

PRESENT

Dora Maria Abreu	Cynthia Carrión	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Jackie Rowe Adams	Martin Collins	Maria Luna
Richard Allman	George Cruz	Glenda Swanson Massa
Rev. Antonio Almonte	George Espinal	Carole Mulligan
Juan Carlos Alonzo	George Fernandez	Edgard Nau
Anita Barberis	Nicole Foster	Pam Palanque North
Wayne Benjamin	Julissa Gomez	Cheryl Pahaham
James Berlin	Melanie Hidalgo	Elizabeth Pepin
Isaiah Bing	David Ernst Kach	Audrey Perez
Emilia Cardona	Rabbi Yosef Kalinsky	Edith Prentiss

EXCUSED

Leonardo Blackman
Rolando Cespedes
Mark Levine
Tony Lopez
Andria Reyes

ABSENT

Rita McKee
Helen Morik
Jasmine Moy
Manny Velazquez

The Chair, Pamela Palanque North, called the meeting to order at 7:17pm. As there was a quorum, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter moved to adopt the agenda; Zead Ramadan seconded. Ms. Lorris Ritter offered an amendment to add under New Business a resolution from the floor regarding marriage equality, and urged all to stay to keep quorum; there was no objection to the motion. A motion by Emilia Cardona to adopt the November meeting minutes was second by Wayne Benjamin; there was no objection. Ms. North gave her report:

- Wished all happy holidays for the many holidays of various religious and cultural traditions. Also noted the somber passing of World AIDS Day on December 1st.
- Thanked all who participated in last month's retreat, and Committee Chairs for updating the annual Statement of District Needs.
- Had a lengthy conference call with the State Liquor Authority on several items including Vito Verso's pending application. It was an informative conversation which offered much perspective and background on the licensing process. Requested that the SLA send to CB12 copies of any correspondence from the community sent directly to the SLA in support of or opposition to pending applications so that we all are operating from the same base of information. This is public information, but often members of the public do not know to copy the Community Board.
- Met with the 181st Street BID, prompted by Land Use Committee Chair Wayne Benjamin's enquiries regarding a hotel under construction on the north side of W 181st Street, just east of Amsterdam Ave., where the old Carvel was. Construction on the building appears to have stalled.
- The NYC Street Activities Permit Office has announced new procedures, and currently is accepting applications on-line. CB12 is working with SAPO to ensure that our Board's guidelines are available on-line to prospective applications. We also are working with other boards and the Borough Board on best practices.
- NYC Office of Emergency Management met with CB12 about OEM's restructuring of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs).
- Attended a press conference on W 72nd Street & Broadway with the Borough President regarding proposed MTA cuts, especially those which would eliminate transit passes for schoolchildren. We will look to see if there is movement to rescind that proposed cut.
- Gave an interview to the CU Daily Spectator regarding the Baker Field development project.
- Attended newly-elected Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez's office opening and ribbon cutting, which was well attended despite pouring rain.
- Attended the 33rd precinct recognition event at the Morris-Jumel Mansion, honoring officers and also bidding farewell to Chief Diaz.
- Noted the recent Borough President's Community Board event at the American Museum of Natural History, which was particularly well attended by CB12 members; thanked all for their participation.
- Supporting CB12 office in terms of operations; work/speak daily with the DM and staff, regarding meeting coverage and other work. Also ongoing staff training, and training of our treasurer which will help with budgeting.

District Manager's Report, Ebenezer Smith (7:24pm):

- Thanked all who helped make the retreat a success.
- CB12 is working hard with the US Census Bureau to help spread the word about the census and ensure maximal participation within CB12. Also collaborating w/ the USCB to use CB12 office space to conduct recruitment testing sessions in January.
- Attended grants workshop to learn more about how to apply for federal, state and local funds for social services.
- NYC DOT has approved two new traffic signals, at the intersections of Audubon & W 166th, and Amsterdam & W 190th St.
- Met with CAU's Director of SAPO with Ms. Cardona, and is planning a meeting with events planners within CB12 for sometime in January to explain the new procedures.
- The 181st Street BID announced its new initiative, "Pride in the Heights", a new on-line 'zine/web portal providing business listings, a resource section, events, social networking and similar content/aps: www.prideoftheheights.com.

Nominating Committee (7:31pm): Glenda Swanson-Massa described the election process: for each candidate, a two-minute speech, followed by a short Q&A of no more than two questions per candidate, with any individual CB member asking no more than one question per candidate. All questions are to be written on index cards which were distributed and collected by Committee members.

- For Chair, Pamela Palanque North & Zead Ramadan. Mr. Ramadan stepped down in the interests of unity, saying that as First Vice Chair for five years, Ms. North should be Chair, and has done a great job in the six weeks since stepping up following Manny Velazquez's resignation as Chair. Mr. Ramadan vowed to work with Ms. North, who gave extensive remarks regarding her qualifications and prior community experience.
- The floor was open for nominations for Secretary, for which there were no candidates. Ms. Lorris Ritter nominated Mr. Ramadan, who declined. There were no additional nominations. It was explained that according to the bylaws, the Vice Chairs can fill the Secretary's responsibilities, and that the Chair can appoint individuals for the purposes of taking minutes at meetings.

- Each of the candidates in attendance (for First Vice Chair: Emilia "Toni" Cardona and George Espinal; for Second Vice Chair: Isaiah "Obie" Bing and Cheryl Pahaham; for Treasurer: Edith Prentiss) made brief remarks, and answered questions from the Board members. Rita McKee, candidate for Assistant Secretary, was absent from the meeting.
- Ballots were distributed, the members filled them out and the Nominating Committee members adjourned to count them.

Elected Officials' & Representatives' Reports (8:13pm):

Jaritzza Taveras for Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer: The BP has called out the MTA for transit hikes, especially for students. Over a thousand people attended the Food & Climate Forum organized by MBPO. Reminded CB 12 members that reapplications are due December 31st (please submit early). Also looking for new members; information sessions will be taking place next month (January).

Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez (8:15pm):

- Congratulated all CB 12 members especially those running for CB offices.
- Announced that his father passed away, but is still working hard & trying his best at his new position.
- Informed the committee of a TLC pilot project for multiple passenger pick-up.
- Supports City Council Intro Bill 1093 to support more diversity in FDNY. The program also gives ten points for high school grads. Looking forward to bringing these discussions to the community.
- Press Conference with Speaker C. Quinn to show position on MTA increases, which would have a negative impact on a half-million students. Looking to postpone the vote on this issue; it is a shame to balance the MTA's budget on the backs of students and their families.
- His inauguration is delayed and announced Janice Minott as new Legislative staff. Please be in contact with Meghan Sallomi for scheduling appointments. Gave his new office number (917-521-2616) and his personal number (646-765-5029).

Council Member Robert Jackson (8:22pm):

- Congratulated CB 12 members for working together to represent our community.
- Please refer to written December 2009 Community Report.
- Asks community members to please report toy guns that look real to his office.
- Announced that he is not supporting the Kingsbridge Armory shopping mall project because service workers would only be making minimum wage while construction workers would be making much more.
- This Friday, December 18th he is looking to pass resolution in the Council calling on the State to count inmates where they resided prior to incarceration, not where they are incarcerated, when redrawing legislative districts. He is also asking that parents include in the household count any children who are in college.

Frank Hess for NYS Assemblymember Herman D. Farrell, Jr. (8:29pm): wished everyone a good year and referenced the written report.

Yuvelqui Rivera for NYS Senator Eric Schneiderman (8:30pm): Referred to written report and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Rafael A. Escano for NYC Comptroller Bill Thompson (8:31pm): This will be the last time speaking to CB 12 in this capacity. Learned a lot from the community and thanks everyone for their support.

Public Session (8:33pm)

Edith Prentiss, Disabled in Action: Informed the Board that NYC proposed cuts include Access-A-Ride, which assists individuals that are unable to use mass transit. At tomorrow's MTA Board Meeting, Access-A-Ride fares could be doubled, and the policy changed so people are taken only to a local bus stop. Looking forward to getting support from the Board, and the Traffic & Transportation committee.

Juan Carlos Alonzo (8:37pm): Thanks Ebenezer Smith for translation services for Housing Committee meeting. Informed the Board in his disappointment in MTA cuts and welcomes Board members to come out to MTA demonstrations. Jim Berlin, Parliamentarian, made a point of order on the proper use of the Public Session, where speakers are to be limited to members of the public, not members of the Board speaking on matters of Board business, though Board members may speak on behalf of other organizations, such as in the case of the previous speaker.

Pedro Perez, Community Resident (8:39pm): Voiced his concerns and problems with unlicensed street vendors. It is difficult to walk on St. Nicholas Avenue due to encroaching street vendors. Also very happy that Ydanis is here.

Jennifer Hoppa, NYC Parks & Recreation Department (8:40pm): Announced Indian Road Playground renovation now underway. Thanks MBP Scott Stringer, Councilmember Robert Jackson and community collaboration. Looking to remove a few trees due to fungus and other damage; working with the Forestry Division. There will be a site meeting Thursday morning at the Indian Road Playground to discuss trees in question. Also available to scheduling other mutually convenient times if community members are unable to attend on Thursday. Steve Simon: Are there exciting new playground features members should know about? A: It will be welcoming of different age uses, as well as a Native American theme and art, such as a long house, canoe and wigwam. There also will be 24 new types of plants. Additionally, more than 3,000 trees have been planted in area. Edith Prentiss: Accessible features? A: Accessible features will be included for all ages and abilities; will e-mail details.

Dan Bader, Manhattan Times (8:45pm): Announced new features on the Manhattan Times website for breaking news, such as Miguel Martinez' sentencing. www.manhattantimes.news.com. (MT beat the NY Post by 15 minutes!) Sign up for daily updates and become a Facebook fan.

Committee Reports (8:47pm)

Edith Prentiss for the Economic Development Committee: Votes on the resolutions were as follows:

- #1: recommend SLA renew an On-premises Liquor ("OPL") license for Senoko/107 West (811 W. 187) passed 35-1-0-0.
- #2: recommend SLA REJECT an OPL license renewal for 4446 Broadway Restaurant, Inc./Serie 56 passed unanimously (36 votes).
- #3: recommend SLA renew an On-premises Liquor ("OPL") license for La Isa Restaurant Corp. (1242 St. Nicholas Ave.) passed 35-1-0-0.
- #4: recommend SLA renew an Eating Place Beer license for Pollo Dorado Fried Chicken (1497 St. Nicholas Ave.) passed 35-1-0-0.
- #5: recommend SLA renew a Restaurant Wine license for Pollo El Provocon (1495 St. Nicholas Ave.) passed unanimously (36 votes).
- #6: recommend SLA renew a TLC livery car base license for Discovery Transportation, Inc. passed 35-1-0-0.

Anita Barberis for the Traffic & Transportation Committee: (9:09pm) Resolution regarding traffic patterns on W 157th and W 158th Streets. Mr. Benjamin: the Board is responding to Assemblymember Farrell's recent letter requesting that DOT look at this intersection. Pedestrian safety is important, but isn't focus of the resolution; he suggested that language be added to the reso "...would be enhanced..." Mr. Berlin: that would require going to two agencies because enforcement is an issue for the NYPD, apart from a traffic study by DOT. Mr. Barberis: there is no reason we can't send the reso to two different agencies; accept as friendly. Mr. Simon: it should be a "traffic and pedestrian study" and the reso should be send to One Police Plaza, not to the precinct. The reso passed unanimously (37 votes).

Nominating Committee (9:15pm): Glenda Swanson-Massa announced the election results, based on a total of 37 ballots cast: For Chair: Pamela Palanque North (36 votes); for First Vice Chair, Emilia Cardona (28 votes; George Espinal received 9 votes); for Second Vice Chair, Cheryl Pahaham (19 votes; Isaiah Bing received 17 votes); for Assistant Secretary, Rita McKee (34 votes); for Treasurer, Edith Prentiss (35 votes). Ms. Massa congratulated all the winners and thanked the Committee.

Emilia Cardona for the Public Safety Committee: refer to minutes. SAPO is still reviewing outstanding procedures; hopefully CB12's guidelines will be put on line, or perhaps applicants will be referred to CB12's website. Next meeting is January 13th @ the Nagle Ave. Y; the main topic is domestic violence, but on advice of social service agencies we did not use those terms, as a way of helping to get more participation from people who might shy away from something that is billed as a DV meeting. Regarding fire safety issues discussed at the last meeting, she reminded all to check smoke detector batteries, and be especially careful with seasonal hazards—trees near radiators, candles, etc.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter for the Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee: reiterated Ms. Hoppa's comments re: Indian Road playground tree removal. Announced mulching events in early January to recycle Christmas trees. Next meeting 1/5; NoMAA will provide a look at the arts in '09.

Steve Simon for the Health & Environment Committee: reported on joint meeting with the Youth & Education Committee to review issue of underground spills on 219th beneath what is now PS/MS 278 and PS 18. Next meeting on past clinical drug trials, which may have violated patients' rights; thanks to Edgard Nau for bringing this issue to our attention.

Cheryl Pahaham for the Housing & Human Services Committee: Last meeting discussed the benefits of establishing community courts, including the experience with public safety and law enforcement in East Harlem as a result of community court there; people report a higher level of satisfaction of judicial efficacy from community courts.

Edgard Nau for the Committee on Concerns for the Aging (9:30pm): issues with meal planning at senior centers, especially problems with requiring frozen (rather than fresh-cooked) foods, which are less expensive, as well as religious organizations that have problems with the proposed requirements for menu planning lead times of six months.

Wayne Benjamin for the Land Use Committee (9:32pm): new construction on W 181st Street near Amsterdam is a mixed-use commercial development including a hotel. It is an 8-story building between a 5- and a 6-story building (with some floors below ground), but since older buildings have higher floor clearance, the new building will only appear to be about one story higher. At issue, however, is the legality of this mixed-use building; it is important to get the facts of the matter and the applicable zoning regulations before making a determination as to our support of or opposition to this development. Met with Edwin Marshall of City Planning, and Anthony Borelli and Paimaan Lodhi of the Borough President's Office about some of the planning issues raised at the retreat and the soft-site analysis as discussed at the retreat. It would be useful for LU to host informational workshops to bring people up to speed on the "ABCs" of zoning, and on project- and site-specific issues, as well as how to use tools of zoning to accomplish desired goals. Mr. Simon: Can we invite the 181st developer to a meeting? A: We are reaching out to him; he is a member of the BID, but has not been responsive; we will reiterate the invitation. Mr. Ramadan: It was reported that the developer ran out of money; what is the status of the project? A: It's an unfinished bldg, but not a hole in the ground.

Cynthia Carrión for the Youth & Education Committee (9:36pm): echoed previous comments. We discussed what we will be working on in the current year: creating open forums and town halls as they pertain to our committee topics. Mr. Alonzo: we also talked about how to reach out to more youth and other constituencies to get more input into what we are doing at the Board, and how to get involved in youth and other issues.

New Business (9:40pm): Ms. Lorris Ritter introduced a resolution calling on our State elected officials to reintroduce and pass legislation in support of marriage equality, similar legislation having passed through the Assembly but failed in the Senate earlier this month. After a brief discussion regarding corrections to form and clarity, the resolution passed 21-2-5-0. Richard Allman introduced a resolution regarding the Comptroller's office, which he withdrew based on feedback of several members who spoke to the matter.

Ms. North thanked Ms. Lorris Ritter for her service as Secretary and Ms. Swanson-Massa for her service as Nominating Committee Chair.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 9:55pm.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary; and Cynthia Carrión, who took minutes while Ms. Lorris Ritter was out of the room with the Nominating Committee.

