

**Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2003**

Members Present

Jacqueline Aristy	Luis Facundo
Anita Barberis	Leslie Foster
Rafael Beaumont	William A. Garcia
James Berlin	Beatrice Hall
Nelson Castro	Herbert Harwitt
Mireya Cruz	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Walther G. Delgado	Maria Luna
Sybil R. Dodson	Benjamin Mantell
Rafael Escano	Kirk Miller

Julio Peguero
Zead Ramadan
Nelson Rojas
Steve Simon
Barbara Smith Ramos
Glenda Swanson Massa
Milagros Vicente
Sandra Wachspress
Msgr. Gerald Walsh

Members Absent

Abby Belkin	Jose Lopez (Exc.)
Emilia Cardona (Exc.)	Renato Mena (Exc.)
Martin Collins (Exc.)	Helen Morik
Fredericka Cuenca	Norma Nadien (Exc.)
Ivelisse Fairchild	Marcos Navarro (Exc.)
Venecia Fernandez	Pamela Palanque North (Exc.)
Nelson Gomez	Ron Peterson (Exc.)
Joyce F. Holland (Exc.)	

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Chairman Zead Ramadan called meeting to order at 7:30 PM

Councilwoman Margarita Lopez – Mass transit ferry system is not handicapped-accessible – ADA compliant. Mass transit system is segregated for disabled. She is proposing legislation, Intro #261, to ensure that no more ferries are built until all are ADA compliant. Please pass a resolution in support. Council members Robert Jackson and Miguel Martinez are co-sponsors; 37 council members have signed on; the Public Advocate and four Borough Presidents support it; the Mayor “agrees with the principle of idea but does not support the bill”. She will not bring it to the floor until it is clear that there is enough support that in addition to being passed it is also implemented. Must educate Mayor and DOT on this. Ten years have passed since the Board of Education passed open access for high schools and still not all have been retrofitted. Also added that she is a co-sponsor of Reso 549 in City Council opposing war in Iraq. (There was much spontaneous applause at this point.)

Sybil Dodson: in wake of 9/11, ferries were extensively used. Clearly it is key for them to be ADA compliant.
A: Yes. Also if NYC is chosen as Olympic site, transportation venues must be disability accessible, since Para-olympics will follow the Olympics.

(7:45) Quorum reached. Chair urged prompt movement through the agenda so that we may consider resolution on opposing war in Iraq, which various members are bringing as new business.

Motion to adopt agenda by Sybil Dodson; seconded by Milagros Vicente; unanimous. Motion to adopt the minutes by Glenda Swanson-Massa; seconded by Kirk Miller. Changes by Steve Simon accepted as friendly. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report: Zead Ramadan

Attended many planning meetings, especially regarding 197-A plan.
Spoke regarding resolution process with specific regard to item which will come up later under new business.

Maria Luna urged all people to stay at meeting so we can consider this item fully and with a quorum.

District Manager's Report: Gregoria Feliciano

Referred to written report in packets. Also noted:

- quiet zone signs finally have been posted by Isabella (after 3 years).
- The 13th Battalion on 181st Street opened after year-long renovations.
- The MTA is looking for locations where bus shelters can accommodate benches.
- Dept. of Health mobile clinic, offering free HIV, STD, Hepatitis B and TB testing will be stationed at Dyckman & Post Avenues, through April 4th, Monday-Friday, 10a-4p. For more info call 212-487-6416.
- NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs is hiring youth between the ages of 15–17 for the undercover enforcement unit for cigarette sales; pays \$7.25/hr; parental approval required.
- The Federal government is offering free health screenings for people who participated in WTC rescue, recovery and clean-up. For more information call 888-702-0630.
- Heartly congratulations to ADM Kathy Olivo, who recently received her Bachelor's degree!

Public Session

Edith Prentiss, Community Resident: 1) Allen Pavilion renovation plan being presented at an upcoming meeting; please attend. 2) Buses for teams in track meets are clogging up streets near Armory. M-4 is being diverted and this is a huge problem especially for seniors and the disabled. The armory has been unresponsive and drivers are rude and unhelpful.

Zead Ramadan: this is a fast, nationally and internationally known track and it is a good thing for the community, but CB 12's Traffic & Transportation committee must reach out to Dr. Sander at the Armory to figure out a plan to work on this. Buses are necessary for the track and field Hall of Fame, but buses have to not impede community.

EP: also the armory is not handicapped-accessible.

ZR: new elevator being installed in August, after renovation is completed.

