

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 28, 2002

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jacqueline Aristy	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Anita Barberis	Maria Luna
Abby Belkin	Benjamin Mantell
James Berlin	Renato Mena
Emilia G. Cardona	Kirk Miller
Nelson Castro	Norma Nadien
Martin Collins	Marcos Navarro
Fredericka Cuenca	Dr. Pamela Palanque North
Walther G. Delgado	Julio Peguero
Rafael Escano	Zead Ramadan
Luis Facundo	Nelson Rojas
Ivelisse Fairchild	Jerry Marie Saunders
Venecia Fernandez	Steve Simon
Leslie Foster	Barbara Smith Ramos
William A. Garcia	Glenda Swanson-Massa
Beatrice Hall	Milagros Vicente
Herbert Harwitt	Sandra Wachspress
Joyce F. Holland	

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Rev. Lee Arrington
Rafael Beaumont
Mireya Cruz
Sybil R. Dodson (excused)
Nelson Gomez
Soledad Hiciano
Jose Lopez
Helen Morik (ill-excused)
Ron Peterson
Msgr. Gerald Walsh
Elouise Whitehurst

7:39pm Introduction and welcome.

7:40pm Motion to adopt agenda by Ben Mantell, seconded by Abby Belkin; approved unanimously.

7:40pm Motion to adopt minutes by Beatrice Hall, seconded by Glenda Swanson-Massa. Herbert Harwitt requested changes to record of his comments. Motion tabled by Walther Delgado; seconded by Elizabeth Lorris Ritter; approved unanimously.

7:42pm Chairman’s Report: Walther G. Delgado

- Noted that most business of Board happens in Committee, and urged members to read very informative meeting minutes.
- Thanked the Assistant Chairs Committee for excellent orientation of new Board Members, with special thanks to Fredericka Cuenca and Dr. Pamela Palanque North for organizing, and Zead Ramadan of X-Caffe for fine catering. Very informative, although only seven of fifteen new members actually attended.
- Urged people’s participation.
- Made some observation regarding loss of City services; projected that this will only get worse in the face of budget cuts.
- Observed that there are continuing delays in opening of the 33rd Precinct, now overdue.

7:51pm Introduction of new 34th Pct Commander, Captain William Kehoe, most recently the Executive Officer of the 30th Pct.

- Main issues in 34th Precinct are quality of life, especially noise.
- Revived “Operation Sound Trap,” where cars with loud radios are confiscated.
- Issuing more summonses, and taking these complaints seriously.
- Spoke also about fire hydrants and pointed out that in addition to precinct enforcement, the community must educate itself.
- Crime is still down by approximately 5% this year, except for auto theft which is up by 13%, and rape which is up by 15%.
- New beat officers installed; new CPOP is Lt. William Clarke. New number for community policing unit is 927-2640.

Q: Beatrice Hall: regarding hydrants, can people be arrested as a deterrent.

A: Can get street crimes to arrest people.

Q: Leslie Foster: regarding quiet zone on Amsterdam behind Isabella. Any festivals planned?

A: Officers and barriers in place on weekends, but signage still an issue. Three festivals planned: 6/29-6/30, 7/14-15, 7/27-28. Stage set to 500 feet rule.

Q: Venecia Fernandez: regarding loud car radios and motorcycles on 181st Street and St. Nicholas Avenue.

A: Will try to target area for Sound Trap operation; got specifics as to timing.

Q: Norma Nadien: bikes on sidewalks on Broadway, also 190th St./Ft. Washington Avenue down Overlook & Bennett to Broadway.

A: Asked that specific conditions be placed into CPOP so they can get on the problem. Can also then get the Beat Officer involved.

Q: Milagros Vicente: Decrease in beat Officers on St. Nicholas in 180s? Especially issue due to increased drug activity.

A: Officers still out there. Gave names of beat officers. Gave info on whom to call in precinct tracer unit to get information on deployment of officers in neighborhood, especially for narcotics.

Q: Anita Barberis: How many officers in the pct?

A: 160 full duty

Q: Can they respect fire hydrants and bus stops when parking?

A: Yes

Q: Sandra Wachspress for Marianna DePaola: would like to make an appointment.

A: Directed her to call community affairs and they would set it up.

Q: Marcos Navarro re: drug activity issues on Sherman Avenue

A: again referred to Sgt. Dowling (212-927-2640) of narcotics division, as plain clothes narcotics officers better able to follow up on.

