

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2002**

Revised

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jacqueline Aristy	Maria Luna
Rev. Lee Arrington	Benjamin Mantell
Anita Barberis	Manuel Mendez
Rafael Beaumont	Norma Nadien
James Berlin	Marcos Navarro
Emilia G. Cardona	Dr. Pamela Palanque North
Martin Collins	Ron Peterson
Walther G. Delgado	Zead Ramadan
Sybil R. Dodson	Nelson Rojas
Leslie Foster	Maria Sierra
William A. Garcia	Barbara Smith Ramos
Beatrice Hall	Juan Villar
Herbert Harwitt	Sandra Wachspress
Joyce F. Holland	Elouise Whitehurst

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Abby Belkin
Ronald J. Botelho (Excused)
Fredericka Cuenca (Excused)
Soledad Hiciano
Elizabeth Morris Ritter (Excused)
Helen Morik
William C. Ortega
Julio Peguero (Excused)
Steven Rizick (Excused)
Msgr. Gerald Walsh

Quorum reached at 7:34 PM

Chairman Walther G. Delgado reviewed agenda.

Motion to adopt agenda by Norma Nadien and seconded by Martin Collins.

Motion to adopt minutes of February meeting was made by Martin Collins and seconded by Zead Ramadan.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Walther G. Delgado

- The rumors that the rehabilitation of the Fire Dept. located at 181st Street would be creating a bay for EMS were true. Although our community supports an EMS station, this location would only create further traffic congestion and safety issues. A meeting with NYFD, BID, Yeshiva and offices of elected officials voiced our concern. As a result, NYFD has scrapped such plans, but will take into consideration alternative sites recommended by CB 12.
- Our decision to reject an application for a residential facility for the mentally ill in 790 Riverside Drive was overturned in an administrative review.
- Awaiting the impact of Executive City Budget. Advised that Community Boards are not being cut. Also, last Tuesday, representatives from all Community Boards were invited back to Gracie Mansion after absence of 7 Giuliani years.
- Articles in the NY Times City Section about the restoration of Community Boards powers and bringing them into the age of technology (i.e. computers). Also article in the Real Section a historic piece on the Morris-Jumel Mansion. Finally, a published profile in the Manhattan Times on Herbert Harwitt, a valued community person.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT: Gregoria Feliciano

- The many community complaints of rat infestation was addressed by the Dept. of Health at the District Service Cabinet meeting and the process was delineated. Mobile food vendors not complying with regulations will be handled by DOH during the spring sweep. Requested that the community get involved with identifying such vendors. MTA will increase IND A service from 10 minutes to 7.5 effective in May. We need to review our budget priorities after Mayor's budget announced with agencies. New Captain at the 34th Police Precinct Captain James Kehoe. Quality of life hotline available to identify problem areas.

Norma Nadien: Asked about the status of 225th St. Broadway Bridge. Removing paint and repainting.

The following Board Members have resigned: J.F. Sanchez Acosta and Rev. Antonio Almonte.

PUBLIC SESSION

Carlos Rodriguez, Manhattan Borough President's Office - In the State of the Borough citing Washington Heights and Inwood. Creation of a banking developmental district via grant from the state. Involve Chamber of Commerce via Leslie Foster. Thanked the 34th Precinct and the District Manager regarding funds allotted to build a playground at PS 98. Drug activity prevalent in area. But some issues have risen concerning concentration of drug activity in that area.

Savona Bailey McClain – West Harlem Art Fund - Founder of the Harlem Heights Heritage Area proposed for West 122nd to 218th Street from the Hudson River to Edgecombe Avenue. She listed the rationale of themes. Historical themes: Maritime, Military and North Manhattan Migration.

- Identify themes of respective communities
- Enhance community visibility.
- Market positive attributes of communities.
- Survey and document architectural landmarks.
- Improve quality of life.

Broader definition to northern Manhattan migration

- Survey German Jewish synagogues
- Catholic facilities for archival material regarding Irish community migration.

Academic review committee made of community residents.

Ms. Dodson: Applauded the inclusion of all migration. Include funeral homes regarding immigration.

Jacqueline Aristy: Do you have the academics involved? No, just beginning.

Zead Ramadan: Do you have a Board of Directors? A: Work with management team. What is the decision making group?

A: Developing management team; the group has not been formed yet.

Emilia Cardona: Have you reached out to the Greek community? No

Marcos Navarro: Time frame for this request. Needs a blueprint. Designation will be this Spring and have up to 3 years to develop strategic master plan.

William Garcia: Is there a specific deadline?

Mary Wier, Pacific Opera - Representatives for Upper Broadway Cultural Center. It's a group of artists and musicians in our community. Have concert: 551 Ft. Washington Avenue (185th St.) first on Jan. 20 and another concert on April 7th.

Rita Kardeman, Washington Heights/Inwood Chamber of Commerce - Supports the idea of the historic heritage area but is troubled by its name. The title should be more reflective of our community.

Kekla Magoon, Girl Scout Council of Greater New York - Located in our community and are looking for leaders (volunteers). They are also looking for other locations to host meetings.

Jose Adames, President of Tenants Association at 5000 Broadway (across from PS 98) – Process of being evicted by Landlord. Needs legal assistance. Converted by non-eviction plans.

Nilda L. Rexach, Community Resident - Tenants of 5000 Broadway are being evicted. Apartments are coops. Two distressed properties and active drug dealing.

Susan Razavi, Alta Classica - Thanked Chairman Delgado for getting performance space and for another grant (Man. Dev. Fund) for Francisco (guitarist) April 14th at the Columbia Auditorium at \$1,000.

Police Officer Trinidad, 34th Pct. representing Captain Kehoe - Captain Keahoe comes from the 30th Precinct. He was a Sergeant at the 34th Pct. seven years ago. The 34th Precinct Council meeting is at Isabella tomorrow (Wed).

Ms. Dodson: Inquired about the scooter patrol in Park Terrace. Park Officers will begin in April.

Leslie Foster - Spoke regarding "Imagine NY A Public Visioning" workshops scheduled for April 13th from 10:00 AM to 1:00PM.

Michael Alvarez, Lynn Opinonte, Judith Rodriguez – New York Public Library - The Washington Heights libraries will only open 4 days a week if proposed 22% cut (25M) is implemented. Washington Heights shows 4/25, 5/2, 5/9

Marianna DePaola, Community Resident - Thanked the Board for helping the neighborhood. Too many pigeons in our neighborhood. All beauty salons and barber shops are empty. Encouraged everyone to support token booths being manned – a safety factor.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

State Senator Eric Schneiderman - Facing in NYS fiscal crises 2.6 billion deficit which existed before 9/11. Lots of spending while cutting taxes. The Governor's strategy is to make it through November without alienating anyone. We need to bite the bullet and raise revenues (taxes). Otherwise, proposal like closing 53 token booths will happen. Further the assembly has just introduced a bill to extend rent regulations even though they don't expire until next year..

Leslie Foster: Redistricting machinations of the Republicans upstate. Every ten years after each census, all legislative and congressional lines must be re-drawn. Republicans trying to preserve their majority in a 2 to 1 democratic state. Groups plan to sue over final new district lines. Much litigation will ensue.

Chair requested assistance with Padavan Law requirements. Legislative issue in that the power is not deferred on the community.

Councilman Miguel Martinez - Alternative ways to balance budget. Yesterday at my town hall meeting at Isabella available options were presented to obtain this balance. Revenues are not covering expenses and cutting services is not the only alternative. Some of the alternatives are: commuter tax, stock transfer tax, and property tax to generate revenue. Further, increase the personal income tax 1% and dedicate these resources to the renovation of construction of schools throughout the city allowing 25 children to a classroom. On a local level concerned about quality of life issues regarding auto theft and abandoned cars. Need to partner with the 34th Precinct regarding response time and community relations. Introduced resolutions in City Council to hold hearings on air bus safety and exempt undocumented college students to pay foreign student fee, create Civilian Complaint Review Board for TLC drivers. The office is located at 601 West 174th Street, their number is 917-521-2616.

Leslie Foster: Our Board will be cut 13 million regarding services (evenly divided across the Boards).

Martin Collins: 34th Precinct declared a C Precinct (reduction of beat officers)

Joyce Holland: Same conditions exist in lower Washington Heights. Plan to head problems off now. (quality of life issues)

Susan Russell – Councilman Robert Jackson's Office - Council member Jackson is diligently pursuing funding for parks' seasonal workers. Also looking for ways to minimize budget cuts; Education budget, Contract Procurement, Living Wage Bill. Their office is located at 751 West 183rd Street and their number is 212-928-1322.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Walther G. Delgado, Chairman - Resolution to remove Isidoro Martinez from the Board. 27 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions, 0 Not Voting

Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee – Marcos Navarro, Chair - Presented the resolution for the West Harlem Heritage Area.

Jim Berlin: Great deal of improvement to resolution. Need documentation regarding communication. How is this organization organized? Too amorphous. There are two significant things in Washington Heights: Battle of Revolution War/Immigration of all and how they all worked together. Call it the Northern Manhattan Heritage Area.

William Garcia: Calls for support for feasibility studies. Naming is secondary. Not fully in agreement with substance.

Walther Delgado: Too early to come to general meeting – came out of Executive Committee. Extensive discussion took place of validity of resolution. Parks Committee had no quorum. The Executive Committee voted on it: 4, 2, 1.

Emilia Cardona: The Executive Committee vote was to bring the resolution to the floor of the whole Board.

Zead Ramadan: If last be it resolved is moved. The idea is positive – desire to make it more inclusive. The name hints more at the southern end. The fact that there is no Board of Directors – no. Without a Board of Directors, cannot support resolution.

Pamela Palanque North: What is the resistance about the name? Should work with historical facts. The name is not relevant. It is a socially progressive act to move forward. Should not walk away from this resolution, but celebrate the contributions of many people in our community.

Maria Sierra: In removing the last resolve, what are we saying?

Norma Nadien: Finds troubling that there is only Ms. McClain involved. Ms. McCain explained that there is a Board of Directors, and 501(c)(3) certification in place.

Jim Berlin: The three neighborhoods involved; should be called Northern Manhattan.

Maria Luna: Have a problem with the name. Move to table the resolution. The motion was seconded. Vote to table: 16-8-1

Point of Order:

Ms. Palanque North: Describe Process. A: It goes back to Parks Committee to rework.

Ms. Holland: What are the issues to go back to committee?

Walther Delgado: Table back to Executive Committee for a stronger resolution. Need to review all issues involved. Proposed task force to handle this. Suggested naming: Harlem Heights, Washington Heights, Inwood Valley.

Ron Peterson: When it goes to the Executive Committee is it an open meeting?

Lost quorum and could not place Economic Development Committee resolution regarding Wendy's street café to the Board for a vote. Executive Committee to review and vote and have it ratified by the Board next month.

Maria Luna: Rabbi Miller, VP of Yeshiva passed away who played an important role regarding Holocaust reparations and the Yeshiva Mall, and was instrumental in bringing the community together.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: Anita Barberis, Assistant Secretary