

# COMMITTEE FOR THE AGING MINUTES

March 8, 2005

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sybil R. Dodson-Lucas, Chair  
Leslie Foster  
Gloria Vanterpool

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Glenda Massa (excused)  
Bishop Gerald Walsh (excused)  
Nelson Rojas  
Fern Hertzberg (excused)

## PUBLIC MEMBERS

**Martin Collins, Chair, CB12**

## GUESTS

Norma De Candido-Resident, Mary Jones Springer-Resident, Cecil Levinson-Resident, Sara Jacobson-Jewish Community Council of WHI, Olga Plotkin-YM&YWA of Wash. Hgts., Amy Pfeiffer-Transportation Alternatives, Felecia Johnson-Parks & Recreation, Ethel Linder Stoll-Resident, Edward M. Daniels-Veteran's Administration

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Sybil Dodson-Lucas, convened meeting at 10:15am. Committee mail was reviewed. Committee members suggested that notice be forwarded to all senior citizens groups on our mailing list informing that the new chair of the Committee for the Concerns of the Aging is Sybil Dodson-Lucas. This will be acted on with the next board mailing. Committee supported letter of thank to Alana Boutelle DOH Public Health Educator) for her excellent presentation regarding STD's at our last meeting.

Thereafter the committee and community members in attendance were provided with a presentation from TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES, a not for profit group whose focus is to improve pedestrian safety.

One of TA's primary initiatives is SAFE ROUTES FOR SENIORS. As a result of intensive surveys within our District, 6 intersections, which posed crossing hazards for seniors, were identified as candidates for re-design. The locations include

168<sup>th</sup> st Broadway

170<sup>th</sup> st Broadway

176<sup>th</sup> st Broadway

177<sup>th</sup> st Broadway

Nagle Ave at Dyckman St

Broadway and Dyckman St

TA Safe Routes for seniors suggests DOT change signalization at these locations to provide safer crossing for seniors. Committee member Vanterpoole suggests Manhattan Times list the locations and the changes that are sought. The committee supported motion to reach out to DOT Comm. Weinshall for support of Safe Routes initiative.

Expansion of Isabella Home was discussed. Residents in the Northern most section of our district are concerned by the potential building of high-density projects in residential areas that over time have become in-place senior communities. Concerned seniors in the Inwood area suggest that locations be identified which might accommodate an expansion of the Isabella Assisted Living Home to location in Inwood. Suggested sites include the Christian Academy, if the location should become available. The committee and community in attendance supported a motion to write to Isabella suggesting locations in Inwood be considered for any Isabella expansion of services.

The draft letter will be presented to the committee at our next meeting, upon approval of the committee the letter will be forwarded to the Chair for transmittal to Isabella.

Leslie Foster provided information on the **Senior Walk Proposal—walking works wonders**, Isabella's repertoire of diverse programs includes this fun walking exercise program which meets one day a week at their facility and again twice a week at The Armory Track & Field facility under the supervision of professional trainers.

Detective Billy Hughes of the 34<sup>th</sup> Pct. provided the group with helpful tips in safe guarding themselves against the perpetrators of "Con Games". He commented that the senior population has been preyed on mainly through the deceptive tactics of these opportunists, which puts the senior population at a higher risk. In May Det. Hughes has agreed to present the group with an in depth lecture on "Con Games" through visual aides and other data.

## **APRIL MEETING**

Effective April and each meeting thereafter, the committee will receive ongoing information and updates on **Medicaid** and **Social Security** issues as a standard feature of our meeting. We are committed to monitoring development in these areas.

The committee heard information regarding the LIFE LINE program- a communications device that alerts caregiver if seniors are in trouble. Julie Varca representative of the Life Line program at Columbia Pres. will be our guest at the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned 12:00noon

Respectfully submitted by Sybil Dodson-Lucas

**Land Use Committee - Meeting Minutes**  
**March 2, 2005**

**Committee Members Present**

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

**Committee Members Absent**

Mark Levine(excused)  
Peter Ferrara(excused)

