

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 28, 2000**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Anita Barberis	Robert C. Liebeskind	Julio Peguero
Abby Belkin	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter	Zead Ramadan
Jim Berlin	Maria Luna	Steven Rizick
Emilia G. Cardona	Isidoro Martinez	Nelson Rojas
Sybil R. Dodson	Luis H. Minier	George Sanchez
Patrick Eglantine	Helen Morik	Georgina Sanchez
Jack Fogle	Jon Moscow	Maria Sierra
Leslie Foster	Norma Nadien	Barbara Smith Ramos
William A. Garcia	Marcos Navarro	Ricardo Ureña
Herbert Harwitt	Dr. Pamela Palanque North	Juan Villar
Joyce F. Holland	William C. Ortega	Sandra Wachspress
		Elouise Whitehurst

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Rafael Beaumont	Jose Delio Marte
Dr. Francisco Chapman	Miguel Martinez (Excused)
Laurie T. Cohen (Excused)	Martha Pepin (Excused)
Fredericka Cuenca	Laura Sterling
Walther G. Delgado (Excused)	Francisca Vargas
Isabel Evangelista (Excused)	Msgr. Gerald Walsh (Excused)

The meeting of March 2000 was held at the New York Presbyterian Hospital. Community Board #12 was called to order and began its regular session at 7:20 P.M.

Chair's Report – William A. Garcia:

Reported on the appointments of CB12 members to the committees and thanked the prior Chairs of the committees for their services and asked for their continued help. He also mentioned the new position within the committees of Assistant Chair as an opportunity for the members to undertake additional responsibilities. At the last Borough Board meeting he met Patricia Valle and expressed his concerns about the census forms being sent mainly in English and encouraged to reach out to all members of our community. Met together with other members of CB 12 and community officer of 33rd Precinct with Mr. Shin of the establishment at 157th Street and Broadway where now a billiard is being proposed. Our on-going concerns about a nightclubs at said establishment were made clear to Mr. Shin who applied for a liquor license which has to be reviewed by CB 12; at that point we will invite him to hear our concerns. Met with Mr. Jerrold McManus of OMB and discussed issues related to budget process so that every CB 12 member could be an active participant in the process. Highlighted the positive and strong relationship with 2 police precincts in our community while acknowledging the need to offer our support to ensure that incidents of police brutality and violence stop and encourage the City administration to take a more pro-active approach to reduce police violence and brutality. CB 12 invited the Commanding Officers of the 33rd and 34th Precincts for a meeting with the Chairs of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee and other CB 12 members to discuss ways to strengthen our relationship with said precincts.

District Manager's Report – Gregoria Feliciano:

Provided a written report summarizing the work and meetings attended during the past month; pointed out that there was a typo in her written report on the 3rd page it should be "DOH is working with DOT together on this". Mentioned the change of the general meeting date from Tuesday, April 25th to Monday, April 24th due to the observance of passover on the 25th and that the board office will be closed on Good Friday April 21st.

Mr. Garcia acknowledged that we had a quorum and Ms. Sandra Wachspress made a motion to adopt the agenda which was seconded by Ms. Norma Nadien. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Mr. Garcia gave some time to read the minutes: Emilia Cardona motioned to approve the minutes seconded by Norma Nadien. The minutes were approved with one abstention and no objections.

Public Session:

Terry Lane, President, Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone

Went over the mission objectives of UMEZ, especially ensuring that every dollar invested ensures the creation of jobs. Reported also on the projects approved and funded in our community. Announced that on April 19th UMEZ together with City College, Columbia University, ATT, Con Edison and NYC Investment fund the creation of the Upper Manhattan Technology District to recruit new employees to move uptown with good paying jobs and technology.

Mr. Garcia asked how much time and money is left on UMEZ ? Mr. Lane replied that they are half-way through its federal tax designation and invested approximately 50% of the funds. The tax credit expires in 2004 but hopes to receive more funds and tax credits.

Ms. Maria Sierra requested the presence of UMEZ representatives at the Economic Development Committee meetings and Mr. Lane agreed and that Mr. Julio Hernandez will attend these meetings, since Mr. Fernando Fernandez has a scheduling conflict.

Jon Moscow asked to clarify policy of funding after school programs and Mr. Lane responded that UMEZ will fund programs that promote technology and job creation, including after school programs. UMEZ will not replace government efforts.

Grants are mainly given to not-for-profits ventures and will also give loans to for-profit organizations when they can earn income to pay it back.

Ms. Leslie Foster asked for the location of the technology district. Mr. Lane answered that it is on 124, 125 and 126 streets from Broadway to 2nd Avenue, and Broadway uptown to mid 130th Streets. He mentioned the dimensions of spaces in this district and the new company that relocated to 125th Street.

Colonel Rivera, Executive Officer, Selective Service System:

Stated that volunteers are needed to serve on the selective service board from our community which has no representation at all in this board. He stated also that the volunteers serve only during national emergencies and explained process of application, training and benefits of selective service registration.

