is not the answer—enforcement is.

Meeting adjourned at: 9:05pm Respectfully submitted: Anita Barberis

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES

December 6, 2007

Committee Members Present

Cheryl Pahaham, Chair
Glenda Swanson Massa
Edith Prentiss

Committee Members Excused

Kotie Cannon
Rolando Cespedes
Eduardo Hoepelman
Rolando Rodriguez

Board Members Present

Maria Luna

Staff Present: Jeffrey Laufer, Community Assistant

Guests: Donna Anderson, Sr.-Program Associate Institute for Children and Poverty, Justin Stec- Senior Research Association, Michael Dougherty- Resident, Ted Scoules-Resident, Ricco Cox- Resident, Leah Donaldson- NYC Dept. of Buildings, Johannes von Seckendorff-Resident, Howard Levitsky- Resident, Robbie Corey-Boulet-Resident, Frank Hess-Assemblyman Farrell's Office, Anthony Parson- Resident, Mary Stickler-Resident, Lucille lasello-Resident, Cathy Costales- Resident, Ruddy Thompson- Thompson Development Group, Wendy Garcia-Manhattan Borough President, Matthew Chachere-NMIC Legal Services, Kinn Southall- NY Presbyterian, Phyllis Smijash-Resident

Although there was no quorum, the meeting began at 7:15.

Family Homelessness

Donna Anderson and Justin Stec of the Institute for Children and Poverty discussed trends in family homelessness. According to their estimates, 2.5 to 3.5 million individuals are homeless nationwide; 41 percent of these individuals are in families with children. According to their research, the causes of homelessness are lack of affordable housing or a housing failure for some other reason, domestic violence and overcrowding. The researchers distributed the Institute's books and reports on homelessness.

Randy Quezada from the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) provided key statistics on citywide trends. According to DHS data provided by Mr. Quezada and distributed at the meeting, the number of families in shelter has increased in the past three fiscal years, from 8,778 in FY 2005 to 9,020 in FY 2007, while the number of placements in housing decline during the same period, from 6,680 to 6,181. In addition, the percentage of families returning to the shelter system after one year of being placed in housing more than doubled, from 1 percent in FY 2005 to 3.8 percent in FY 2007 and the percentage of families returning after two years also doubled, from 3.6 percent in FY 2005 to 7.2 percent in FY 2007. Mr. Quezada also discussed various rental assistance programs sponsored by DHS that will replace the Housing Stability Plus rental subsidy program.

29 Overlook Terrace Construction

A discussion between residents and developer Rutherford Thompson took place. The developer agreed to stop work from December 22 through December 25 and promised to see whether he could do the same for December 30 through January 1. The residents wanted help with stopping or mitigating the construction noise and some assurance that nearby buildings would not be damaged as a result of the construction. In addition, the residents repeatedly complained that the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) did not respond to their noise complaints. The developer noted that the

extremely noisy work would be done in about two months. The residents and the developer had the following suggestions:

- 1) The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) approve a traffic mitigation plan, possibly making the street one way during certain hours, establishing a pedestrian walkway and allowing the developer to use the parking lane on the east side of Overlook;
- 2) The developer submit a plan to the New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) and the community protect adjacent buildings from damage; and,
- 3) New York City Department of Environmental Protection approves a taller sound barrier.

Leah Donaldson from DOB explained that DOB did not monitor noise complaints but that it did monitor complaints about permit violations and structural stability. She noted that inspectors have been on-site and have conducted security and stability tests. The developer submitted a report to DOB about vibration monitoring that DOB staff were reviewing. She also asked residents to call 311 with their complaints and to be as specific as possible in their descriptions with the time and location. She expressed her willingness to work with the community on this issue.

Cheryl Pahaham announced that another meeting would be held on January 10, 2008, to which DEP, DOB, DOT and MTA representatives would be invited to respond to the community. The developer promised to attend or send a representative and the Manhattan Borough President's office would also participate in assisting the residents through its Washington Heights/Inwood Construction Task Force.

