

**Community Board 12, Manhattan General Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2005 (Inwood Mormon Church)**

Members Present

Dora Maria Abreu
Anita Barberis
Wayne Benjamin
James Berlin
Aidee Camacho
Kotie Cannon
Emilia G. Cardona
Martin Collins
Sybil Dodson-Lucas

Leslie Foster
Julissa Gomez
Andre Harris
Fern Hertzberg
Albania Jimenez
Mark Levine
Jose Lopez
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Maria Luna

Glenda Swanson Massa
Jay D. Mazur
Renato Mena
Julio Peguero
Zead Ramadan
Barbara Smith Ramos
Julio Rodriguez
Nelson Rojas
Aaron Scott

Steve Simon
Gloria Vanterpool
Manny Velazquez
Milagros Vicente
Janifer Wilson

Members Excused

Jackie Rowe Adams
Adam Eggers
Peter Ferrara
Joyce F. Holland
Pamela Palanque-North

Members Absent

Raquel Batista
Rafael Beaumont
Beatrice Hall
Eduardo Hoepelman
Helen Morik
Joseph Sanchez
Cleofis Sarete
Bienvenido Toribio

7:12 **Call to attention & welcome** by the Chair, Martin Collins, who also gave a brief summary of the ground rules for Community Board meetings. In the absence of a quorum, he began with the Chair's report (see attached):

- Introduced new board member, Shirley Joyner.
- Please complete member interest surveys (in folders) and return to office ASAP. Committee composition is based largely on these surveys.
- Introduced items to be considered later in the agenda, including a draft letter of support for Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation's collaborative application for workforce development grant, and a resolution supporting NYS DOT's proposed stairway project at 158th Street.
- Gave updates on the request for proposals for the district-wide planning study, noting that a vendor had been selected.
- Arts Commission revised the Sherman Creek street-end parks plans, which will come back to Parks Committee for review/approval this fall.
- No new news re SCA/BOE plans to locate a school on West 215th Street, though this continues to be a topic of discussion within the community. Community consensus is that no one wants a large school there, though there is less objection to a smaller school.
- Continued issues w/ tremendous noise/cars in Ft. Tryon Park behind the Cloisters; need additional NYPD manpower.
- St Jude's after-school arts program, through Arte Inc. of CT; upcoming presentation on July 7th.
- Update on Dyckman Job Center's search for new home; area residents also are concerned about potential loss of parking.
- Not pleased that NYPH failed to disclose presence of Legionnaire's Disease in their drinking water, resulting in a death; Harlem Hospital disclosed the presence of Legionnaire's disease in their drinking water.
- Arts Stroll two weeks ago was a big success in all its events; thanks to all who helped make it happen.
- Read citation from Councilmember Jackson honoring Sandra Wachspres for her more than 22 years of service to CB12. (Text attached.) As Ms. Wachspres was unable to attend this evening due to a family event, there will be a formal presentation at the July or September meeting, including also a citation from the Borough President.

District Manager Renee Tirado excused from meeting, due to family emergency. (Chair's report included operational items from the DM's report.)

7:25 Dr. Charles Corliss of Inwood Community Services. Founded by Fr. John Foley of Good Shepherd Church and others in the summer of 1979. Started with a youth program for over 400, and has built that over a quarter-century to include programs not only in youth services but also counseling, literacy, tutoring, "I-Spy" camp and various prevention programs, serving thousands and thousands of children over the years. Also began the Isham Park restoration project. ICS started with \$20k, one employee and 15 volunteers; now it has a \$3+ million annual budget, 100+ employees and many, many volunteers. Spoke also about outpatient counseling services, which are licensed by the Office of Mental Health. Question: is there a waiting list for services? A: for mental health services, yes; we are trying to expand. Renato Mena: what is waiting period? A: could be month to 3-4 months, though we accommodate emergencies; less of a wait for chemical dependency services.