Ms. Sierra asked about the age limit to volunteer for this board and Mr. Rivera said that it is 18 years and up, and no law enforcement officers and 20 years retired veterans are accepted.

Ms. Helen Morik asked if men and women are being recruited? Mr. Rivera said that both are being recruited but especially women and young people because there are few of them in this board.

Mr. Garcia asked how CB12 can help? Mr. Rivera stated that you know the community better and will leave material for application with CB12 and to refer anybody that is interested to him.

Ms. Cardona asked that besides the privilege of Presidential appointment to this board, are there any other benefits? Mr. Rivera stated that the benefit is representing your community and that the young people that come to this board need to see familiar faces.

Jim Lau, NYS DOT

Introduced project south of P.S. 5 at the end of Harlem River Drive. Ms. Amy Gavaris of the New York Restoration Project explained the nature of project and site chosen to restore wetlands and the emphasis on student learning. He also explained nature of boathouse to be placed in this area and the involvement of students in boathouse project.

Ms. Dodson commended efforts on this project and asked about the former owner's plans for development for this site, other inputs on this project and the outreach and communication from the immediate

Community across from this project. Ms. Gavaris stated that this site is located south of P.S. 5 and it is not Sherman Creek site and that they work with PS 5, and the various committees of CB12.

Ms. Luna asked about accessibility and security to the boathouse and it was stated that is a public park accessible via front of PS 5 and park south of school. There will also be a tall gate for the boathouse which will be closed after hours.

Ms. Foster asked when the project will be completed, and they answered by next March.

Ms. Holland asked about the ownership and dimension of the land. It is a NYC Parks Department; the boathouse is a concession within a City park. The land is approximately 3 acres.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, representing Beth Am Peoples Temple

Announced the "Million Moms March on Gun Control" for Mother's Day May 14 at Washington DC.

Adam Clayton Powell

Introduced the Interboro Institute. Its mission and educational objectives.

Zenaida Mendez, Congressman Rangel's Office

Spoke about the hiring for the census and the need to be counted. Reported that due to personal reasons she is relocating from New York and that is was her last day appearing CB 12 on behalf of Congressman Rangel. She went over her history of participation with CB12.

Daniel Perez, Community Board #10

Proposed that the Chairs of the committees from these and other boards meet at least once a month to improve coordination and communication on City-wide issues.

Mr. Garcia stated that he met with the Chairs of CB 9,10 and 11 and were very receptive and hopes to continue working with them.

Cynthia Smith, N.Y. Public Library

Thanked the board for placing the library budget requests on priorities #2 and 3. Stated that the Inwood Library renovation will be finished by the end of this Summer or beginning of the Fall. Urged the board to vote for the resolution on restoring library funding.

Jeanie Dubnau, RENA

Spoke on behalf of the Housing Committee resolution and urged the board to vote unanimously for this resolution. Pointed out importance of repealing the Urstadt Law and announced demonstration in Albany on May 23 on Housing regulations.

Aldrin Bonilla, Local Census Bureau

Stated that the local census office is on 182nd Street and Broadway above the social security office and the area covered by this office. He went over the census schedule, operation and office locations. Stated that they have a staff of 261 people and more being added, up to 1300 in next 3 weeks. Explained the concerns over the forms in Spanish, how individuals did not get them on time but that they will be available at the various centers after 4/1/00. Unconventional households such as shelters, hospitals, etc. are also being enumerated. Enumerators will be hired in the next 2 weeks once they get an indication of how many are needed. They tested 120,000 people for census jobs and 9,000 qualified.

Mr. Garcia asked how are we doing as far as counting and how can CB 12 help in this process? Mr. Bonilla responded that he is not able to give out information on the census returned by mail and this information is available on www.Census.com for the people who responded to the census and will be available to elected officials, and in the coming weeks to other members of the community. They are trying to increase the census count by 5% better than last year.

Ms. Morik stated that she is very disappointed with the delays with the forms in Spanish and asked again how can CB 12 help. Mr. Bonilla stated that many communities that do not speak English have the same concerns about the form and that CB 12 can help by getting the work out to the community to mail the forms back on time and assuring the community that the information provided is confidential.

Ms. Dodson urged CB12 to denounce the "60 Minutes" program on channel 2 for the remarks dissuading the people to answer the census.

Mr. Sanchez asked to clarify questions 7 & 8 on the form dealing with race. Mr. Bonilla stated that one question deals with ethnicity and the other with race, which are dealt with separately in the United States.

Mr. Moscow asked whether there was time to change the policy of counting the prisoners where they are incarcerated instead of the communities to which they belong, or at least have the funds go to their respective communities. Mr. Bonilla stated that yes they are enumerated where they are incarcerated but that the reverse also happens where individuals in universities and other institutions are counted where these institutions are located.

Ms. Ritter stated that at the Youth & Education Committee a census representative informed them incorrectly that the prisoners are counted for their respective communities and urge the census to make sure that this and other questions are answered correctly by their representatives.

Elected Officials:

Miosotis Muñoz, Manhattan Borough President's Office

Provided her written report. Stated that she is going to miss Zenaida Mendez who paved the way for Dominican representation at the elected official level. Expressed disappointment with the Diallo verdict and hopes that the Federal Government will determine if there were violations of civil rights. She also offered her condolences to Mr. Dorismond's family. She stated that the Manhattan Borough President asked the US District Attorney from the eastern district to release the investigation on police misconduct. Ms. Muñoz spoke against the sale of toy guns and cigarette lighters that look like guns. Mentioned that by the next CB 12 meeting they will have an answer as to which people have been appointed to CB 12. Thanked Mr. Garcia and Ms. Feliciano for their work with her on budget priorities. Announced that the Borough President's discretionary funds RFP have to be requested now, they will not be mailed automatically to people as before.

Councilman Guillermo Linares

Announced a ceremony at City Hall on International Women's Day where Martha Pepin member of CB 12 was honored for housing organization. Suggested to CB 12 to organize a forum on community questions and concerns on the census. Worked with other institutions to have a health fair in his office with tremendous response. The next one is on 3/31/00 at 204th Street and Post Avenue, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Challenged CB 12 to organize meeting of community leadership and the police to put into perspective the challenges that we face. Announced veto override at City Council on WEP workers legislation vetoed by the Mayor. The City Council passed rent control and regulations for 3 more years.

Mr. Garcia stated that the dialogue and the meeting process have already started with the local police.

Ms. Dodson commended Mr. Garcia for reaching out to her and others on what's happening city-wide with incidents of police violence and she is also proud of the role the Manhattan Borough President has played in the face of all that has taken place in the last months.

Ms. Morik suggested to have a Census Sunday the first Sunday of May to fill out census forms in churches and other organizations with help of elected officials and clergy.

Councilman Linares concluded his report by thanking Zenaida Mendez for her leadership.

Ms. Foster asked whether Councilman Linares had received the Public Service Commission report on the Con Edison Blackout. The Councilman said that he has not received it and Mr. Garcia that we have it at CB 12 and that Ms. Dodson has agreed to undertake leadership at the Energy Blackout Taskforce.

Committee Reports:

Youth & Education Committee

Sandra Wachspress, Chair, announced that the next meeting will be held the first Monday of the month. Presented the resolution for the restoration of \$18.8 million cut from the Public Library. The resolution approved by a vote of 30 in favor, none opposed.

Land Use Committee

James Berlin, Chair, presented resolution on approval of application to revise the zoning resolution in regards to the Unified Bulk Program. The resolution was approved by a vote of 26 in favor, 1 opposed and 2 abstained.

Traffic, Transportation & Public Safety Committee

Steven Rizick, Chair, presented the resolution on approval of the demapping of the portion of Wadsworth Avenue between 173rd & 174th Streets and the sale of the property to the applicant.

James Berlin classified that they are only buying part of the sidewalk and Mr. Rizick added that there is not going to be any parking on the sidewalk.

Ms. Dodson asked if any public funds will be used in the renovations and Mr. Rizick stated that none will be used.

Mr. Zead Ramadan asked about the number of pumps and the gas suppliers to the station. Mr. Rizick stated that there will be the same number of pumps serviced by Amoco. It will be a family owned business and they will add a convenience store. They will notify the Senior Center across the street during construction and work with DOT.

The resolution was approved with 28 in favor, none opposed and 1 abstention.

Housing & Human Services Committee

Maria Luna presented the resolution on rent regulations pointing out that the resolution was revised after the resolution was passed by a large majority in the committee although without changing the substance of the resolution and it was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Ms. Ritter proposed an amendment that point 7 of the resolution be removed which was seconded by Joyce Holland.

Ms. Barberis suggested that sub-tenants of co-ops be removed from point 7 and Ms. Ritter stated that she still objected to entire point 7.

The amendment was discussed with many suggestions. There was a show of hands to end the discussion on this amendment with 20 in favor and 5 opposed. Ms. Ritter's amendment to remove point 7 from the resolution was not approved with a vote of 11 in favor, 14 opposed and 3 abstentions.

Ms. Ritter presented another motion, seconded by Ms. Morik to change point 7 to read "to extend rent protection to cover tenants in new buildings".

Ms. Cardona propose that point 7 should read "extent rent protection to all CB 12 tenants." This motion was not seconded.

After further discussion, Ms. Ritter's amendment was not approved with a show of hands of 6 in favor, 13 opposed and 5 abstentions. A motion to table the resolution was made by George Sanchez, seconded by James Berlin and approved by a roll call vote of 23 in favor and 6 opposed.

Economic Development Committee

Maria Sierra announced that the committee is having a public hearing on the license renewal of Inwood Manor on April 6th.

Reports from Representatives of Public Officials

The representatives present declined to make their reports due to the late hour.

Announcements

William Garcia reminded the members and public that the next general meeting is on Monday, April 24th not Tuesday as regularly scheduled due to the observance of Passover.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Marcos Navarro