**Land Use Committee - Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2007**

Committee Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair
James Berlin
Ines Saldana-Olesen

Committee Members Absent

Dora Maria Abreu
Isaiah Bing
Vivian Ducat
Rafael Osoria
Ruddy Santana

Board Members

Guests: Richard Allman, Rachel Winard-Bryan Care, Margery Perlmutter-Bryan Care, Joanne MJ Quan, Columbia University, Lisa Hogarty-Columbia University, Anthony Parson-Resident, Julio Batista-NY Presbyterian Hospital, Sandra Harris-Columbia University Medical Center, Anthony Borelli, Paimaan Lodhi – Manhattan Borough President's office

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1. The meeting commenced at 7:15 PM.
 2. Julio Batista and Sandra Harris, on behalf of New York-Presbyterian Medical Center (the "Medical Center"), began a presentation concerning the Medical Center's way-finding signage project. The Land Use Committee ("LU" or the "Committee") was informed that the project has encountered certain challenges with respect to visibility of the proposed signs. Marjorie Perlmutter, legal counsel for the Medical Center, continued the presentation indicating that the goal of the signage program is to provide enough information so that individuals can self-navigate the campus and that the way-finding signs will be illuminated at night for visibility. The Committee was also informed that zoning limits the height of signs in a residential district to 20 feet or to the ceiling height of the first floor of building to which the sign is adjacent. There are three locations, critical to the Medical Center, where these zoning requirements present a problem and therefore an application has been submitted to the Board of Standards and Appeals ("BSA") seeking a zoning waiver. The three locations are the Broadway Emergency Center Atrium entrance, the 168th Street Vanderbilt Clinic entrance and the corner of 165th Street and Fort Washington Avenue (a sign is desired to alert traffic approaching the hospital along West 165th Street to turn on Fort Washington Avenue). Given the height of the Broadway Atrium entrance the sign proposed for that location can be 20-feet tall. However, photographs and other materials presented to LU suggest that bus, truck and related traffic on Broadway will regularly obscure half of the text on the sign. For the other two locations, due to the first floor ceiling height of the adjacent buildings, the height of the signs is limited to 10 feet and 15 feet. The materials presented to LU also suggest that bus, ambulance and related traffic would regularly obscure portions of the signs at these locations. The Medical Center is seeking a zoning waiver so that each sign can be 30 feet tall and requested that LU pass a resolution approving the BSA application. The BSA application was submitted yesterday, i.e.: on Tuesday, December 4th; a copy of the application was delivered to CB12-M on Monday, December 3rd. After further discussion the representatives of the Medical Center were advised that the Committee was not aware

that they expected approval of the BSA application at this meeting since the application was just submitted and the community board has not had the opportunity to review the matter with BSA. Further, absent a quorum of the Committee, approval could not be considered. The representatives of the Medical Center were advised to return to the Committee in January 2008 to seek the requested approval.

