

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2002**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jacqueline Aristy
Anita Barberis
Rafael Beaumont
Abby Belkin
Jim Berlin
Emilia Cardona
Fredericka Cuenca
Walther G. Delgado
Sybil R. Dodson
Leslie Foster
Beatrice Hall
Herbert Harwitt
Joyce F. Holland
Robert C. Liebeskind
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

Maria Luna
Benjamin Mantell
Helen Morik
Marcos Navarro
Julio C. Peguero
Martha Pepin
Ron Peterson
Zead Ramadan
Steven Rizick
Nelson Rojas
George Sanchez
Maria Sierra
Juan Villar
Sandra Wachspress

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

J.F. Sanchez Acosta
Rev. Antonio Almonte
Rev. Lee Arrington
Ronald J. Botelho
Martin Collins (excused)
William A. Garcia (excused)
Soledad Hiciano
Isidoro Martinez
Manuel J. Mendez
Norma Nadien (excused)
Dr. Pamela Palanque North (excused)
William C. Ortega
Barbara Smith Ramos
Msgr. Gerald Walsh (excused)
Elouise Whitehurst

(7:24) Quorum: call to order and greeting by Chair.

(7:25) Frederica Cuenca moved **adoption of agenda**; seconded by Ben Mantell.

(7:25) Emilia Cardona move **to adopt November minutes**; seconded by Abby Belkin. Approved unanimously. Maria Sierra moved to **adopt December minutes**; Marcos Navarro seconded. Approved unanimously.

(7:27) Chairman's Report: Walther G. Delgado

Called on Robert Liebeskind who formally tendered his resignation from CB 12, with thanks to and respect for his colleagues on the Board, specifically citing Herbert Harwitt and Fredericka Cuenca for their skills, interest and leadership.

Chair's report:

- ☐ Thanks to Robert Liebeskind for years of service.
- ☐ Columbia University Dean Gerald Fishbach to address Board next month.
- ☐ Highlighted By-laws committee's request for input from Board Members.
- ☐ Welcomed former Board Chair Sander Dulitz, in attendance as guest.
- ☐ Matter of token booth closings – to be forwarded to the Transportation Committee.
- ☐ Ongoing NYC budget concerns.
- ☐ Board reappointment applications due next month. Public members interested in working as Board members encouraged apply.

(7:37) District Manager's Report: Gregoria Feliciano

- ☐ Please see written report in packets
- ☐ Acknowledged and greeted Police Officers Payez and Lopez of the 33rd and Police Officer Trinidad and Captain Hurley of the 34th. Both precincts have committed to monthly attendance at public meetings.
- ☐ Reviewed increased police response to DSC
 - ☐ Citations and arrests in Highbridge Park for sanitation, drug activity, etc.
 - ☐ Park Terrace East/Park Terrace West, Seaman and 207th Street – increasing arrests
- ☐ Coogan's 5K race planning meetings have begun. Please raise any concerns with DM.
- ☐ Other various city services issues and meetings.
- ☐ Highlighted NYPD quality of life hotline for non-emergencies.

(7:43) Public Session

The Chairman welcomed former Board Member and new City Councilman Miguel Martinez, 10th District

Michael Alvarez – New York Public Library: Internet classes are offered at the Inwood Branch and beginning next month at the Fort Washington Branch. Also welcomed people to new library. Classes are in the daytime; may offer evening if demand for it.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter – Beth Am the People's Temple: Anti-slavery teach-in this weekend, featuring escaped Sudanese slave, and speakers from the American Anti-Slavery Group.

Shae Russell – Opened new Café: Has issue with a mobile food vendor at 161st and St. Nicholas. Truck parked in "No Standing" zone. Believes it is an eyesore and has witnessed health code violations. Urged the Community Board to take action. Q&A ensued to determine appropriate committee. Referred to the parks due to that committee's involvement with other trucks, and because the truck appears to have a Parks Dept. permit. Invited Mr. Russell to the Parks Committee meeting on February 5th.

James Swanton – Resident and Shareholder at 790 Riverside Drive: Spoke regarding Health Committee resolution: is opposed to proposed NYS program and in favor of resolution.

Dr. C.R. Dominique – Resident and Shareholder at 790 Riverside Drive: Spoke regarding Health Committee resolution: is opposed to proposed NYS program and in favor of resolution. Specifically cited over-saturation in 10032 ZIP code for this type of program.

Adam Macielinski – Resident and Shareholder at 790 Riverside Drive: Spoke regarding Health Committee resolution: is opposed to proposed NYS program and in favor of resolution. Also concerned with financial burden if NYS program funding falls through.

Marianna DePaola – Community Resident: Parking on St. Nicholas Avenue; trees need to be pruned and wattage turned up on street lights; gutters need cleaning.

