

**Community Board 12, Manhattan**  
**General Meeting – February 23, 2010 – Russ Berrie Pavilion**  
**1150 St. Nicholas Avenue**

**PRESENT**

Dora Maria Abreu  
Jackie Rowe Adams  
Richard Allman  
Juan Carlos Alonzo  
Anita Barberis  
Leonardo Blackman  
Emilia Cardona  
Rolando Cespedes  
George Espinal  
George Fernandez

Nicole Foster  
Julissa Gomez  
Melanie Hidalgo  
Rabbi Yosef Kalinsky  
Ernest David Kach  
Rabbi Yosef Kalinsky  
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter  
Maria Luna  
Glenda Swanson Massa  
Helen Morik

Edgard Nau  
Pam Palanque-North  
Cheryl Pahaham  
George Nelson Preston  
Zead Ramadan  
Andria Reyes  
Tamara Rivera  
Ruddy Santana  
Steve Simon  
Gloria Vanterpool

Manny Velazquez  
Joe Wojak

**EXCUSED**

Rev. Antonio Almonte  
Wayne Benjamin  
James Berlin  
Cynthia Carrion  
Martin Collins  
Tony Lopez  
Jasmine Moy  
Elizabeth Pepin  
Audrey Perez  
Edith Prentiss

**ABSENT**

Isaiah Bing  
George Cruz  
Rita McKee  
Carole Mulligan

Chair Pamela Palanque-North called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

**Chair's Report:**

The New York City Office of Management and Budget has responded to our FY 2011 expense and capital budget requests and priorities and has requested that Community Board 12 hold a public hearing to review the OMB's response. Most of the 69 requests CB12 submitted were not recommended for funding. The date of the budget hearing was scheduled for Monday, March 8, 2010 at the CB 12 office. The Chair informed the board that she has been in discussions with the 33<sup>rd</sup> & 34<sup>th</sup> officials about the spike in crimes. Police officials will be at the next CB12 general meeting and all other general meetings to follow as a result.

Chair noted that "Bowling for Haiti" raised \$1,000 and commended all board members in CBs 12, 11, 10, and 9 for participating.

Chair met with Deputy Mayor Walcott to advocate CB12's priorities, including daycare, housing violations and other issues. Walcott noted that no daycare center has been closed in CD12 although there have been budget cuts, and appreciated hearing from CB12.

The Chair also met with Senator Gillebrand to discuss CD12's needs with respect to gang violence, child care, legal services and the long-term effects of youth crimes being classified as felonies on the life chances of youth in CD12.

Chancellor Klein will dialogue with community leaders on education-related issues. The Chair has been invited to this event and will attend.

Budget cuts could lead to restructuring at Harlem Hospital and given that, the Chair wants a healthcare legislative/budget impact on services at New York Presbyterian Hospital. She will organize the legislative breakfast with Helen Morik.

Chair thanked board members for their work, in particular, the organizers of "Bowling for Haiti," the elected officials, the Columbia University Medical Center and all for work on behalf of the board and the community.

**District Manager's Report:**

The District Manager briefly discussed recent crimes that occurred in CD12 and noted that police conduct was unacceptable in one instance in Inwood Hill Park.

The District Manager noted that posting flyers for EDC meetings in the vicinity of an establishment seeking a license was not a requirement of SLA or of the open meetings law. Rather, since this was a requirement of CB12, the District Manager asked board members to help with the postings. He also noted that the SLA does not require the board to invite applicants to an EDC meeting in writing. The DM announced the Salsa, Blues and Shamrocks race sponsored by Coogan's.

Chair moved to adopt the agenda. It was suggested that all resos be moved before the EDC resos. Upon discussion, the board decided by a vote of 16 to 4 to adopt the amendment.

Chair noted the presence of Assemblyman Farrell, Deputy Inspector Dowling from the 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct and thanked them for attending.

It was noted that the March 2010 calendar had errors: Health and Environment and Housing and Human Services are meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup>, not the 11<sup>th</sup> and the Executive Committee is meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Assemblyman Farrell:** Update on New York State budget. New York has a major problem, facing a deficit of about \$8 billion and needs to be conservative in its estimates to avoid mid-year budget cuts. Health care and education are major problems. This is the first time the Assemblyman had to say that there was less money than the Governor said. Another problem is the loss of one Senate Democrat—the Senate has only 31 votes and 32 are needed to get anything done. We hope that the Democratic candidate wins the special election. We are seeing a jobless recovery—we really need those Wall Street bonuses—a large percentage of our taxes come from Wall Street. Deferred compensation to avoid excessive compensation does not provide state with needed tax revenue. We have to find ways to make cuts without damaging people.

**Deputy Inspector Dowling:** Crime was down for every crime except robbery so far in the year. Last year was best ever. In large part, it's due to us focusing on where we assign personnel and aid from community. Last year, there was a rape and the community outreach was incredible, and led to an arrest of the individual, who actually lived in Virginia. We have had one homicide at 219 Audubon, a stabbing. The individual was apprehended at the scene and is now in jail and we're working on prosecuting the case. A shooting in Caridad Restaurant last month; a shooting at 206 Audubon Avenue—drug related, have lots of evidence and can bring case to successful closure. To address the violence on Audubon,

The CO posted posted a car on the avenue 24-hours daily.

Chair thanked the Deputy Inspector Dowling for his report and noted that the board would continue to receive such reports at future general meetings.

**Public Advocate Bill DiBlasio:** Public Advocate is meant to be a watchdog of government and bring the government to the people as well as communicate what changes are needed in government. We're an ombudsman role and we will help the community navigate government to solve problems. I also sit on the City Planning Commission. I want to work with community boards to maximize their demands and to help get them amplified and achieved, in particular, in Land Use, Housing and Development issues.

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The Charter Revision Commission is addressing many important issues regarding the function and organization of government, such as whether community boards should be eliminated or strengthened, among many, many other important issues and we need to make sure that our voices are heard by the commission and I will work hard on that.

On the City budget, there is a plan to close 15 daycare centers and we need to mobilize against that.

Please call my office if you need anything.

Board member questions and comments to Public Advocate:

Timeframe for Charter Revision Commission has to be completed by September 2010 if it is to get on the November 2010 ballot. We'll push for maximum public input. November 2010 is too short a timeframe for the public. We are fighting a monster with the issues of a charter revision. The public needs to be educated on the ballot text and needs time for public education.

**Borough President's Report:**

Jaritzta Taveras appeared on behalf of the BP. She noted that the MTA budget cuts called for the elimination of student MetroCards and many service reductions. The BP presented the MTA with 16,000 signatures protesting the cuts. The BP is holding a rally on the 4<sup>th</sup> at Union Square with students, parents, and teachers and will include transportation to Queens to the public hearing.

The Census is coming and getting a complete and accurate count is really important.

MFY Legal Services every Friday from 10 AM to 3 PM in the BP's 125<sup>th</sup> Street office.

Board member comment: We need to hit the MTA where it hurts—in their wallet. A rally isn't enough. How can we have a real impact?