8:12pm Nominating Committee - Fredericka Cuenca, Chair: Committee consisted of Anita Barberis, Julio Peguero, Beatrice Hall, Benjamin Mantell and Fredericka Cuenca, and proposed the following slate:

Chair	Zead Ramadan
1 st Vice Chair	Sybil R. Dodson
2 nd Vice Chair	Martin Collins
Treasurer	Barbara Smith Ramos
Secretary	Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Assistant Secretary	Emilia Cardona

Ms. Cuenca described the process for nominations from the floor. Each position was duly opened for nominations from the floor, but there were none, hence the slate of candidates remains unchanged. Elections are next month. Candidates must get at least 50% of votes

cast in order to gain position. A discussion as to what happens if a candidate does not get 50% of votes cast was referred to the By-laws Committee for guidance. It was requested and agreed to that all candidates should make brief comments detailing their qualifications and experience at next meeting prior to elections.

8:19pm Resumption of Chairs Report:

- Thanks to Fredericka Cuenca and the Nominating Committee for their work.
- 2 resignations: Juan Villar (received in writing) and Soledad Hiciano (not received in writing).

8:20pm Minutes: Proposed wording received from Herbert Harwitt to correct minutes of April meeting. Kirk Miller moved to amend; seconded by Norma Nadien. Unanimous adoption of the minutes as amended.

8:22pm District Manager's Report: Gregoria Feliciano

- Rodent infestation and abatement especially at Isham Park/Park Terrace West; Post Ave & 207th Street; 160- 164th St. near PS 4.
- Open hydrants – community education campaign unveiled at District Service Cabinet and Health & Environment Committee. Posters to be printed and distributed in June. FDNY also instituting hydrant patrol unit. DM has been working with FDNY in DSC on these and other initiatives including spray caps and issuance of wrenches to NYPD.
- Dumping on Riverside Drive parkland. DPR Borough Commissioner Castro is active on this issue, also on starting a “friends of” group for playground on Riverside Drive and W. 163rd St.
- W. 181st Street step street renovation update mostly on schedule. Jeanlee Poggi and the West 181st Street Beautification Project is vigilant in protecting community interests in this project.
- DOT Safety City Street under construction at Riverside Drive&W. 158th (site formerly proposed for ambulance garage facility).
- Fund for the City of NY is presenting their computerized neighborhood project on Thursday, May 30th, 3pm at CB12 office.
- Land Use and Economic Development hearing on June 5th at 54 Nagle Avenue at 7pm

Q: Maria Luna: regarding notification for Safety Street facility.

Q: William Garcia: are parks going to have sprinklers this Summer?

A: This might be curtailed if there is a Stage-II drought emergency. She will check with DPR on this.

Venecia Fernandez: Noted that Highbridge pool is nice, clean, recently renovated facility, but underused.

Chair asked DM to report at June meeting as to all street closings, street fairs, etc. for the Summer.

Q: Dr. Pamela Palanque North: what does “no action” mean in the log.

A: Deborah Blow: usually means that action is pending agency response.

Q: Ivy Fairchild suggested it be changed to “awaiting agency response”.
DM and Ms. Blow agreed.

Q: Steve Simon: can Board Members who live near a specific project be notified as to agency meetings so that Board members can be aware and involved in resolution process.

A: Chair: yes – this is a good suggestion and it would be helpful if we could “map” the membership to increase participation.

Q: William Garcia: concerned about item in complaint log regarding Dallas BBQ delivery. Possible human rights issue.

A: Chair asked Zead Ramadan, Economic Development Committee Chair to have committee look into this and contact restaurant.

Point of Information: Emilia Cardona observed that it is not fair to people who come on time that some members come almost two hours late to meeting. There was applause and agreement with this point.

8:47pm Public Session

Raul Martinez – Columbia University: Announced health fair on June 2nd on St. Nicholas Avenue bet. 165th and 170th Streets from 11am – 5pm. Fair will provide health screenings, information, vaccines and referrals for follow up care. Educational activities for youth and adults, entertainment, music, etc.

Michael Alvarez – Regional Librarian: Announced summer closing hours on Saturdays for Hamilton Grange and Ft. Washington Branches.

Q: Venecia Fernandez: Are branches handicapped accessible.