Rafael Escaño: Why not park on Riverside Drive?

EP: not enough space for buses now that RSD is open to the community for parking.

M. Luna: I am a member of the board of the Armory and would like to work with the Community Board on resolving this issue.

Mr. J. Alberto Robaina, AIA: regarding a sidewalk café at El Conde Restaurant, SW corner of 175th Street and Broadway on the 175th St side.

M. Luna: what is width of sidewalk? A: 15 feet. The build-out is 7 feet, leaving 8 feet.

Z. Ramadan: Per City law, a café can take up to ½ of sidewalk, and trees are not viewed as an impediment.

Questions tabled until Economic Development Committee resolution on the agenda.

Marshall Douglas, Community Resident: supports City Council Reso 549, opposing war in Iraq without UN approval; yields floor to next speaker.

Bertilio Reyes Gomez, Reform Party of NY: spoke in support of El Conde application for enclosed sidewalk café.

Mike Stein, Community Resident: supports Reso 549; yields floor to next speaker.

Carol Shreeffer, Community Resident: supports Reso 549; yields floor to next speaker.

Carol Meyers, Northern Manhattan Neighbors for Peace & Justice: asks CB 12 to pass resolution opposing war absent the support of UN. Over 100 city councils and State legislatures (Maine, Detroit, Chicago, Boston, California, etc.) have taken this stand. Urged CB12 to do likewise.

Dr. Mary Lee, Northern Manhattan Neighbors for Peace & Justice: Not in favor of pre-emptive strike. Understands that the process is unusual to consider resolution as new business, but this is urgent. Our neighborhood must be represented to send message to the City Council which will debate the resolution tomorrow morning (2/26/03).

William Garcia: Can we have the language of the resolution? <Some drafts were distributed.>

Marcella Calabi, Henry Hudson Parkway Task Force: Expressed gratitude for CB volunteer service and the time spent in various issues from local roads and buses to global peace. Spoke regarding the Henry Hudson Parkway task force – development of vision and corridor management plan for the parkway and surrounding corridor. There will be public meetings in Washington Heights, Inwood, Harlem, Riverdale and the upper west side for public input. The first public meeting is scheduled for March 6th.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Cornerstone Chorale: looking for singers for next project, Mozart's *Requiem*, on 5/18 @ Good Shepherd Church in Inwood. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings at the Holyrood Church, 179th & Ft. Washington Ave. For information call 212-795-5738.

Alice Sath, Community Resident: supports Reso 549; yields floor to next speaker.

Dimitri Bakmroushin, Community Resident: supports Reso 549; yields floor to next speaker.

Jay Mazur, Community Resident: supports Reso 549; yields floor to next speaker.

Debra Klaber, Community Resident: supports Reso 549; yields floor to next speaker.

Richard Ortiz, Community Resident: regarding quality of life complaint: a few individuals have turned the street into an auto repair shop. It has been three or four years. Fumes and pollution on 182nd Street between St. Nicholas and Audubon Avenues.

Jim Berlin question for DM: What has been happening at the District Service Cabinet?

G. Feliciano: 33rd and 34th precincts have been inspecting and ticketing.

RO: But nothing is being done.

GF: This will be taken up at the DSC.

Jeanie Dubnau & Horacio Marmoleja, RENA: (speaking in English and in Spanish) supporting Reso 549. The government should provide more proof of their claims because military action by US and Europe will be a holocaust for the world. This is a war by the richest countries against a poor country almost destroyed during the Gulf War. This is not freedom fighting and aggression against Iraq will cause more terrorism, and ordinary people will be vulnerable. We ask all people to support the struggle against aggression against Iraq.

Marie Louis Patterson, Community Resident: supports Reso 549; yields floor to next speaker.

Susan Epstein, Community Resident: supports Reso 549; yields floor to next speaker.

Steve Simon, Blumberg Community Fund: Blumberg awards ceremony at Church of the Intercession this Sunday 3/2. Giving grants totaling \$5,000 to ten community groups. Former Mayor David Dinkins will be speaking.

Esteva Nembhard, Northern Manhattan Neighbors for Peace & Justice: spoke in support of Reso 549. Lost a friend at 9/11 and is pained by the manipulation of that event as cause for war. Unilateral war will not give security. The security we need in this community is to guarantee education and housing and jobs and living wage, not \$7 billion spent on war. This is a local issue. Please listen to us and to half a million protestors last weekend, protestors throughout the world.

Ydanis Rodriguez, Community Resident: Supports Reso 549. Also protests token booth closures. Demonstration this Saturday, March 1st, at 12:30 @ 157th Street and Broadway 1-train.

Ruben Dario Vargas, Community Resident: re: Reso 549. I am a reservist in the armed services. Nobody wants a war. The only war that can be won is the war that does not happen. But the President and the CIA must know more than we do, and I choose to believe the President, who was elected, and not believe Saddam Hussein.

Miosotis Munoz, Congressman Rangel's Office: Congressman Rangel continues to be opposed to war. Has visited 182nd Street and Broadway Social Security office to address overcrowding and ADA issues. Continuing to follow up with the Social Security management. Reminder regarding Beaumont foundation scholarships to bring technology into the community.

Maria Luna: Why was Social Security office made smaller?

A: 80,000 new Dominican immigrants have moved to neighborhood in last decade and there was physical restructuring to accommodate that, but it clearly has not been effective.

Glenda Swanson Massa: will you attend 3/11 Aging Committee?

Z. Ramadan: Deputy Commissioner Social Security will be attending.

A: Will not be able to attend meeting but can answer questions here this evening or by phone later.

Carlos Rodriguez, Manhattan Borough President's Office: Dominican heritage celebration Wednesday. State of the Borough address is on Thursday 5:30 at City Hall. Also announced community meeting to introduce the two Regional Schools Superintendent for Manhattan.

(8:50) Executive Committee Resolution regarding removal of Nelson Gomez for cause.

Walther Delgado: question regarding attendance.

E. Lorris Ritter: It is unrelated to this procedural issue and will be answered in writing subsequently.

Resolution passed 20-0-5-0

(9:00) Traffic & Transportation Committee MTA resolution opposing fare hikes and token booth closures.

No discussion. Resolution passed unanimously with 24-0-0-0 votes.

(9:05) Resolution on enclosed sidewalk café at El Conde Restaurant to add 7 tables and 28 seats on the 175th Street side.

E. Lorris Ritter: was community input solicited?

A: Yes, 14 members of community came to last meeting, and while all had questions they apparently were answered, as all voted in favor of resolution, with 1 abstention.

J. Berlin: asked Edith Prentiss if the proposed enclosure would be a problem for wheelchair accessibility.

A: Edith Prentiss: Yes.

W. Delgado: would like to see minutes of meeting. Also why is plan to build out to 175th Street, not Broadway, which is wider?

A: Because the side-street won't interfere w/ foot traffic on Broadway, and City Planners happy that Broadway is not touched.

Z. Ramadan: noted that thirteen different agencies were involved in this process, and the application conforms to all relevant NYC regulations. Resolution passed 14-6-3-1

Z. Ramadan: Urged the proprietors to follow all City regulations and observe all laws for continued approval of the sidewalk café.

(9:15) Committee Reports

Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee: Minutes of last meeting not yet available; no report due to a death in the Chair's family.

Health & Environment Committee, Steve Simon: Refer to minutes. Also announced availability of Health Department's neighborhood health profile for Washington Heights/Inwood, including West Harlem. Z. Ramadan spoke about committee's last meeting, held at the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center, and the importance of dealing with diabetes epidemic in this community.

Traffic & Transportation Committee, Jim Berlin: Refer to minutes. Next meeting will be held on March 20th at the Mt. Sinai Jewish Center regarding proposed parking garage on 184th Street & Broadway.

Public Safety Committee, Dr. Pamela Palanque North: Refer to minutes of meeting regarding Indian Point. Last meeting attended by representatives of Entergy which owns Indian Point. Working on resolution.

Land Use Committee, Maria Luna: Refer to minutes. Next meeting moved to March 10th so as not to conflict with Ash Wednesday.

Housing & Human Services Committee, Beatrice Hall: Refer to minutes.

Youth Services & Education, Sandra Wachspress: Refer to minutes.

Committee for the Aging, Herb Harwitt: Refer to minutes. Talked about Social Security office and encouraged people to attend the public forum on March 11th.

(9:25) New Business

Motion introduced by Steve Simon opposing the Congressional resolution allowing the President unilaterally to declare war against Iraq without UN authority; seconded by Jim Berlin and Elizabeth Lorris Ritter. Very little discussion. Maria Luna called the question; Jim Berlin seconded; no objection. The resolution passed, 22-0-2-0, to applause.

Ben Mantell moved for adjournment at 9:45pm. William Garcia seconded; no objection.

Respectfully submitted by: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter