

**Community Board 12, Manhattan**  
**General Meeting Minutes – May 25, 2004 (Columbia University, Alumni Auditorium)**

**Members Present:**

Jackie Rowe Adams	Martin Collins	Maria Luna	Nelson Rojas
Mason Almeida	Mireya Cruz	Glenda Swanson Massa	Rose M. Santo
Jacqueline Aristy	Sybil R. Dodson	Jay D. Mazur	Pablo Santos
Anita Barberis	Luis Facundo	Renato Mena	Cleofis C. Sarete
Emmanuel Barrientos	Peter Ferrara	Helen Morik	Steve Simon
Rafael Beaumont	Leslie Foster	Pamela Palanque North	Socrates Solano
Wayne Benjamin	Beatrice Hall	Julio Peguero	Dago Suarez
James Berlin	Fran Hertzberg	Zead Ramadan	Milagros Vicente
Aidee Camacho	Joyce F. Holland	Barbara Smith Ramos	Homer Young-Kennedy, III
Kotie Cannon	Jose Lopez	Julio Rodriguez	

**Members Excused:**

Dora Maria Abreu (exc.)  
Emilia G. Cardona (exc.)  
Mark Levine (exc.)  
Elizabeth Loris Ritter (exc.)  
Bienvenido Toribio  
Gloria Vanterpool (exc.)  
Sandra Wachspress (exc.)  
Msgr. Gerald Walsh (exc.)

(7:23pm) Chair Zead Ramadan opened the general meeting

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion by Homer Young-Kennedy III to adopt agenda; seconded by Glenda Swanson Massa. No objection.

**Approval of Minutes of 4/27/04 General Meeting:** Motion by Martin Collins; seconded by Dago Suarez. No objection.

**Chair's Report:** Zead Ramadan.

- Body found in Inwood Park believed to be Sarah Fox, the missing Julliard student.
- Hurricane in Dominican Republic & Haiti - 40 people dead. Communicate with Red Cross for what items may be needed, e.g., canned goods, clothing and first aid supplies. Hope to utilize CB12 office as drop-off center, but need approval of Red Cross before we e-mail and/or send out flyers to that effect.
- Nominating Committee proposed and CB12 Executive Committee authorized an election forum to provide candidates the opportunity to introduce themselves and share their goals. Geared to new members as an orientation to the candidates. Yeshiva has offered space. Tentatively scheduled for 6/16 @ 7pm.
- Mayor's Office invited all CB Chairs and District Managers, and city agency Commissioners to Gracie Mansion to interact with each other in a social environment. The Mayor stated that NYC ranked 19<sup>th</sup> safest of 236 large cities (population 100,000+). Cornered a couple of Commissioners such as Chancellor Klein concerning Gregorio Luperon school and what it does for our community, and the Commissioner of DFTA, who complimented the coalition of programs for seniors in our community as the best in NYC as they took the initiative of advocating proactively for the community, rather than just preparing for 15% budget cuts.
- Showed a 30-second clip from Channel 2 News re: Washington Heights & Inwood being left off tourist maps. Most maps do not include our community and in many cases our city dollars help support the companies that distribute them. We passed a resolution over a year ago requesting that our community be included in these maps, and it's still a problem.
- Borough President secured a Gray Line double-decker bus to tour the various communities in the borough and invited the Councilpeople and Community Board Chairs and District Managers to talk about the major issues of each community. Noted that the Hispanic Society, an anchor institution of Audubon Terrace, may be moving out of our community. Our cultural institutions slowly are disappearing from our community.
- Upcoming Events/Meetings: Uptown Arts Stroll reception (6/9 @ 6:30pm) Arts Stroll 6/12-13. (Thanks to WHDC and Assemblyman Espailat for underwriting the cost of shuttle buses. Thanks to 2<sup>nd</sup> VC Martin Collins and Manhattan Times Editor Mike Fitelson for their major planning efforts.) Sherman Creek meetings at PS/IS176 to discuss housing (6/12) and waterfront, parks and recreation (6/28). Public hearing at the Board Office (6/14) re: 9-story building planned at 703 West 171 St.

**District Manager's Report:** Gregoria Feliciano

- Increase in residential burglaries
- Uniformed foot and bike patrol from the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct will be monitoring 181<sup>st</sup> St. due to reports of snatching purses, cell phones, etc.
- Pavement area on Ft. Washington Avenue between 178<sup>th</sup> and -179<sup>th</sup> Streets Sts. will be temporarily fixed by DOT. Agreement between Port Authority and DOT as to the responsibility of maintenance of this area soon to be resolved. This stretch will be repaved after the Republican Convention.
- Acknowledged representatives from the 33<sup>rd</sup> & 34<sup>th</sup> Precincts.

Dago Suarez announced that congratulations were in order for Ms. Feliciano, who just completed her Master's Degree.

