

Community Board 12M General Meeting
Tuesday, February 27, 2007, 7pm
Columbia University Russ Berrie Pavilion, 1150 St. Nicholas Avenue

Board Members Present

Dora Maria Abreu	Albania Jimenez
Jackie Rowe Adams	Mark Levine
Anita Barberis	Jose Lopez
Wayne Benjamin	Tony Lopez
James Berlin	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Isaiah Bing	Maria A. Luna
Aidee Camacho	Glenda Swanson Massa
Kotie Cannon	Jay D. Mazur
Emilia G. Cardona	Rita McKee
Martin Collins	Helen Morik
Sybil R. Dodson-Lucas	Carole Mulligan
Vivian Ducat	Dr. P. Palanque North
Adam Eggers	Angelo Ortiz
George Espinal	Rafael Osoria
Joyce Humber-Faison	Julio Peguero
Ramona Gomez	Edith Prentiss
Beatrice Hall	Zead Ramadan
Eduardo Hoepelman	Julio Rodriquez

Members Absent

Julissa Gomez
Fern Hertzberg(e)
Andre Harris
Bracha Statman
Janifer Wilson

Meeting called to order at 7:15pm.

Motion to adopt agenda made by Glenda Swanson Massa. Motion seconded by Kotie Cannon. Liz Ritter made a motion to postpone review and approval of January 2007 general meeting minutes to the latter part of the meeting. Board member Rita McKee seconded the motion. Both motions were accepted without objection.

Chair's Report:

The Chair gave an update on the Tenth Avenue Reconstruction Project. All concerns can be forwarded to Geneve Davis at 212-304-1214. Department of Health Rat Abatement is underway at Isham Park. Dyckman Job Center is scheduled to move to 5440 West 216th Street in the Fall 2007. Eighth Avenue subway platform cleaning from W. 155 Street to W. 207th Street is underway. Next project will be on the #1 IRT subway line, Spring 2007. A scaffolding walkthrough will be conducted by Debra Blow, CB12M Community Coordinator, this Spring. A taskforce on film piracy/counterfeiting of CDs is underway. CB12M will have an Art Exhibition, which showcases work of local artist/curator Oscar Abreu and Diego Jacobson. The opening event is scheduled for March 23, 2007, 6pm to 9pm, at CB12M. Chair Velasquez thanked Debra Blow and Jeffrey Laufer for their efforts on the floor cleaning.

The Chair recognized Board Member Jay Mazur. Jay Mazur was concerned about CB12M calendar changes/regularly scheduled standing committee meetings, attendance and quorum. Mazur expressed dissatisfaction with the last two, irregularly scheduled Housing and Human

Services committee meetings, and the need for a quorum. Chair indicated that the committee should reach a mutually agreeable date for their meetings. Chair deferred said issue to the chair of Housing and Human Services committee.

CBO Presentation:

Pinky Vicente, Citizens Committee for New York City, spoke on free tax preparation services and Earned Income Tax Credit. Cash Back Manhattan Initiative - Hotline 212-822-9584. If the public is interested in hosting a community-based workshop, call 212-989-0909, ext. 578.

A motion was made by Emilia Cardona to discuss the approval of the Executive committee minutes (1/07). Liz Ritter seconded the motion. Friendly amendments were accepted with changes and deferred to Executive committee. No further objections were made. New discussion on the general meeting minutes for January 2007 ensued. Friendly amendments were accepted on the section of standing committee reports. Board member Emilia Cardona made a motion to adopt minutes with the amendments. Board member Edith Prentiss seconded the motion. No objections were raised. Board Member Rita McKee inquired on the termination of District Manager Charles Defino. Chair gave no comments due to privacy/confidentiality reasons.

Public Session :

Ana Parks – NYC WEACT, Lead Paint Coordinator - spoke on Lead poisoning awareness and outreach. Target area includes the Inwood community at this time. See booklet/flyer.

Myra Torres – Visiting Nurse Service (VNS) “Time Bank” – the scope of the program and its benefits. Program is free of cost. See flyer for additional information.

Rafael Matos – Dominican Cultural Sport Center – complained of illegal drinking/activity at this site, which has a liquor license, and is located less than 200 feet from a church. The Board Chair deferred the issue to the March 6, 2007 Economic Development meeting for further discussion.

Calvin Slayton Parks– Highbridge Recreational Center – invited the community to a college fair on March 17, 2007, 11am to 3pm. The event includes representatives from local colleges and information on the college admission process. For more details call 212-927-2012.

Fernando Gonzalez/Crystal Felix/Lynne Herndon – Parent/Parent Coordinator- spoke on the Washington Heights Academy and its benefits to the community. The Academy, located at P.S. 152 Annex, serves children from grades K to 5. Admission is by lottery. Mr. Gonzalez would like more space for the school. Currently, one class per grade exists.

Mike Frogett – International Center Volunteer Recruitment – gave a description of the language center and its services. The center currently has over 1,000 language volunteers. Services include ESL, skilled training and cultural workshops. Program is located at 23rd Street. CBO liaisons include the Door, Project Reach Youth. For more information see flyer or call 215-255-9555. Scholarships are available.

Luzdary Oiraldo – spoke on NYCOSH project on Your Right to Worker's Compensation Benefits. Registration closes August 14, 2007. Police, Fire, and Sanitation are not covered. So far, 70,000 have responded, and 20,000 are currently registered.

Dennis Ortiz – Community Health Network – Free event Diabetes Alert Day, March 27, 2007, 11am to 4pm, Community League Health Center, 1996 Amsterdam Avenue, NYC. See flyer. Call 212-781-7979, or chmnyc.org website.

Andy Hadel – Coogan's – complained of the dilapidated stair conditions. Issue deferred to next Parks Committee Meeting.

Vivian Ducat – Resident -Lower Eastside Tenant Museum – welcomed the public to learn more about the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, 91 Orchard Street, New York, N.Y. 1002, and immigrant history. Call 212-431-0233, ext 231 for more details.