Carlos Rodriguez – Manhattan Borough President's Office: Distributed written report. Spoke of reappointment process. Summarized MBPO actions re: assistance to AA587 victims' families. Welcomed new Councilmen, Robert Jackson and Miguel Martinez

(8:10) Public Official's Report:

Chair welcomed Robert Jackson, 7th District

Miguel Martinez – Councilman, 10th District: Feels community board experience helped prepare him for City Council. Spoke of ongoing discussions/negotiations re \$4 billion budget gap. Appointed to Youth, Education, Oversight & Investigation, and Land Use committees. Chairing Land Use's Subcommittee on planning, concessions and dispossession. Offices at 601 West 174th Street (917-521-2616). Chief of Staff is Gabriela Rosa; Legislative Assistant is Heidi Morales; CB 12 Liaison is Sander Dulitz.

Robert Jackson – Councilman, 7th District: Gave list of committee assignments and "lu-lu's." Chair of Contracts Committee, member of Finance, Education, Housing, Sanitation & Solid Waste Committees; also requesting assignment to Parks Committee. Gave explanation as to how the Council committee assignment process occurs, as well as the election of the speaker. Community offices at 751 West 183rd Street (212-928-1322) and 144th Street & Convent Avenue. Susan Russell is General Council, Sarah Morgridge is Executive Assistant; no Chief of Staff. Has 3 full time and 3 part time staff.

(8:32) Committee Reports

Health & Environment Committee:

Mr. Delgado welcomed Sybil Dodson as Chair of Health & Environment Committee, replacing Luis Minier, who resigned from Board. Introduced resolution directing members to attachments and information in their folders; read resolution and opened for discussion. He clarified the requirements of the NYS Padavan law, which states that such programs can only be rejected by community boards if there is an over-concentration of such programs in the proposed area to be served – not if there is an objection to the program itself – and also pointed out that NYS does not define what constitutes "over-concentration" or "area served". The Committee therefore chose to look at the concentration of programs serving the mentally ill and developmentally disabled within the ZIP codes of Community Board 12, comparing 10032 to 10033, 10040 and 10034.

Per Richard Murray of Program Development Services, Inc., the project sponsor, the residential program is designed for six developmentally disabled (but not mentally ill) individuals in a 1,550 square foot, 3-bedroom (convertible) apartment located in a 200+ unit co-op. There will be 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week on-site supervision. Direct care staff on-site, as well as a full time manager and assistant manager on site. Stated that while community groups usually fight the citing of these programs, residents routinely find program residents to be good neighbors once they finally move in. Because of cost factors, PDB have not been able to find other sites in the area. Took a long time to find this apartment, but they are open to other possibilities if they can be found.

Maria Luna: pointed out that there are several similar facilities in this community not included in list given in packets.

Helen Morik: spoke in favor of program and against the resolution. Objects to term "over-saturation" as offensive. Concerned about process. Believes that developmentally disabled people have rights to housing and we need a better way to get programs approved in a way that people do not find objectionable.

Jim Berlin: agrees with problems with term "over saturation", but this is the term that NYS law dictates. Also helpful to know more about how many of these types of facilities are in other Community Boards.

Ron Peterson: has questions about ties of prospective residents to community. Sympathizes with residents of 790 Riverside Drive, but is concerned about the need for community housing.

Beatrice Hall: lives in a building with a youth residential facility, which has been a problem. Residents' community ties are limited. Supports resolution.

Maria Luna: important to look at needs of entire community and burdens of entire community.

Ms. Cardona: Lived in an apartment with an agency-sponsored program with inadequate supervision with deleterious results.

Joyce Holland: conveyed comments in support of the resolution from public members.

Question called by Sandra Wachspres; seconded by Elizabeth Lorris Ritter. 20 yes, 1 no, 2 abstain

Vote on resolution: 17 yes, 1 no, 9 abstain; motion carries.

NYSOMMRDD invited to return to Committee to discuss alternative citing, as well as notification process for citing facilities, generally.

(9:13) Economic Development Committee – Maria Sierra, Chair

Still trying to get SLA to attend our meetings and allow community input into process. Recommendation from the floor that CB 12 write to Governor, not just SLA, with complaint about the agency's lack of responsiveness to community input regarding liquor license applications. Noted that the same building at 157th/158th and Broadway for which the community consistently has recommended that a liquor license not be granted has applied for a license, which SLA is considering. There will be a public hearing on 2/4/02.

(9:16) Housing & Human Services – Beatrice Hall, Chair

Announced Housing Clinic regarding 3rd Party Transfers.

(9:18) Public Officials Report

Socrates Solano, Speaker Gilford Miller's Office: Discussed changes in City Council and Speaker's priorities. For the coming term he is following up with the new Speaker on promise to CB 12 to honor teachers for their service on 9/11.

Clifton Poole, State Senator Eric Schneiderman's Office: Spoke about redistricting, MTA and token booths, rent regulations, fiscal crisis and reforming Rockefeller Drug Laws.

(9:24) New Business

Zead Ramadan – showed a NYC map distributed by NYC Dept of Cultural Affairs that excludes everything north of 145th Street. "My tax dollars are being used to exclude me". General agreement that this is unacceptable. Mr. Ramadan will draft letter for Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee.

(9:26) Motion to adjourn by Jim Berlin; seconded by Maria Sierra. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary