

COMMUNITY BOARD 12
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2000

Members Present

Anita Barberis	Isabel Evangelista	Helen Morik	Ricardo Ureña
Rafael Beaumont	Leslie Foster	Jon Moscow	Francisca Vargas
James Berlin	William A. García	Norma Nadien	Sandra Wachspress
Emilia G. Cardona	Joyce F. Holland	Marcos Navarro	Msgr. Gerald Walsh
Dr. Francisco Chapman	Robert C. Liebeskind	William C. Ortega	Elouise Whitehurst
Laurie T. Cohen	Maria Luna	Julio Peguero	
A. Fredericka Cuenca	Isidoro Martinez	Martha Pepín	
Walther G. Delgado	Miguel Martinez	Zead Ramadan	
Sybil R. Dodson	Luis H. Minier	Maria Sierra	

Members Absent

Abby Belkin (excused)	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter (excused)	George Sánchez (excused)
John Culpepper	José Delio Marte	Georgina Sánchez
Patrick Eglantine (excused)	Pamela Palanque North	Barbara Smith Ramos
Jack Fogle (excused)	Steven Rizick (excused)	Laura Sterling
Herbert Harwitt (excused)	Nelson Rojas (excused)	Juan Villar (excused)

Ex-Officio Members, Public Officials and Guests

Council Member Guillermo Linares	David Addams for Borough President Fields
Council Member Stanley E. Michels	Kate Podniesinski for State Senator Schneiderman
Eileen Sweeney for Assemblyman Farrell	Gregoria Feliciano, District Manager

The general meeting of January 2000 was held at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

Chair William A. García introduced David Addams who remarked on the work of Manhattan community boards and presented certificates of appreciation to out going Chairwoman Sybil R. Dodson. Certificates were also presented to Maria Luna and Isabel Evangelista.

Attendance Report – Secretary Walther G. Delgado

Reviewed the attendance records for 1999. Noted the outstanding event of having all members present at the December 1999 general meeting. Tallies for 1999 showed that 18 members attended 6 of 10 general meetings; 5 members attended 7 of 10, and 7 members were present at 8 meetings.

- Ten members who attended 9 general meetings were recognized and presented with the NYC red apple pin: Abby Belkin, James Berlin, Isabel Evangelista, William A. Garcia, Robert C. Liebenskind, Miguel Martinez, Helen Morik, Julio Peguero, Maria Sierra and Barbara Smith Ramos.
- Seven members who attended all 10 general meetings were acknowledged and awarded a gold NYC apple pin: Anita Barberis, Fredericka Cuenca, Walther Delgado, Sybil R. Dodson, Herbert Harwitt, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter and Marcos Navarro.

The review also showed the perfect attendance record of Council Member Linares and Borough President representative Miosotis Muñoz.

After brief remarks, the Hon. Judge Rolando T. Acosta, a former member, administered the oath of office to the new officers of CB 12 for the year 2000.

Community Board 12 was called to order and began its Regular Session at 7:35 p.m.

The agenda and minutes were approved.

Chair's Report – William A. García

Along with other board officers assumed duties on January 1. Has since dealt with the city's proposed Greenway along the Harlem River Driveway and the renovation of the boathouse at Sherman Creek by the N.Y. Restoration Project. Both proposals will be presented at future meetings. Confirmed that City Planning Director Joseph Rose will make a presentation on the new citywide unified bulk zoning proposal at February's general meeting. Met with the Empowerment Zone CEO Terry Lane regarding a proposed technology zone and with the FDNY on a new proposal for an ambulance station. Noted new services announced by Aida Alvarez, head of the U.S. Small Business Administration, during a recent visit to the community.

Gave background on resolutions to reorganize CB 12's committees, create task forces and special committees, and other measures to improve the board's processes. Noted the survey included in members' packets, changes to the format of the agenda and called upon members to take a more active role. Members Robert Liebeskind and James Berlin noted the positive measures of the new officers such as the manner in which the general meeting was rescheduled and the recognition for good attendance.

District Manager's Report – Gregoria Feliciano

Noted the meetings attended during the past month. Updated the work of the Overlook Terrace task force including ridding the area of vermin and the efforts of the MTA, property owners local groups. Has discussed with the District Attorney reinstating a landlord's task force and highlighted reports given by agencies at the District Cabinet meeting. Effort underway to seal vacant building near the Dyckman marina.