Carlos Rodriquez – NYC Department of Education – provided Community Education Council (CEC) information on the role of the CEC and the applications process. For more details call 212-274-5402.

Jose Adames – spoke on his NYC mayoral campaign challenges and his continued activism.

Archie Nagraj – Creative Arts Workshops for Kids – spoke on the annual art event, June 16, 2007, I.S. 52, which showcases two paintings and one sculpture (a baby giraffe). The event promotes the art with a Giraffe Path through the parks of Northern Manhattan. Metal piping giraffes will be in the park from 6/16/07 to 6/22/07 for display. For additional information on sponsorships/sale of art pieces see flyer or visit website: archie@caw4kids.org. Donations are tax- deductible.

Edith Prentiss – Community Activist – spoke on the 421A plan and its impact. A meeting at 250 Broadway on 3/16/2007 will discuss this plan further.

Jim Berlin –Castle Village – gave updates on the wall. The wall is up and the front of the wall will be stained. The third lane on the Henry Hudson Parkway remains closed. No report on the pedestrian bridge. NYC DDC is planning to work on the pedestrian bridge.

Steve Simon – NYC Parks Department – 1200 Lifeguards wanted for NYC pools/beaches. Pools are expected to open on June 29, 2007. Free qualifying exams, and minimum age requirement (16yrs. old). See flyer.

Jackie Rowe Adams – Harlem Mothers Saves- described the campaign against violent acts and gun violence; mothers who have lost their sons to gun violence. Adams welcomed the public to a Town Hall Meeting March 8, 2007, 5:30pm, Minisink Townhouse. See flyer. Also, free tax services provided on March 17, 2006, 4pm to 8pm, at the Armory.

Oscar Abreu – Curator- Invited the public to "In the Light of God" by Diego Jacobson, Art Exhibition, Friday, March 23, 2007, 6pm to 9pm.

Borough President's Report :

Wendy Garcia, MBPO, spoke on the office's aggressive work regarding the M29 Plan. All twenty-five families at W. 191st Street/St. Nicholas have returned to their homes since the fire. Gas remains a problem. All community board members facing "reappointment" should contact Wendy for interviews. See report.

Elected Official's Report/Representatives of Elected Officials :

Lolita Jackson, Mayor's Office, spoke on the anti-graffiti campaign/removal in our area. Graffiti removal is to take place in three weeks. West 190th Street Tunnel is problematic. Jackson would like CB12M to power wash paint. Also, Jackson would like an uptown town hall meeting with a greater constituency. Last one not well attended. Next meeting to be held on 3/12/2007, 60 Washington Square at NYU. Board members asked questions relating to a lack of advance notification of public meetings, priority mail tagging problem along subways in our area, mold/dust at W. 190th Street Tunnel/catch basin/garbage, lack of snow removal and 311-complaint hotline. Jackson pledged to follow-up on these concerns.

Simeon Bannister, Public Advocate Office, gave thanks to the community and colleagues in city government for their collaborative work. Bannister can be contacted at 212-669-8390. Also, Bannister reported on the issue of School Safety and Metal Detectors. This issue is problematic and schools are not safer. School Safety report is available on line. Food Service changes are underway in our area. Visit website for more details.

Lillian Perez, State Senator Schneiderman's Office, wished everyone a Happy Dominican Independence Day, and welcomed participation at the February 28, 2007 celebration.

Frank Hess, Assemblymember Farrell's Office, referred to report.

Anamarie Jones, Councilmember Martinez's Office, gave highlights on a series of town hall meetings in our area: March 8, 2007, Isabella Geriatric, 6:30pm. See report for additional listing and information.

Standing Committee Reports:

Refer to standing committee reports for more details. The following resolutions were voted on as follows: Resolutions #1, Traffic and Transportation Committee, MTA Rehabilitation of W. 163 Street "C" train station, votes cast: 42 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstention; 1 absent. Resolution #1, Economic Development Committee, Rodriguez Azteca Deli Grocery at 3861 Tenth Avenue, votes cast: 39 in favor; 2 opposed; 0 abstention; 2 absent.

New Business/Adjournment:

Chair urged board members to voice committee concerns in committee. Chair thanked office staff for their continued work. Discussion on interest survey for placement on the Search Committee was revisited. Chair stated that surveys were given at the last general meeting, and a search committee will be established by the end of the week.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by Aidee Camacho, Secretary

Land Use Committee - Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2007

Committee Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair
Isaiah Bing
James Berlin
Martin Collins
Ruddy Santana
Aaron Scott

Committee Members Absent

Dora Maria Abreu
Vivian Ducat (Excused)

Board Members Present

Steve Simon
Manny Velazquez

Staffer: Jeffrey Laufer

Guests: Rex Curry -City College Architectural Center, Annice M. Alt

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM
2. Rex Curry of the City College Architecture Center reviewed draft recommendations on proposed rezoning for the Sherman Creek area presented by the Department of City Planning ("DCP") on June 28, 2006. The recommendations are based on a combination of informal feedback generated by Land Use Chair Wayne Benjamin, other Committee members and CCAC subsequent to DCP aforementioned presentation. Mr. Benjamin asked CCAC to formally summarize these recommendations as a follow up to the request made by a representative of the Manhattan Borough President's Office for input from CB12 on what it would like the MBPO to advocate for with respect to the Sherman Creek rezoning initiative. Mr. Curry presented a summary which includes 12 primary recommendations. They are:
 - Lower the base / as-of-right FAR in the R7A and R8A areas to be consistent /contextual with the current built environment and to create more of an incentive for developers to take advantage of the inclusionary housing bonus.
 - Require affordable units created utilizing the inclusionary housing bonus to be "on-site" - similar to a NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal ("DHCR") 80-20 development.
 - The inclusionary bonus should require more than 20% of the units to be affordable.
 - Community and HPD should identify means to achieve a target of, say, 35% to 50% affordable units, for example layering multiple programs to increase available subsidy funds.
 - Expand the proposed C4-4 zoning, which would allow for two floors of street-front retail or commercial use, to 10th Avenue (currently only proposed for Broadway, 207th Street and Dyckman Street).
 - Combine landmark designation with incentives to developers to improve and restore historic IRT stations (Dyckman, 207th and 25th).
 - Consider designation of a Special Inwood Zoning District with urban design guidelines that could suggest architectural character and detailing in keeping with existing buildings.
 - CB12 and elected officials need to make compelling argument to DCP for the use of special zoning districts, at areas other than waterfront, where tax and map changes do not allow for sufficient flexibility in the transfer of bulk, design guidelines, etc.
 - Expand rezoning area to cover all of Inwood.
 - City needs to be more aggressive about the building of a waterfront park / esplanade.