A: Inwood branch is ADA compliant and accessible. Ft. Washington and Washington Heights will be when renovated, though these projects are on hold due to budget climate. Mr. Alvarez spoke about library-by-mail for disabled clients to increase accessibility.

Q: Glenda Swanson Massa: do libraries have access to computers?

A: All branches have PCs and Internet access; gave info on hours for libraries.

Q: Dr. Pamela Palanque North: regarding renovation of Washington Heights Branch for meeting space in downstairs room – can community groups rent it?

A: Only on Monday nights – only night branch is open. Call Lynn Opinante at branch: 212-923-6054.

Q: Ivy Fairchild: Concerned about reinstitution of Saturday hours after August. Should we be doing something?

A: Anticipate that with budget cuts the libraries will cause limiting of hours, but not loss of days.

Ana Aparicio – Kellog Foundation: Having a forum on immigration and welfare reform; wish to work with Health/Human Services Committee. Looking for input as basis for policy recommendation to state, local and federal elected officials. Call her at 212-817-8017 to get reports when published, or to access their research in more usable formats.

Dorothy Désir – Arts Conference in Harlem: Two-day conference on June 19th and June 20th “Redlining Time & Space – Culture and the Question of Real Estate in Harlem” – looking at arts issues in upper Manhattan. Referred to Cultural Affairs Committee.

Renee Fishweicher, MSPT – Elite Care Rehab P.C.: Described their program, which works with children all ages, and is ADA accessible. Gave hours of operation; closed Saturdays. For more information: 212-927-3422.

Marianna DePaola – Community Resident: Disappointed that the quiet zone not in effect. Hopes the hydrants will remain closed now that the police have the wrenches. Neighborhood east of Broadway is not taken care of.

Carlos Rodriguez – Manhattan Borough President’s Office: expressed outrage on behalf of MBP for death of “Chago” Santiago Villanueva, a Washington Heights resident who died while in police custody in Bloomfield NJ. Death was ruled a homicide by ME. Several questions followed regarding EMS and Police Department ability and lack of training dealing with non-English-speakers, elderly, people with Alzheimer’s/dementia, epileptics, etc. Also invited all to the opening on June 18th (11a-1p) to the new lead safe-house at 2183 Amsterdam Avenue and 169th Street.

Sander Dulitz for Councilman Miguel Martinez:

- Council continuing to meet regarding budget, which must be passed by June 6th.
- Proposed to institute a complaint board for cab/livery drivers, and that TLC have open-door policy.
- Commitment from Department of Parks & Recreation to remove barricades at Riverside Park at 158th St.
- Also working to restore cuts to DPR and impact on seasonal parks workers.
- Capital projects list includes requests for area schools; extension of sewer line on Dyckman, to the Dyckman ballfield; and renovation of Highbridge Recreation Center.
- Trying to get \$5 million to purchase property on Broadway and 204th Street to build a new school.

Alyson Spindell for State Senator Eric Schneiderman: addressed issue of rent regulations and the danger posed to NYC tenants due to impending expiration. Also encouraged people to respond to recent survey, and thanked those (2000+) who have responded.

Chris Dorian, Mayor’s Office, Community Assistance Unit: Corrected record regarding wrenches for hydrants. Due to CB12’s initiative, CAU did arrange to get wrenches for 33rd precinct (3 wrenches) and 34th precinct (2 wrenches, as one was already on site), and also has gotten them for precincts citywide, again due to CB12’s efforts.

- Q: Jim Berlin: possible to bring concern regarding quality of life and drag racing to Mayor? Quality of life is key to life in NYC. We have to be able to live here.
- A: QOL very important since Giuliani administration, and the Bloomberg administration is continuing that interest.
- Q: Marcos Navarro: will you attend these meetings regularly?
- A: Only person for Manhattan (used to be 4). Cannot attend all meetings. Will attend general meeting every 2-3 months, but does attend the DSC monthly. Also available by phone; gave out his number.
- Q: Chair: needs help with 2 issues: 1) signage for Isabella’s “Quiet Zone” and 2) opening of the new 33rd Precinct – delayed for seven months. Mr. Dorian said he would follow-up with Leslie Foster and with NYPD.

9:35pm Roll Call: 34 present

9:38pm Committee Reports

By-laws Committee, William A. Garcia, Chair: Reviewed the process for reviewing and changing By-laws. Emilia Cardona, Zead Ramadan, Helen Morik and Rafael Beaumont are also on the committee. He thanked them for their hard work, and thanked predecessors who tendered a solid well-written set of By-laws. Noted item included in proposed changes but erroneously omitted from summary: reduction in required minimum of committee size, from seven to five.

