

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2001**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Rafael Beaumont
Emilia Cardona
Fredericka Cuenca
Sybil R. Dodson
Leslie Foster
Beatrice Hall
Herbert Harwitt

Joyce F. Holland
Robert C. Liebeskind
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Maria Luna
Luis H. Minier
Helen Morik
Marcos Navarro

Julio Peguero
Martha Pepin
Julissa Reynoso
Maria Sierra
Ricardo Urefia
Sandra Wachspress
Elouise Whitehurst

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

Anita Barberis
Abby Belkin
Jim Berlin
Ronald J. Botelho
Laurie T. Cohen
Walther G. Delgado
Jack Fogle
William A. Garcia
Soledad Hiciano

Isidoro Martinez
Miguel Martinez
Manuel J. Mendez
Victor Morisete-Romero
Norma Nadien
Dr. Pamela Palanque North
William C. Ortega
Zead Ramadan
Bertie Ray, III

Steven Rizick
Nelson Rojas
George Sanchez
Barbara Smith Ramos
Laura Sterling
Cheryl Tidwell
Juan Villar
Msgr. Gerald Walsh

The general meeting of February 28, 2001 was held at the Milstein Hospital – Clark Conference Room.

Community Board 12 was called to order and began its regular session at 7:30 PM. Ms. Fredericka Cuenca chaired the meeting since Mr. William Garcia had to attend a Manhattan Borough President activity.

District Manager's Report – Gregoria Feliciano

Ms. Feliciano pointed out that in the board members package there are 3 items included: the Community Board participation in the budget process, the Office of Management and Budget survey on Borough Budget Consultations for FY 2003 and the Register of Community Board Budget Requests for FY 2002. Stated that the questionnaire for the format of Budget Consultations should be submitted to her office by March 16, 2001.

Proceeded to highlight items included in her written report to the board. Highlighted also 3 items not included in her written report that HPD is having an informational meeting on the subject of transferring City-owned buildings to new owners on March 6, 2001 at the East Harlem Council for community improvement; and the Department of Transportation is having a public hearing on sidewalk cafes on 3/14/01 at 40 Worth Street, 9th Floor, and finally the American Red Cross is having an Expo 2000 on safety of various sports on March 3, 2001.

Ms. Cuenca asked for clarification on the difference between individual and group sessions of the Budget Consultations survey. Ms. Feliciano responded that the group gets to choose how to have the meeting with each city agency.

Chair's Report – Fredericka Cuenca (1st Vice Chair)

Reported that William Garcia made available to CB 12 members a draft of the Manhattan Borough President Budget Priorities for FY 2002 and is asking for forward comments to his attention via email by Friday 3/2/01. She stated that the Executive Committee is inviting the respective City Agencies to attend the April or May Committee meetings to help in the discussion of budget priorities for each committee.

They will be opening by mid May and will be inviting everyone to their opening ceremony soon after. She stated that the Mayor's preliminary budget has a proposed \$13 million cut for the NY Public Library and she will be bringing this to the attention of the Youth & Education Committee.

Marose Quogue – New York Public Library

Highlighted the new service by the NY Public Library of Consumer Health Information Services available free of charge with library card at all branches and on line. On March 1, 2001 they are having a free glucose screening at the Washington Heights branch as part of Diabetes Awareness Month.

Ms. Wachspress asked where is Ms. Quogue based?

Ms. Quogue stated that she works for all the Manhattan branches but is based at the Donnell Library.

George Rubinson – Nuture Art Non Profit, Inc.

Introduced the organization to the public. Announced an art exhibition at the Milstein Hospital – Baldwin Lounge from 3/10/01 to 5/5/01 from 9:00 AM to 8:30 PM. Free guided tours are available to community groups. They also have artist talks on the theme of art accessibility to the general public. They are interested in tapping local talents via these activities and made available press releases and cards of Nuture Art. Their website is www.nutureart.org.

Ms. Lorris Ritter asked about the locations of the exhibitions. Mr. Rubinson stated that they started in Williamsburg Brooklyn and various other locations and lately moved to Nuture Arts at the Heights as a way to encourage people to come uptown for the arts.

Mr. Luis Minier asked about the space needed for exhibitions. Mr. Rubinson said that depends on the art being exhibited. They will greatly appreciate being informed of any space available in the community. He also thanked his neighbors at Castle Village and Councilman Stanley Michels.

Al Kurland – PAL Truancy Program at the Armory

Announced that in the Coogan's Race of 3/4/01 in addition to the 5K race there will be a kiddie race for children of 2-12 years old. He announced the opening of Truancy Program at the Armory by 4/1/01 thanks to the Manhattan District Attorney. The telephone number of the program is (212) 927-0306.

Rebecca Garden – NY Presbyterian Hospital

Invited a reading of Dominican American Writer Junot Diaz on 3/27/01 at the hospital. Made available flyers, email distribution list and the phone number 212-305-6787.

Nadine Leichter – Falun Gong

Introduced Falun Gong as a cultivation practice, cultivation of mind and practice of exercises. They live according to 3 principles: truthfulness, benevolence and tolerance. They teach in parks and the practices are free and available to all. They will like to have practices in other facilities in our community.

May Song – Falun Gong

Spoke about the history of Falun Gong and the persecution of Falun Gong in China. Informed about the various sites for their practices: Central Park and West 81st Street, 101 Manhattan Avenue, 1428 5th Avenue Senior Center. They are considering practice sites at CB 12.

Ms. Lorris Ritter asked about the difference between Tai Chi and Falun Gong.

Nadine Leichter stated that they are similar ancient Chinese practices but that Falun Gong strives to improve body and mind, the fundamental character of the person.

Julissa Reynoso – Dominicans 2000

Invited to the Second Annual Dominicans 2000 conference at City College – Shepard Hall on Friday 3/2/01 and Saturday 3/3/01. Free admission.