- More attention must be given to tailoring zoning to encourage uses that activate waterfront blocks.

After further discussion, the Committee also added the following to the list of recommendations related to the proposed Sherman Creek rezoning:

- Ensure that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed rezoning fully and accurately considers the impact of: i) new development that will result from the rezoning on subsurface and other utilities such as power, water, sewer, etc.; ii) the impact of current demand on these utilities by existing buildings; iii) the projected growth in demand from existing buildings; and iv) the adequacy of the utilities to meet all these demands.

The Committee also briefly discussed waterfront access and view corridors. It was agreed that the above referenced draft recommendations would be forwarded to Wendy Garcia, MBPO for reference, CCAC would provide LU with a final draft of the recommendations and that LU would present the recommendations in the form of a resolution to the Board.

3. Land Use Committee member Obie Bing lead the committee in a discussion of various planning and construction issues related to Con Edison's M29 Transmission Line project. It was noted that although the transmission line will run through Yonkers, Riverdale and Inwood, construction of the new transmission plant will only impact Inwood. The transmission plant will be built on the site of Con Ed's former coal-burning power-plant on Academy Street - a site that is contaminated by various pollutants resulting from operation of the former power plant. The discussion covered matters such as how will contaminated soil be carted away safely, who is responsible for clean-up of any contaminants that may have migrated beyond the former power plant site, will the trenching for the transmission line disturb any contaminated soil, reopening and reconstruction of the portion of Academy Street that Con Ed closed and clean-up of the Sherman Creek shoreline.

4. Mr. Benjamin summarized a memo concerning the status of additional work on the Audubon Avenue Study provided by Planning Intern, Sameyls Lopez who was unable to attend the LU meeting. It was indicated that on Friday 2/9/07 Ms. Lopez and LU member Ruddy Santana intend to conduct surveys of business in the study area and that Ms. Lopez intends to recruit fellow NYU Wagner School students to assist with resident surveys with the aim of completing approximately 200 surveys.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Wayne A. Benjamin

Executive Committee Meeting February 13th, 2007

Committee Members Present

Manny Velazquez, Chair
Dr. Pamela Palanque North, 1st Vice Chair
Fern Hertzberg, Treasurer
Aidee Camacho, Secretary
Wayne Benjamin
Zead Ramadan
Julio Rodríguez
Steve Simon
Julio Peguero

Committee Members Absent

Dora Maria Abreu, 2nd Vice Chair
Kotie Cannon, Asst. Secretary (excused)
Sybil Dodson-Lucas (excused)
Cleofis Sarete Cabral
Mark Levine
Julissa Gomez (excused)

Staff Present

Jeffrey A. Laufer

Chair Manny Velazquez called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

Mr. Velazquez began the meeting by addressing the Manhattan Times Newspaper article on the employment status of Mr. Charles Defino. He informed everyone of Mr. DeFino' termination on February 9, 2007 by the Manhattan Borough President's Office. The Chair would like to revisit the job description for the District Manager position. He acknowledged the work done by Deborah Blow and Jeffrey Laufer. The Chair then shared a subpoena, which was received from Lourdes M. Ramirez, regarding copies of records and a check of \$15. The Chair informed us that Corporate Counsel was consulted. Deborah Blow replied to the subpoena on February 12, 2007 and Jeffrey Laufer went down to 60 Center Street to hand deliver our response that morning. No records were found on this complaint. The Chair discussed the formality and process for establishing a Personnel Committee. Questions were raised over what the bylaws read and scope of the District Manager's roles and responsibilities. At this time, there are only three volunteers for the Personnel Committee. The Chair would like a committee of five members. The Chair spoke of an email sent to Committee Chairs on the prospect of an education forum this spring.

Fern Hertzberg gave the Treasurer's Report. She reported that the Board does not have access to the FMS system. Angelisa Almanzar continues to be trained on the program. The current passwords need to be changed to allow authorized users to access system. The change will occur over the next few days. Questions were then raised on status of the Impress Fund. Ms. Hertzberg had no report on it. First Vice Chair Dr. Pamela Palanque North briefed us on the account. She reported that the account is active and the City of New York requires that \$500, at minimum, be kept in the account. Additional questions were raised as to why Deborah and Jeffrey are not currently trained on the FMS system. In response, Ms. Hertzberg stated that FMS requires at least three persons, and training is underway for Deborah and Jeff. Furthermore, FMS is not limited to city employees, but board members can obtain access codes as well. Ms. Hertzberg emphasized the need for a signatory change to reflect the new officers. Ms. Hertzberg will follow up with Mr. Collins and Ms. Dodson-Lucas on the Impress fund. An impress fund file is available in the office.

Aidee Camacho gave the Secretary's Report. There were no attendance warning letters to be mailed. A copy of the Bylaws Article 5, Section 502 and Section 503 was distributed and reviewed. A debate ensued over what constitutes "proper" notification of an absence. A consensus was reached to include a copy of CB12M Bylaws, Article 5, Section 502, in the Board Members' folders at the next General Meeting.

The Standing Committees gave their report as follows:

Traffic and Transportation – Nothing to report.