**Board Members Present**

Jackie Rowe Adams  
Martin Collins

Staff: Renee Tirado, District Manager & Jeffrey Laufer, Community Assistant

1. General discussion commenced at 7:20 and the meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM.
2. The minutes of the February 2, 2005 Land Use Committee were approved.
3. The Committee discussed development options for 2142 Amsterdam Avenue. The property is a vacant lot located between 166<sup>th</sup> and 167<sup>th</sup> street and is owned by Columbia University. As part of the City's approval of the first phase of the Audubon Research and Development project, circa 1990, Columbia committed to donate this site for residential development. To-date the site has remained vacant and unimproved. Land Use Chair Wayne Benjamin presented a summary analysis for the site which indicated that under current zoning (R7-2) the 25' x 100' lot can accommodate a building of approximately 10,000 square feet assuming the use of Quality Housing Zoning. It is estimated that 11 residential units can be constructed. The summary analysis was emailed to Edwin Marshall, Department of City planning for review and comment. Total development costs are estimated at \$2.25 million dollars. The materials provided by Mr. Benjamin also included information on various HPD and HDC funding programs which can be used to help fund the development of affordable housing. Sandra Harris, Columbia University agreed to contact some of the community-based organizations that looked at developing the site in the past in order to determine their interest in considering current development options. Ms. Harris also committed to exploring the possibility of having Columbia fund initial design studies for the site. The Committee also discussed the types of residential development that the site might accommodate, e.g.: seniors housing, low-income tax credit housing, supportive housing, etc., the need for a fair and transparent process to be established to make a determination on the type of development and for allocating the units to be developed, and the need to work with CB12's Housing Committee on next steps.
4. The revised draft of the Request for Qualifications for Urban Planning Consultant Services was reviewed. CB 12-M Chair Martin Collins advised that the community board should have at minimum \$7,500 to allocate towards fees for this consultant study and has spoken with Council Members Martinez and Jackson who expect to be able to contribute \$3,000 to \$5,000 each towards consultant fees. Mr. Collins will also contact Congressman Rangel, Assemblymen Espilliat and Farrell, Senator Paterson, Manhattan Borough President Fields and Harlem Community Development Corporation concerning financial support for the planning study. Outreach will also be made to private foundations. A budget for the study has not yet been finalized; this will occur once proposals have been submitted and a preferred consultant is selected. It was noted that similar comprehensive planning studies have cost from \$150,000 to \$200,000. The next step in advancing the RFQ is for the Executive Committee to authorize releasing it and for the availability of RFQ to be published in the City Register.

5. The Committee discussed initial plans for a spring 2005 Audubon Avenue Study workshop. Various locations within or near the study area were discussed. District Manager Rene Tirado agreed to research the site further related to matters such as wheelchair accessibility and seating capacity. The spring workshop is expected to be held in late-April or early-May. Mr. Benjamin advised that the final report prepared by Insight Associates for the Audubon Avenue Study will be ready in time for the March 8<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee; copies of the Recommendations section of the report were distributed to the Committee.
6. There was a general discussion concerning the potential impacts of development of the Far West Side, including the proposed Olympic/Jets Stadium, on Washington Heights and Inwood, especially on the affordability of housing.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Wayne A. Benjamin

# **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

## **MARCH 16, 2005**

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Pamela Palanque North, Chair  
Kotie Cannon  
Wayne Benjamin

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Martin Collins, CB12 Chair  
Aidee Camacho

### **GUESTS**

Andrew Case- CCRB, PO Tony Trinidad- 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct; P.O. Alexandra Sanchez, Deputy Inspector Wilcox- 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct; Chief Marco Vitolo- FDNY Battalion 13, Mike Hughes-Inwood Patrol

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Meeting Opened 7:00pm

**Opening Remarks:** Dr. Pamela Palanque North, Chair

Members introduced themselves introduction of Public Safety and reviewed purpose of Public Safety Committee and Agenda.

Andrew Case spoke about CCRB Jurisdiction. He said that his office handled complaints, but not criminal matters, like bribery. The office of Chief of the Department handles deals with complaints such as response time.

He said there were 4 categories of complaints were

1. Force: covers both unnecessary and unjustified
2. Abuse of Authority
3. Discourtesy
4. Offensive Language

Mr. Case said CCRB was only administrative, that Abuse of Authority is the largest category, and includes stops, frisks, and searches. Discourteous language is the most common complaint. CCRB standard is preponderance of the evidence.

- ◆ In 2004, 6200 complaints were made city wide, the highest in 10 years. Investigation does not begin until they speak to an investigator in person. Investigator is responsible for contract complaint, once the investigator sees it on their desk.
- ◆ In terms of Demographics: 60% of the complaints are from Males. 52% were from African Americans. Demographics of suspected officers were about the same as the make up of the department.

Chief Marco Vitolo, FDNY – reported that between January 1 - March 1, 2005, 48 structural fires occurred as compared to 129 structural fires that occurred in of Washington Heights in 2004. Most fires took place in residential and multiple dwellings buildings. Chief Marco Vitolo said that Roger Montesano will answer questions about relocation at a future meeting.

Inspector Wilcox, 33rd Pct- reported that people making food deliveries are being robbed on lower Riverside Drive, 158<sup>th</sup> street- 162<sup>nd</sup> Street.