7:35 Quorum finally having been achieved during the previous speaker's presentation, there was a **motion to adopt the agenda** by Jay Mazur, which was seconded by Glenda Swanson Massa, and passed without objection or discussion. There immediately followed a **motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting** by Emilia Cardona, which was seconded by Ms. Swanson Massa, and passed without objection or discussion.

7:35 **presentation by NYS Department of Transportation on proposed access improvement to Ft. Washington Park at West 158th Street.** Assemblyman Denny Farrell secured funding for DOT through NYS inter-modal monies. Jim Wilson, <title> spoke briefly about the project: DOT is now wrapping up design which was reviewed approved (with changes) by NYC Parks Department; construction will start soon. Mr. Wilson introduced Project Manager Mini Varghese, who gave details, showing current photos of the area and computer simulation of the proposed ramp and stairs, and explaining same. It will be a long steel ramp with multiple switchbacks, but there are stairs that connect the ramp for quicker vertical access as well. All will be lighted. Basketball and volleyball courts will be reconstructed. Bottom of stairs was to be walled in, but at suggestion of DPR, only 40 feet will be enclosed by retaining wall, and remainder will be open. Note: copies of these illustrations are not available for review at the Board office. Questions: Aidee Camacho: this is not the same project as came before the Traffic & Transportation in December. A: yes it was. Ms. Camacho: since our approval in December didn't include anything for volleyball and basketball courts, this constitutes a change. A: this plan is essentially the same, although the lower part of ramp cuts into the basketball court, so we are moving it five feet, and renovating it. But the renovated courts are not a new or changed amenity, and will be the appropriate size. Wayne Benjamin: that area has been begging for attention forever. But has any thought been given to more decorative fencing? Have you looked at streetscape elements that would make the area more attractive? A: we took Parks Department and NYC DOT comments into account. Mr. Benjamin: I am in favor of seeing this work done, but it will be done only once, so it should be done nicely. A: decorative fencing is a maintenance problem. Ms. Swanson Massa: when you did this presentation to T&T, the only thing missing

was the funding; now you have that in place? A: DPR had not weighed in then, so that has changed somewhat, as has been described. And the funds have been secured. Mr. Mazur: why is it more difficult to find replacement pieces for attractive fencing than for unattractive fencing? Also, how will basketball be affected? A: When you build ramp, it clips lower portion, so can't use as full court. In order to preserve full court, the whole thing will be moved over five feet. Now the two courts will be eight feet apart, not fifteen feet apart. Ms. Cardona: the basketball and volleyball courts will be brand new? And we can't afford fancy fencing, so we're going functional? A: yes; right. [to both] Kotie Cannon: what about lighting, and how long will construction take? A: There will be security lighting. We anticipate the project will take nine months to complete. Mr. Mena: disappointed with the process. The project is for us, but there is not enough information, and you made all of the decisions without consulting the Board. A: we presented a concept, and then we identified certain impacts, so we had to mitigate impacts to comply with ADA requirements. Sybil Dodson for community resident: what safety/security features? A: Again, there will security for the entire length of the ramp. The bottom of the ramp will be fenced, and the base will be filled with concrete, so no one can loiter underneath. The concrete will have graffiti-resistant coating. During construction, contractor will perform graffiti abatement. Elizabeth Lorris Ritter: Why can't the design be beautiful as well as functional? This design is industrial and ugly A: Money is a factor. Also DPR says they can't maintain it. Jim Berlin: this structure is designed so that the handicapped can get to park, which they can't do now, and also complies with safety requirements? A: yes. Ms. Cardona: it's minimalist and functional; what's wrong with that? And, if I am using the stairs, am I safer where it's open, or where it's pretty? A: this is a safe ramp. Maria Luna: when will construction begin, and how long will it take? A: hoping to start in the beginning of October, and expect a nine-month process. Ms. Camacho: what is cost? And, why is DPR driving this project? A: \$1.5 million. DPR is not driving the project, but they are involved because it is in NYC Parks property. Mr. Benjamin: to return to the design issue, it's not a choice between open/safe and beautiful; we can – and should – have both. We can be budget conscious; are there not standard models that are nicer than what is proposed? Is it possible to improve aesthetics? There are nicer fences in other DPR facilities. A: We could run it by DPR, and incorporate into design. Ms. Lorris Ritter: what is impact on parks usage during construction, and does this project require review by the Arts Commission? A: other than the volleyball and basketball courts, which will be closed, the area will be usable. The 158th Street access will be closed; signage will direct people to 155th Street stairs. As to the Arts Commission and Municipal Arts Society, DPR hasn't indicated that this is necessary, but if it is, such a review ought not present a problem for the proposed construction timeline. Leslie Foster: I have gotten a lot of e-mails on this from other Board members. What is our role? Martin Collins: This meeting will take a short break, during which the Executive Committee will meet to craft a resolution which will be presented during the Committee reports. Anita Barberis: you talk about lighting for ramp and stairs, but what about lighting for the volleyball and basketball courts. A: there is existent lighting, but we will review this and revise plans if necessary. Ms. Camacho: can you come back to the Board if there are any changes? A: yes, we can come back to the full Board, to the Traffic & Transportation Committee and the Parks Committee, as may be required.

8:08 Public Speakers' Session

Matthew Mizelli, owner of 201-207 Cabrini: gave construction update. More than halfway through excavation; thanks all who have been bearing with us during this time. Should be done in another week or so, and then the rest is fairly light/quiet. Construction is modular design. Modules will be shipped, probably sometime in late August; negotiating with PS48 for drop location. The modules will be in the drop location for just a night, and will be moved over the course of a single day. There will be approximately six times during which the modules are moved; no street closures are required, although traffic will be interrupted for brief intervals (2-15 minutes) during each move. Closures are based on crane operator and safety factors. Between now and then will be laying of foundation, and that is both quiet, and non-intrusive to traffic. Julio Rodriguez for public member: during what hours can we expect noise? A: what we're hearing now is short-lived. Excavator hopes to wrap up by next week. Pouring of concrete for foundation is quiet. Dropping of units is actually not loud – the units are placed, not really dropped. Mr. Collins: will you have all permits required? A: we currently have all permits. Ms. Camacho: any parking issues? A: we have some "No Parking" and "No Standing" signs for safety reasons, which will come down when construction is concluded.

8:17 Josh Karan, Community Education Council: Recently appointed by Borough President. Spoke of campaign to place on November ballot a referendum mandating that a portion of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity settlement money be devoted to reducing class sizes to be in keeping with the state-wide average. This initiative is sponsored by New Yorkers for Smaller Classes, a broad coalition of education activists including ACORN, UFT, school boards, parents' associations, etc. Need 30,000 signatures by mid-July. Would like to circulate the petition at this meeting, and urged all to sign. Jim Berlin: welcome to collect signatures if it doesn't disrupt the meeting. A: will collect during break. Mr. Benjamin: in CB12, we support smaller class sizes, but citing schools is difficult. A: one possible solution is to hire more teachers and have same number of kids in the room, class but a lower "class size" (i.e., ratio) due to more teachers in classroom. Ms. Luna: who can sign petition? A: must be a registered voter, but cannot be a parent-voter. Mark Levine: asked for clarification about funding. A: this initiative will require both capital and operating funds. Mr. Rodriguez: is the referendum about smaller schools or smaller classes; is this just a structural issue or also a pedagogical one. A: this referendum question addresses equalizing class size, not small schools per se. Andre Harris for public member: what about population explosion of increased number of students? A: referendum addresses only class size, although that is also an important issue.

8:26 Nancy Brunning, Friends of Ft. Tryon Park: described new fitness walking program in Ft. Tryon Park. Began in September an expanded this Spring; currently Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday mornings from the Heather Garden, and Monday and Wednesday mornings from Anne Loftus Playground. Tell your friends, and tell your healthcare providers, so they can help spread the word. For more information, call 212-927-9568 or e-mail nancy@healthwriter2@aol.com. The program is free, and is largely funded from donations that film companies have made in the wake of their location shoots, so at least area residents have one benefit from the disruptive filming.

8:29 Gwen Franklin, Community Resident: regarding Ambar, a club at 3795 10th Avenue which opened in January. Has called 34th precinct and 311 over and over. Not looking to close the club, but wants noise abatement. Mr. Collins referred her to the Economic Development Committee, noting that Mr. Peguero and the Board have a good track record with helping to resolve these sorts of problems.

8:32 Bob Clark, community resident: wants to know what CB12 is doing to help clarify rumors, facts, confusion and concerns regarding the school on W 215th Street? We need to know what's what. What are results of Board of Education's feasibility study? What is status of moving school, what is size, and what target date is being proposed? Mr. Collins responded that the BOE study not yet completed. As to moving the school, the revised 5-year cap plan mentions a school at that location, but it doesn't specify Gregorio Luperón High School. Size of any possible school is

not known, and is pending the environmental impact study. Ms. Dodson: do you understand that SCA does not renovate buildings, they only demolish and construct new? Ms. Lorris Ritter offered a point of information that while there is no specific information in this case, the SCA can and does renovate existing structures if that is appropriate; they do not just do tear-downs.

8:39 George Espinal, Friends of Payson Avenue: looking for funding for an event planned for later this summer, possibly July 30th, pending DPR approval. Also noted that he received his high school diploma yesterday – this drew enthusiastic applause and cheering – and wants to thank many members of CB12, including Messrs. Suarez, Collins and Ramadan; Mss. Lorris Ritter, Cardona and Dodson; and both Councilmembers, for inspiring him and motivating him, even with obstacles.

8:45 Dago Suarez, Community Resident: offered congratulations to Mr. Espinal; "I will continue to be a headache to you!" On a serious note, spoke in support of 158th project: current access is a real obstacle not only for handicapped, but also for mothers with strollers.

8:46 Susan Ryan, Community Resident: briefly touch base w/ regard to park safety this upcoming summer. Also wants to share a letter received from NYPD regarding a request for greater police presence. NYPD response indicated that NYPD had "permanently" redeployed 14 officers, but this seems not to have been permanent at all, only temporary. "Permanent" means "forever," not just "a few months!" How can we help NYPD to get more cops? Would a letter-writing campaign help? Mr. Collins responded that CB12 is down to 148 officers in each precinct. As of the split in '94, we had 354 each, so this staffing is not acceptable. At night we have only four squad cars and one Sergeant, and only one conditions unit, and it's not enough. More cops has been our #1 priority for several years, and this year at budget consultations we will push this point some more. Other precincts with smaller populations have more cops; we should have far more than we do now. A petition probably is more effective than a letter-writing campaign.

8:50 Elected Officials & Their Representatives

Frank Hess for Assemblyman Denny Farrell:

- Pleased to announce that Channing Frye has just been signed as Center for the NY Knicks.
- Due to time constraints, offered written report in lieu of full presentation. (See attached.)
- Met today with by representatives of the DPR, MTA, NYPD, and the Metropolitan Museum to discuss a plan to resolve night-time traffic and noise issues in Ft. Tryon Park; the meeting was at an undisclosed time and venue, and community organizations and the Community Board were not invited. The Park will close at 10pm on weekends, or earlier if conditions warrant, and at midnight during the week.

Questions: Ms. Lorris Ritter: Why did DOT wait until this evening to present actual drawings of the 158th Street bridge plan; why was your office unresponsive to our requests for information; and why wasn't CB12 included in today's meeting regarding Ft. Tryon Park? A: DOT was brought to the Board as a courtesy; the plan is not substantially different than what was presented in January at the Traffic & Transportation Committee. Regarding Ft. Tryon Park, people could openly discuss issues in the near future and long term. Our office took it upon ourselves to attack problems in Ft. Tryon Park, which also move to Dyckman Marina or the back of George Washington High School. No reason to include CB12 in discussion until we know what are results of City agencies' reviews. Mr. Suarez: Urged reconsideration of 10pm Park closing especially in light of the closing of the 181st Street entrance to the Parkway. Mr. Collins: requested the courtesy of an invite to any subsequent meetings regarding parks issue; as you know from previous District Service Cabinets, the board has been working on this issue. A: That would depend on the meetings. Some we'll gladly invite you to, and others it would be inappropriate.

9:01 Rafael Escaño for Controller Bill Thompson: distributed written report. Welcomed new members. Explained new, streamlined on-line service to track lawsuits against NYC. Noted that car wash on Broadway & Cumming is going through a renovation, and that the number of cars will increase due to conversion from manual to automatic. There followed a brief discussion on the hazards of the slick left by the wax used in this process; Ms. Tirado will follow up with DCA, the licensing agency.

9:03 The meeting took a brief recess.

9:22 Committee Reports

Executive Committee, Martin Collins: Presentation of Executive Committee resolution in support of the DOT project to renovate stairs to Ft.

Washington Park at 158th Street passed without discussion, 29-0-1-1. The resolution to remove member Bienvenido Toribio, Jr., for cause (poor attendance, without prejudice) passed 30-0-1-0 with no discussion.

9:31 **Land Use Committee, Wayne Benjamin**: resolution in support of the Municipal Arts Society's community-based planning campaign passed unanimously (31 votes) with no discussion.

9:35 **Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee, Zead Ramadan**: thanked all for their participation in the Arts Stroll, which was a tremendous success; especial thanks to Mr. Collins and Ms. Lorris Ritter of CB12, and to Mike Fitelson of the Manhattan Times. Also noted that DPR is trying to get funds to clean up the access route at 160th Street to Riverside and Fort Washington Parks.

9:37 **Ageing Committee, Sybil Dodson Lucas**: Nelson Peralta and a Department of Health representative gave a report at the last meeting, and pledged to bring increased outreach and services to the elderly to Inwood.

9:39 **Health & Environment Committee, Steve Simon**:

- Ms. Tirado is setting up a meeting with Columbia University so we finally can receive a full briefing on, and copies of, the environmental health and safety audit report concerning the Medical Center's research labs and other facilities, which we have been trying for several months to get.
 - Must look at the inexplicable situation that occurred with regard to the Legionnaire's Disease outbreak at NY-Presbyterian Hospital; it is unclear what steps were taken to remedy the situation.
 - Is following the continuing controversy about the availability of translation services at the hospital.
 - Responding to a question by Ms. Dodson Lucas, is willing to follow up on an inquiry regarding reinstate the former center for tropical diseases.
- 9:43 **Public Safety Committee, Kotie Cannon**: Last week's youth forum to address gang violence did not have as many participants as the Committee's last public meeting, but the Committee is continuing to work on this issue and encourages outreach by both Public Safety and Youth & education Committees. Gloria Vanterpool: had some ideas she is willing to share regarding outreach; will follow up with Public Safety.

9:45 Youth & Education Committee, Milagros Vicente:

- Thanked all Committee members for their efforts and input, with kind words specifically to Cleofis Sarete, Dora Maria Abreu, Jackie Rowe Adams, Ms. Luna and Jose Lopez, and to Mr. Collins for giving her the opportunity to serve as Committee Chair. She expressed her thanks to all the board members for listening more closely to disabled issue and to opening their heart and minds to this social issue.
- Spoke briefly about recent testimony at Federal hearings on IEP and the proposed new process which would exclude input from parents and teachers. Urged the agency representatives to hold hearings in communities of color, and invited them come to WH/I for an additional hearing.
- Reminded everyone about a new art program in St. Jude's Church. This particular project started in Connecticut and they are partnering with Father Isla to bring it to Washington heights and Inwood.
- Spoke about the collaboration between public safety and youth committee on youth violence and hope that these initiatives will continue at the youth committee level next year.

9:47 Traffic & Transportation Committee, Aidee Camacho:

- Also thanked Committee members, noting particularly her appreciation for the contributions of former Assistant Secretary and Assistant Committee Chair Dago Suarez: "we lost a lot when we lost him from the Committee and the Board."
- New York Presbyterian Hospital plans to install "muni-meters" in lieu of parking meters on Ft. Washington Avenue, Broadway and 165th and 168th Streets, and also is looking at signal timing on Ft. Washington Ave at 165th and 168th Street.
- Will follow up with NYPD on recent ticket-and-tow blitz in the vicinity of Good Shepherd Church.
- Working with 101 Cooper Street tenants' association regarding possible placement of signage and speed bumps on Cooper near 207th Street.

9:51 Economic Development Committee, Julio Peguero: Reviewed many liquor license application: some were approved; one was disapproved as the establishment is too close to a church; others were tabled due to land use. Representatives from Passions Lounge attended the last meeting based on many community complaints; many community residents attended as well; resolution is ongoing. Ms. Luna: What if the problem continues; will people have to suffer throughout the summer? Mr. Collins: It has been noticeably quieter, but if necessary we can have an emergency meeting and also work with the DM and through the DSC.

9:55 Housing Committee, Julio Rodriguez: At the last meeting, Melvin Reddick, his wife and their neighbors, who live on St. Nicholas Avenue spoke during the public session about a church that plans to open on their block, even though there already are five churches in a two-block radius. As of right the church can move into the brownstones, but the Committee heard their complaint and is trying to work with them and the church to mitigate possible problems. The Committee will make enquiries into relevant zoning issues. Ms. Tirado also will follow up. Mr. Rodriguez also noted his discomfort with a commercial presentation made by a legal services business. Although anyone can speak on any matter at the public session of general meetings, he feels it is inappropriate outreach for such a business to be granted audience at a committee meeting. There was general murmuring in support of this sentiment.

10:00 New Business – request for letter of support by Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation's Pavel Hernandez. NMIC has submitted a \$700k proposal to the United Way with the Audubon Partnership and the Washington Heights-Inwood Coalition for some of the City Council's \$10 million workforce development funding. Also described a new program at NMIC, a tax academy which teaches tax preparation skills. **Questions:** Ms. Luna and Ms. Vicente asked clarifying questions about how to make sure that the services stay in the community, given that people from the Bronx might be served even when people in the lower Heights might not. Ms. Vanterpool asked specifically about how local outreach will be done. Mr. Benjamin echoed these general concerns and also wants to see the actual grant proposal. Ms. Foster explained that there are serious restrictions on how the funding can be used, and there are few local organizations that fit the funding requirements. Ms. Camacho: Is the tax academy similar to the one at St. Nicholas & 125th Street? A: Yes. Mr. Simon: Is there a time factor by which you must have our letter of support? A: Yes, next week. Mr. Rodriguez: Noted that NIMC is in competition with other NYC organizations, but this is the only application from this area, so if the grant is not funded, we will get nothing. Ms. Lorris Ritter: we should support this application, but our letter should include our reservations. Mr. Berlin: I agree with Ms. Luna; the program must include all of CB12. Moreover, any letter of support, should one be approved, must come from the board as a whole, in the form of a resolution, not from Mr. Collins individually as the Chair, or from a specific Committee. Mr. Rodriguez: If we don't act now, our action will be useless, given that the grant deadline is this week. Our letter isn't going to make all the difference, but it behooves us to support this program. If they are obligated by the funder to respond to City-wide need, then we have to trust that NIMC will comply, while also serving all of CB12. Ms. Dodson Lucas: motion to provide a letter of support which reflects the points raised in the foregoing discussion; simultaneous seconds by Ms. Lorris Ritter, Ms. Swanson Massa and Julissa Gomez. Mr. Benjamin: is this a motion supporting the letter, or the proposal? Let's do what we have to do to support the initiative as it has been described to us. There followed a discussion on how to support a letter that hasn't been written yet. Mr. Benjamin suggested that Mr. Simon draft some language and e-mail it around for comments. The resolution passed 28-1-0-0.

10:25 Announcements:

- Mr. Collins: **Thanks to all Board members** for their hard work this year.
- Mr. Simon: **Dyckman House will re-open** for "sneak-peak Sundays" July 10th, 17th, and 24th, noon-4p.
- Ms. Luna: **forum regarding the impact of Social Security reform** later this summer by Audubon Reform Democratic Club; date/venue TBA.

10:28 meeting adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary

COMMITTEE FOR THE AGING MINUTES
June 14, 2005

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sybil R. Dodson-Lucas, Chair
Glenda Swanson-Massa
Leslie Foster
Nelson Rojas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Fern Hertzberg, Asst Chair (excused)
Gloria Vanterpool

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Deborah Blow, Community Associate

GUESTS

Marc Barbieri, Public Health Educator-NY Dept of Health & Mental Hygiene, Zamira Setaro-Con Edison, Ethel Linder Stoll, Resident, Norma De Candido-Resident, Ellen Flanagan-VNS of NY, Marilyn Pacheco-Isabella, Dr. Nelson Peralta-Columbia University (CALME), Sandra Ovalles-CALME, Stephanie L. Harris, Deputy Ctr Mgr-NYC Parks & Rec-J. Hood Wright, Mary E. Jones Springer-Resident, Ernestine L. Walker-Resident, John Kinney-Resident, Shirley Joyner-Resident

Meeting convened at 10:05am, opening remarks Sybil Dodson-Lucas

Community Resident question: Tropical Disease Center at Columbia Presbyterian has been closed for years, should it be re-opened? Committee heard concerns of area residents who caution that the influx of immigrants from locations worldwide where health care is not readily available gives support to the re-opening of the Tropical Disease Center at CP.

Ms. Dodson-Lucas will reach out to CP representatives to request a meeting to further explore this concern.

How people can participate in clinical trials: Along with community and committee members, Dr. Peralta and Ms. Dodson-Lucas lead a discussion regarding the need for Human subjects to participate in clinical trials, risks and benefits of participation, cultural prejudices affecting participation, myths and successes associated with clinical trials.

Distinguished guest, Dr. Nelson Peralta gave a lengthy and detailed power point presentation on services provided by, CALME. Dr. Peralta and assistant Ms Ovalles agreed to assist Committee in conducting aggressive outreach to the northern quadrant of district including Dyckman Housing development/ Park Terrace East/West residential community to bring information/services. Despite the activities of several highly regarded programs, too few residents are availing themselves of important information and services.

Distinguished guest; Marc Barbieri NYC DOH, presented health related information and pledged to assist in providing resources necessary to convene health care forum in underserved areas of Inwood and Washington Heights. Bug repellent containing DEET was distributed, free of charge, to the meeting participants .

Ellen Flanagan- Visiting Nurse Services works with social workers to assist those about to be discharged or /Home care from skilled person.

- Multi-cultural
- Keep with paperwork
- Informational brochure
- Fall prevention
- Diet info for seniors
- Eye /foot exam
- Work with sick/those who want to stay well

Ms. Dodson-Lucas and the group discussed the concerns of the retirement community in northern sector of Inwood having more services dedicated to seniors. Representatives of Isabella will conduct assessment of area to determine if it qualifies for increased services as a Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC):

A resolution was prepared and passed with the following votes:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Committee members	4	0
Board Members	4	0
Members of the Public	9	0

Meeting adjourned at 11:40am

*Committee members expressed concerns regarding summer energy failures noting brown outs/blackouts in some community's. Committee will monitor this with input from Con Ed. Representative Zamira Setaro

Respectfully submitted by Sybil Dodson-Lucas

Land Use Committee - Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2005

Committee Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair
Dora Marie Abreu
James Berlin
Mark Levine
Jay Mazur
Julio Rodriguez

Committee Members Absent

Peter Ferrara

Board Members Present

Martin Collins
Pamela Palanque-North

Guests: Eve Baron-Municipal Art Society/Planning Center, Dago Suarez-Community Resident,
John Kinney-CPAAA, Mario G. Contreras-Community Resident