3. Anthony Borelli, Director of Land Use Planning for the Manhattan Borough President's office ("MBPO") and Paimaan Lodhi, an Urban Planner with the MBPO who replaces Demetria Collins as the MBPO representative to Community Board 12-Manhattan, briefed the Committee on the West Harlem Special Zoning District (the "District") proposed for Manhattan Community Board 9 ("CB9"). Mr. Benjamin noted that the briefing was requested so that LU could become more familiar with current rezoning activities in Upper Manhattan and understand how it can learn from these activities and apply lessons learned to proposed planning and rezoning initiatives in Washington Heights and Inwood. Mr. Borelli informed LU that Borough President Scott Stringer wants to focus the city's energy on community-based zoning, not just zoning that is driven by major projects like Columbia University's Manhattanville project. It was noted that zoning in CB9 and much of northern Manhattan has not changed since the 1960 rezoning; we have large swaths of uniform zoning. Elsewhere in Manhattan, growth and development pressure has modified zoning to make it more fine-grained. It was also noted that new zoning districts could be used to help implement and address community needs and concerns. Mr. Borelli advised that, in pursuing the creation of the District, the MBPO sought to take the zoning-related aspects of CB 9's recent 197-a Plan and implement them by way of zoning that fosters preservation and protection; Columbia University's proposed Manhattanville rezoning takes the opposite approach, i.e.: it promotes new large scale development. The Committee was informed that the proposed District includes contextual zoning, inclusionary housing zoning, limitations on the size of new public parking facilities, special permit requirements for institutional uses, anti-harassment provisions and special permit provisions to discourage the demolition of sound, viable residential buildings. Special Zoning districts allow the flexibility to add requirements such as anti-harassment provisions that typically would not be included in conventional zoning districts. The Committee was also informed that the original boundary of the District was from West 125th Street to West 145th Street but that CB 9 requested that the northern boundary be moved to West 155th Street. The MBPO is currently reviewing the District with the Department of City Planning ("DCP"). In discussing what CB12-M can learn for the District, Mr. Borelli suggested that focus could be given to DCP's Sherman Creek rezoning study which, since it is not yet finalized or certified, can be shaped by CB12 to reflect its concerns - perhaps including some of the provisions used in the District. It was further stated that it is important for CB12-M to formally advise DCP and the MBPO of its concerns, goals and objectives with respect to zoning and planning matters; the MBPO can assist CB12-M with getting DCP to address these concerns, goals and objectives.
4. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Wayne A. Benjamin

PUBLIC SAFETY MINUTES
December 5, 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Emilia Cardona
Jennifer Araujo

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Aidee Camacho(excused)
George Espinal
Dr. Joyce Humber-Faison
Dr. James Freeman
Julissa Gomez
Francisco Guzman
Rolando Rodriguez

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

CB12 Staff: Adolfo Cuevas

Guests: Capt. Ventrella-NYPD, Jeannine Jennette-Columbia University Public Safety, Lt. Murphy-NYPD, John Rudy-Resident, Ralph Steinley

Opening remarks were made by Emilia Cardona, Chair of the Public Safety Committee.

A concern that was expressed was the fact that crime statistics are low, but that numbers can be manipulated. The Public Safety Survey was handed at the 34th Precinct Council meeting. A representative from Community Board 12 will attend the January meeting at the 33rd Precinct Community Council.

Jeannine Jennette, representative of Columbia University Public Safety was introduced. She said that NY Columbia Public Safety patrols its own buildings. Arrests are made by the precinct when requested by Columbia Security. Many of the sites are shared and consequently security responsibilities overlap. The major difference between Columbia University Security and Presbyterian Security is that Presbyterian Security is trained to make arrests while Columbia Personnel may not. We distinguish Columbia Personnel from Presbyterian personnel by their uniforms. Presbyterian Personnel wear a uniform similar to NYPD while Columbia Security wears light blue or brown uniforms. The following buildings are under the direct security supervision of Columbia University: School of Nursing, The Vanderbilt Building, The School of Physicians and Surgeons, The Library, The Black Building, and some buildings on Audubon Avenue. Presbyterian Security is responsible for: Milstein Pavilion, The Eye Institute, The Irving Pavilion, the New Heart Center. Security for Neurological is shared by both forces. Between ten and fifteen percent of security personnel are residents of The Washington Heights or Inwood area. The institution has a great relationship with Captain Dowling and the precinct as a whole. Crimes tend to occur within the confines of the different buildings and thus the institution stays in contact with the precinct on a regular basis.

John Rudy and Ralph Steinley, community members introduced themselves and stated that they attended the committee meeting to listen to safety tips.

Lt. Murphy of 33rd Precinct gave stats on crimes, year to date. There has been a decrease of 6% in crimes. The Lieutenant made comments that the updated survey should be very useful. Emilia Cardona, Chair of the Committee passed along a complaint about a Burgundy Toyota in front of a driveway on 164th Street and Fort Washington Avenue. Lt. Murphy continues to share tips with everyone on how to be safe. He suggested everyone have a plan, don't carry too much money, check your backseat before getting in, etc. He's concerned about robberies and grand larcenies this time of year. They work closely with the hospital because 25% of the grand larcenies come from hospitals. He reported that police cameras are being placed around the neighborhood. Some locations receiving them are 157th and 159th Streets and Broadway. The cameras alleviate the strain of having an officer in certain locations. Mrs. Cardona stated that having more officers is a priority for this community and that these cameras will definitely help.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Araujo. Transcribed by Adolfo Cuevas and Angelisa Almanzar.

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES -- December 6, 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT – Steve Simon, Chair, Isaiah Bing, Martin Collins, Beatrice Hall, Helen Morik, Pamela Palanque North.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT – Rolando Cespedes, Matt Chachere (Public Member).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Maria Luna, Edith Prentiss.

GUESTS: Margaret L. Fracaro, RN; Harry Whitbread, Ethel L. Stoll, Norma DeCandido, Juana Luna, Yasmin Peralta, Maureen Lin.

1. This meeting was held jointly with the NY-Presbyterian Hospital Community Health Council. Edith Prentiss, also chair of the Health Council, opened and ran the meeting until S. Simon's arrival at 7:16 p.m.
2. **How NY-Presbyterian Hospital Handles Legionnaires' Disease and MRSA Infections** – Margaret Fracaro, RN, Nursing Director of Epidemiology, distributed handouts and discussed both topics: There were three separate clusters of Legionnaires' Disease in the Milstein Building between 2002-2006, and four patients died. Lawsuits are continuing. Pursuant to State DOH directive, signs have been posted at fountains advising staff and visitors not to drink the water; bottled water is provided instead. Although no new cases have been reported, signs will remain until DOH says they can come down. Milstein is the only NYPH building affected. The hospital is cleaning the pipes with disinfectant regularly and with DOH approval increased the temperature of the hot water to help kill the *Legionella* bacteria. The disease is transmitted via drinking water, not by infected persons. The most common risk factor is heavy cigarette smoking. Chronic lung disease is also common. The most intense risk factor is organ transplantation; the drugs used to protect the new organ also compromise the patient's defense system against infection. Patients who take corticosteroid medicines are also at high risk.

MRSA (methicillin-resistant *staphylococcus aureus*) has become an increasing problem over the last decade as staph has become more resistant to treatment as a result of unnecessary antibiotic use. Despite recent press reports, it is not considered a crisis nor an epidemic. Usually, it is fairly benign. No one has died of MRSA at NYPH although there have been a lot of cases. Most infections are limited to bruises and scrapes. If you wash your clothes, towels and hands, you should be OK. It can be contracted in the community as well as in the hospital. She was unfamiliar with recent case of PS 152 student reported in the *Manhattan Times*; child may have been taken to a different ER. NYPH routinely screens patients in the ICU and those coming in for major surgery. It is not done regularly for women in delivery; 300 moms were checked in a test, only one case found. Very young and very old are most susceptible. Basic hygiene most useful; special soaps not needed. How frequently has it shown up at NYPH? No statistics available right now, but since all cases must be reported to NYC Health Dept., they should be available soon by zip code, not necessarily cases treated or contracted at hospital. Fracaro's staff has made 2800 observations checking on whether doctors and nurses in clinical areas are washing their hands before treating patients.

M. Collins: would you support installing instant hand sanitizers in schools?

M. Fracaro: yes, it would help. Would have to check fire regulations because of alcoholic content and would have to think about where exactly to put them. Prefers Purell.

3. **Resolution Calling Upon Con Edison to Adopt a Rodent Control Strategy for the M29 Transmission Line Construction Project** – M. Collins proposed a resolution for the committee's consideration. S. Simon, P. North and E. Prentiss suggested various changes, all of which were accepted. The amended resolution was unanimously approved by 6 committee members, 2 board members and 6 members of the public.