A discussion followed regarding the Sanitation Dept.'s effort to clear snow and regularly clean public staircases, in particular on W. 187 and W. 215 Streets. The DM will report back. Maria Sierra urged that the DM provide a written report as part of the meeting packet. Walther Delgado asked that the office get accurate information on the number of recent fires in the community.

Public Session

Andrew Vesselinovich

Heads the Bicycle and Greenway team of the Department of City Planning. Discussed and distributed material on the proposed Greenway. Wants board to consider a six-month trial for narrowing the Harlem River Driveway. The plan will be discussed more fully at an upcoming board meeting.

Jose Adames

Community resident. Filed suit to invalidate results of election for Council District 10.

Rafael Escaño

Community resident. Presented photos and spoke of areas affected by sidewalk obstructions such as merchandise. Noted that numerous issues are affecting the quality of life of the neighborhood.

Kate Podniesinski

Introduced herself as the new representative for State Senator Schneiderman.

Diane K. Vaughn

Represents agency that is renovating apartments at 336 Ft. Washington Ave. for individuals suffering from retardation and developmental disabilities. Will attend upcoming committee meeting to provide details.

Public Officials Reports

Council Member Guillermo Linares

Concerned about proposals in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget. The Board of Education has rejected the idea of a joint early childhood school-dialysis center at Ellwood St. The City Council Land Use Subcommittee approved site with conditions and urged a search for an alternate site.

David Addams

Deputy Borough President. Manhattan President Fields is concerned with the recent changes at Board of Education, affordability of housing/Mitchell-Lama in Manhattan and cutbacks in the Summer Youth Employment Program. Announced dates of the MBPO's hearing on city's budget, the state of the borough address and the start of the appointment process for membership on community boards. A meeting of all Manhattan community boards is being planned at Riverbank Park.

Eileen Sweeney

Represents Assemblyman Farrell. Reported that Mr. Farrell is at a town hall meeting scheduled for this evening.

In accordance with adopted agenda, the board recessed for 5 minutes. A second roll call confirmed that 31 members were present.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – 1st Vice Chair A. Fredericka Cuenca

Presented the resolutions to be considered as adopted by the Executive Committee on Jan. 11, 2000.

Resolution 1- Revision of Standing Committees

A discussion followed regarding the proposal, particularly the merging of the Land Use and Economic Development Committees. James Berlin, Helen Morik, Emilia Cardona and Maria Luna spoke for keeping these committees separate as land use affects all of the board's committees. Joyce Holland observed the long-term planning processes of the city. William Garcia clarified that this item was approved by a 5-4 vote by the Executive Committee. Walther Delgado, Jon Moscow and Marcos Navarro spoke of the reasons for the proposal, namely the need to have a structure for dealing regularly with land use and the efficiencies of having a smaller number of committees.

Robert C. Liebeskind suggested that this merger be voted on separately, as would be permitted under the resolution. Maria Luna further noted that the board should not be structured to accommodate individual members. Emilia Cardona also expressed concerns over the proposals affecting public safety and cultural affairs.

A motion to table the proposal to merge Economic Development and Land Use was voted on.

The matter was tabled by a vote of 16 in favor, 14 opposed.

A vote was taken on the resolution to revise 6 of the 7 Standing Committees of CB 12 (all except Economic Development and Land Use). The resolution was approved by a vote of 28 in favor, 2 opposed.

Resolution 2 and 3: Create Task Forces on 2000 Census and Energy Blackout

Chair William García explained the purpose, scope and timeline for the task forces to conclude their work. The resolutions were voted on separately and approved unanimously (28 in favor, none opposed).

Environmental and Parks Committee - Miguel Martinez, Chair.

Explained that a resolution approved by the committee will be brought to the floor once the language is worked out.

The Chair recognized Council Member Michels.

Council Member Stanley E. Michels

Pledged to work with new board officers. Reported on the proposed development project affecting the city's upstate watershed/reservoir, and the renewal period and changes proposed to rent laws. The Mayor's proposed budget cuts funding to education, homeless services, EMS, libraries and anti-eviction programs. Wants city to use surplus to reduce debt.

The Chair referred members to the minutes of the remaining committees for detailed reports.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Walther G. Delgado