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.
2. Eve Baron, Senior Planner, Municipal Art Society ("MAS") met with the Land Use Committee (the "Committee") in lieu of Micaela Birmingham, Director, MAS. Ms. Baron informed the Committee that MAS was founded in 1896 and initially concentrated on advocacy for public art. Its mission has grown to include advocacy for public parks, historic preservation, urban design and community planning in New York City. MAS was instrumental in the city's creation of the Landmarks Preservation Commission in 1965. In 1988 MAS created the Planning Center to bring planning to the neighborhood level and provide technical assistance to community groups to help with the preparation of 197a Plans and other neighborhood improvement plans. The Planning Center can offer direct technical assistance or direct community groups to other resources. MAS maintains an extensive geographic information system ("GIS") data-base of community-based planning initiatives, has published various reports and studies and has created an interactive mapping website and training program for community groups and the public called CITI. This program also creates the opportunity for partnerships between MAS and local high schools with MAS providing GIS training to the students. Ms. Baron also informed the committee about the Campaign for Community-based Planning, another initiative of MAS in partnership with other community planning advocates. The initial mission of the Campaign for Community-base Planning was to inform candidates for city elected-office in 2000 about the obstacles to community planning. Its mission has grown to advocate for city government to strengthen the capacity of community boards to plan, strengthen the community outreach capabilities of community boards in order to better to reflect the districts they represent and implement the recommendations of community-based plans. Ms. Baron presented a draft resolution supporting the goals of the Campaign for Community-based Planning for the committee's consideration. After discussion a motion was moved (Julio Rodriguez) and seconded (Anita Barberis) in support of the draft resolution. The motion was passed on the following vote.

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstaining</u>
Committee Members	6	0	0
Board members	2	0	0
Members of the Public	2	0	0

3. CB12 received four responses to the Request for Qualifications for an Urban Planning Consultant issued on April 5, 2005. The respondents include Columbia University's Urban Technical Assistance Program ("UTAP"), the City College Architectural Center ("CCAC"), Pratt Institute for Community

and Environmental Development ("PICCED") with Warnke Community Consulting and Insight Associates with the Environmental Simulation Center. All respondents documented the experience and qualifications necessary to undertake the planning study requested by CB 12. Cost proposals ranged from approximately \$62,000 ("CCAC") to \$201,000 ("PICCED"). After discussion a motion was moved (Mark Levine) and seconded (James Berlin) to accept the CCAC proposal as the lowest responsible proposer and to include an allowance of approximately \$20,000 in the consultant contract that will be controlled by CB 12 and that may be used to fund supplemental studies, additional presentation materials, a project web site, etc. as CB 12 may deem appropriate. The motion was passed by the following vote:

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstaining</u>
Committee Members	7	0	0
Board Members	2	0	1
Members of the Public	0	1	0

The Committee's selection of CCAC and recommendation for a contract allowance will be presented to the Executive Committee at its June 13, 2005 for review and ratification.

4. Committee member Julio Rodriguez outlined initial concepts for structuring additional shopper and merchant interviews and focus groups to supplement the work performed by Insight Associates for the Audubon Avenue Study. Mr. Rodriguez indicated that he would attempt to have a written draft of the interview protocol within the next two weeks. It was noted that having the draft protocol available for review at the June 13th Executive Committee meeting would be useful in obtaining buy-in from other Committees and recruiting volunteers to work on the interviews and focus groups over the summer months.
5. Land Use Chair Wayne Benjamin reported that discussions between Councilman Miguel Martinez and CB 12 Chair Martin Collins concerning matters related to the development of 2142 Amsterdam Avenue are ongoing. The Committee will defer any further action or resolution on the development proposal for the site presented by the Community League of the Heights until Mr. Collins advises as to the status of these conversations. Mr. Collins echoed the comments made by Mr. Benjamin.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Wayne A. Benjamin