H. Morik, M. Collins and I. Bing reported that they plan to attend a meeting of the Bronx Community Board 8 health committee to urge it to support resolutions similar to the ones adopted by Board 12 last month calling for substantial utility rate reductions for Inwood residents and businesses during the construction project and calling for curb-to-curb roadway restoration. In regard to another issue raised by CB 12 – the need for Con Edison to provide traffic control officers in Inwood as it has agreed to do in Yonkers – M. Collins has spoken to Deputy Inspector of the 34th Precinct and will bring this issue before the Public Safety and Traffic & Transportation committees.
4. **New Business** – E. Prentiss raised an issue concerning the placement of six cellular phone antennas on top of the Hilltop Pharmacy, a one-story building at Fort Washington Ave. and W. 187th Street. There are 13 cooling units on top of Fivo's Pizza, the neighboring store. She reported that someone she knows measured the microwave emissions from

across the street and found them to be excessive. She questioned whether these towers are safe, and it was agreed that the District Manager should be asked to have the responsible agencies look into it. M. Collins said CB 12 looked into this situation two years ago, and DEP found the cell phone towers to be acceptable.

Maureen Lin presented her idea for the Go Evergreen Kids project, an energy-savings idea competition for students 9-18 years old that would be run through a website yet to be determined. She pointed out that a simple idea such as saving electricity by turning off light bulbs at a rate of 27,000 watts per year would remove 37 lbs. of carbon dioxide from the air. It was explained that CB 12 could not sponsor the website. She was encouraged to contact Fresh Youth Initiatives and other local youth groups as well as the Youth & Education Committee for assistance.

5. The mail was reviewed.
6. Next meeting – Jan. 10, 2008.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, S. Simon

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (EDC) MINUTES

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Committee Members Present

Zead Ramadan, Chair
Julio Peguero
Nelson Rojas
Rita L. McKee

Committee Members Absent

Ruddy Santana
Janifer Wilson

Committee Members Excused

Tony Lopez
Rafael Osoria

Guests: Sergeant Saladini-33rd Pct., P.O. Figueroa 33rd Pct., P.O. Ramirez 33rd Pct., PO Gana, 33rd Pct. P.O. Tony Trinidad -34th Pct; P. Kolaj, 177 St. Italian Café; Delsia Morel, Marilu & Deysi Restaurant

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm.

The Chair explained to all present the SLA and EDC process and the committee's criteria for recommendations to the entire Board.

SLA Renewal Licenses:

On-Premises Liquor: JBD Billiard Corp., 174 Audubon Ave. (between 173rd and 174th)

Applicant was not present. Sergeant Saladini of the 33rd Precinct noted that the location is presently closed, having been recently "nuisance abated" for numerous sales to minors and noise disturbances; there have also been six narcotics arrests, both in front of and inside the location.

Committee Vote: REJECTED, 4 ayes, 0 nays. Public Vote: 2 abstentions

Restaurant Beer & Wine: El Guanaco Restaurant and Pupuseria, 4195 Broadway (between 177th and 178th)

Applicant was not present. This is a long-standing restaurant in the community and committee members noted its good reputation. No issues or objections by Precinct; no SLA issues.

Committee Vote: APPROVED, 4 ayes, 0 nays. Public Vote: 2 ayes, 0 nays

SLA New Licenses:

Restaurant Beer & Wine: Billiard & Coffee Shop, 88 Nagle Ave. (at Sickles)

Applicant was not present. SLA website shows 16 applications for a license, all having been rejected. Some Temporary (1-day) Licenses have been issued, reflecting usage of location for special events. Per P.O. Tony Trinidad, Inspector Capul of the 34th Precinct stated that he is strongly opposed to issuing this license, citing a history of disturbances, presence of a school one block away, the prevalence of drug use in that area, and the concern that this location could be used again to promote large parties that grow uncontrollable, also that it has been used in the past by combining it with adjoining storefronts to create a lounge or club.