**Public Speakers:**

Mr. X: March 2, Flushing; March 3 Bronx; 2128784843 call to testify at borough hearings on MTA budget cuts. The cuts are despicable—please join me Friday in my borough on this hearing.

Lidya Radin: Falsely accused of harassment by a Yeshiva University employee and has a case in Manhattan criminal court. Will be following up with my Councilman and the Youth and Education Committee because I have uncovered fraud and civil rights violations. Ms. Radin will leave information for the board.

Stephanie Kinlock, ConEdison: Represents ConEdison public affairs. Have a customer service center on 125<sup>th</sup> between 5<sup>th</sup> and Lenox, which was sold to Village Academy Charter School and ConEdison, will relocate to 124<sup>th</sup> Street between Park and Lexington Avenues.

Board member question: Why is ConEdison moving services outside of Washington Heights and further into Harlem? We used to have an office on 181 Street between St Nicholas and Audubon.

Response: Only one customer service center located in each of the 5 boroughs.

Jeanette Mejia: We own 2184 Amsterdam (La Caridad Restaurant) and have been running businesses since the 1990s. We sold the restaurant 4 years ago and are in the process of buying it back. We are operating it and requesting that the board support a renewal of an alcoholic beverage license under the name of the current owners, AEK.

Melissa Figueroa: Visiting Nurse Service of New York is seeking hospice program volunteers. Call 212-609-1900. We can facilitate training on anger and grief management; would like to do so with high school students. If interested, call me directly at 212-609-1722.

Maggie Clarke: Dyckman Inwood Noise Action; Inwood Washington Heights Livable Streets; the Ring Garden. Has come to protest "Dyckman Liquor Alley"—we should not be trying to increase the number of alcoholic beverage licenses—too much noise and too many sleepless nights—the Assemblyman requested that CB12 not approve so many licenses in the area. Patrick Bar renewal—owner wants to buy Dyckman Deli and open another bar.

Jose Felix Cabrera: Own Casa de Mofongo and wants to open South Beach (1390 St Nicholas Avenue on 180<sup>th</sup> Street) with an alcoholic beverage license which CB12 did not recommend last month based on a criminal incident that occurred involving a patron who left Casa de Mofongo. I have operated businesses in CD12 for over 25 years and I need the board's approval for a liquor license.

Board discussion of Mr. Cabrera's comments: The board did not recommend South Beach for a license in December 2009, after having approved it in October 2009. The item is not on the agenda for a vote tonight. It was recommended that Mr. Cabrera go back to the EDC and ask for its support.

Axarina Britto and Raymond Erazo, and Al Kurland: Armory PAL—advocated for CB12 support of In-Step High School Internship program in the Armory. The Armory programs help youth develop and enhance their life chances. In-Step is funded from the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Services and has some small private grant funds. In-Step serves 140 youth in after school programs, 20 In-Steppers, 150 after school and others in summer youth employment programs.

Selina Greene: Inwood Safety Patrol is seeking volunteers and is requesting better officer training, such as familiarity with the neighborhood; a separate substation with dedicated officers; officers in Inwood Hill Park; a separate precinct for Inwood. Plan to incorporate as 501c3.

Board members invited Ms. Greene to Public Safety Committee meetings and the Parks Committee meeting.

Mino Lora: People's Theater Project here to advocate a real estate tax credit for nonprofit theaters and performing arts organizations. We really need space and it is hard to come by and we are relying on donations, even for space, such as Isabella etc, but this resolution would help us to become permanent. Our mission is to create a culture of peace through theater in Washington Heights. Having a space would really help us.

Board Member Discussion: What about Inwood? We're talking to a librarian about using space there. Did you know the Armory has a theater?

Response: No, but we have not approached them yet.

Melissa Moschitto: Is advocating the tax credit. We spent over \$10,000 on rentals and that is over 50 percent of our budget.

Denise Hykes: Inwood Academy for Leadership will open in August 2010; April 2010 is the lottery and applications are being accepted now. Next Tuesday, March 2 at 7 PM, there will be an information meeting. See website: [www.inwoodacademy.org](http://www.inwoodacademy.org). Our space has not been selected yet but we will be in Inwood.

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Bill Dunmyer: West Dyckman Neighborhood Association—strongly opposes the Concho license. We are saturated. Noise and chaos—please read the letter from Assemblyman Farrell opposing the licensing of additional businesses in this area. Is confused about the opposition to Patrick's but opposes the new license for Concho. Too many sidewalk cafes on that part of Dyckman.

Ted Minos: Also supports real estate tax credit reso—Inwood Shakespeare Festival—we need rehearsal space to perform—we lost our usual space due to a 266 percent rent increase. We don't charge admissions and rely entirely upon donations. Our company will benefit from this reso. Please pass this reso.

Mr. Adames: Emergency room services at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital—I saw people laying on gurneys—the room was full of people and reminded me of Haiti. I was in the hospital unable to deal with my case about election fraud. I was placed by the door; the slamming increased my pain and I requested that I be moved. I was moved underneath a loud buzzer. I wanted to go home. Check out the crowding in the emergency room.

Senator Schneiderman: Juvelqui Rivera reported and provided a legislative update and let people know to see her with questions.

Yokarina Duarte: Councilman Rodriguez is fighting the MTA budget cuts, and his staff is calling landlords who do not provide heat and hot water and is calling HPD to ensure that all tenants get heat and hot water. Gave a budget briefing on proposed cuts and their impact on District 10. April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at United Palace will allow the community to send a message to the Mayor about the budget cuts.

Juan Rosa: Councilman Jackson will hold education budget hearing on March 2 at City Hall. Thursday, March 4, Maria Luna will be honored on behalf of Dominican Independence Day, and March 2, Assemblyman Farrell

**Committee Reports and Resolutions**

**Parks and Cultural Affairs:** Presented justification for reso advocating a real estate tax credit for nonprofit theaters and performing arts organizations. Accepted a friendly amendment to ensure that the benefit of tax break which is to be given to landlords would actually pass through to the arts organizations in the form of reduced rent. Noted strong support for this tax credit among arts groups and in other cities for the concept. Right now, community boards 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 have passed a similar resolution.

Board members voted unanimously in support of the reso: 31 in favor, with 15 absences.

**Youth and Education:** Presented reso advocating dialogue between parents and school administrators on sex education in public schools. Board members discussed the reso and raised a question about language in the reso regarding empowering parents. The goal of the reso is to express CB12 support for Planned Parenthood's program working with parents to teach them to advocate for age-appropriate sex education in public schools. Also presented a reso supporting PAL programs. Board members voted in support of the Sex Ed reso, 27 in favor, 1 opposed and 3 abstained. Board members voted in support of PAL reso, 30 in favor and 1 opposed.

**Housing and Human Services and Health and Environment:** Presented joint reso regarding cell phone towers and requesting City oversight and enforcement regarding the placement and emissions of cell phone towers. Board members proposed amending the reso and committee chairs agreed to the suggestions. Board members voted unanimously in support of the reso, 31 in favor.

**Economic Development Committee:**

Committee chair presented highlights from a meeting with the State Liquor Authority and clarified misconceptions regarding regulations concerning distances required from a school or church; posting notices and other information for the board. Board members voted in favor of 9 resolutions and voted against 4 resolutions.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cheryl Pahaham, March 22, 2010

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Committee for the Concerns for Aging  
February 9, 2010

**Committee Members Present:**

Gloria Vanterpool, Edgard Nau, Glenda Swanson-Massa, Elizabeth Pepin, **Absent:** Father Almonte,

**Public Member:** Fern Hertzberg,

**Board Members:** Edith Prentiss,

**Staff:** Deborah Blow

**Guests**

Burnita Diaz-Dyckman Center, John E. Thompson-Dyckman Center, Peggy Gillen-Resident, Norma De Candido, Juan I. Rosa-Councilman Robert Jackson's Office, Ethel Linder Stoll, Marilyn Pacheco-Isabella Geriatric Ctr., Jim McNiff-resident,

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Meeting convened at 10:10, Chair Gloria Vanterpool presided.

**Highlights of Comm. Bd. Committees meeting**

- Housing/Human Services – Glenda Massa
- The committee is still exploring the installation of many cell phone towers in the resident buildings and their possible danger to community residents. The committee plans on meeting with the Dept. of Buildings, Dept. of Environmental Protection, and Dept. of Health. Updates will follow
- Health – Edgard Nau
- Committee discussed an article "Govt. Orders Columbia to Tell Patients "True Nature of Drug Study. Details of this article will be explored and discussed at an upcoming meeting. E.Nau sits on Institutional Review Board and will be watching this closely.

Economics - Elizabeth Pepin

**MTA Cuts**

Our fellow CB member, Edith Prentiss spoke to us about the proposed cuts by MTA that will affect seniors who use Access-A-Ride. She informed us that the MTA is proposing a 40 million dollar cut that will greatly reduce the services provided by transportation thru-out the 5 boros. Information was distributed concerning the public hearings to be held on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Sample letters copies as well as phone nos. for people to sign and call our public officials. The committee will contact all senior centers as well as cooperate with WHICOA to encourage a strong public response to these cuts.

**Advocacy Training Course**

Ms. Arbisesi informed us about the Joint Public Affairs Committee for Older Adults leadership training. It is a 10 week training that will prepare older persons in becoming active advocates on their own behalf. In light of all of the proposed cuts it is extremely important that people being affected learn their entitlements, the legislative process, public speaking, and writing techniques. The sessions are quite conclusive as was mentioned by one of our committee members, Glenda Massa, who

received her certificate. It is hoped that a workshop can be held in Wash. Hgts. And the chairperson will follow up with Ms Arbisesi on this. Hopefully one can be provided in Spanish for our Spanish- speaking seniors.

Meeting ended at 11:30

Next meeting March 9<sup>th</sup> 2010

**Tentative topics: Safe Streets Seniors and Time Bank-NYC**

Submitted by: Elizabeth Pepin

Edited by: Gloria Vanterpool

Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting – Minutes  
February 1, 2010

**Committee Members  
Present**

George Nelson Preston,  
Chair  
Rabbi Josef Kalinsky, Asst.  
Chair  
Anita Barberis  
James Berlin  
Edith Prentiss

**Committee Members  
Absent**

**Board Members Present**

Pamela Palanque-North  
  
Leonardo Blackman  
  
Joe Wojak

**Staff:** Deborah Blow

**Guests:** Mitchel Glenn – Jumel Homeowners/Residents of Sylvan Terr., David Schweitzer – PS8, Raquel Collado – PS8, Joanna Almarante, Sheila Caro, Tabitha Perez, Llecely Mendoza, Matthew O'Shea, Frankie Monge Jr., Samuel Sota, Efrain Medina, Bladimir Rodriguez, William Fernandez, Anthony Pastor, Frankie Ramos, Juko Batista-NYPH, Juan I Rosa-Councilman Robert Jackson's Office.

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**Opening Remarks**

Chair George Preston opened the meeting at 7:10 pm.

**Paving of West 187<sup>th</sup> St: Report by Rabbi Josef Kalinsky**

Rabbi Kalinsky reported that the damaged/missing pavement on 187<sup>th</sup> St. between Broadway and Overlook Ter. was repaired. Problem resolved.

**Traffic Study on Gridlock at 181<sup>st</sup> St, St. Nicholas, and Broadway**

Committee members noted excessive traffic and gridlock at this intersection. Problem is Traffic Enforcement issue tickets rather than working on a solution to help move traffic along. Recommendations for follow up:

- Josh Orzek (DOT rep) suggested at a previous meeting that ticketing issues are out of scope for DOT and the Committee should follow up with the police (traffic enforcement).
- The Committee will check w/ Public Safety Committee to work with the police and traffic enforcement to develop solutions to this issue. Committee Chair will attend Public Safety Committee to follow up.

**Illegal Bus Parking at W. 168<sup>th</sup> at Armory Track & Field**

Committee member Edith Prentiss provided detailed background on illegal bus parking at the armory during track season. Private buses bringing athletes to events block city bus stops and traffic by parking illegally.

- Edith spoke to Cmdr. Dowling (34<sup>th</sup> Pct.) about this problem. Received assurances that the precinct will follow up with the armory regarding bus parking.
- Committee member James Berlin mentioned CB 12 used to invite the armory directors to meet with us regarding bus parking. Recommended reviving that process. Committee will request a meeting with the armory director.
- Other discussions on possible parking for buses: In Ft. Tryon circle, by New Leaf Café, or at NYPH.

### **Steel Plates at 186<sup>th</sup> – 187<sup>th</sup> St. and Overlook Terr. and 739 W. 186<sup>th</sup>**

Committee had requested removal of these plates during previous meetings. Noted that most had been subsequently removed. Also discussed:

- New potholes around Overlook between 186<sup>th</sup> and 184<sup>th</sup>. Will request DOT look into this issue. DEP may also need to be involved if there are underlying environmental issues. Committee Chair will contact Steve Simon about a coordinated approach to DEP. Also, Jim noted similar conditions on the streets near the CB 12 offices.

### **Sherman Creek Overview: Report by Josh Orzeck, DOT**

Josh Orzeck was unable to attend the meeting. Committee Chair will follow up with Josh to make sure he can be at the March meeting with details on the Sherman Creek project.

### **Other Old Business**

- David Schweitzer (and other teachers) from PS 8 came before the committee requesting/inquiring about designated teacher parking at 465 167<sup>th</sup> St. off Amsterdam. No designated teacher parking makes commuting and working difficult. Previously, DOT indicated no teacher permits or signs would be issued. That had stopped years ago. The PS 8 teachers indicated a school in Riverdale had designated parking, but provided no evidence. Committee recommended they do due diligence and collect information on this other school with designated parking and return to the committee with that.
- Matthew O'Shea (and other teachers) from PS/MS 278 asked for school safety zone study. Their school at 219<sup>th</sup> St. is not on DOT maps. Also asking for improved traffic crossing markings. Committee will ask DOT to follow up.