Land Use – Recommendations on the rezoning of Sherman Creek were discussed. Planning and constructions issues related to the M29 Con Edison line were updated, including the construction of a new facility (Academy power station site). There was an update on Audubon Avenue and the Planning Interns, Samelys Lopez.

Housing and Human Services – see details.

Parks and Cultural Affairs – There was information about the lack of physical activity in NYC contributing to obesity and how parks can be used to combat that. A possible resolution regarding Nancy Burning's request. Dyckman Marina RFP not ready in January but will be available in February 2007 (a draft version only). There have been complaints of trespassing at the location as per Mike Hughes Inwood Patrol. Renowned artist, Oscar Abreu, wants to display art on a monthly basis. The issues were deferred to the Executive Committee to consider liability issue. Lastly, the Highbridge Pool was among WPA error pools. It is being considered for designation throughout the city.

Youth and Education – Nothing to report.

Concerns for the Aging – A grant was given to the city for Meals on Wheels program to cover our entire community. There will be 500 plus to provide meals. There is an objective to reach less traditional settings. Money will be filtered to every organization that has this service. A flyer will be sent via Community Board 12's mailing pertaining to a hunger study. Questions were raised on how the study is conducted. This, however, is not known. Diana Hernandez, of ARC, does assessments for Meals on Wheels.

Health and Environment – Con Edison Project- An engineer presented a plan, and is cooperating with the Health Committee. There have been no problems with the Con Edison route. NYPH is not happy about this plan. Next report pertained to there still not being a site yet on the EMS Station. EMS response time is 38 minutes delayed when bring a patient to NYPH. Helen Morik will arrange a meeting to discuss this. A health report presentation was made by Nancy Burning on health findings. Health and Environment will revisit. This issue. Steve suggested a future presentation on Health Profiles of our community (i.e. mortality, asthma, cancer, etc.)

Public Safety – A wrap up discussion on the Men's shelter will take place at next PS meeting. See details.

Economic Development – On February 16, 2007 at 6pm, Children's Hospital, there will be a Dominican Medical Associations Forum. It was then reported that Renewal liquor license applicants must attend Economic Development committee meetings; if not, the application will be denied. Cardiac #3 Restaurant at W. 161st Street and St. Nicholas Avenue is now closed.

The Committee reviewed mail inserts. The March 2007 General Meeting site is pending on ADA Compliance. It is to be announced at a later date. The Committee was informed that OEM will be transporting people needing heat to 3 heating centers in Manhattan.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

COMMITTEE FOR THE AGING MINUTES
February 13, 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Gloria Vanterpool

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Sybil R. Dodson-Lucas, Chair excused
Fern Hertzberg, Asst. Chair excused
Nelson Rojas

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ramona Gomez

Guests: Mary Jones Springer, Ethel Linder Stoll, Norma De Candido - Residents, Diana L. Nobile-Hernandez- Outreach Coordinator, ARC Senior Center, Edward M. Daniels- Veterans Administration, Jim McNiff-resident, Zamira Setaro-Con Edison

Meeting convened at 10:10am, opening remarks Gloria Vanterpool

Ms. Dodson-Chair of the Aging Committee was out of town. Ms. Hertzberg-Assistant Chair had prior meeting commitment.

Ms. Vanterpool reviewed mail.

Ms. Vanterpool introduced speaker for the meeting Ms. Diana Hernandez, Outreach Coordinator from the ARC Senior Center and presenter on Meals-On-Wheels(MOW) program.

Ms. Hernandez reported that the Meals-On-Wheels (MOW) is a healthy nutrition outreach program provided for persons who are 60 and over, in Washington Heights and Inwood.

Aging Population who qualify for this program are as follows:

- Elderly who are homebound
- Temporarily, physically impaired
- Inadequate cooking facilities where elderly reside

Aim is to provide:

- education on nutrition
- home visits that encourage social interaction for those who are isolated or lonely
- door-to-door deliveries with competent employees.
- Agency understands the need for some elderly to retain a form of independence
- Meals are certified by the Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene

Program Goals:

- To conduct assessments for homebound, identifying those at risk or those under nutrition constraints in the community
- To be proactive in advising participants of health care professionals obligation
- Lack of effective communication are some of the barriers participants experience

Additional points:

- How do patients become aware of services, upon being discharged from medical facilities?
 - United States 9th in the world for obesity
 - Wellness services to be communicated through the media of local neighborhood newspapers
 - Kosher meals are available
 - Qualifications of employees, start age 18yrs old, thorough background check
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Edward Daniels, Veterans Administration

Notified group every Tuesday a meeting re: "Call for World War II Vets & Relatives of Deceased World War II Vet", takes place at the Harlem Vet Center, 55 W. 125th Street (212) 426-2200. All are welcome.

Meeting Notice: Congressman Charles Rangel, North Presbyterian Church – 525 W. 155th Street on **February 18, 2007 @ 3 – 5pm**

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am

PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES – February 06, 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Zead Ramadan Chair
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Asst. Chair
Aaron Scott

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Emilia Cardona
Rafael Osoria (excused)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Manny Velazquez, Chair
Carole Mulligan
Isaiah Bing
George Espinal

Staff Present: Jeffrey A. Laufer

GUESTS: Nancy Bruning, NY Public Health Association; James Kushnu, President of Rotary Club of Inwood; Dana Hockenbury, Washington Heights Gardening Crew; Kevin Blum, Sarah Fabian and Barry Kogan, Green Apple Corps; Joe Wojak, Inwood Canoe Club; Mike Hughes, Inwood Patrol; Daniel Mercado, Parks Department

Meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by Chair, Zead Ramadan.