- Q: Maria Luna: concerned about term limits for committee Chairs and Board turnover, and that continuity/experience might suffer.
- A: Important to trust judgement of people elected as Chair of Board in terms of appointments.
- Q: Ivy Fairchild: will there be time for discussion at June meeting. Most members just got the proposed by-laws.
- A: Yes, but also if people have questions they can call me.
- Q: Ivy Fairchild: Also, will amendments be one resolution or multiple resolutions?
- A: Not clear, still working through to find most efficient mechanics.
- Q: Steve Simon: why open-ended notification in the case of family illness?
- A: Trying to be sensitive to personal needs of members who meeting be suffering.
- Q: Steve Simon: Also, is Assistant Chair committee discretionary?
- A: yes.
- Q: Kirk Miller: What is rationale behind Assistant Chair committee and why is AC selected by committee Chair and Board Chair.
- A: Committee started two years ago as experiment. Serves a valuable purpose, but still at discretion of Chair. AC committee helps manage issues of the Board and gives opportunity to members to get active in Board work without giving commitment for (or requiring experience) of full chairmanship.
- Q: Kirk Miller: Then why not make it mandatory?
- A: Some committees may not need or want an assistant. Meeting be well-enough supported by membership of committee, or perhaps no one is willing to fill that role. Don’t want to set up situation where committees are in violation of the By-laws.
- Q: Ivy Fairchild: By-laws are vague on this point.
- A: Not enough time to give notification of a complete change to this item. So this could be changed with a motion to amend.
- Q: Norma Nadien: Why is it necessary to have term limits for Chair and AC. Chair of Board already has discretion to remove Chairs.
- A: The idea is to circulate good members throughout Board.
- A: Emilia Cardona (committee member) addressed this concern as well, pointing out that rotation of committee chairmanship helps to bring new leadership up through Board rates than having stagnant leadership.
- Q: Jim Berlin: There is no emergency requiring us to pass new bylaws, so we can take our time on these issues. Term limits can hamstring future action. Requirement that committees only have five members flies in the face of MBP requirement that members sit on two committees.
- A: It is difficult to maintain quorum at seven-member level. Infringed on ability to get work done. Also, our current bylaws penalize people for excessive absences from meetings, but only if they are on one committee. So a member with poor attendance who is on two committees cannot be removed from Board. It was a catch-22.
- Q: Jim Berlin: If the problem was with the attendance section of by-laws, why not fix that part? Also proposed friendly amendment in wording to clarify §11.07 (5b) which was accepted. Also noted potential problem with Co-Chair on Asst Chairs Committee, and proposed that 1st Vice Chair be Chair of the Asst Chair Committee and 2nd Vice Chair be Asst Chair of Asst Chair committee.
- Q: Sandra Wachspress: include language that Asst Chair appointment be done in consultation with committee Chair.
- A: This was discussed at the Executive Committee and should be in proposed by-laws. He will check, and correct if necessary.
- Q: Sandra Wachspress: Also, what about elected officers being committee Chairs?
- A: Not raised in this round of discussion. No proposed item at this time.
- Q: Luis Facundo: regarding committee appointments?
- A: Decision left to incoming Chair, who will be elected next month.
- Q: Milagros Vicente: Does §11.07 (5c) apply now?
- A: All amendments apply prospectively, not retroactively, unless otherwise stated.

Q: Ivy Fairchild: Can we have another process so that if there are questions on some of the amendments that they can be voted on in September, not June.

A: Not all of the amendments have to be voted on; some can be tabled and/or referred to committee for further work.

Chair: This issue is not new to the Board. These issues have been in discussion for more than two years. They have been discussed at Executive Committee level and are intended to increase operational functionality. If they are not working, we can change them again.

Maria Luna: We should not push these amendments. It presents a problem for new members who need time to review. I have been on the Board for 25 years. We are volunteers.

Pamela Palanque North: wants to acknowledge the amount of work and discussion on this issue, so that we can leave enough time at June meeting to really discuss this issue.

William Garcia: in fact, friendly amendments can be made to by-laws; they are not subject to 30-day notification.

Steve Simon moved that we amend the agenda to discuss a item of new business. Seconded by Elizabeth Lorris Ritter. Unanimous.

10:26pm New Business:

Steve Simon proposed a resolution calling upon Mayor Bloomberg to join the City Council in seeking all possible sources of revenue for the City, including the targeted tax increases. After a brief discussion which included some grammatical and minor language changes, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter called the question, Norma Nadien and many others seconded; no objection.

Roll call – unanimous in favor (32). Leslie Foster suggested we fax the resolution to the NY Observer for their column on CBs.

10:35pm: Announcements

- Chair encouraged all to read minutes. All Chairs deferred giving their reports.
- Joint Land Use and Economic Development Committee meeting on June 5th, to be held the Nagle Ave “Y”.
- Parks & Cultural Affairs meeting on June 4th is starting at 6:30pm, rather than the usual 7pm.

10:40pm: Motion to adjourn by Sandra Wachspress; seconded by Norma Nadien; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

ENERGY TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MINUTES – MAY 2, 2002

Committee Members Present

James Berlin
Herbert Harwitt
Ron Peterson

Board Members Present

Steve Simon

Committee Members Absent

Sybil Dodson, Chair (excused)
Rev. Lee Arrington

Deborah Blow, Community Assistant

Guests

Tony Zizolfo, General Manager for Electric Operations, Con Edison, Zamira Setara, Community Outreach Liaison

Meeting convened at 6:40pm

James Berlin chaired meeting for Ms. Sybil Dodson, Chair of Energy Task Force Committee.

Mr. Berlin introduced presenters, Tony Zizolfo, General Manager for Electric Operations and Zamira Setara, Customer Outreach Liaison.

Question: H. Harwitt, has there been any internal effects of 9/11/01 with regard to the power stations in lower Manhattan?

Mr. Zizolfo reported that the devastation of building seven at the World Trade Center, housed a significant component of Con Ed's power station which supplied the trade center complex and the surrounding areas. He reported that after the tragic event a new substation was resurrected within eight(8) months. In that period, 131 miles of cable has been installed in lower Manhattan. 53 miles of conduit were laid. There were street restrictions for workers.

Confidence was reinforced within the employment of Con Edison after the WTC tragedy. Stock has gone up.

On or about May 24, 2002 power should be completely restored to lower Manhattan.

Mr. Zizolfo reported that the 1999 Blackout occurred from old cables which burnt out under extreme heat. The intensity of heat broke cables down and resulted in fire at sub station.

Since then, 500 sections of cable have been replace and an additional sub-station has been added. Located at 201st St & 10th Ave.

Ten million dollars has been spent to increase feeders from 14 to 16.

J. Berlin spoke to the needs of providing better capacity. T. Zizolfo responded in saying that four additional feeders will be added on in the summer of 2003.

J. Berlin spoke to the monitoring of temperature measurements.

S. Simon asked for official documentation regarding additional cable feeders installed by Con Ed.

It was stated that there are 32 independent networks throughout the city and 25% of cables have been replaced since 1999.

Mr. Zizolfo reported that paper cable does not perform to its highest capability. Therefore, solid dielectric cable is now being used.

Ron Peterson: How prepared is CB12? Response, notification system in place to call Community Leaders. Notification effective May 1, 2002.

J. Berlin asked for list of update plan from Con Edison.

A map identifying locations of Con Edison's current work in progress was provided to the Task Force Committee.

R. Peterson: How can we be more proactive? Consumers need to be educated in the matters of energy conservation. Booklets were supplied.

Mr. Zizolfo stated that reducing loads or volume of excessive electricity is very important in conserving energy. Public Announcements are effective.

S. Simon inquired as to whether Con Ed had sound trucks for emergency situations. Mr. Berlin commented that police cars can act as sound trucks.

Con Ed is equipped to contact law enforcement, community boards and other community based outreach programs in CB12 in the event of an emergency.

It was also stated that consumers who are wheelchair bound or meals on wheels clients and or persons on dialysis machines are responsible for documenting their status with Con Ed.

S. Simon asked whether there is a PSC reimbursement structure in place for the last Blackout. Zamira Setara will provide info.

Mr. Berlin spoke to the accomplishments of Con Ed.

It was stated by Con Ed that they could not work as expeditiously as they worked in some areas. Due to excessive noise police had to intervene to monitor any disturbances.

It was concluded that an update report will be provided by Con Ed on their greater redundancy of capacity.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Blow