### **New Business**

- Edith Prentiss presented information on MTA service cuts. Cuts will affect A train (late night) and Access-a-Ride programs with service reductions. Encouraged everyone to attend public meeting w/ MTA at FIT on Thurs. 3-4, 7<sup>th</sup> Ave and 27<sup>th</sup> St.
- CB 12 member Leonardo Blackman spoke representing a foundation, Merlins Miracles, named after Merlin German, a marine fatally wounded in Iraq. Provided details on charitable work provided by foundation and requested street co-naming. Will come back to committee with a bio for Merlin German and character references.
- Would like Josh Orzek from DOT to follow up in March regarding Dyckman St. and traffic flow/crosswalks at 162<sup>nd</sup> St, Amsterdam Ave., and St. Nicholas.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joe Wojak

**YOUTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE – MINUTES**  
**February 1, 2010**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

George Espinal, Chair  
Carol Mulligan  
Maria Luna  
Jackie Rowe Adams  
Martin Collins  
Leonardo Blackman  
Cynthia Carrion  
Juan Alonzo

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Obie Bing  
Pamela Palanque-North  
Steve Simon

**Staff Member Present:** Deborah Blow

**Guests:** Michael Sherwood, Roberto DeLa Rosa, Denise Hughs-Mahattan Bible Church, Al Durland, Manager-PAL, Karen Jolicoeur, Luis A. Stulillo, President-PS 278, Judith Amaro-CEC, Christine, Christian Guerrero-Inwood Academy, Caroline Mello-Planned Parenthood, NYC, Evelyn Suero-CEC, Maureen Guido, Principal PS 278, Edward Reyes-IAC, Yolanda Santos-MHSPC, Solanger Cabral, Bryan Davis-CEC, Clelia Familia, Manuel Castro-Mirabal Sisters, Elizabeth Hueras-PS 192, Ian Adrian-PAL, Juan I. Rosa-Councilman Robert Jackson's Office, Dorothy Becker

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**I. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm, with welcome & opening remarks by Committee Chair George Espinal:**

**II. Presentation by Inwood Academy for Leadership Charter School – Christina Reyes (7:16 pm)**

Christina Reyes introduces the leadership team – Christian Guerrero, the director of school culture and future plans for the school.

- IALC will be holding a 3 week summer program for all enrolled students
- Enrollment process for Inwood Academy for Leadership Charter School:
  - o Applications can be mailed or emailed. No information about the perspective student's grades or performance. Application due April 1<sup>st</sup>
  - o Lottery: Performance given to students that are struggling. 50% of enrollment solely for Level 1&2 performing students and English Language Learners (ELL). The other 50% will be open to all students. Lottery will be publicly done on April 6<sup>th</sup> (looking for a space and is open to CB 12 suggestions). Expect over 300 applications.
  - o Capacity: 110 students. Others will be waitlisted. School will grow into a 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade school.
  - o Outreach: Mailing will be sent to all 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in the area (English and Spanish). School is starting with 5<sup>th</sup> grade to catch students that are struggling.
  - o Location: Looking for a space above 181<sup>st</sup> Street. School will be in a new or renovated building. Community leaders at the meeting voiced their concern about wanting to know the exact location as soon as it is confirmed.
  - o Teacher Recruitment: Looking for ore seasoned teachers at least 3 – 4 years experience. Posting on Idealist.org and Criagslist.com.
  - o CB 12 Action Item: George Espinal will follow-up with CB 12 district office to send an email blast to CB 12 listserv to inform parents of the open application process.

**III. Update from the School Construction Authority on PS 18/ IS 278 (7:26pm)**

- Michael Miricella of the School Construction Authority gives presentation of all the projects the SCA is currently involved in CB 12. Has 69 projects in the area with a total of \$105,204,743. Please see presentation slides.
  - o Agency is facing budget cuts (from 13 Billion to 11 Billion)
  - o Acknowledges that community sees increase in seats as biggest issue, but SCA does not.
  - o For capital improvements and to raise concerns please contact [cecinput@nysca.org](mailto:cecinput@nysca.org) or call 718.472.8803
  - o Community member informs Michael that the George Washington High School Campus pool is leaking. He



- will look into it.
- o SCA tells the committee that due to budget cuts, playgrounds not a priority. States that these funds are normally provided by Borough Presidents and City Council members.
- o Most information about individual school building conditions and improvements can be found on the Dept. of Education website – CAS reports.
- **Michael Sherwood, of SHAW (DOE consultant for the indoor air quality concerning PS 18 / IS 278)**
  - o Manhattan Times article prompts an investigation into the indoor air quality at school location. Established that the health concern is on vapor / breathing in toxins, due to a spill from a gas station that occupied the property on W220th Street (1960's – 1980's).
  - o Independent air quality tests/ air samples were conducted the weekend of January 16, 2010 in the Basement of IS 278 and PS 18 First Floor. Test we considered all within the health range as established by the NYS Dept. of Health Air Guidance for Vapor Intrusions. Obie Bing requests the full chemical inventory and report to ensure that children, staff and community are not at risk of toxins on the location. George Espinal will follow-up with SCA to make sure CB 12 receive the air quality report.
  - o Karen Jolicoeur of the PS 278 PTA informed the committee that this controversy has negatively harmed the school community. "Our school is a great school" but much effort and attention has been focused on gaining back public trust. Referenced low enrollment numbers due to the negative press and not being able to focus energy on other areas. Principal Maureen Guido was also in attendance. Issues came about not from a parent but a perspective parent who decided not to attend PS 278.
  - o It was discussed that Manhattan Times would be writing an updated article.
  - o CB 12 M is acting cautiously to ensure the safety of the community and school. Obie Bing will follow-up with committee once SCA report is submitted.

#### **IV. Presentation by the Community Education Council #6 by Vice President Brain Davis**

- CEC discussed issues community is facing:
  - o Middle School Choice: We are the only district in Manhattan to not have school choice
  - o Zoning: Area between Dyckman- Payson – 207<sup>th</sup> Street – Sherman Ave – Thayer Street – Broadway is unzoned. No K-5 school zoned for students. Normally not an issue for PS 278/18/98 as they accept these students. Children in this area will be zoned shortly. In light of MTA shortfalls for student metro cards, zoning is a major issue, as more families will want a school closer to home.
  - o DOE is projecting 600 less seats in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in our district – Our district is shrinking. We went from 2,700 to 2,200 students in the last 10 years. Major implication for school budgets as school budget is weighted per student needs (i.e. Title One, special needs, etc).
- What should we be doing: Shrinking numbers can provide an opportunity.
  - o Need to advocate for not just more space but small class sizes
  - o Maria Luna suggests that the CEC brings a resolution outlining need for improvements
  - o It was discussed that the DOE needs to bring more programs to our schools. We have great schools in our own district to shine and not send kids downtown. Our community has been suffering due to choice. Our kids who live in these areas should be able to go to school in the neighborhood.
  - o Steven Simon: The projection of 600 kids leaving district we don't know where they are going. CEC thinks it is possible that people are moving to the Bronx, less immigrants and gentrification. Needs to investigate. Middle School choice becomes very important.
  - o Carol Mulligan: Our Jr. Highs are not competitive many parents are sending children to elementary schools in neighborhood but not middle schools. We need to make our MS better. As a community we need to make a criteria for what we need to see them providing.
  - o Juan Alonzo: Students are not going to area schools because parents need schools that are open to their schedules. Are we still busing our kids out just for special ed services?
  - o Yolanda Santos, MHSPC: Administrators have great control about the school and environment they are providing. At PS 187 Parents are not allowed to go to main office to find out about the school. School Safety officers stop them.
  - o Great to have a conversation with CB 12, CEC and community to address the quality of education in the areas.