1. **Public Health Association of New York's report, "Steps to Get New Yorkers Moving"** Nancy Bruning, MPH and community resident, spoke about health issues related to obesity and a lack of physical activity. She described physical activity as a "magic pill" which reduces obesity and cardiovascular risks, as well as improving mood, energy and well-being. She pointed out that CB12 in particular has a wealth of parks which can be used for physical activity year round for free. Ms. Bruning went on to share her Master's thesis, the above-named publication, which outlines 10 important policy recommendations for increasing opportunities for physical activity in New York City. She requested feedback and a letter of support for NYC to create a Mayoral "Fitness Coordinator" which would be analogous to the recently named "Food and Nutrition Coordinator." The committee decided that the best next step would be a resolution from the Executive committee, as this issue affects all committees: Aging, Health, Traffic & Transportation, etc., not just Parks.
2. **NYC Department of Parks & Recreation's draft RFP** is not yet ready but is anticipated later this month, and will be placed on the calendar for review and discussion in March. CB12 will have 30 days to review the draft and provide input to RFP before it is released to the public for responses. RFP will include Marina and restaurant component, but not a nightclub. Some things that public members addressed that should be included are public access and educational facilities.
3. **Oscar Abreu**, a successful artist who has displayed his art in many cities and countries including Chicago, Spain, and the Dominican Republic attended the meeting and spoke about his experience as an artist and the importance of supporting other artists as well. He would like to have a display of community artists in the CB12 gallery. If it is a success, he would like to create additional shows to get exposure for the artists while also helping the community derive pleasure and knowledge from viewing art. Mr. Abreu stated that artists would hang their art at their own risk, and that understands that neither CB12/NYC nor Columbia University (the Board's landlord) will assume responsibility for same. He also stated that no sales would occur in the gallery, which would be strictly for viewing.
4. **Arden Street "Park"**: This property is owned by Verizon; it is not an NYCDPR park. It is a sitting area with trees but it is privately owned. Community residents are concerned that it is boarded up and would like for it to be available for public access, not used as a parking lot. (Verizon employees currently use it as a parking lot adjacent to their building which fronts an Thayer Street, and the rear of which is on Arden Street.) This has been a conflict with the use of Arden Street as a PAL play street during July and August.
5. **Ms. Sandy Wilson, Director of Community Affairs at Verizon**, introduced herself and provided background information. "We made a business decision... we were receiving claims that people were getting injured, and there were lawsuits. It became a liability," she said. She stated that she met with CB12's then-District Manager, Gregoria Feliciano, in 2004 to explain the closing. "We were asked to make the fencing as attractive as possible, but we are not in the fence business and we have enough to provide phone services without also having a park. There had been petty crime, drug dealing, etc. Community groups and public safety groups asked me to close the park," said Ms. Wilson. This all came as news to members of the Board and the

Parks Committee, many of whom were on the Board +/- Parks Committee at the time. This was around the end of Ms. Feliciano's tenure; apparently the information was never disseminated.

Ms. Wilson made clear that she is here to listen and cannot make any commitments on behalf of Verizon. She noted, however, that they are always looking at their real estate portfolio and what are the best business decisions.

A public member asked if there is the opportunity for public/private partnership between DP&R and Verizon to turn the land over to public access. There are of course financial considerations and liability issues as well. CB12 Chair Manny Velazquez spoke in support of this vision to turn the land over for public use. Another request made was for Verizon to work with PAL to ensure that staff vehicle movement in and out of the property coordinates with Play street use to ensure the safety of children.

As an aside, Ms. Wilson spoke about the philanthropic activity of Verizon's charitable arm, and encouraged attendees to visit www.verizon.com/foundation. She was touched by Mr. Velazquez's remarks about our community being shortchanged by large corporations and utilities. She noted that Verizon's philanthropic priorities are in the area of literacy and domestic violence.

Mr. Ramadan thanked Ms. Wilson and the community for their input, calling the evening's discussion the beginning of discovery, and perhaps of a renovation.

Barry Kogan and Susan Fabian the Green Apple Corps (a partnership between Americorps & DPR) proposed the use of the space as a community garden, perhaps with programming that included health and nutrition education. Ms. Wilson will follow up with the real estate division to find out what are the options with regard to disposition, be it by sale, gift, loan in perpetuity, or some other option. The tone of the discussion was upbeat, cooperative, respectful, and mindful of both the needs of the community and Verizon's corporate interests.

6. **New business:** Dana Hockenbury of the Washington Heights Gardening Crew described her group's advocacy and beautification activities. They just received a \$3,000 grant from the Manhattan Borough President's Office and installed seven tree guards in existing tree pits along Broadway from 169th Street to 171st Street on the West Side of the street. All the businesses were supportive of this beautification effort. Business owners are getting heavy fines for having trash in the tree pits. Businesses do their part by cleaning out the tree pits in the morning. However, Sanitation comes by to do inspections, new trash has accumulated and now they are being punished by DSNY for not having their pits clean. Mr. Ramadan, who happens to be a small business owner, advised that DSNY has a window of enforcement by zone for each area, and each business should display a decal with their enforcement window to ensure that enforcement is consistent with the required timing. This issue will also be addressed at the next DSC meeting. Board Member Carol Mulligan requested enforcement of sanitation laws in Inwood, on 207th Street and Broadway, Dyckman between Broadway and 10th Avenue, and in 207th Street from Broadway to 10th. This will also be raised at the DSC meeting.

Ms. Hockenbury also had a complaint about skateboarders in Mitchel Square Park. Department of Parks and Recreation will be installing skate stoppers (like speed bumps).

7. There being no further business, the mail having been deferred, **the meeting adjourned at 9:00pm**

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 1, 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Steve Simon, Chair
Isaiah Bing
Helen Morik
Beatrice Hall
Bracha Statman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Martin Collins (excused)

STAFF PRESENT

Jeffrey Laufer, Community Asst.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jay Mazur
Julissa Gomez

GUESTS: Michael Fitton, Deputy Chief, FDNY-EMS; Nancy Bruning, Public Health Assn. of NYC;
Shin-Shang Chou, Columbia Univ. School of Nursing student.

