

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES -- JULY 23, 2002

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jacqueline Aristy	Rafael Escano	Elizabeth Loris Ritter	Ron Peterson	Glenda Swanson-Massa
Rafael Beaumont	Luis Facundo	Maria Luna	Zead Ramadan	Milagros Vicente
James Berlin	Nelson Gomez	Benjamin Mantell	Jerry Marie Saunders	Sandra Wachspress
Martin Collins	Beatrice Hall	Kirk Miller	Steve Simon	
Sybil R. Dodson	Joyce F. Holland	Helen Morik	Barbara Smith Ramos	

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(7:20) **Welcome and opening remarks** by Chair, Zead Ramadan.

(7:21) **Motion to adopt agenda** by Kirk Miller; seconded by Benjamin Mantell; unanimous.

(7:22) **Minutes** for June's meeting not yet available; no motion.

(7:22) **Chair's Report**, Zead Ramadan: Met with various agencies along with Committee Chairs, other Executive Committee Members, and DM for district-level consultations, to discuss priorities, plans, and needs for upcoming year. Also attended several borough-wide meetings including Borough-Wide Task Force on Homeland Security. Sybil Dodson gave brief report on security preparedness in CB12.

Specific operational issues from consultations include:

- DEP -- Hydrants - 1100 hydrants in the area; in 90-degree days, 50% of them are open. Interagency control issue.
- DOT -- Payson Avenue - working to fix. Also looking at placement of seats at bus stops, especially those near Senior Centers.
- NYPD/34<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Precincts - Mass exodus of experienced staff to Port Authority New York New Jersey.
- DOB -- Illegal conversions of ground level apartments to stores. They only enforce based on complaints, as opposed to engaging in proactive enforcement. CB12 will attempt to get monthly ½ day operations to get commercial activity re-zoned appropriately or removed.
- DOH -- Increased information outreach.
- DSNY-- Agency wants CB12 re-categorized to a "Super District" since it's so large. We've had five superintendents in the past two years -- they don't stay due to the high demand. We need two superintendents, one for administration and one for operations. Kirk Miller suggested perhaps three superintendents, including one for enforcement.
- Parks -- Excellent new borough commissioner who knows the community and is eager to move forward; very proactive. Many capital projects completed and many more in the works, specifically:
  - Inadequate service from Tubby Hook Café/ Marina contract.
  - New York Restoration Project -- great group but must do more outreach to include Parks Dept. and CB12 in their projects.
  - Highlighted recent Capital and Expense projects completed and on the table.
  - Focus on lower Heights, not just Fort Tryon and Inwood Hill Parks.

Regarding office issues: Miguel Reyes (new staff) fixed old folding machine. This has increased staff efficiency. Since the money saved on repairs came at the very end of the fiscal year; staff also were able to buy much needed office furniture.

Carlos Rodriguez: Urged DOB enforcement as opportunity to do outreach and education with business operators.

Discussion ensued Re: DOH, taxes, DOB, zoning, and other issues related to proliferation of commercial properties. Many factors to consider, as well as aesthetic and safety issues with awnings, street vendors, and stores spilling out onto the sidewalks. Elected officials and enforcement agencies must work with us on these issues.

Jerry Marie Saunders: Asked questions regarding HIV and Asthma in children, and if DOH can increase their advocacy and services in this area.

Rafael Beaumont asked about noise levels from radios. Martin Collins gave some information on current actions for both precincts to work on noise issues in conjunction with the Quality of Life hotline. This topic generated considerable discussion.

(7:58) **District Managers Report**: ADM Kathy Olivo (DM Gregoria Feliciano on vacation.)

- Budget closing is in process
- DM met with most city agencies for District Level Consultations
- Complaint logs are available
- Recent Daily News Article on Washington Heights and Inwood Communities.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding DOT issues (lights, potholes, and specific Parks clean-up issues.)

(8:06) **Public Session**: Ron Peterson, Community League of 159<sup>th</sup> Street; described summer educational and recreational programs for youth; reported on rehab efforts at 547 & 531 West 160<sup>th</sup> Street; in process of putting together Community Center and launching capital campaign. Invited all to an upcoming event.

John Kenney, Inwood Patrol: reported on recent crimes -- including a shooting at Inwood Manor (2 injuries and 1 death) and three muggings at knife-point -- and their efforts to solve, including apprehensions that lead to arrests. Also noted that burglaries are up citywide.

Candida Portugues, community resident: Noise pollution - especially Riverside Drive 158<sup>th</sup> -- 160. Quality of Life hotline and Precinct are not responsive. This issue engendered considerable discussion. Kathy noted specific locations and will follow up. The Transportation & Public Safety Committee will follow up with precincts and also CB9.

Joyce Holland noted that Quality Of Life hotline information goes in aggregate by precinct weekly to each Captain and they have to be able to respond to how they are dealing with persistent complaints.

**(8:23) Elected Officials:** Robert Jackson:

- Term limits- council will pass legislation regarding term limits to fix a flaw in the original language which results in a maximum of six years of service if one of the two terms is a 2-year term. This legislation would enable members who are in a 2-year term to serve three terms: two 2-year and one 4-year, for a total of eight years. The legislation would effectively consider two 2-year terms together to be one term. This so that current members who are serving a two-year term can now serve and intended 8 year term. Changing 2 2year term to 1 4year term. This also means that people who were term limited out must wait full 4years. Reset a "short" 2year term.
- Contracts- bidding contracts will require use of "energy star" energy efficient appliances and equipment.
- Budget- \$1Billion dollars in the red. Proposing 7½ % cutback and possible layoffs. Also discussing of raising revenues as a possible solution. Substandard services are a higher price to pay than higher taxes.

Miosotis Munoz (for Congressman Rangel):

- Budget cuts coming down the pike.
- Spoke about protecting local federal funded programs.
- Talked about possible precipitation of SSA, which Congressman Rangel opposes.
- Described proposals regulating pricing for prescription drugs.
- Resource delivery affected by registered voting demographics; encouraged voter registration.

Carlos Rodriguez (for MBP Fields):

- Supported Community League of West 159<sup>th</sup> Street upcoming gala.
- Process of finishing selection for borough-wide parent representative for Board of Education. Meeting qualified candidates, meeting from Washington Heights and I hope to appoint member next week.
- Spoke about Dominican Consul General.

**(8:47) Announcement and introduction of new Chairs and Assistant Chairs:** Assistant Chairs will not be a standing committee; only meets for specific issues at request of Board Chair/Executive Committee. Wants to look at possible rescheduling of meeting nights to maximize convenience for committee members and minimize scheduling conflicts. May also split Transportation and Public Safety Committee back into two Committees. Zead Ramadan also talked about the need to represent the community, and keep outside influences outside, and to work together as a unified board on issues for the betterment of the community as a whole. Committee Chairs, Assistant Chairs, and assigned staff are as follows:

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>	<u>ASSISTANT CHAIR</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
Aging	Herb Harwitt	Glenda Swanson-Massa	Kathy Olivo
Economic Development	Martin Collins	Luis Facundo	Kathy Olivo
Health & Human Services	Steve Simon	Abby Belkin	Deborah BLOW
Housing	Beatrice Hall	Ron Peterson	Deborah Blow
Parks & Cultural Affairs	Ivy Fairchild	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter	Miguel Reyes
Transportation & Public Safety	Jim Berlin	Jacqueline Aristy	Deborah Blow
Youth & Education	Sandra Wachspress	Jerry Marie Saunders	Miguel Reyes
Land Use	Laria Luna	Anita Berberis	Kathy Olivo
By-Law	Rafael Beaumont	Kirk Miller	Kathy Olivo
NYPH Task Force	Fredericka Cuenca	Maria Luna	Miguel Reyes
Energy Task Force	Sybil Dodson	Jim Berlin	Miguel Reyes

**(8:56) Announcements:**

- Budget priority rankings in the fall. Please review materials on district statement of needs, which was given to all Committee Chairs.
- Harlem Week - Upcoming historical bike tour on August 4, 2002. \$15 per person; entertainment and refreshments etc.

Helen Morik: Noted that some agencies, particularly DOT, have not been attending DSC. DM to follow up w/ DOT to ensure attendance.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:02pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter