

Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2003 (PS/IS176)

Members Present

Jacqueline Aristy
Mason Almeida
Anita Barberis
Rafael Beaumont
Wayne Benjamin
James Berlin
Aidee Camacho
Emilia G. Cardona
Nelson Castro
Martin Collins

Sybil R. Dodson
Rafael Escaño
Luis Facundo
Leslie Foster
Beatrice Hall
Joyce F. Holland
Jose Lopez
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Maria Luna
Glenda S. Massa
Jay D. Mazur

Renato Mena
Kirk Miller
Helen Morik
Pamela Palanque North
Ron Peterson
Zead Ramadan
Barbara Smith Ramos
Nelson Rojas
Rose Santo
Steve Simon
Dago Suarez

Bienvenido Toribio
Milagros Vicente
Sandra Wachspress
Msgr. Gerald Walsh
Homer Young- Kennedy

Members Absent

Walther G. Delgado
Benjamin Mantell

Members Excused

Cleofis S. Cabral
Kotie Cannon
Mireya Cruz
Peter Ferrara
Mark Levine
Julio Peguero
Julio Rodriguez
Juan F. Sanchez
Socrates Solano
Gloria Vanterpool
Elouise Whitehurst

7:10pm: Call to order; no quorum

Kirk Miller, whose wife recently passed away expressed his thanks for Community Board colleagues for their support during this time.

7:15pm: In the absence of a quorum, the Chair invited new members in attendance to introduce themselves. It was noted, however, that many new members were not in attendance because they had only received their appointment letters today or yesterday.

7:20pm District Manager's Report, Gregoria Feliciano: Explained and reviewed the complaint log; distributed roster of street activities for June, July and August, noted that the conversion of a business at 95 Seaman Avenue is being investigated by Department of Buildings, and detailed capital projects affecting this Community Board, including:

- Postponement to FY '08 of street and water main repairs along and under 10th Avenue between West 206th and West 218th Street
- Payson Avenue will be milled and reconstructed, Seaman to Dyckman as well as Fort Washington Ave. by the George Washington Bridge
- Retaining wall at Isham Park is 70% percent completed.

The Chair discussed in some detail the pending capital projects, including the impact on Sherman Creek development of a delay of 10th Avenue renovation. Mr. Ramadan articulated a sweeping vision for the development of this land to include housing and public use and parks and the elimination of the power facility's industrial use buildings.

Quorum @ 7:37pm

Motion to adopt agenda by Sybil Dodson, seconded by Renato Mena; passed with no objection.

Copies of April minutes unavailable due to copier malfunction. Motion to table by Kirk Miller, seconded by Jim Berlin; passed with no objection.

7:40pm Chair's Report: Zead Ramadan: Welcomed the Board to this location (PS/IS 176 on Broadway between 204th and Academy) and spoke of the importance of holding meetings throughout the community. Noted increased attendance, especially by people who live nearby, and who have a better opportunity to share in the work of the Board. Welcomed new members to the Board. Spoke of the value of community service and the need for each appointee to advocate for their respective constituencies and various areas of the neighborhood. He encouraged new members to learn, and all members to keep learning, and all to work together to advocate for the community. There will be a new members' orientation June 12th; host committee consists of Pamela Palanque North, Chair; Rafael Beaumont, James Berlin, Martin Collins, Luis Facundo & Glenda Swanson Massa.

Introduced Herbert Harwitt and thanked him for his 18 years of services, highlighting his many accomplishments, particularly as Chairman of the Aging Committee since its inception 10 years ago. Carlos Rodriguez of Manhattan Borough President's Office presented him with a citation for his exemplary work. Mr. Harwitt gave brief remarks with his typical dignity, wisdom, humility and wit.

7:50pm Nominating Committee: Mr. Ramadan introduced Committee Chair, Beatrice Hall, and explained process. Jim Berlin raised a point of order, arguing that new members were so late in being appointed that nominations should not go on. Helen Morik said that by-laws require that we have nominations at the May meeting. Sybil Dodson reported that she checked with Corporation Counsel's office, which advised that as long as there is quorum we could proceed. Ron Peterson requested to move the agenda, a sentiment echoed by several members.

Beatrice Hall introduced the Committee members (Rafael Beaumont, Emilia Cardona, Leslie Foster and Milagros Vicente) and explained the criteria they used. The by-laws do not stipulate requirements, so the Nominating Committee developed them: nominees must have been members of the Board for at least 1 year and have attended at least 2/3 of committee meetings and general meetings. She gave a list of members who met the criteria. Introduced committee members and presented the slate: Chairman: Zead Ramadan; 1st Vice Chair: Sybil R. Dodson; 2nd Vice Chair: Martin Collins & Luis Facundo; Secretary: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter; Assist. Secretary: Anita Barberis; Treasurer: Glenda Swanson Massa. There were no nominations from the floor for any of the offices.

8:03pm Public Session:

Janet Brooks, Midwife at Allen Pavilion: Gave a brief history of midwifery and of the midwifery service at NY-Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH), the Allen Pavilion, and ACNC. Beginning October 1st, 2003, midwives will be limited to clinic practices only, not hospital deliveries. Is requesting letters be sent to the President of NYPH, Chair of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, and elected officials. Chair requested that the issue be taken up at the next Health & Environment Committee meeting. Helen Morik will also attend on behalf of the Hospital.

Mariela Camargo, a midwife at St. Luke's Hospital: spoke in support of NYPH midwives in particular, and midwifery in general.

In the interest of time, the next several persons who signed up to speak, all midwives, passed on speaking.

Judith Rodriguez, Inwood Branch Library: Thanked NYPH for a grant, which will be used to buy books; announced computer and Spanish classes.

Michael Alvarez, Washington Heights & Inwood Library Supervisor: Shuttle bus services will be ending in June, due to budget cuts. Inwood still at 6-day service; Fort Washington and Washington Heights Branches are still 5-day service.

Kassandra Innocent, Washington Heights Branch Library: Announced various classes and programs, including an upcoming storytelling program.

Carla Rabinowitz, Project Liberty peer support initiative: specialize in peer counseling, particularly 5pm-midnight. (866) 234 – PEER.

Mariela Rueda, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation: gave a report on its tax return help program.

Diana Santos, Bellevue Hospital Center: New contract as lead agency for facilitated enrollment so that people can enroll in health insurance and not have to go through HRA. Has multilingual staff. She is looking for venues in the community to help people enroll, and received various suggestions.

George Espinal, Friends of Payson Avenue: Listed some very specific complaints regarding garbage and noise, public urination, and even a manhole explosion.

Jennifer Bates, Project Liberty: Described her program's outreach and counseling for stress management and general psychiatry: 347-996-8924.

Ellen Count, Community Resident: Recounted an experience when she attended a committee meeting in the Fall of 2001, during which the Chair was very late and demonstrated lack of knowledge of the board and its area of jurisdiction. This has discouraged her participation in community government since. She also pointed out the rudeness of many members' lateness tonight. When asked why she took so long to say something, she responded that a letter she wrote at the time was never answered, and she finally decided to come forward now. Mr. Beaumont stated that the By-laws Committee is attempting to address the issue of lateness, thanked her for her input and encouraged her not to be discouraged. Sybil Dodson offered an apology on behalf of the Board, which Ms. Count accepted, stating that she would also like an apology from the Committee Chair, whom she declined to name but said was present this evening. Jim Berlin said the entire discussion was out of order, reminding the Board that the public session is not for discussion.

Normandia Maldonado, Centro Cultural Ballet Quisqueya: speaking in Spanish, with comments translated by Ms. Feliciano, expressed her support for a cultural arts institution in the community as proposed by Councilman [Martinez] and Assemblyman [Espallat].

Mr. Robert Remington, Dance Theatre of Harlem: described the "Dancing through Barriers" program. Announced upcoming event 6/5 @ 7:00pm at United Palace on W. 175th Street and Broadway. (212) 690-2800 tickets \$12.

Basilia Gomez, West Harlem Environmental Action: Spoke in support of Health & Environment Committee resolution passed last month, Intro 101 – Re: Lead. Also, distributed postcards to be sent to NYC Council Speaker Gifford Miller, and gave facts and statistics on lead poisoning.

Bienvenido Lara, Community resident: Supports the proposal by Assemblyman Espallat and Councilman Martinez to create a cultural center on Dyckman Street in the abandoned railroad building.

Gabriel de la Peña, Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications: Re: 311 Call Center opened in March, available 24 hrs/7 days a week in 170 languages, for a variety of issues, which he enumerated, in particular common quality-of-life complaints, which are referred. Homer Young Kennedy asked how this service differs from the quality-of-life hotline. Mr. de la Peña noted that people used to tie up 911 with quality-of-life complaints, rather than using the hotline. Also, explained that people should get a tracking number. Maria Luna questioned the benefit of a new phone number in lieu of existing hotlines. He answered that all the different complaint help-lines have been merged into one central line. Sybil Dodson pointed out that in all fairness this is an ambitious undertaking and we have to give it some time. She urged people to attend the Public Safety Committee meeting to learn more about 311. Also, noted that Community Boards still have the ability to follow up on complaints from the community regarding City services.

Maggie Clarke, President of R.I.N.G.: Art in the garden this weekend. Also spoke in favor of the Health & Environment Committee resolution on the "Bigger Better Bottle Bill" including raising deposit to 10¢. Spoke in favor of renovating the Amtrak building and Payson Playground building, and encouraged that any cultural center be for all cultures, not one particular group. Pointed that the public needs restrooms in both locations. Spoke in support of making Henry Hudson Parkway a Scenic By-way.

Jerry O'Rourke, Dyckman Marina: Needs a sewer line. Spoke about improvements to the Marina and Tubby Hook Café. If any questions, complaints or comments, please contact him at (212) 567-5120.

9:05pm Elected Officials & Representatives:

Councilman Miguel Martinez: Welcomed new Board Members and reported on the following items:

- Starting budget committee hearings
- Applauded NYS for new budget package which restored cuts and raised taxes
- Questioned closing of fire stations. Council will not entertain institution of sales tax increase if the Mayor will not talk about restoring cuts.
- Spoke in support of our lead-safe house, the only one in Manhattan, whose funding is due to be cut at the end of this fiscal year.
- Regarding 311, our community board has the highest number of noise complaints (There were 1700 complaints logged last month from CB12 residents overall.) These statistics help prioritize enforcement, staffing and spending, so it's important to keep calling.
- Reiterated support for "home rule" on rent regulations and for legislation to reform Rent Guidelines Board.
- Spoke in support of resolutions under consideration this evening, except for the one on the Bottle Bill because of how he said it might affect storeowners.

Susan Russell for Councilman Robert Jackson: Noted that Councilman Martinez's briefing was comprehensive on behalf of both Councilmen. Spoke briefly about budget priorities and encouraged community members and Board Members to continue to contact Speaker and Mayor so that they know what our needs are. Spoke about the Marine Transfer Stations and urged all to support initiatives to stop renovation and expansion of 135th Street Marine Transfer Station.

Carlos Rodriguez for the Manhattan Borough President: Spoke in support of programs for seniors and youth; noted that \$400K allocation from BP's budget for Alianza Dominicana for cultural center has been cut, and is working hard to restore the funds. Introduced Michael Gross of Coro NY Leadership Center, and mentioned the youth leadership development program.

Lilliam Perez for Senator Eric Schneiderman: Gave details on budget, including restorations with recent budget, and on MTA lawsuit.

Frank Hess for Assemblyman Herman Farrell: Thanked Herb Harwitt for his years of service.

Jessica Robles for Assemblyman Adriano Espaillat: Distributed copies of budget highlights, and noted the Assemblyman's commitment to rent regulation, translating in hospitals and various capital projects in the community.

9:30pm Committee Reports

Chair noted that there are 6 resolutions, which will be presented and then vote will be a single roll call vote.

Land Use Committee; Maria Luna, Chair: Introduced a resolution regarding the disposition of land at Broadway and W. 184th-185th Sts. for use as a parking garage with commercial development, per extensive discussions at many previous meetings. The resolution passed without discussion 36-1-0-0.

Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee; Emilia Cardona, Chair: Introduced resolution requesting the Parks Department to issue an RFEI for the abandoned building at the western end of Dyckman Street. The resolution does not support any particular use, but urges the Department of Parks to move on using the building. There were several amendments accepted as friendly, and the resolution passed 34-2-0-1.

Health & Environment Committee; Steve Simon, Chair: Introduced the "Bigger Better Bottle Bill" resolution. Some questions as to how this affects the City Council. Zead Ramadan pointed out that this supports the work of the Council. Milagros Vicente has an issue with how this impacts merchants, who don't have storage for empty bottles. There were many questions on this subject. Steve Simon pointed out that revenues could support opening of additional redemption centers. Motion to Table by Luis Facundo; seconded by Ms. Vicente; passed 22-13-2-0.

Housing & Human Services Committee; Beatrice Hall, Chair: Presented a resolution in support of preserving Mitchell-Lama housing. There was no discussion, and the resolution passed 36-0-1-0.

Traffic & Transportation Committee; Jim Berlin, Chair: Presented resolutions regarding angle parking on W 175th Street and to turn a portion of W 203rd Street into a one-way/eastbound street. There were no discussions, and the resolutions both passed 36-1-0-0.

There were no other reports from Committees, other than a general reminder to read the minutes of each of the Committee meeting minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:59pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MAY 1, 2003**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Pamela Palanque North, Chair
Joyce F. Holland
Sybil R. Dodson

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Simon
Martin Collins

STAFF MEMBER ATTENDING

Miguel A. Reyes, Community Service Aide

GUESTS

Rachana Pathak and Kate Johnson of Civilian Complaint Review Board, Carmen Nieves, W. 184th St. Tenants Association

Meeting started at 7:50 pm

Missus's Johnson and Pathak, presented, information regarding statistics in the Washington Heights area vs. the entire city from the Civilian Complaint Review Board.

While there are a number of complaints city-wide, there are a number of complaints within this community; some founded and many unfounded. These complaints are thoroughly investigated by their staff, and reports are then made to the appropriate parties.

The meeting ended at 9:00 pm, and Ms. Johnson will send us any information that might be pertinent to this community.

Ms. Johnson, invited us to visit the website in order to review any statistics regarding this community.

Respectfully submitted by:

J.F. Holland

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – May 5, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT CB 12 MEMBERS ATTENDING

Beatrice Hall, Chair
Ron Peterson, Asst. Chair
Steve Simon
Jacqueline Aristy
Barbara Smith Ramos
Jose Lopez

Zead Ramadan, Chair
Gregoria Feliciano, District Manager
Deborah Blow, Community Assistant

Guests

Anne Marie Hendrickson, Asst Commissioner-Div. of Alternative Management Programs, Wendell Walters, Director, NEP – Housing Preservation & Development, Alex Schafran, SRO Law Project, Martin Smith-Robert Jackson's Office, Ibo Balton, HPD, Luis Ramon, HPD, William Mabry, SRO Law Project, Ramon Bellido, Isabel Quijada, HPD, Touali Dougbeu, HPD, Jose Alcantara, HPD,, James Lewis, Harlem Operation Takeback

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Meeting convened at 7:10 pm.

The chair opened the meeting by welcoming all invited guests.

Anne Marie Hendrickson, Assistant Commissioner and Wendell Walters, Director of NEP, from Housing Preservation & Development updated the committee on the Neighborhood Entrepreneur Program (NEP) in CB12. Ms. Hendrickson stated that this was the last Round (VI) of the program. The RFQ was issued on 5/2/03 for two sites in CB12. Applications are due by July '03. She reaffirmed that fact that this is an affordable Housing program. The Developer will work with a neighborhood non-profit to help with tenants assessments. Tenants that are relocated during construction will be return to the same size units. Section 8 will be provided to qualified tenants and public assistance tenants will return paying Public Assistance rents. No tenant will be charged more than 30% of their income. The two sites consists of one building with 150 units with 141 of those units occupied and the other sites have 114 units of which 87 units are occupied. Ms. Hendrickson stated that the 286 units went to NEP because it was an opportunity to get somebody who could bring more relocation resources to the project because space is very limited in CB12 and NRP developers in CB12 are already working on some HPD projects. The NEP is a tax credit program and no tenants will be displaced.

Wendell Walters said that the designation will likely take place in September '03 and then tenants will be told the pros and cons of the program and given 120 days to decide if they want to stay with the NEP or go to the TILL program. Mr. Walters commented that a high percentage (25%) usual opt to go into the TILL program. Ron Peterson said that there is a strong interest in CB12 for Home Ownership.

Mr. Ibo Balton gave an update on the 203K program. Two of the vacant (203k) buildings have been sold (521 W. 162nd Street and 424 W. 160th Street). Mr. Balton was unable to say who purchased the buildings but he promised to provide that information via fax. Homeworks III/Novelex purchased the buildings at 563 W. 161st Street and 556 W. 183rd Street in June 2002; they are 45% completed. Six(6) of the remaining 203K properties have been programmed for the following not for profits developers: Community League received (555 W. 159th St., 552 W. 156th and 568 W. 159th St buildings), 517 W. 173rd St was given to Community Association for Progressive Dominican (ACDP) and the other two (2) buildings were given to a mutual housing association (CATCH).

The last five (5) properties in CB12 are in foreclosure and they are: 564 W. 159th St., 550 W. 156th St. and 648 W. 158th St. (all vacant). Tenants from the SRO buildings stated that so far HPD had not included them in any of the discussions. Anne Marie Hendrickson (HPD) apologized for the oversight and also promised that her office would be setting down with the tenants and try to work out some of their issues and concerns.

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to HPD requesting specific information and a time frame on the remaining (5) properties that are currently in foreclosure.

Ron Peterson, Assistant chair will be lobbying the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus of the City Council on May 7, 2003 to keep the current level of funding to the following housing preservation initiatives; community consultant contracts, neighborhood preservation consultants, anti-eviction and SRO legal services, housing court information services and Landlord Training program.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

Respectfully submitted by: Beatrice Hall

LAND USE COMMITTEE MINUTES
MAY 7, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Maria Luna, Chair
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair
Walther G. Delgado
Martin Collins
Luis Facundo

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Berlin

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Abby Belkin

CB 12 MEMBERS ATTENDING

Steve Simon

Zead Ramdan, Chair
Deborah blow, Community Assistant

GUESTS

W.A. James, Architect-Consultant, Edwin Marshall, Department of City Planning, Fredericka Cuenca, Frm Bd Member, Barbara Lowry, Executive Director-Northern Manhattan, Lilliam Perez, Deb Roth-Senator Schneiderman's Office, Rose Santos, WHIDC, M. Almeida, RamonBellido, Resident, Julio Alvarado, Audubon Partnership for Eco. Dev., Lynn Bodner, Economic Development Corporation & Colleague(EDC)

Meeting convened at 7:25PM. Agenda distributed.

Presentation by Walther Delgado, Executive Director of the Audubon Partnership, of their plans to develop the Sherman Creek Area.

Mr. Delgado explained the goals and the history of his agency. The work they are doing and why it is important for them to be the organization to lead the development of that area.

He then introduced Mr. W. A. James, Architect, hired by them to do the architectural, hired by them to do the architectural plans. Mr. James did a detail presentation of the many advantages of their plans as they have intentions of developing the waterfront, including housing and commercial spaces.

Various questions were posed to Mr. James and Mr. Delgado by members of the Land Use committee and also from other attending this meeting, such as;

- How many housing units are considered, low income and middle income?
- Are they for rental or ownership?
- Have anyone study the proximity to the Dyckman Houses and the height of any buildings on these plans.
- Have you done an study of the need for more school as there will be a lot of children moving there.
- Are you open for recommendations by this board and input by the community residents about your plans?
- As for zoning, does this area must be rezoned by the city?

Most of these questions were answered by both presenters, and Mr. Delgado added that the local Council member Miguel Martinez will push for this project to be included on the new Mayor's budget, as he is in support of the development of the Sherman Creek area which is within his district.

Some comments from attendees: Whatever housing is built there, must be affordable commercial retail space should be for catering to the needs of the residents and the neighboring people, waterfront must be accessible to all in the area. You will have to comply with the ULURP process and then we will be more involved in the development of any plans for the Sherman Creek area.

Ms. L. Bodner of EDC also came to discuss the committee and board resolution on our position on the proposal to sell to E.T. Management of the city owned lot located on Broadway and W. 184th St. Since our committee joined the Economic Development public information meeting held on March 20, 2003 to hear the Developer's and the community residents' concerns about the sale and we found that this is a project that should go forward we informed EDC that a resolution would be presented to the full board this month for a vote on this project. At this meeting a resolution was prepared, and voted on with the approval of all attending. See resolution enclosed.

The Audubon Avenue test survey was distributed to the members of this committee that volunteered, and this will be done this coming Saturday by Anita, Martin, Luis, Fredericka. We will analyze the results at our next meeting.

Mr. Edwin Marshall of Dept. of City Planning presented a work program that we will look into at our next meeting 6/4/03.

Respectfully submitted by: Maria Luna

PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 06, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Emilia Cardona, Chair
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Assistant Chair
Rafael Escano
Marcos Navarro

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING

Glenda Swanson- Massa (Exc.)

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Anne Marie O'Keefe

STAFF MEMBER ATTENDING

Miguel A. Reyes, Community Service Aide

GUESTS

Myrna Thomas, Friends of Liliy Brown Playground, James Renner, CB12 Historian, Frank Andrews, Joan Fairservis, W.H.N.A., Mason Almeida, Dorothy DePasqual, W.H.N.A., Patricia Young, 116 Pinehurst, Mary Beth Betts, LPC, Diane Jackier, LPC, BC Anthony Montero, FDNY B13, Nicole Smith, Partnership for Parks.

Emilia Cardon called the meeting to order at 7:10PM. She began with announcement of the Town Hall meeting Chaired by Council Member Miguel Martinez on May 8th.

James Renner spoke of an ongoing City College project and the School of Architecture who are putting together a history of urban planning in Manhattan for residents to use as a resource.

Ms. Cardona raised the ongoing problem of the abandoned building that is owned by the Department of Parks by the Henry Hudson Parkway on Dyckman Street. The Parks Department can issue a Request For Expression of Interest (RFEI) and from there groups can write a proposal for usage. She asked that the resolution be considered to encourage the Parks Department, to issue the RFEI and then a Request For Proposal (RFP) so that interested community groups can compete for the use of this building.

It was stressed that the objective of the community board is not to support one proposal over another but to encourage the Parks Department to consider community use of this building – The function of Community Board 12 is to open up the process.

3 committee members voted in favor, none opposed. 9 members of the public voted in favor, none opposed = Unanimous

Diane Jackier & Mary Beth Betts gave a presentation on how to establish historical status for certain sites in Washington Heights and Inwood. Ms. Cardona mentioned the Firehouse on W. 170th and W. 161st Streets, also the Negro Burial Ground at W. 210th and 211th Streets. If these are designated why are there no plaques to identify these historical sites.

Ms. Jackier spoke the about the structure of the Landmarks Commission, the types of different landmarks, interior, scenic, historic, districts & individual. They cover 22,000 buildings in the tri-borough area and the Mayor appoints the commissioners.

Ms. Betts walked us through the designation application process. The criteria for designation and the consideration process. If the property/ area is deemed appropriate then the commission will undertake in "owner outreach – as by law the owner has no control over the designation! If all goes well the commission would hold a public meeting with notification of the "owner", the local politicians, the city record and the community board. The process can take from one month for an individual building its much longer for an entire district. City Planning and the City Council then review it.

The question arose of how to have a plaque installed. A contact was given – kate Daley – at the commission – who would be able to help with this.

"Place matters" was suggested as a group that might be able to help getting a marker for the Negro Burial Ground - as the remains had been exhumed and taken to Woodlawn Cemetery.

There is a guidebook to be published in 2004 and a web-site for more information on recent designations & public hearings.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritter asked where the application for the Henry Hudson Parkway as a Scenic Landmark stood. The commission is currently involved in other projects and said that the process for this will be lengthy.

James Renner agreed to apply on behalf of Bennett Park to designate as a landmark site. Bennett Park is on the national registry of historic landmarks.

The representative from the Fire Department will work with the board members to apply for a plaque for the Fire Station.

Nicole Smith spoke on Intro 160, a bill to control the sale of "art work" on Parks Department property. The bill hopes to establish a lottery for artists to apply for permits. In an effort to distinguish the sale of "art" as opposed to vendors hawking.

The legalities are such that this process of getting the bill passed will be ongoing for a long time. The concern from the Parks Department is that the public spaces are unregulated. Know in how many vendors and the type of ware being sold. One of the concerns is that "freedom of speech" is being violated.

The question arose of what Community Board 12 should do in relation to the bill. A decision was made to look over the bill the next month and then see if the committee would pass a resolution in June in support of the bill.

A suggestion was made to invite an authority from the Parks Department – Ed Lewis – to explain the details of the bill.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Anne Marie O'Keefe

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES – May 6, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Simon, Chair
Ben Mantell
Helen Morik
Barbara Smith-Ramos

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Sybil Dodson

PUBLIC MEMBER

Basilia Gomez

Zead Ramadan, Chair

Miguel Reyes – Community Service Aide

GUESTS: Eddie Bautista, NY Lawyers for the Public Interest/Organization of Waterfront Neighborhoods (OWN); John Culpepper, Lower Washington Heights Neighborhood Assn. (LWHNA); Rick Muller, Manhattan Borough President's Office; Timothy Logan, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance/OWN; Sandra Harris, Community Affairs, Columbia University Health Sciences; Edgar Freud, LWHNA; Alma Alston, LWHNA/CB #10, Donald Mandell, NYS Psychiatric Institute/Columbia University; Ramon Bellido.

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1. Opening Remarks – Steve Simon, chair, spoke about the importance of the solid waste issue to the city's future. Members of the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB), who were listed on the schedule for tonight's meeting, could not attend and asked for an opportunity to speak to the committee at a later date. (Simon is also a member of the SWAB.)

2. Discussion of Mayor's Solid Waste Management Plan

Eddie Bautista, NY Lawyers for the Public Interest, representing the Organization of Waterfront Neighborhoods, distributed several handouts and gave a detailed presentation concerning the solid waste (garbage) crisis currently facing the city. Over 70 private, land-based transfer stations are handling commercial waste, causing pollution and traffic problems in many communities in the South Bronx, North Brooklyn and South Queens since 1987. At that time the city raised the tipping (dumping) fees at the Fresh Kills Landfill, leading to the opening of the land-based transfer stations, where collection trucks dump garbage that is then placed in long-haul trucks, which generally leave NYC through the Holland & Lincoln Tunnels and the George Washington Bridge (GWB). In the aftermath of the closing of Fresh Kills, some of these transfer stations are also handling residential waste from the outer boroughs. It would be preferable to have both the residential and commercial waste exported through the city's marine transfer stations (MTSs), which are equitably distributed throughout NYC in low-income, middle-income and upper-income communities. Between 1948-96, all residential waste went to MTSs to be barged to Fresh Kills Landfill.

Ex-Mayor Giuliani issued both short-term and long-term post-Fresh Kills export plans. Long-term plans included the use of Enclosed Barge Unloading Facilities (EBUFs). Garbage was to be dumped at MTSs, then barged to EBUFs to be transported to out-of-state landfills. City was going to enter into 20-year contracts, with no incentive to do recycling or waste prevention. In response to community protests about the placement of the EBUFs in the outer boroughs, the city eventually agreed to 'retrofit' some MTSs so that the garbage would be containerized for export on-site, avoiding the need for EBUFs in those cases. This had been a rallying cry for NYC neighborhoods. In the city's latest Solid Waste Management Plan update (2000), Manhattan's garbage was to be barged to an EBUF in Linden, N.J., but that plan has since fallen through. Mayor Bloomberg has called for retrofitting all the MTSs as the cornerstone of the city's solid waste disposal policy.

According to data Bautista said he had obtained from the Department of Sanitation (DSNY), there are currently 150,000 long-haul truck trips (18-wheelers carrying commercial and residential waste from the Bronx and Queens) and 202,800 DSNY truck trips (650 trucks trips per day/6 days a week carrying residential waste from Manhattan) annually over the GWB. After 9/11, the trucks from the midtown districts that had been using Lincoln Tunnel are now using GWB.

Bautista urged CB 12 to pass a resolution calling for equitable retrofitting of the MTSs and the construction of additional MTSs downtown, including the possible reopening of the Gansevoort MTS in Greenwich Village, to handle commercial and residential waste. In regard to the MTS at W. 135th Street, issues concerning hours of operation, throughput and capacity should be addressed to make sure that no community is over-saturated. Simon pointed out that he and the board chair, Zead Ramadan, (also Martin Collins) had recently attended a

meeting at City College where a West Harlem community coalition was being organized to oppose the reopening of the W. 135th Street MTS.

Tim Logan also spoke in favor of the equitable distribution of MTSs and suggested that garbage from the CB 10 area could go through the MTS at E. 91st Street instead of the one at W. 135th Street, as currently planned. Instead of sending recycled paper through the MTS at W. 59th Street, he suggested that the South Ferry slips be used at night.

John Culpepper voiced his concern about more diesel-fuel trucks coming into the community carrying garbage over the GWB and the effect it has on the high asthma rate as well as the birth rate in Washington Heights. LWHNA has purchased its own air quality monitor; it is portable and will be used throughout the community. He said he will keep CB12 up-to-date on the findings from the monitor.

In the absence of the Manhattan SWAB members, Rick Muller explained the work of its export committee. The SWAB is planning to hold a boroughwide educational seminar on 6/23 to discuss the solid waste management plan and the need for a more equitable distribution of facilities. Muller argued that the term "retrofitting" is a misnomer since the plan really calls for demolishing and rebuilding the existing MTSs, raising the question of whether "you have to rebuild in the same spot." The Borough President's office is putting together a planning group with CB's 4,7,8 and 9, where the MTSs are currently located. The draft scope for the environmental impact statement for the retrofitting of the MTSs may be issued soon.

3. Resolution Calling for a "Bigger, Better Bottle Bill"

Simon distributed copies of a proposed resolution in support of pending legislation in Albany that would extend the redeemable-bottle law to include non-carbonated beverages. CB #3 passed a similar resolution. Logan said he just returned from lobbying for the bill in Albany and urged the committee to support it. The bill would ensure that the \$107 million in unredeemed deposits kept by the distributors would be returned to the communities where it was generated. This money, for example, could be used to open redemption centers such as We Can, which recently was forced to close in midtown, and as well as to support recycling programs, which would decrease the flow of garbage through the MTSs. Simon pointed out that the \$107 million would have been more than enough to prevent the city's suspension of plastic and glass recycling last year.

Morik moved that the committee approve the resolution; it was seconded by Mantell. It was approved unanimously by the following vote:

Committee Members	4-0
Public Member of Committee	1-0
Members of the Public	2-0

4. Notification of Increased Sanitation Fines – Simon distributed copies of a DSNY press release announcing that fines for several Sanitation Code violations, such as failure to sweep sidewalks and 18 inches into the gutter, are being doubled to \$100 as of June 1.

5. Dyckman Street sewer – Simon reported that CB 12 wrote to the Department of Environment Protection (DEP) urging reconsideration of its rejection of our capital budget request for extension of the sewer to the western end of Dyckman Street. He received a positive response from a DEP official and will follow up.

6. Sanitation Garage – Simon reported that he and Ramadan sent a letter to the Sanitation Commissioner raising questions about the current situation at the DSNY garage at W. 215th Street, which currently houses trucks from four different districts, two in Manhattan and two in the Bronx.

7. Topics for next meeting – The committee discussed considering a resolution on the solid waste issue. Gomez suggested that representatives of the Northern Manhattan Environment Justice Coalition may want to come. The Manhattan SWAB would be invited in that case, but this discussion may be scheduled for a committee meeting in July. It was agreed that speakers on AIDS and Lupus would be scheduled for June.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Simon

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 5, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT	CB 12 MEMBERS ATTENDING
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James Berlin, Chair
Anita Barberis
Joyce F. Holland
Nelson Rojas

Zead Ramadan, Chairman

Deborah Blow, Community Assistant

GUESTS

Council member Miguel Martinez , NYC Council, Margaret Forgione, Man Borough Commissioner-NYCDOT, Jenny Torres, Liaison-DOT, Daniel Orlando, DOT, Mike Fitelson, Manhattan Times, John Kinney, Inwood Patrol, Margaret Fitzgerald, Resident, Tom Byrnes, Incarnation School, and other representatives from DOT

Chair , James Berlin greeted guests and forged into the two major resolutions the Public Meeting was to address:

- First; Angle parking on West 175th Street between Wadsworth and Amsterdam Avenue. Although this will add parking, it becomes cumbersome during alternate side parking, when one side of the street must remove their cars for 1 ½ hours so that Dept. of Sanitation can clean. A representative from Incarnation agreed that parked cars at recess time (when block is made a play street) should not interfere. However, he requested that during school recess an opening be made available.

Chair complimented Councilman Martinez for his diligence in succeeding with this idea.

	In Favor	Opposed	Abstain
Committee Members	4	0	0
Public Member of Committee	1	0	0
Members of the Public	3	1	0

- Second; make W. 203rd Street between 9th & 10th Avenue in Inwood a one-way street leading east-bound? It is now a two-way street that is 30 feet wide with a lot of truck traffic

	In Favor	Opposed	Abstain
Committee Members	4	0	0
Public Member of Committee	1	0	0
Members of the Public	4	0	0

Additional traffic problems were raised by Councilman Martinez, he reviewed problems that incur with congestion on W. 181st Street and the ability of an EMS and/or Fire truck to reach their destination in a timely manner. He suggested a bus line be made with no parking during peak times, DOT seems open to our community's needs to alleviate such congestion. Traffic & Transportation will meet with Safety & Economic Development Committee to review all options. Discussion of heavy truck traffic since "9/11" as these trucks must cross on the top level of GWB and consequently impact our community's streets negatively. Truck survey from DOT forwarded immediately.

The Manhattan Greenway Project for Bicycles & People was presented by various agency representatives, it displayed with maps showing the proposed routes that this bicycle pedestrian path will take within our community. Comment was made that bike lanes were painted on both Ft. Washington Ave. & Haven Avenue without ever coming to the Board to seek our input. Signed bike routes would have been preferred.

Reviewed the mail:: Some highlights

- DOT not responsible for sidewalk café, now it is consumer Affairs domain
- MTA will build elevator at W. 168th St. & St. Nicholas Ave.
- MTA time change in Bus routes 3,4,5 & M100
- Hevesi sent results of MTA investigation

Next meeting: June 2, 2003 (tentative) Looking for combined meeting with Safety & Economic Development

Meeting adjourned 9:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Anita Barberis

COMMITTEE FOR THE AGING MINUTES
MAY 13, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Glenda Swanson Massa, Asst. Chair
Beatrice Hall
Msgr. Gerald Walsh

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Herbert Harwitt

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Leslie Foster

Zead Ramadan, Chairman

Deborah Blow, Community Assistant

GUESTS

Dr. Patricia Kringas, RN, MA Clinical Research Coordinator-Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion, Dr. Elizabeth Shane, Vibrating Platform for Bone Study-Columbia University, Brenda Carpenter, Seniors Helping Seniors, Edith Prentiss, WHICOA, PO Emily Lopez, 33rd Pct., Ernestine L. Walker-Gresham-Resident, Cecil Levinson-Resident, Norma De Candido-Resident, Zamira Setaro, Con Edison, Adeena Horowitz, Selfhelp, Joan Fairservis, WHNA, Gloria Vanterpool, WHNA, Joel Mackay, WHNA, Mary E. Jones-Springer

Meeting convened at 10:20am by Acting Chair, Glenda Swanson Massa. Mrs. Swanson-Massa welcomed members and guests, and acknowledged former Chair, Herbert Harwitt, now a Public Member of the committee.

Announcements were shared by Edith Prentiss, from the Washington Heights & Inwood Council on Aging, Inc. (WHICOA), two conferences, presenting "Building Bridges" May 22, 2003 at 8:30am – 12:00 noon at Isabella Geriatric Center, 515 Audubon Avenue, RSVP (212) 781-5700 and on May 27, 2003 from 4-8pm "Caring for Family, Friends and Neighbors: @ Mt. Sinai Medical Center's Hatch Auditorium, Madison Avenue & 100th Street.

Patricia Kringas, Clinical Research Coordinator-Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion reported on the Diabetes Center in the Russ Berrie Building., she commented on the following:

- A specialty center for adults and children with diabetes.
- Offers classes for those in need of assistance must be referred by primary doctor.
- Spoke of a study called ACCORD conducted in 3 different centers, study began 2 yrs ago with 75 people from the community.
- Diabetes usually have high cholesterol and high blood pressure problems.
- Aim is to help them avoid major heart problems.
- 2 groups of people being tested, the intense group and the standard group, age is over 55. those being tested get good care, help with eating programs, free medicine and they keep in touch month. This is an 8 yr program.
- Question is whether the intense care group will be better off than the standard care group.

Our next guest speaker was Dr. Elizabeth Shane, Study of Bone Health in Elderly People

Mainly health people who want to maintain their health without medication. Now the age is 70 but at may be reduced. (Refer to printed sheet for details). Ones is a 2 year study and it will be done in a congregate care center. This study is in its formative stages and will be in 3 areas, one of which is Columbia. Open to men and women of all ethnic groups.

Comment on how to interest people in taking part in these 2 studies.

Both speakers were thanked for their presentation.

Herbert Harwitt re: Social Security office and the last meeting 3/19 sent letter of complaint re: refusal of social security higher ups to allow the local staff to come to the Aging committee meeting, 3/26 response: "we are engaged in conversations/negotiation re the future and the possible alleviation of the conditions in the local office: Audience reaction lately there have been some positive changes in the office. Service is better organized and workers more polite. Also seniors can go to any social security office in the city

Meeting adjourned 12:00noon

Respectfully submitted by Msgr. Gerard Walsh