Committee Vote: REJECTED, 4 ayes, 0 nays. Public Vote: 2 nays

Restaurant Beer & Wine: Marilu & Deysi Restaurant, 206 Audubon Ave. (between 175th and 176th)

Applicant was present; Julio Peguero and Nelson Rohas provided translation. Applicant stated she had begun renting November 1, 2007 in this 6 table location, which was previously an Ecuadoran restaurant. The 33rd Precinct expressed strong opposition to granting a license at this location, which has seen 86 drug arrests this year alone (including one in front of the restaurant on 11/13/07, which the applicant readily understood). Those are in addition to numerous noise complaints from area residents. The Chair expressed to the applicant that the committee's primary concern is public safety and community well-being.

Committee Vote: REJECTED, 4 ayes, 0 nays. Public Vote: 1 aye, 0 nays, 1 abstention

Restaurant Beer & Wine: 177 St. Italian Cafe, 1341-43 St. Nicholas Avenue (NW corner)

Applicant was present. Applicant provided renovation photos and documentation on his business. The restaurant will provide a Southern Italian menu for 40 seats, with 8-9 employees working 9 am – 1 am, Sunday – Thursday, 9 am – 3 am, Friday – Saturday. There is wait service, no bar. There were no police objections to this location; the owners are associated with La Famiglia Pizzeria, a restaurant of good reputation, and own other food service businesses.

Committee Vote: APPROVED, 4 ayes, 0 nays. Public vote: 2 ayes, 0 nays

Restaurant Beer & Wine: El Pollo Dorado Restaurant, 1497 St. Nicholas Avenue (between 184th and 185th)

Applicant was not present. Having no information, and at the suggestion of the Assistant Chair, the committee voted to table this applicant until the next meeting, and to inform the applicant once again that the committee will not recommend new applicants who do not appear before the committee and public to answer questions. CB12 staff will send this correspondence immediately.

Committee Vote: TABLED, 4 ayes, 0 nays

The Committee discussed splitting the EDC into two functional committees: one to handle SLA and TLC license applications; one to develop forums and business resources and to consider other ED issues; how other agencies and entities might serve as resources to the EDC, and in joint projects. The Chair stated the decision is in the hands of CB12's Executive Committee. The committee also discussed how planful rezoning of WaHI could impact business growth. All EDC correspondence is now updated; copies of the new questionnaire will be provided to the precincts for comment and/or suggestions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Rita L. McKee

COMMITTEE FOR THE CONCERNS OF THE AGING - MINUTES
December 11, 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT Sybil R. Dodson-Lucas, Chair Fern Hertzberg, Asst. Chair Gloria Vanterpool, 2 nd Asst. Chair Beatrice Hall Nelson Rojas Ramona Gomez	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT Helen Morik	BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT James Berlin Maria Luna
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Staff: Deborah Blow, Jeffrey Laufer

Guests: Ebenezer Smith, District Manager-CB12, Norma DeCandido, Jim McNiff-Residents, Edward Daniels, Alberto Murray-Veterans Administration, Fr. Chair Sandy Dulitz & wife Sylvia, NYPD-PO Margarita DeJesus, 33rd Pct., Lt. Scianna-1 Police Plaza, Zamira Setaro-Con Edison, Betty Lehmann-Isabella,

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Meeting convened at 10:15am, opening remarks by Sybil Dodson-Lucas, Chair

Some of our long term invitees were present at this year end closing such as; long term board member James Berlin, Former Chair of CB12, Mr. & Mrs. Sandy Dulitz.

Around table discussion was held wherein committee members and guests shared thoughts about significant events in 2007 and shared their hopes in 2008. As group began to settle in Ms. Dodson shared her plans for the upcoming season spearheading many Aging concerns still on the table:

- o Veteran concerns
- o Women's health issues
- o Updates on Gerontology
- o Supporting Youth concerns
- o New strategies for the new year
- o Suggestions on reorganizing some senior organizations in Washington Heights and Inwood.

Ms. Dodson thanked the group and their continued efforts and tireless support in community service. Ms. Dodson expressed great comfort in recognizing when a season has completed its course.

Wishing **all** the best for the coming year!

Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Blow, reviewed by Sybil Dodson