**V. Manhattan Bible Church Youth Programs by Denise Hykes (8:32pm)**

- Program is developing & mentoring young leaders from middle – high school (passed information about program out to members). Volunteer based.
  - o Participate in small groups, soup kitchen, famine and poverty awareness, and mission trips. Believes that a lot of our youth have much to offer the community. Seeks in employ students. 220 participants involved in program. Work in the Love kitchen providing hot meals from 4 – 6pm and clothes distribution.
  - o Maria Luna: Urges Ms. Hykes to ensure that youth know about their own city before going on trips to other cities. Should know about the Bronx, Staten Island etc.

**VI. Review of Police Athletic League (PAL) Resolution**

- Al Kurland, PAL, thanks the committee for support. After providing services for CB 12 for many years is seeking resolution to submit to Manhattan Delegation of the City Council for discretionary funding to continue services. For more information about PAL community can contact Al at 212.477.9450 x 360 or Ian Adrian at x 317
- Resolution passed at January meeting. It will be presented at February General Meeting.

**VII. New Business: Planned Parenthood NYC's "We're Going to the Principals Office" Campaign by Caroline Mello**

- Planned Parenthood provides health care services in Manhattan, Bronx and Brooklyn. NYC has the highest pregnancy and STI rates in the country and NYC has no required comprehensive sex education. Is asking CB 12 to support a resolution advocating for comprehensive sex ed to be taught in schools, using the already established age appropriate DOE Health Smarts and Reducing the Risk curriculum. Borough-wide and citywide initiative already passed by CB 2. Is partnering with other organizations and CECs.
- Leonardo Blackman: Are their training for parents, as our area needs a lot of parent support on this topic. Planned Parenthood has adult educators / role models that work with PTA.
- Jackie Rowe Adams: Commends Planned Parenthood.
- Cynthia Carrion: Friendly amendment to include CB 12 stats.
- Carol Mulligan calls the question and Juan Alonzo seconds.
- Resolution passes:
  - o Committee members: in favor - 8 (0 – abstain) (0- oppose)
  - o Board Members: in favor – 3 (0 – abstain) (0- oppose)
  - o Public Members: in favor – 14 (0 – abstain) (1- oppose)

No other New Business

**Announcements:**

- Public member informs the committee that the Summer Youth Employment Program is cutting placements from 50,000 last year to 17,000 for this summer.
- Coogan's 12th Annual Salsa, Blues & Shamrocks 5K Run 2010 will be held on Sunday March 7, 2010 with Kids race starting at 10am. All are welcomed to participate. Adult runners should contact New York Road Runners.
- Parent informed the committee that she is from PTA 52 / School Leadership team and would like to make a suggestion that there be a translator for these meetings. Many members would like to participate but don't feel comfortable due to translation challenges. Also, stated concern over the CEC leadership saying that they call police on parents at meetings when voicing contrary views.
  - o Maria Luna: Apologies that at the beginning of the meeting committee did not ask public if there was a need for translation services, but parents should feel welcomed to participate and encouraged parents to come that we will get translations services if needed, this should not be a barrier for involvement.
- Everyone should make sure to be counted in the Census

Meeting is adjourned at 9:15pm.

Martin Collins motions. Juan Alonzo seconds.

**Community Board 12, Manhattan Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes for February 2, 2010**

**Committee Members Present:** Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair; Cynthia Carrión; George Fernandez; David Kach; Rabbi Yosef Kalinsky; Zead Ramadan; Joe Wojak

**Committee Members Excused:** George Cruz, Assistant Chair; Emilia Cardona; Jasmine Moy

**Guests:** Gail Addiss; Thomas Atela, ABB Design firm; Andrew Penli & Daniel Mercado, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation; Andrew Engelhardt; Gerry Culligan; Regina Gradess; Mitchell Glenn

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Committee Chair Elizabeth Lorris Ritter opened the meeting at 7:30 pm. She announced the appointment of a new Assistant Chair, George Cruz, who was unable to attend due to the sudden hospitalization of a family member. George Preston is now the Chair of the Traffic & Transportation Committee, and no longer will serve on Parks & Cultural Affairs, though he will attend meetings as his schedule permits.

**Columbia University update:** There is no new news from Columbia University on their construction project at the athletic complex on 218<sup>th</sup> & Broadway since their informational meeting community in December. Gail Addiss, a community resident in that area, reported on the meeting, indicating that **CU** is being responsive to neighborhood concerns about future construction and is fixing current eyesores and other problems (e.g., removed barbed wire on fencing, shut off noisy HVAC equipment late at night).

**Highbridge Ballfield:** The Parks Department and its design firm presented a modified plan for the ball field located just east of Amsterdam Avenue, between 174<sup>th</sup> & 175<sup>th</sup> Streets, north of the rec center; the revisions incorporated feedback from the January Committee meeting:

Parks resolved committee concerns regarding fencing:

- Left-field line will get an 8' fence to Amsterdam Ave. perimeter fence.
- Right-field line will have 6' fence from home plate to just past infield, but will not fence the entire length into the outfield to preserve the natural beauty of the back area.
- Perimeter fence height raised to 20'. Not going to add additional netting to raise fence height due to prohibitive cost and maintenance issues.
- There will be a double-entry gate for maintenance vehicles.

Additionally:

- Committee continues to have concerns about potential hardball play on field. It was stressed that this field is for softball and little league baseball only and DPR must enforce that.
- Discussed seating, which seemed adequate.
- Noted an interesting flat parcel of land adjacent to ball field. Queried DPR on what that land is used for. Mr. Penli indicated it is undeveloped but it is used for pick-up games and other general use. We should keep an eye on it for further ideas.

**Tax abatement for theaters:** Committee considered the tax abatement resolution designed to help support non-profit theater and performing art space. The resolution is based on a series of meetings initiated by activists in the performing arts communities where many of NYC's non-profit theatres are located (primarily CBs 4 & 3), with the input of the MBPO and CBs borough-wide, and builds on points raised at last month's Committee meeting. The idea is for landlords to get tax breaks/credits for letting theater companies use empty space for performing arts for free or below-market rents. There was lots of friendly discussion supportive of the idea, noting that many performing arts organizations have approached the Committee and the Board with concerns about lack of space in CB12, even as recently the January meeting (NoMAA) and the December meeting (People's Theatre Project), and that a local company (Bridge Theatre) closed several years ago for want of space. The Chair also noted that this as an important issue for CB12, as many CB 12 resident work in the performing arts even though theatres may be located elsewhere. Several boards (4, 9 & 10) have passed resolutions or written letters of support on this already, and all other Manhattan Boards are entertaining resolutions or letters of support this month.

Committee member Zead Ramadan raised a question/concerns about landlords cheating this system by bringing in bogus theater companies (i.e., how do we make sure landlords aren't setting up fake theater

companies just to get a property tax break?). The committee had an extended discussion regarding enforcement mechanism or verification mechanism around this plan/resolution. Additional discussion:

- Committee generally OK w/ current wording, but want to add language to encourage growth of arts, but not at expense of housing.
- Will add additional language that recognizes many CB 12 residents work in arts, as well as language specific to CB12 concerns regarding theatre/performing arts space.

The vote was unanimous, with seven Committee members and five members of the public voting in favor of the resolution.

**Sherman Creek Waterfront Esplanade Survey:** The NYC Economic Development Corp. (EDC) is looking for community feedback on its Sherman Creek waterfront esplanade project, which would extend along the Harlem River waterfront from the Sherman Creek up to the 207<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. This is a long-term Master Plan project for development of the waterfront itself, not the larger project related to rezoning/development of the upland interior. Ms. Lorris Ritter, Land Use Committee Chair Wayne Benjamin and CB12 Chair Pam North will be meeting with EDC later in February to provide additional background and perspective in anticipation of a series of planned community meetings and design charettes. Of particular concern are how to get more access to the waterfront, both visually, and for active and passive recreation at the river's edge and in the water itself; this is especially challenging given that particularly since much of the land is owned by ConEd or other private concerns, not the City. The recently constructed street-end parks are nice, but not contiguous, and a lot of people don't know that they are there. It was suggested to reach out to Manhattan Times and circulate to CB 12 members to get additional survey feedback.

**Announcements:**

- The Land Use Committee is holding a meeting on historic preservation in Inwood/Washington Heights on Wed. 2/3 at 7 pm.
- The Ventures Program at the Nagel Avenue YM/YWHA offers events, programming and trips. Encourages involvement; contact Nagel Ave "Y" (212-569-6200) if interested.
- Free concert Feb. 7 at Our Saviors of Atonement. Additional free concerts on 3/7 & 3/15.
- Upcoming "Winter Jam", a winter sports related event in Central Park at 72<sup>nd</sup> St.
- Bowling for Haiti fundraising event at Harlem Lanes (2116 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Ave.) on Wed. 2/17. Bowling alley donating space. \$20 suggestion donation for Haitian relief efforts.
- Annual 5k run sponsored by Coogan's on Sunday, March 7. You can volunteer! (Contact Coogan's: 212-928-1234).

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

## HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES – February 11, 2010

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steve Simon, Isaiah Bing, Ernest Kach, Helen Morik, Edgard Nau, Andria Reyes. **ABSENT:** Beatrice Hall (Public Member). **STAFF:** Deborah Blow, Community Coordinator  
**GUESTS:** Greg Elcock and Fernando Perez, Con Ed Community Liaisons; Jacob Garniez, local resident; Jennifer Vega, Washington Heights Ecumenical Food Pantry.

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The meeting began as a joint session with the Housing & Human Services Committee, whose chair, Cheryl Pahaham, convened the meeting at 7:15 p.m., stating that Steve Simon, chair of Health & Environment, would arrive shortly.

1. **Presentation on Con Edison's energy efficiency programs** – Greg Elcock and Fernando Perez, Con Ed Community Liaisons, spoke about various programs offered to homeowners, small businesses and apartment buildings with up to 50 units pursuant to an order by the Public Service Commission. The latter two programs are new in 2010.
  - Homeowners (1-4 units) can receive financial incentives for upgrading heating and cooling systems – cash rebates from \$200-\$600 for installing eligible energy-efficient equipment.
  - Small businesses can receive free surveys showing how to save \$ and energy, free upgrades such as CFLs and water heater thermostats and incentives up to 70% for major equipment upgrades.
  - Owners and renters of apartment buildings (5-50 units), including coops and condos, can receive incentives for replacing and upgrading refrigerators and air conditioners, free surveys to evaluate individual units and common areas for lighting and cooling-efficiency improvements, cash rebates for buying Energy Star appliances, and recycling of old appliances.

Several committee members pointed out that a large number of apartment buildings in CD 12 have more than 50 units and would not qualify for this program.

- Larger buildings are covered by a separate commercial/industrial program for buildings with an average peak monthly demand of more than 100kw. This program provides an incentive amounting to 70% of the incremental cost for boiler replacement but does not apply to oil burners or dual-fuel boilers, only gas boilers, since the purpose is to reduce the load carried by Con Ed and other companies. Gas conversions are eligible.
- Mr. Elcock: the gas conversion program has been in place for about two years. In response to questions, he agreed to find out how many buildings in CD 12 have converted and report back.
- He said other energy efficiency programs are currently going through the PSC review process. The public can get more info about current and future programs by calling 877-870-6118.
- He also mentioned another program initiated by Con Ed, Demand Response, to curtail use of certain appliances and equipment during high-demand hours in the summer. Mr. Perez said they would like to return to the committee in May to discuss Con Ed's plans for the summer.

Q: Where are you looking to get your supply of gas? Would any of it come from the hydro-fracking process that may be used upstate?

A: A lot of our supply comes from the south.

Bing: The ultimate in energy efficiency would be to have a solid distribution system. Con Ed made a strong commitment to improve our network and during the M29 project a lot of the antiquated PILC [paper-insulated lead cables] were replaced. What more are you planning to do?

Perez: Since 1999 Con Ed has done the following in WH-I: replaced 38+ miles of cables, 14-20 feeder cables, 287 sections and 107 transformers, and installed 34 new transformers. In 2000, 976 sections (46.5%) in WH-I had PILC. Now there are 371 with PILC (16.9%). The average for the city is 19.1%. The goal is to reduce the % to 0.

Bing: What is Con Ed's projection for future demand in WH-I?

Perez promised to provide a response when he returns to the committee in May.

At this point, the Housing & Human Services left to meet with a group of tenants who had concerns about problems in their building, and the Health & Environment Committee proceeded as follows:

2. **Proposed resolution regarding municipal regulation of cell phone towers** – S. Simon distributed a revised version of the resolution that had been passed by the H&HS Committee at its meeting last month. He explained several changes that he made. He pointed out that Local Law 28 of 2005 requires the Buildings Department to maintain a database with detailed info regarding permits issued for cell phone antennae as of July 2005, which is available to the public through DOB's website. The current listing has 3068 entries citywide, 905 in Manhattan. Based on the discussion, and in response to suggestions by committee members and a member of the public, additional amendments were made to the resolution.
3. **Update on New York-Presbyterian Hospital** – H. Morik, Vice President, Government & Community Affairs, reported that the new Milstein Heart Center has been opened. Former President Bill Clinton returned as a patient today. She invited the committee to have a guided tour and hold a meeting there. She also said that the work on the new Pediatric ER on Broadway is moving ahead.
4. **Old Business** – It was agreed that further discussion about the issue regarding Columbia University Medical Center's Institutional Review Board would be tabled until next month.
5. **Proposed resolution regarding municipal regulation of cell phone towers, continued** – The members of the Housing & Human Services Committee returned at this point. S. Simon distributed the revised resolution with the latest changes. Everyone was given a chance to read it. After a brief discussion, a vote was taken. The resolution passed unanimously with 5 votes in favor from the H&HS Committee, 6 votes in favor from the H&E Committee, and 1 vote in favor by a member of the public.
6. **New Business** – A. Reyes quickly left to greet her newly arrived niece at the NYPH maternity ward. Jennifer Vega, representing the Washington Heights Ecumenical Food Pantry, which is currently located at the Broadway Temple United Methodist Church, is looking for a new space, preferably a storefront. It would like to operate more like a store in which "customers" can go through the aisles picking out items.
7. Mail was reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Simon

## **Land Use Committee Meeting - Minutes**

**February 3, 2010**

### **Committee Members Present**

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

### **Committee Members Absent**

Dora Maria Abreu  
Richard Allman

### **Board Members**

Cheryl Pahaham  
Edith Prentiss  
Joe Wojak  
Liz Ritter  
Steve Simon

### **Public Member Present**

Vivian Ducat

Staffer: Deborah Blow

**Guests:** Steven Louci, Jessica Rivera-Municipal Art Society, Nicole Lugo, Rodolfo Leyton-City College Architectural Ctr., Achva B. Stein-City College Architectural Center, Andrew S. Dolkart-Columbia, Claudette Robb Ross-PTG BOD, Gail Abbiss-100 PTW, Libby Howland, Pat Courtney-50 PTW, Mathew Spady, Vitalia Shklowsky-Resident, Andrew Enychehad-Riverside Dr., Jenny Fernandez, Dir.-Landmarks Preservation, Tenzing Chadotosang-Landmarks Preservation, Juan I. Rosa-Councilman Robert Jackson's Office, Bruce Robertson, Rafael Escano-Community Resident

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1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.
2. Land Use Chair Wayne Benjamin called the meeting to order, asked members of the Land Use committee (the "Committee or "Land Use") to introduce themselves and also asked members of the audience to introduce themselves indicating where they live and what area of Washington Heights and Inwood they were interested in with respect to historic preservation. Attendees were also asked to consider signing up to participate in a working group that will assist the committee in advancing new historic designation activities. The Chair referred to a series of maps mounted to the walls on the east side of the room that were a product of the Neighborhood Planning and Land Use study undertaken by Community Board 12-Manhattan (CB12-M) and City College Architecture Center (CCAC). He invited the attendees to come up at a later point to mark-up the maps to indicate additional structures or areas that they felt should be considered for landmark designation.

Subsequent to the introductions the Chair asked Jenny Fernandez and Tenzing Chadotosang, representing the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), to provide an overview of LPC, the historic designation and what being a historically designated building area or structure does and does not mean.

Ms. Fernandez stated that LPC was created in 1965 in part in response to the demolition of Penn Station. She noted that the boundaries of a historic district will depend on the area's sense of place. CB12-M's recently designated Audubon Park Historic District was used as an example to illustrate the concept of sense of place. The approximately 20 buildings that comprise the district were selected because LPC felt they shared a common sense of place, architecture and history. Other area buildings such as the brownstones on West 158<sup>th</sup> Street were excluded from the Audubon Park, but that does not mean that they cannot also be designated either individually or in other historic districts.

The Committee was informed that sometimes the impetus for considering historic designation comes from LPC, in contrast to Audubon Park which was an initiative of local residents. For example in the case of the Fort Washington Presbyterian Church, LPC reached out to the owners and worked with them over a two year period until the church was designated. LPC is not required by law to obtain the consent of a property owner before designating a structure, but in general LPC does not seek to pursue designation where owners are opposed.

The LPC reps outlined different kind of historic designation that is possible.

1. An individual building (like the church)
2. An historical district (like Audubon Park)
3. A scenic landscape (like Central Park)
4. A culturally significant building (like the La Mama Theater)

Historic designation, with limited exception, regulates the exterior of a building. There are interior landmarks, such as Grand Central Station or Radio City Music Hall, but for the most part designation is concerned with what is visible from the street. In addition to permits required from the Department of Buildings, Department of Transportation or other city agencies having jurisdiction, permits are also required from LPC for designated buildings or buildings in historic districts where the proposed work is visible from the street.

There are also a few rare examples of land marking of plantings, such as in Sunnyside Gardens and Jackson Heights, because these areas were designed to be garden suburbs and so the actual plantings were part of the original design.

The Committee was advised that land marking does not force a building to be frozen in time. LPC uses the tenet of appropriateness when making their judgments about whether a proposed change is permissible. The LPC reps noted that 90% of the requests for LPC approval of changes are handled at a staff level and only 10% actually go to the commissioners for a hearing. The LPC reps further noted that if a building had certain features that came into existence before designation but are not original the features are a "grandfathered condition" and the owner is not be required to remove or modify them.

Tenzing Chadotosang, who works with LPC's Grants and Outreach program, stated there is a process to ask for approval to use a substitute or alternative material(s) in a proposed building project. He also noted that LPC may take action against a negligent owner of a designated building if has determined that there is "demolition by neglect."

CB 12 Member Edith Prentiss asked if historic designation prevented damaged sidewalks from being repaired or trumped ADA accessibility requirements. The LPC reps noted that the city can force a landlord to take action to make sidewalk repairs even if the location is within a historic district. If the location is within a historic district consideration must be given to the appropriateness of the materials used to undertake repairs. The Committee was also advised that modifications to designated buildings can be made to facilitate ADA compliance but will require consideration of how to make additions that are in keeping with the character of and have the least impact on the architecture building. Typically discussions include how to mitigate the impact of installing ramps and lifts. Generally LPC seeks to have them positioned on the side of a building or to find a way for the actual design of the new structure to be creative. An 1850 brownstone and the Flushing Town Hall were cited as examples of designated buildings where LPC approved alterations to accommodate accessibility.

An attendee asked whether a film shoot can be held in a land marked structure. LPC does not regulate use of the building.



Another attendee asked what stops people from doing what they are not supposed to do with a land marked structure. LPC has an enforcement unit that can issue fines.

An additional attendee asked whether an architecturally insignificant even derelict building that is or was used by a culturally significant group would be eligible for land marking. The LPC reps noted that use is a consideration but design is usually a key factor in designation. However, LPC law permits designation based on architectural, cultural or historical significance. The Committee was advised that LPC recently designated a series of architecturally unremarkable buildings in Chelsea that were part of the Underground Railroad.