1. S. Simon called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and made opening remarks.

2. **Continued Discussion on EMS Service in Washington Heights-Inwood** – S. Simon summarized the discussion with EMS Chief Larry Mittleman at the last meeting and the committee's remaining questions. Deputy Chief Michael Fitton, who is with EMS Division 2 (which includes north Manhattan and the Bronx), said that there was nothing to report yet on the FDNY's search for a site for a new EMS Station #13, which serves our community. Ambulances would be stored there and would be re-fueled and re-stocked at the base station; employees also would report for work there. "It is in our interests and the community's interests" to have the base station located in the community it serves; it is currently at Harlem Hospital. The site selection will be submitted to the board for ULURP review.

Deputy Chief Fitton provided information concerning the incident reported by CB12 member Rita McKee of an elderly woman at 447 Fort Washington Ave. who fell on Nov. 27, 2006 and was bleeding profusely for 24 minutes before EMS responded. According to Deputy Chief Fitton, the call was made to 911 at 9:44 a.m. and entered by EMS at 9:45, which was an extremely busy time. It was given a lower priority based on the info given the dispatcher that it was a non-critical injury. As soon as an appropriate ambulance was available at 9:55, it was assigned to this case. It came from 121st Street and Madison Ave. and arrived at 447 Fort Washington Ave. at 10:05. The elevator was not working, and the crew had to use the stairs to reach the patient, who was in the 4th floor hallway. Therefore, FDNY records do show that it probably took 24 or so minutes to reach the patient after the initial call was made, but they indicate that the patient was not considered to be in critical condition.

Fitton reported that EMS response time in Division 2, including Washington Heights-Inwood, for the most serious calls is consistent with the citywide average – generally below seven minutes.

There was a detailed discussion concerning turnaround times for EMS at local emergency rooms, i.e. the amount of time EMS crews have to stay with the patient at the ER until they can speak to a triage nurse and receive a signature by which the hospital accepts the patient. Until that happens, EMS crews cannot go back on the street to respond to new calls. In response to the chair's request, Deputy Chief Fitton gave the following statistics on the number of EMS runs at the three local ERs and the average turnaround times for the last two years:

	2005		2006	
NYPH - 168th St. ER	22,991	34 min. 32 sec.	23,432	34 min. 59 sec.
NYPH - Allen Pavilion	7,612	29 min. 11 sec.	7,505	29 min. 25 sec.
Harlem Hospital	15,175	27 min. 50 sec.	14,922	27 min. 47 sec.
Citywide	882,949	29 min. 02 sec.	896,937	29 min. 19 sec.

Fitton said that Coney Island Hospital was able to reduce turnaround times by 8-10 minutes by stationing a doctor at the door of ER so that he or she could sign off on the patient right away. "We need to be as efficient as possible.....we're babysitting the patient" until the hospital releases the EMS crew, he said.

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 07, 2007

Committee Members Present

Mark Levine, Chair
Beatrice Hall, Asst. Chair
James Berlin

Committee Members Excused

Edith Prentiss
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

Board Members Present

Martin Collins

Staff Present

Jeffrey A. Laufer

Guests: Carol Blagman, Resident; Julia Marsh, Manhattan Times

Mark Levine, the chair called the meeting to order at 7:14pm.

1) Retaining wall on Haven Avenue (bet. 176th 178th street): This wall has been neglected for years and now it must be repaired. Mark has contacted DOT about the situation, but he has not been able to find out who is responsible for its repair. Jeffrey Laufer suggested that the committee arrange a walk thru with the various city agencies to get to the bottom of the problem. More details should be available by the March meeting.

2) Proposed service cuts to M98 BUS: MTA has reduced service on the M98-Bus line to about three (3) Buses in the Morning/ Evening rush hours only. At present, there is no service during the day and no service on the weekend. Community resident (Olga Tello) has collected about two thousand (2000) signatures so far to petition MTA to improve or return the service to its' former level. Some service is needed during the day and on Saturday. It was suggested that our Elected State official should be enlisted

3) Request for renovation of 163rd St. stop on C train: A resolution was past in support of rehabilitating the 163rd Street C station:

	yes	no
Committee. Member	3	0
CB12 member	1	0
Public	1	0

4) Update on Castle Village: Jim Berlin reported that the wall should be up by the end of this Month. However, the ramp to the H. H. Pkwy will probably stay close thru June Because Dot will more than likely be using it to complete their portion of the wall repair.

5) Carol Blagman, Community resident of 1380 Riverside: Regarding signage at RSD/ 181st Street at the H.H.Pkwy wall collapse. MS Blagman wants the confusing signage change in the area. Jeffery will contact Mr. Pearce from DOT for an update on the problem.

6) No other new business

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted, Beatrice Hall

Economic Development Committee, Community Board 12 (Manhattan)
February 6, 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Julio Peguero, Chair
Tony Lopez, Ass't Chair
Helen Morik
Ruddy Santana

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Janifer Wilson

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Manny Velazquez, Chair
George Espinal

CB12 STAFF PRESENT

Jeffrey Laufer

Guests: Owners (Pablo and female) of **524 Villa Rivas Corp. located at 524 West 207th St.**, Owners of **Rodriguez Azteca Deli Grocery**; Inspector Capul, Captain Ventrella, Officer Rodriguez

Meeting called to order at 7:15pm

524 Villa Rivas Corp. located at 524 West 207th St.

Inspector Capul spoke on this establishment:

Inspector Capul has concerns with this location because of the eight (8) noise complaints, sale of alcohol after 4 am, having an overcrowded premise, and the certificate of occupancy not being available. On February 6, 2007, Inspector Capul also mentioned that officers reported seeing a sign with 'sale on beer' and having a disc jockey from 12am to 6am. Summonses were issued in the past but no arrests have ever been made.

After Inspector Capul leaves Pablo (Owner) denies that signs exist and mentions he does not speak English and did not understand what Inspector Capul was saying.

After some questions, the business claims to have a temporary license from SLA. Julio requests that they bring a copy to the office for us to review.

148 Nagle & Fitz Grocery

According to Inspector Capul, these businesses have not received any formal complaints.

The Third Palm Tree

Captain Ventrella spoke on this establishment:

Captain Ventrella, 33rd Precinct, stated Commanding Officer Dowling is concerned about the restaurant shutting down by 4 am. Officer Rodriguez states that there was a lot of EDP's. The committee will write a letter to invite the restaurant to defend themselves; scheduled for next meeting.

Rodriguez Azteca Deli Grocery

This location was approved in November and paperwork was misplaced. Their resolution never made it to the general board and this organization has been on a holding pattern for several months.

Resolution on **Rodriguez Azteca Deli Grocery**:

	In Favor	Opposed	Abstain
Economic Development	4	0	0
CB12	-	-	-
Community members	-	-	-

The committee will write an apology to Rodriguez Azteca Deli Grocery on delay in processing application.

Meeting adjourned.

YOUTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 5, 2007

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cleofis C Sarete, Chair
Albania Jimenez
Dora Maria Abreu
Jackie Rowe Adams
George Espinal
Angelo Ortiz
Ramona Gomez

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Maria Luna, Excused
Jose Lopez
Carole Mulligan

PUBLIC MEMBER PRESENT

Judith Rodriguez

CB12M Staff Present

Deborah Blow, Community Coordinator

GUESTS: Ramona Gomez-Resident, Jessica Reyes-LEA, Ramon Breton-WHA, Rosa Sanchez-Literacy, Inc., Roberto De La Rosa-Parent Advocate, Archana Nagraj-Creative Arts Workshops for Kids, Ana Martinez-WHA, Lynne Herndon-WHA, Crystal Felix, Principal of WHA

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Newly appointed assistant Chair, Albania Jimenez, welcomed everyone, apologized that Ms. Sarete, the Chair of the Committee, is not present, and called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Guest speaker, Ms. Lynne Herndon, representative of Washington Heights Academy based at P.S. 178 stated that community service was one of the important activity that students do at the school. Crystal Felix is the principal of the school. She spoke about the school's mission and the wonderful success that they have had so far in the community. Students are selected by lottery. In addition, the school is looking forward to increase the number of students in the near future. Ms. Herndon stated that the school currently services grades K to 2. The school will be looking forward to opening their doors to serve grades K-8.

As the meeting continued Ms. Sarete introduced **Archana Nagraj**, Executive Director from Creative Arts Workshop who works in conjunction with City Life Is Moving Bodies (C.L.I.M.B.). Ms. Nagraj briefly spoke about C.L.I.M.B. and their mission on focusing on five Parks; Highbridge, Jackie Robinson, Morningside, Inwood Hill, and Fort Tryon Parks. Ms. Nagraj is looking to recruit youth who are interested in building and creating a Giraffes.

Creative Arts Workshop and City Life Is Moving Bodies have funding to pay youth interested in participating. The Creative Arts Workshop is looking for business inside the Community to help fund this program. Donations are as follows: \$450.00-baby giraffe's; \$600.00-mother giraffe's; \$750.00-Dad giraffes. For further information, contact Archana Nagraj 646-316-1657

The 3rd Annual Hike the Heights event invites residents to participate and enjoy their local parks. The event is an effort to promote physical fitness in Upper Manhattan communities. The Community Research Group at Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health launched Project CLIMB in July 2005.

Albania Jimenez, President of Latinas En Accion spoke about partnering up with C.L.I.M.B. and requested CB 12 Youth & Education Committee's support in a May "Family Art Fair".

Ms. Sarete announced that the next CEC meeting: is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2007 at Adam C. Powell, PS 153 at 1750 Amsterdam Avenue.

A discussion was held regarding **Project Renewal-Men's Shelter** concerning alleged incidents in the community. The Youth committee felt that to effectively assess this matter, they needed more data regarding the outstanding incident reports from law enforcement.

Judith Rodriguez, New York Public Library, spoke about the success of the "Lobby Reading Training" that took place at the Inwood Branch Library on January 25, 2007. Community resident Jessica Reyes commented that she successfully completed a Lobby Reading Program in her building.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

Submitted by Adolfo Cuevas, reviewed by George Espinal and edited by Ms. Sarete

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2007

Committee Member

Julissa Gomez, Chair
Adam Eggers, Asst. Chair
Aidee Camacho
Kotie Cannon
George Espinal
Dr. Joyce Humber-Faison

Absent Members

Dr. Pamela Palanque North
Andre Harris

Staff Members Present

Jeffrey A. Laufer

Guests:

Ray Segal- Resident, Isaiah Bing-CB12 Board Member, Erika Rodriguez-Assemblyman Farrel's Office, Maria Rodriguez-Council Member Jackson's Office, PO Tony Trinidad-NYPD 34th Precinct, PO Kevin Kelly-NYPD 34th Precinct, Shin-Shang Chon-Columbia University, Captain Dowling-NYPD 33rd Precinct, Joselinne Minaya-District Attorney's Office

Meeting Called to Order at 7:15pm by newly appointed Chair, Julissa Gomez. She welcomed and introduced the committee members.

Fort Washington Men's Shelter / Project Renewal

The meeting began with a report on the Men's Shelter. Committee Members Kotie Cannon, Julissa Gomez, and George Espinal visited the Men's Shelter today for an overall tour of the facilities which was led by Cilfton Hill. They reported:

- Shelter has 200 beds and are currently to capacity
- There are 17 dormitories available with approximately 15-17 clients in each
- There is a mental health clinic available to the clients if they so choose to seek help or medication
- The former "Smoke-Room" is in the process of becoming an occupational therapy room
- There is an orthodontist's office available to the public in the facility
- Clients participate on either of two available projects while staying at the shelter: Project Pride which is funded by Department of Homeless Services (DHS) or Project Step which is funded by the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene (DOHMH)

NYPD Captain Dowling/ 33rd Precinct Report

Captain Dowling reported that there has been a slight increase in crime in the southern heights (157th Street and Broadway). There has been a male, robbing individuals at gun-point. Suspect was arrested in the confines of the 30th Precinct with an unloaded air-pistol on January 27th, 2006. The perpetrator had been robbing female Mexicans with and without children. He reported the stats for the YTD:

- 6 Felony assaults
- 1 Domestic violence case
- Up 2 burglaries
- Grand Larceny is up – 4 stolen vehicles for the year. 1 might have been towed
- Up 1 robbery

Ray Segal expressed his concern with narcotics and loud youth in the West 157-158 Street, Southern Heights area. He claims two adults were harassed by children in the neighborhood. Ms. Yvonne Stennet commended Captain Dowling for his efforts in reaching out to the community. She believes police-public relations have increased. She commented that she would like to see an increase of police officers in the entire area by creating or building a partnership with the community. Asst. Chair Adam Eggers, recalled last year's February Public Safety Meeting in which the 33rd and 34th Precinct's Auxiliary Police Unit expressed concern for some items such as but not limited to getting more sector cars, radios and bullet proof vests. Mr. Eggers suggests that we call upon the elected officials to address this ongoing issue. Captain Dowling mentioned the decrease in salaries which drive away potential police officers.

H. Morik promised to arrange a meeting between NYPH ER staff and EMS to see what could be done to improve this situation and will report back to the committee. S. Simon emphasized the importance of this matter in improving EMS service to the community.

I. Bing: will the Con Edison transmission line project along Broadway from W. 204th-219th Streets affect response time?

Fitton: "we see all construction as obstacles and routinely deal with them"

H. Morik: NYPH is planning to have a community breakfast for the Fire Department and EMS in early March.

3. Public Health Association of NYC Report, "Steps to Get New Yorkers Moving: Policy Recommendations for Increasing Opportunities for Physical Activity in NYC" – Nancy Bruning, who currently runs three fitness walking programs in upper Manhattan parks (Fort Tryon, St. Nicholas and Marcus Garvey) distributed copies of her report to the committee. "NYC has great outdoor places for exercise; it has to be woven into our everyday lives. Not everyone can go to a health club.....Physical activity can help manage disease." The report has 10 key recommendations involving schools, streets, parks, workplaces and housing. She pointed out that 44% of the land in CB 12's district is open space, such as parkland. "Schoolyards are an untapped resource...some need to be upgraded, and not just for children." She suggested that NYC appoint a Fitness Coordinator and that there be more fitness programs in parks, such as the ShapeUp New York program. The committee promised to review the report and to consider a possible endorsement at its next meeting.

4. Fort Washington Men's Shelter – The committee reviewed follow-up items from the discussion at the last meeting. H. Morik said she had not been able to check with NYPH legal staff on whether shelter clients found to be a threat to themselves can be required to take medication. M. Collins was to check the board's files for the original announcement concerning the 200-bed shelter run by Project Renewal to see what type of population was to be housed there. CB 12 Chair M. Velazquez sent a letter to the Dept. of Homeless Services requesting a copy of its contract with Project Renewal so we would know what type of services it is required to provide.

5. Con Edison's Proposed Transmission Line and Substation Project – I. Bing reported that a three-day evidentiary hearing was held at the Public Service Commission last week. Our representatives questioned Con Ed about the project's environmental impact and the alternative route that CB 12 endorsed. Almost all the elected officials or their reps showed up at the PSC. The elected officials also held a press conference last Sunday advocating for the alternate route. Three more hearings are scheduled – one in February, two in March. The PSC will render a decision in August.

I. Bing also reported that NYPH's engineer, who originally submitted an affidavit arguing for changes in Con Ed's proposed route at W. 220th St., withdrew his objections at the last hearing, and both he and NYPH's lawyer stated that NYPH no longer opposed the plan. H. Morik said she was planning to talk to NYPH's lawyer and engineer to check into this and said there is "no final agreement with Con Ed...the last thing the hospital wants to do is come to an agreement with Con Ed before the community."

6. Fort Washington Men's Shelter, Part II – At this point, Julissa Gomez, chair of the Public Safety Committee, entered the room to ask the committee about its views concerning the proposed public forum or hearing on the men's shelter to be held by CB 12. An extensive discussion followed on how and when the board should conduct such a forum. It was agreed that the board should gather as much information as possible prior to holding such a hearing and that it would be preferable to review the Project Renewal contract beforehand.

7. Mail – Notices were received from 1) the Environmental Control Board concerning revised rules increasing penalties for various violations relating to Buildings, Asbestos, Public Pay Telephones and Parks and 2) the Dept. of Environmental Protection on a rule on citywide construction noise mitigation.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
S. Simon

NYPD PO Tony Trinidad / 34th Precinct Report

PO Trinidad gave the stats for YTD:

- All major crime is up 10% for the year
- Increased of robberies, 24 vs. 33 in 2007
- Felony assaults increased- 10 vs. 13 in 2007

Police Officer Trinidad reported that due to the increase of robberies in the confines of the 34th Precinct, they've created an "Impact Zone". The zone lies between West 179th Street and West 184th Street, crossing from Wadsworth to Audubon Avenues. There will be 1 Sgt. and 8 Police Officers assigned to the "Impact Zone." They have not found a pattern at this time for robberies in the "Impact Zone."

Joselinne Minaya/ District Attorney's Office

Ms. Minaya reported that the office is working with the 34th Precinct in terms of making sure that the buildings in the confines are part of the trespassing programs so that the Police Officers of the 34th Precinct could gain access to these buildings. She also reported:

- There is no sketch of the perpetrator who killed Carlos Rivera, also known as DJ Carlos Blaze from a local radio station.
- The homicide committed on Bennett Avenue is on trial.
- The DA's office is looking into the Dyckman Marina to make sure it does not continue on the same path as previous years.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Angelisa Almanzar and George Espinal.