Committee for the Concerns for Aging
December 8th, 2009

Committee Members present

Gloria Vanterpool, Edgar Nau, Elizabeth Pepin

Guests

Fern Hertzberg Dir. of ARC XV1 Washington Sr. Center / Co-Chair of WHICOA

Sharon Asherman Dir. of Nagle Y Sr. Center Co-Chair of WHICOA

Staff: Paola Garcia

Guest Speakers

Karen Taylor & Ruth Cordero Representatives from Dept. for Aging

Carmelita Harry, Principal Liaison with the Dept. of Health

24 representatives from 9 of our community Senior Centers as follows: Star Ctr- Deborah Morgan, Edila Rice, Ms. Valediez, John Vezex, David; Residents-Norma Decandido, Ethel Stoll, Margaret Fitzgerald; Dyckman Ctr.-Burmita Diaz, Margaret Wooley, Maria Luna; YM&YMHA – Sharon Asherman, Dorothy Pasquale, Anita Epstein, Miriam Zattelk; Rain Inwood – Alison Ortiz, Raymond Gil; DFTA Carmilta Harry, Ruth Cordero; Riverstone Senior Ctr. – Lynne Deivins, Olga Lauriano, Feda Dominguez

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Meeting opened at 10:15am by Chairperson, Gloria Vanterpool.

Ms. Vanterpool gave everyone a warm welcoming. All Committee members were introduced especially our new committee member, Ms. Elizabeth Pepin.

Announcement made prior to the agenda.

"Manhattan Times", local newspaper, will be posting a column, "Senior Corner" each month that will be discussing issues relevant to seniors. Seniors are invited to submit articles of interest.

The committee was informed that Nutrition Changes in Food Standards would be changed as per directive of the Dept. for Aging. It was agreed to cosponsor a meeting with WHICOA for clarity.

Nutrition Changes in Food Standards

Key Points

Food providers have changed the standards in senior centers

Senior centers in WAHI will be affected

Standards have been in effect for the last 18 months

City has determined it needed to set standards for the meals provided due to increase in diabetes, obesity and hypertension in our city

Menus from the centers will be analyzed for sodium, fat content, and for the daily nutritional values

Main Concerns

Seniors agitated about this directive

Money- Kosher standards need to be met and it is more expensive to buy food in low sodium.

Canned foods have to be replaced with frozen foods, which are costly and freezer space is limited at the centers

Menus - must be created six months in advance for approval which takes a longer amount of time and more staff. The seniors do not like the tastes of the food and most of them throw out the food.

Solutions

Strengthen communications between the staff and nutritionist

Collect home recipes from seniors

Ease in the standards

Meet w/meal committees at individual centers

It was agreed that the Aging Committee will follow up on this issue with WHICOA and report back to the centers. Meeting adjourned @ 11:20am

Next meeting will be Jan. 12, 2010 Speakers from JASA and Care COOP @ 10am

Minutes prepared by E. Pepin and edited by G. Vanterpool for submission

Community Board 12, Manhattan Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee
December 1, 2009 – CB 12 Office (711 W. 168th Street)

Committee Members present: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair; Emilia Cardona; Zead Ramadan; David Kach; Cynthia Carrion, Jasmine Moy; Rabbi Yosef Kalinsky; Joe Wojak; George Fernandez; **Excused:** George Nelson Preston

Guests: Steven Foxworth, Jennifer Hoppa; NYC Department of Parks & Recreation; Mino Lora, People's Theatre Project; Amy Gavaris, New York Restoration Project; Tracy Eberhardt, Harlem River Boat Club; Jenny Collins, Rocky's Dog Run; and 6 or 7 people who neglected to sign in.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm with opening remarks by Elizabeth Lorris Ritter:

- Sandra Garcia Betancourt is unable to attend this evening's meeting, but will come in January and give a full report on NoMAA's activities.
- Announced upcoming events, including an art exhibit on the subway elevators ("Going Up," 11/29-12/6 at Hebrew Tabernacle, 551 Ft. Washington Ave.) and a Cornerstone Choral Concert (12/6 at Holyrood Church, 179th & Ft. Washington Ave.)
- Distributed copies of the Board's final FY '11 capital and expense budget priority rankings. Additional PEP officers came in as #4 expense priority, higher than ever before, with increases to maintenance staff and parks' rec center afterschool programming also coming in the top 20. Three parks projects (path paving; reconstruction of Cloisters stairs in Ft. Tryon; refurbishment of Highbridge Tower, including restoration of carillon) came in the top 20 capital items.
- Outreach from CB 4 Theater Task Force Chair for borough-wide initiative on performing arts; will follow up at the CB reception later this week.

Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance by NoMAA Board Chair (and Committee member) Zead Ramadan: gave a brief history of the organization and its founding. NoMAA's goal is to strengthen arts in Washington Heights & Inwood as a matter of cultural enrichment and economic development. NoMAA runs the annual Uptown ArtStroll; sponsors art openings and events throughout the year; runs a local gallery in its office space; offers a variety of workshops and technical assistance for artists on business issues and grant opportunities; and provides significant re-granting, distributing thousands of dollars to individual artists for projects and installations. NoMAA recently won the prestigious Union Square Award.

Mino Lora, People's Theater Project: PTP works alone and in partnership with DPR and other CBOs to provide free and pay-what-you-can programs to the community, including summer yoga, stories at the Morris-Jumel Mansion, theatre programs for children, classes for seniors at Isabella Geriatric Center. PTP participates in Casa Duarte's annual CulturArte Festival. They recently received a grant from the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center Neighborhood Fund which they used to produce a play, "Live Your Life," written and performed by children, 12-19, and have a new play, "The Lords of Why," based on the life of Fredrick Douglass, in development; the play will be read in February for Black History month. They are always on the lookout for free or low-cost space in the community for their programming; several committee members offered suggestions for follow-up. Ms. Lora handed out brochures, and gave contact information: www.peopletheaterproject.org

Renovation of public restrooms at New Leaf Café: Stephen Foxworth, architect, and Jennifer Hoppa, Northern Manhattan Parks Administrator, for NYC Department of Parks & Recreation. DPR's restaurant concessionaire, the New York Restoration Project, will be renovating the restaurant/park's public bathrooms in the triple-landmark-protected (i.e., city, state and federal) building. NYC Parks & Recreation will be installing an exterior ADA ramp on the building's east side under the loggia to minimize impact on the building's historic fabric and profile. \$100k for the access ramp is funded through the Mayor's office, and \$350k for the bathrooms through the City Council. The Committee expressed interest in access to the upper part of restaurant, which is as important as ADA compliance for the lower bathroom area. Ms. Gavaris of NYRP (the concessionaire) noted that the upstairs is compliant, tables and other obstacles to the door by the upper ramp having been removed. There was a general discussion on the materials being used for the bathroom, which will be durable, and more aesthetically pleasing (and functional) than what is there now. The Committee was satisfied with the presentation and the proposed plan, and had no additional questions.

Updates on DPR projects & programs from Ms. Hoppa:

- **Quisqueya playground renovation** by the State Department of Transportation is ongoing; the contractors estimate two years to completion, though we anticipate they will be done sooner.
- In response to Committee member George Fernandez' question regarding rubber mats at playgrounds at **Monsignor Kett playground**, Ms. Hoppa will refer to maintenance. Regarding a possible renovation of that playground, she indicated that funding comes from City Council members and Borough Presidents when the community and the Board advocate for these projects through the budget priorities process, citing the Indian Road and Bennett Park playgrounds as examples. She encouraged community parents to come together to encourage the City (i.e., CB12 and Councilmember Rodriguez) to fund such a project in the next cycle (i.e., FY '12).
- **Million trees initiative:** more than 11,000 trees have been planted in Inwood & Washington Heights; excluding street trees. The trees have improved forest quality, added more plant diversity and beautified community parks.
- **Harlem River Boathouse:** the RFP process has stalled as DPR has been unable to get the \$500k needed for the debris removal required prior to issuing an RFP. Even attempts to get federal and state monies specifically targeted to debris removal have been unsuccessful. Parks is currently discussing with NYRP the possibility of their renovating the site as part of a concession arrangement or extension of their current management agreement. NYRP is in the process of terminating their relationship with the current subcontractor at Peter J. Sharp boathouse, and would like to be able to offer more programming to the community, both there and at the additional site. Ms. Hoppa noted that any arrangement would require financially accessible recreation amenities (e.g., low-cost boat rentals, free learn-to-row programming, free water access via a public boat put-in/ramp, etc.). The Committee echoed the importance of these programming needs, stressing that it would oppose any concession or agreement that does not include these features.

- **Highbridge Park:** there have been some difficulties with the contractor for the dog run renovation; they are working out logistics with a new contractor, and estimate that the work should be finished by March. (Work also is being done by NYS DOT to create a new Skate Park in Highbridge Park, under the Alexander Hamilton Bridge access ramps)
- **Plaza Juan Bosch:** the Public Design Committee had some concerns with the proposed book monument, which will be redesigned to ensure durability and anti-graffiti protection. DPR is considering adding more seating to the area given expected high use and the number of events. The Committee expressed some concern with the PDC process.
- Parks will come to the Committee next month to discuss the **Highbridge Park ball field** at Amsterdam Ave. & 174th St. The current infield has short baselines, but the current space may not be large enough to expand the infield while also maintaining an outfield sufficiently large to accommodate public safety in the adjacent pedestrian walkways and pool area. Parks hope to attend in January to share preliminary designs.
- New benches and sidewalks have been installed at **Laurel Hill Terrace**. The benches are oriented to the street, rather than to the river/park vista, for public safety, i.e., so that people don't sit with their backs to traffic and approaching pedestrians.
- The renovation at **Isham Park's Indian Road** playground is ongoing. Approximately six trees may need to be removed due to rot, wind damage and other safety issues from falling branches or trees, especially during storms and high winds. Tests are being undertaken to assess the structural stability of the trees and the community will be updated on the outcome at the full board on 12/15 and a site visit hosted with the Community Board.
- **Bennett Park:** The PDC wants more information on the renovation plans; DPR may be returning to PDC on December 15th. As this was discussed extensively at a prior meeting, the Committee did not feel the need to revisit the discussion, and echoed its satisfaction with the design process to date.
- **Ft. Washington Park & Greenway projects:** Plans went to PDC. Although DPR incorporated CB12's suggestions into the revised design presented to PDC, PDC still has concerns about the path. The Committee Chair provided PDC with the Board's 4/28/09 resolution (and supporting minutes) approving DPR proposed designs. There was also a discussion of the anticipated repairs to the pedestrian bridge over the Amtrak tracks. DPR wants to minimize disruption to the community, and will be able to capitalize on the experience gained during PANYNJ's rerouting during their renovation of that pathway in the spring, as well as re-use the signage.

Old Business: The 168th St. **Greenmarket** did not happen in 2009, but will open at the beginning of the season 2010 (June/July). Regarding **Columbia University's proposed athletic building & park near 218th Street**, the Chair referred members to the minutes of the joint PCA/Land Use Committee meeting on November 4th. CU got a lot of feedback from the community and realizes that they need to include the public in the discussion on the new building. *(Note: CU since has held another public meeting in Inwood on this issue, and plans to return to Land Use in January.)*

New Business: George Fernandez noted a hazardous tree guard condition at 74 Post Ave.: the landlord has nailed boards around the trees, but the nails are sticking out. Advised to call 311, and also reach out to the landlord/super directly if possible.

Announcements: Tracy Eberhardt of the Harlem River Boat Club announced an upcoming free fitness fair at the Highbridge Park rec center. The Broadway Mall Assn's upcoming tree lighting ceremony also was announced.

The meeting **adjourned** at 9:11pm; the next meeting is scheduled for January 5th.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Wojak & Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

Economic Development Committee – Minutes

December 1st, 2009

EDC Members Present: Edith Prentiss (assist chair) Leonardo Blackmam. Rolando Cespedes; Nicole Foster, Melanie Hidalgo, Elizabeth Pepin,
EDC Members Excused: Tony Lopez
EDC Members Absent: Ruddy Santana
CB12 Members Present: Cheryl Pahaham
Staff Member Present: Paola Garcia, Community Service Aide
Public: Alexander Then (Pollo Dorado Fried Chicken), Peter Lopez, (Discovery Transportation Corp); Espedito Rodrigo (1342 St. Nicholas Avenue Restaurant Corp); Captain Jose Navarro - 34th Pct

Welcome & Opening Remarks - Commence Time- 7:15 PM (Edith Prentiss – Assistant Chair) Edith gives a brief introduction about the purpose behind the committee.

State Liquor Authority Renewal On Premise Liquor License

Senoko Inc.-811 West 187th Street (107 WEST) (#1123411 - 01/31/10)

No Representative was present. The 34th Precinct had no objection. Committee members spoke positively about the establishment. -Police: no objections

EDC 5-0-0; CB 1-0-0 Public1-0-1

4446 Broadway Restaurant Inc. 4448 Broadway (SERIES 56) (#1030351 - 11/30/09)

No Representative was present. The 34 Precinct- does not recommend renewal of this license as the establishment was previously closed with a nuisance abatement through civil enforcement unit. It reopened with strict requirements including attending the Precinct Community Council meeting (which they have done). There have been numerous noise complaints (eighteen 311 complaints), and there have been assaults within the establishment.

EDC 2-4-0 CB 0-1-0 Public 0-1-0

La Isa Restaurant Corp.- 1242 St. Nicholas Avenue (27 De Febrero)

No Representative was present, The 34th Precinct had no objection to a renewal. Committee members who have patronized the establishment say there have not been any problems there

EDC 4-0-2, CB 1-0-0, Public 0-0-1

State Liquor Authority Renewal Eating Place Beer License

Pollo Dorado Fried Chicken- 1497 St. Nicholas Avenue 185-186 (#1146330 01/31/10)

Representative: Alexander Then (son of the owner Raquel Then) The 34th Precinct had no objection. They have been in business for about 8 years. They serve Hispanic/Dominican food (chicken, rice and beans, chicharron) with ten employees. They are open from 7 AM until 11 PM every day. While they have had no problems with security, they are getting a video camera. They have nine tables and an occupancy of 20 people. There is no live music, only a jukebox. They are wheelchair accessible.

EDC 5-0-1, CB 1-0-0, Public 1-0-0

Economic Development Committee – Minutes

December 1st, 2009

State Liquor Authority Renewal Restaurant Wine License

1342 St. Nicholas Avenue Restaurant Corp.- 1342 St. Nicholas Avenue (CAPRI) (#1030351 11/31/09)

Representative: Espedito Rodrigo (one of the owners) who has worked there for many years and became a partner a year ago. The 33rd Precinct had no objection. They have eight employees and serve Dominican food. They had a single video camera which is broken and will be replaced. They are wheelchair accessible (excepting the bathroom).

EDC 5-0-1, CB 1-0-0, Public 0-0-1

Pollo El Provocon Inc. dba Provocon- 1495 St. Nicholas Avenue (#1199780 12/31/09)

No representative was present. The 33rd had no objection, Committee members report it a very small establishment, part of a popular franchise in the Dominican Republic. No member has witnessed large crowds or any disruptions.

EDC 4-0-2, CB 1-0-0, Public1-0-0

Taxi & Limousine Commission Renewal of Livery Car Base License

Discovery Transportation Corp.- 147 Post Avenue

Representative: Peter Lopez (president for 5 weeks) was present to describe their operation. They have been licensed since 1999. They have 175 drivers and are the only livery base in which every car is equipped with GPS which allows them to track every car and assign a trip to the nearest one. If another driver tries to race to a call they are on probation for 24 hours. If they violate that rule three times, they are removed from the database. They have their own wheelchair accessible vehicle and are also in contract with Vincent NYC. They are in contract to serve the new Costco in East Harlem.

EDC 6-0-0 CB 1-0-0, Public 1-0-0

State Liquor Authority New Applications On Premise Liquor License

812 Pine Corp.- 812 Pinehurst Avenue

No representative was present. Due to an incorrect address, the 34th Precinct could not do a walk through. Therefore, the establishment is tabled until further information is available. The committee thinks this might be the former Jessie's Place. The office will periodically check the SLA web site to see if the principal files an application.

Old Business/New Business/Adjournment

Edith goes back to Vino Verso issue (approved in October with error in the resolution- person listed as owner was not actually the correct person) - the SLA has recommended we write a narrative letter to them explain the voting process on this establishment

- Adjournment Time: 8:49 PM

Land Use Committee Meeting - Minutes

December 2, 2009

Committee Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair
Tamara Rivera
James Berlin
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair
Isaiah Bing

Committee Members Absent

Dora Maria Abreu
Richard Allman

Board Members

Public Member Present

Vivian Ducat

Staffer: Deborah Blow

Guests: Nicole Lugo; Anthony Borelli, Paimann Lodhi – MBPO; Matthew Sloan-Planning Intern,
Edwin Marshall – NYC Dept. of City Planning

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.
2. Land Use Chair Wayne Benjamin reported on a mixed-use project under construction at West 181st Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Audubon Avenue that includes a hotel component. It is not clear if a hotel is permitted as of right under the site's current zoning and there is no record of Community Board 12-Manhattan (CB12-M) ever being requested to consider a zoning variance. Anthony Borelli and Paimann Lodhi of Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer's office indicated that they are not familiar with the project but will investigate further. Edwin Marshall of the Department of City Planning noted that Mr. Benjamin inquired with him earlier about the project and that based on his initial research there is a possibility that a hotel might be permitted as-of-right if the site is within 1,000 feet of a limited access highway and is within a C-2 zone. Further research is required to determine if the nearby roadways meet the definition of a limited access highway.
3. Mr. Benjamin, Obie Bing and Jim Berlin shared their impressions of the November 11th CB12 Retreat for the benefit of members of the Land Use Committee ("Land Use" or the "Committee") who were unable to attend. As the matter was discussed the topic of Land Use hosting a series of workshops to further educate board members and members of the public on a range of specific zoning / planning related topics was raised. The concept was well received and the Committee will begin planning workshops to begin spring 2010.
4. Planning intern Matthew Sloan provided the Committee with an overview of his work plan for the coming year. Prior to Mr. Sloan's presentation Mr. Borelli summarized the MBPO program through which all Manhattan community boards are provided with planning interns. It was noted that the MBPO is a resource to the interns but the community boards are the clients. Matthew advised the Committee that his work plan focuses in the current/fall semester on further defining how C-8 zones in the District might be rezoned and modeling the building bulk that would be allowed under the proposed rezoning and then shifts focus in the spring semester to further research and document additional proposed historic districts. After further discussion it was agreed that Matthew should focus on zoning-related projects for both semesters and that the Committee would pursue other means to advance research on additional historic districts.

5. The Committee discussed a range of zoning-related issues and concerns of importance to Washington Heights and Inwood with Messrs. Marshall, Borelli and Lodhi. The discussion is generally summarized as follows.
- There are neighborhood planning issues that zoning cannot address such as delivery of municipal services or services to small businesses. CB 12 should consider advocating for more joint-agency initiatives so as to ensure that appropriate resources are brought to the table.
 - While zoning can control the type of use that is permitted at a given site it cannot control the type of tenant that occupies a retail or other space. CB12 and the community can however advocate for the types of stores, etc. they feel are needed in the community.
 - Consideration should be given to the creation of Cliffside zoning regulations. Unlike Hillside zoning which seeks to preserve the hillside sites, the aim of Cliffside zoning would be to modify bulk, site coverage and other regulations that were created for flat sites to encourage the construction new buildings that better fit and work with their Cliffside sites.
 - Waterfront planning initiatives should extend beyond the land's edge/ shoreline to consider how the water could be programmed for recreation transportation and other uses and how to make it easier for residents of an island to re-engage with the water.
 - Smaller, more specific rezoning proposals are generally easier for the public to understand and for the city, especially given reduced resources, to undertake.
 - Community boards need to understand what actions are required to impact a zoning or related decision that is to be made by city government and what are the steps necessary to make and prove their point/position. City Planning and the MBPO are supporters of community based planning and open to being presented with rezoning proposals. The challenge is for the community board to make its case for the proposed rezoning, outlining its goals and objectives and to define how/why the proposed rezoning will help to advance these goals and objectives.
6. The Land Use meeting adjourned at t 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Wayne A. Benjamin

**Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2009**

Committee Member

Emilia Cardona, Chair
George Cruz
George Fernandez

Committee Absentees

Andria Reyes
Rev. Antonio Almonte

Board Members Attending

Staff: Deborah Blow, Community Coordinator

Guests: Joselinne Minaya-Manhattan DA's Office, PA Supv Samuel Richardson-Project Renewal, Clifton Hill Deputy Director-Project Renewal, Robert Reynolds-Cavalier Knight, Yaffi Spokek-Columbia, Tom McCarthy-FDNY, Capt. Jose Navarro-NYPD 33rd Pct., – PO Christian Perez-NYPD 34th Pct., Roger Montessano-FDNY Community Affairs, Deputy Insp. Joseph Dowling-NYPD 33rd Pct., Capt. Ventrella-NYPD 33rd Pct., PO Emily Lopez, Deborah Cardona-Resident, FF Paul Schaffino

Meeting convened at 7:10pm Emilia Cardona

Opening remarks by Chairperson Cardona introducing committee members and acknowledging the group.

Discussion:

Robert Reynolds – Calvalier Knights - sole proprietor of disaster preparedness practices, anticipates joining the CERT group. He shared his life skills and spoke to conflict resolution re: domestic violence issues, he provided materials to the group.

Roger Montessano, FDNY - Community Affairs,
Safety Tips for the holiday's

- Distributed smoke detectors and provided information on holiday safety check list
- Information was distributed in several different languages
- Beware of defective lighting on Christmas trees
- Check extension cords
- Position trees 3 ft away from heating systems, proper air flow, check bulbs before putting them on tree
- Never leave burning candles unattended, 33% cause of fires

Ms. Cardona introduced Columbia student - Yaffi Spokek, who is looking for information on Washington Heights/Inwood, how it has evolved from the past to the present.

Battalion Chief McCarthy

- Special inspections of retail establishments this time of year
- Realm of safety , this time of year, every fire department does special inspection of retail establishments
- We go out, about 14 of us, to inspect the aisles of the establishments to make sure the aisles are not too narrow or cluttered.
- He explained that natural Christmas trees should be tagged with the appropriate ID that references the care of the tree.

Roger Montessano introduced Paul Schaffino, Mr. Schaffino spoke on behalf of FDNY targeting the flyer indicating the use of candles during Chanukah and other Jewish holidays

- Safety precautions entail using sturdy candleholders, with flame-protective non-combustible. Place candles at least four feet away from curtains, draperies, blinds and kitchen cabinets
- Place candles out of reach of children
- Never leave burning candles unattended
- Your safety is our mission

Deputy Inspector Dowling – 33rd Pct.

- The Deputy Inspector arrived with Capt. Ventrella and other NYPD personnel
- Inspector spoke about crime stats indicating 7% overall crime categories low
- 50% – 60% crimes down since last year
- Have had some grand larceny and burglary incidences
- Murder up, 3 vs 2 last year
- Combined working strategies with Bronx enforcement on stolen cars

Respectfully submitted by George Fernandez, typed by D. Blow

Traffic & Transportation Committee Minutes
December 7, 2009

Committee Members Present

Mark Levine
Anita Barberis
James Berlin
Edith Prentiss
Rabbi Joseph Kalinski
Joe Wojak

Committee Members Absent

Rita McKee

Staffer: Deborah Blow

Committee Members Excused

George Nelson Preston

C.B. 12 Members Present :

Elizabeth Lorris-Ritter

Guests: Matthew Spade, Matthew O'Shea – PS278, David Schweitzer – PS8, Sunilda Hernandez – PS8, Ana Alcantara – PS8, Christine Syvartz – PS8, Llercely Mendoza – PS8, Tabitha Perez – PS8, Beena C. Thomas – PS8, Rosa Correa – PS8, Lars Klove – PS8, Josh Orzeck – NYC DOT, Larry Merejo – PS8, Hillary Poole – NYC DOT, Glenda Garcia – PS8, Jonathan Rabinowitz – Inwood Livable Streets, Bruce Robertson, Lynne Van Auken, Jesse Mintz-Roth – NYC DOT, Mitchell Glen – Jumel/Sylvan Association.

At 7:10pm Chair Mark Levine opened meeting with the introduction of the committee members.

Frank Hess of Assemblyman Farrell's office reiterated the request to make 158th St from Broadway to Riverside Dr. a one-way street going west. Discussion ensued with the public and committee members concerning the many facets of this request which would include the safety of pedestrians crossing the street to the subway as well as the alleviation of vehicular traffic congestion. Edith Prentiss drafted a resolution requesting NYCDOT to study the entire area from 157-158 Sts. to ameliorate the identified problems.

The vote was: Committee= 6-0-0-0

Board Members= 1-0-0-0

Members of the Public=18-0-0-0

This resolution will be brought to the full board next week for their approval.

DOT representative presented the Safe Streets for Seniors program. Between 2002-8, seniors comprised 12% of NYC population and have incurred 39% of pedestrian fatalities, DOT has developed a senior pedestrian safety program based on crash history. Washington Heights is part of Phase I and its boundaries are Broadway to Audubon Ave, Dyckman to 175 St. and includes Pinehurst at 177-181. The southern part of our community is part of Phase II (Hamilton Heights). Typical improvements would include: changing the time signals for 3Ft/sec walking speed, refurbish markings, repair broken curbs and ramps, high visibility crosswalks to mention a few. Funding is in place and DOT will return in the spring with a draft report. The community offered other areas that should be included: 207th St, 218th St B'way, Nagle Ave near train station and Bennett at 192 St. train station. DOT working with group doing the 181st Traffic study.

Requested of DOT an Lumination Study on E. Morgan Place at 157 St.

Josh Orzeck, DOT liaison, updated us on pending issues:

-Intersection of Amsterdam & St. Nicholas at 162 St.- Need to reach out to the community for a February Workshop.

-Dyckman St. Greenway Connector. Closing out the Sherman Creek data which has 13 different intersections – Dyckman at Broadway & 10th Ave. is a problem. Need to have a workshop in late spring that involves the stake holders, as DOT is not ready to give a presentation.

-Angle parking on 170th St between Broadway & Ft. Washington was denied. Requested the guidelines for angle parking.

-A new traffic light will be installed at Audubon Ave and 166th St.

-Sign at 164th St. in honor of a fallen hero will be replaced in the next contract.

NYC is looking to institute livery stands for TLC's and we need more information, so Edith Prentiss will attend hearing 12/14/09 with feed back so that our community may react.

Matt O'Shea of P.S.278 asking that this school be included in the School Safety Route Policy program. Working on getting a new crossing guard at 219th St. The crosswalks will be painted this spring.

A group of teachers from the schools that surround the 33rd Police Precinct requesting teacher parking permits. The Mayor's Office reduced these permits and DOT is not posting new signs for teachers to park during the school day. They suggested that ASP parking work around the teachers' schedule, however this is in the purview of DOS. We suggested they address this issue at the our District Cabinet monthly meeting and further with their union.

Track season at the Armory is causing traffic congestion due to illegal parking of school busses. Invite a representative of the track to our next meeting to address this issue again.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm. MInutes respectfully submitted by: Anita Barberis