### **Advisors:**

- ◆ Beware of the ATM machines that are in deli's/stores. They have been linked to organized crime and can lead to identity thief.
- ◆ A cell phone and iPod thief are on the rise in Manhattan North, but luckily has not reached our area yet. People need to be aware of their surroundings, while using them.
- ◆ Vice: Gambling arrest on 158<sup>th</sup> street and 177<sup>th</sup> street. Prostitution arrests were made on 159<sup>th</sup> street, between Broadway and Amsterdam

PO Tony Trinidad of the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct- spoke on identity thief. He stated that complaints should be made to both police and post office officials, concerning mail fraud. Also be careful with your cell phone and palm pilots because your info is stored on them.

**NOTE:**

- ◆ 18% decrease in crime YTD. MARCH Operations (Multi Agency Response to Community Hot Spots) included violations issued to the Flowers Lounge.
- ◆ Graffiti Arrest were recently made. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> arrest for this crime in '05.
- ◆ There have been numerous complaints about noise on 161<sup>st</sup>, between 4:30-5:00 am on Friday and Saturday. Officers are usually on hand, and always included in a MARCH Operations.

Mike Hughes, Inwood Patrol

- ◆ 204<sup>th</sup> street, someone was punched in the face while using a blackberry.
- ◆ 2 Arrests made during the snowstorm, for stealing cell phones from a store.
- ◆ Graffiti- chased away 3 kids, drawing on a van at Good Shepard School. White Van with black markers.

Aidee Camacho spoke about an increase in drug activity at the Train station's in Washington Heights.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Kotie Cannon,

Edited by Dr. Pamela Palanque North, Chair

Prepared by Jeffrey A. Laufer, Community Assistant CB12M

# **Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes**

## **March 1, 2005**

### **Committee Members Present**

Zead Ramadan- Chair  
Emilia Cardona- Asst. Chair  
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter  
Sybil Dodson Lucas

**Guests-** Jane Schachat- NYC Parks, Jane Jackson – NY Restoration Project, Grant McKeown Inwood Runners & Walkers, Alan Ginsberg, Jean Bonnes - Foot Park, Dana Hockenbury- Washington Heights Gardening Crew, Annamaria Jones- New Yorkers for Parks, Susan Devries- Dyckman Farm House, Edward Schoelwer- Lotus: Drums Along the Hudson, Lavinia Mancuso - the Museum of the City of NY, Angelo Ortiz- Inwood Community Service, J.A. Reynolds- Isham Park Restoration, Neella Perez-Ortiz, S. Ryan O'Rally, Bob Isaac - Residents

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The discussion to revitalize the entrances to Fort Washington Park at 175th and 177th Streets ("Foot Park") has picked up steam, as well as some funding for the neighborhood org. that is driving this effort. Mr. Ginsberg and Ms. Bonnes reported on behalf of their neighborhood organization, and shared ideas on how to make the area cleaner, safer and more positively usable. The committee offered suggestions on more funding avenues and long term plan for community based org. to collaborate with City and other agencies for upkeep responsibilities. Ms. Jane Jackson of NY Restoration Project expressed interest in discussing possibilities for involvement by her org. The committee will reach out to interested parties and create a walk-through of the site in order to decipher responsibility and a coordinated plan of action to help revitalize a forgotten though vital entrance to a beautiful water front park.

There were differing opinions on the benefits regarding the recent pruning of Isham Park by the Parks Dept. Though the effort to prune areas of the Park was initiated from safety concerns; drug dealers stash drugs in shrubbery, homeless live behind shrubs in summer and scare passer-bys, over-growth creates dark areas optimizing opportunities for potential mugging; some fear that the over pruning of the area has created an opportunity for kids to use the Park as a ball-field which would lead to the eventual destruction of those areas in the park. After hearing reasoning for the pruning by Ms. Jane Schachet of Dept. of Parks and Recreation, it was agreed that she would return with planting ideas in order to prevent the area from being utilized in a way that would lead to the harm of the ecology of the park.

We informed the public of the dates and variety of themes of the Uptown Arts Stroll III, and the desire to create a more artistically diverse and ethnically inclusive production this year. We also stressed the importance of volunteers – they will help with outreach and various manpower needs. We reminded the public of next Parks Committee meeting at Inwood Public Library to discuss Arts Stroll at length.

- ◆ Ed Schoelwer of Lotus –Drums Along the Hudson announced the May 1 Shad Fest.
- ◆ Grant McKeown of Inwood Runners and Walkers invited Inwood residents to team up when exercising in Parks.
- ◆ The 3rd NY4P Parks Advocacy Day City Hall on Wed. April, 20 from 8am-1pm at City council offices (250 Broadway, 16th Fl.)
- ◆ Lavinia Mancuso of the Museum of the City of NY announced their plan to do a feature piece on Washington Heights and Inwood. Committee chair expressed importance to include all historical ethnicities and significant institutions in the community, and to allow for review and input from CB12M.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.  
Respectfully submitted –zr.