Chair Benjamin raised the Audubon Ballroom as a local example of a building that met all of the criteria for historic designation but ultimately was not. The Audubon Ballroom complex is where 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox started, it is where Malcolm X was assassinated and it includes theatres designed by noted theatre architect Thomas Lamb. The Chair stated it was his understanding that the building was not designated because it was owned by the City at the time designation was being considered and that city-owned buildings might be exempt from the land marking process.

A member of the audience asked what LPC's outlook was for the coming year. The LPC reps noted that there was some push back concerning the outer boroughs for designation efforts, as so many of landmarks are in Manhattan. It was noted that LPC just calendared the Grand Concourse for consideration and recently LPC was very rushed to consider and ultimately designate over 800 buildings in Prospect Heights in the face of a threat from the Atlantic Yards development project.

Mr. Benjamin asked Matthew Spady, a community resident and co-author of the Audubon Park proposal, to share insights gained from working on the request for evaluation for Audubon Park. Mr. Spady stated that the Audubon Park efforts were guided by the Landmarks Conservancy and that he worked with a fellow neighborhood resident who focused on the architectural aspects of Audubon Park while he focused on its historical background. He further alluded to the importance of patience noting that work on the proposal submitted to LPC in March 2003 and ultimately acted upon in May 2009 began in 1999. Mr. Spady noted that a factor in the success of obtaining the historic district designation was also that the district was both home to people of historical importance like John Audubon and was a place that demonstrated the impact of the city's expanded transportation network, that is, the IRT subway and Riverside Drive.. Also the name Audubon Park is in fact the name by which the area just north of Trinity Cemetery was called in the 1800s.

The Chair also asked Professor Achva B. Stein, the head of the City College Architecture Center (CCAC), where she thought CCAC might be of assistance to CB12 with new historic designation efforts. Professor Stein discussed funding opportunities available through the National Endowment for the Humanities that might be able to fund projects that highlight the preservation of an aspect of everyday life - something social and cultural. A storefront installation might even be considered to create a kind of outdoor museum. CCAC students need subjects for papers and can help CB12 with doing the research.

The Chair then reviewed the maps mounted on the wall giving particular attention to the potential historic districts that were proposed in the context of the Neighborhood Planning and Land Use study. The potential historic districts outlined in the study include Audubon Park, an expansion of Audubon Park, Fort Washington Avenue, Wadsworth Terrace, Castle Village and Hudson View Gardens, Park Terrace East and West, an Inwood Apartment house district and more. After this overview attendees were encouraged to get up to view the maps up close and mark them up. Subsequent to this review, Chair Benjamin noted that no additional districts were proposed so the logical next step would be to focus on those proposed districts for which attendees who signed up to be on the working group expressed interest.

A member of the audience mentioned their interest in terrain, rock formations and how the area's topography creates dramatic scenic vistas. Andrew Dolkart, the Director of Columbia University's the Preservation program and a local resident, raised the idea of land marking both Fort Washington Park and Inwood parks. Board Member Steve Simon raised the idea of scenic landmark status for Isham Park and Inwood Hill Park. Board Member Cheryl Phaham inquired as to the impact of historic designation on a landlord's ability to make roof repairs as well as on the cost of said repairs. Board member Joe Wojak inquired as to the rationale for a Park Terrace historic district.

The Chair recommended that the working group convene in two months, since the March Land Use meeting will be dedicated to a zoning workshop, and that in the interim work begin on detailing the research required to draft requests for evaluation of the proposed historic districts on which the working group will focus.

After further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Vivian Ducat and Wayne Benjamin

**Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 3, 2010**

**Committee Member**

Emilia Cardona, Chair  
George Fernandez  
George Cruz

**Committee Absentees**

Julissa Gomez  
Andria Reyes  
Rev. Antonio Almonte(excused)

**Board Members Attending**

**Staff:** Deborah Blow

**Guests:** PO Robinson Hewitt, Capt. Ventrella, NYPD 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct., DI Neil O'Keefe-NYPD-PBMN, Lt. Nunez, NYPD- 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct., Candice Delevante-Resident, Beverly Smith, Manager-NYPD -PED, Lt. Rivera, 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct., Rafael Escano-Community Resident, Deborah Cardona-Resident

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Meeting convened at 7:10pm Chair, Emilia Cardona

The Chair explained that the District Manager had requested this committee explore the topic: traffic problems along 181<sup>st</sup> Street from Broadway to Amsterdam. There are certain aspects of the problem that relate to pedestrian as well as driver safety.

The congestion at the intersections could lead to people being struck or cars colliding as they attempt to turn at any of the cross streets along 181<sup>st</sup> Street.

Captain Ventrella, 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct, explained how the precinct's identify an accident prone area. The police look at data gathered over a 28 day period, check signage and the site; if necessary personnel is assigned to regulate. It was pointed out that traffic agents are civilians who work for NYPD and are supervised by the precincts Executive Officer.

Ms. Beverly Smith, Manager-Traffic/Transportation share the following information:

- Traffic Agents work Monday – Friday and the hours are from 6am to 5pm.
- Construction at Highbridge at 181<sup>st</sup> Street & Amsterdam requires agents to be assigned to corners.
- These agents work for the city but are paid with State monies.
- Level II Agents are posted at Amsterdam & 181<sup>st</sup> Street.
- This site, by law, must have a special number of agents posted there.

Ms. Smith clarified the types/level of agents:

- Level I assigned to parking situations
- Level II assigned to enforcement of regulations
- Level III assigned to vehicle removal(towing)
- Level IV assigned to Environmental Control Board – (they insure work sites construction) do not create or present hazards to traffic, etc.

Some of the solutions that were proposed for the traffic and safety problems along 181 Street were:

- Turning signal at 181 and Broadway(north bound cars have extreme difficulty making a left turn)
- Create no standing zones for several hours both in the morning and afternoon.
- Dedicate a lane just for buses.
- Increase ticketing along the strip.
- Tow away double parked cars.

- Raise the fine for Jay walking.

During a brief discussion a member of the public expressed his dissatisfaction with manner in which our community's needs seem to have been ignored. It was noted that other communities who had similar problems have seen more a proactive response and solutions.

The discussion also touched on the facts that many people who drive through our community do not seem to be up to date on safe driving regulations and some pedestrians disregard proper and safe behavior when going from one side of the street to the other.

The consensus of the participants was that the various agencies involved with traffic management attend a district Service Cabinet meeting to discuss our suggested solutions. The agencies concerned are: MTA, DOT, NYPD & Traffic Enforcement.

A resident complained about a local church that he said provides valet parking on the sidewalk on the day of services. The representative from the 34<sup>th</sup> Pct. said he would speak to the pastor.

Before adjourning the meeting, the chair reported that Chief Banks was being invited for the March meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted by George Fernandez, Emilia Cardona, and typed by Deborah Blow