**Nominating Committee:** The list of proposed candidates was mailed to the board members: Martin Collins for Chair; Pamela Palanque North for First Vice Chair; Rose Santo, Cleofis Sarete and Homer Young-Kennedy for Second Vice Chair; Elizabeth Loris Ritter and Milagros Vicente for Secretary; Dago Suarez for Assistant Secretary; and Zead Ramadan and Milagros Vicente for Treasurer. Mr. Ramadan introduced Beatrice Hall, Nominating Committee Chair, who further introduced the members of the committee (Aidee Camacho, Emilia Cardona, Peter Ferrara and Julio Rodriguez) and its criteria for the nominees. To meet the criteria for eligibility, the member had to have been on the Board for at least a year and have attended one-half plus one of General and Committee meetings to which the member was assigned. The Nominating Committee provided a list of those Board members who met the criteria (about 30). Helen Morik felt that that listing of qualifying members tainted the process of nominating from the floor. Jim Berlin looked at this listing as a safeguard. Discussion ensued concerning some board members' attendance. Mr. Ramadan responded that any dispute with attendance should have been addressed with the Secretary and the Board office before this General Meeting. Heated discussion ensued regarding ground rules by various board members. The By-Laws Committee is still working on including criteria in the By-Laws. Beatrice Hall read the nominations as listed and opened each position to the floor. Helen Morik nominated Maria Luna for Chairperson; she accepted. Pablo Santos nominated Luis Facundo for First Vice Chair; he accepted. Rose Santo nominated Rafael Beaumont for Treasurer; he accepted. The positions of Second Vice Chair, Secretary and Assistant Secretary had no nominees from the floor. Query from Dago Suarez about whether some board members work or live in our community. After the date of the "Meet the Candidates" forum was announced, Maria Luna stated she would be out of town and asked if she could submit a written statement. Mr. Berlin suggested it would be better if all the candidates were available for this forum. Mr. Ramadan hoped that we could find an open date for this forum.

**Orientation for New Members:** Mr. Ramadan introduced Pamela Palanque North, Chair of the New Members' Orientation Committee for the third year. Dr. North announced that the orientation will be held at the Board office (6/17, 7pm-9pm.) She explained that this is our effort to explain to new members how the Board works and introduced the members of this committee: Martin Collins, Wayne Benjamin, Dago Suarez, Jim Berlin, Rafael Beaumont, Luis Facundo, Glenda Swanson Massa, Sybil Dodson and Zead Ramadan. Joyce Holland volunteered to join this effort. Mr. Ramadan announced that Dr. North (head of CERT program) will be meeting with Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. She is one of two members from the state of New York to attend this private meeting.

(8:30pm) **Public Session:** Sybil Dodson assumed the Chair for the balance of the meeting, as Mr. Ramadan had to leave.

Jose Adames: Questioned the validity of Councilman Miguel Martinez' election to his position. Has been in the courts for the last five months.

Edith Prentiss (Manhattan Borough Interagency Council; Transit For All Coalition): Need to get the TLC to make cabs accessible. Announced upcoming care-giver programs at Fordham University 6/10. Our Borough President has had two events that were not handicapped-accessible.

Annamarie Jones, New Yorkers for Parks: Parks' funding cut in half; our community is 40% parkland. We should act as a community. 212-838-9410 x238.

Tatiana Newman, L.A.C.: Practices acupuncture, Chinese and holistic medicine on 181<sup>st</sup> St. Gave contact information.

George Espinal: Requesting that the park benches removed from Payson Avenue near Inwood Hill Park should be returned. Had misunderstanding with Parks Committee Chairperson.

Ed Daniels-United War Vet Council: Announced upcoming Memorial Day event (5/29, 11-4p) at Bryant Park wherein the Council will honor World War II vets. Closing VA hospital and requested petitions to keep it open. Referred to Aging & Health Committees.

Michael Alvarez-New York Public Library: Libraries have been threatened with \$5million cut and may be open only four days a week. Letter-writing campaign to begin again. There is a boilerplate letter available and the deadline is the next 4-5 weeks.

Joseph Wojak & Jackie Parrott, Inwood Neighborhood Assn.: Spoke in support of resolution to establish a Greenmarket location on Isham Street (between Cooper & Seaman), which would operate Saturdays, 8am-4pm, beginning this July. Shared petition with 253 signatures.

(8:50pm) Reports from **Public Officials and Representatives of Elected Officials**:

Councilman Miguel Martinez: anticipates \$6million from Albany; to resolve recent gang problem in Inwood, need help and guidance with anti-gang dollars and permanent after-school programs; DOT traffic study at 225<sup>th</sup> St. at new mall; other priorities: cancer prevention, childcare, summer youth programs; announced upcoming job fair in Marble Hill would also be open to Washington Heights & Inwood residents; welcomed new Board members.

Assemblyman Adriano Espaillat: Don't have a budget yet – sticking point is complying with court ruling on funding for public education; debating the Rockefeller drug laws with Senate, and judicial points of contention; other issues: (1) Raising the minimum wage to \$7.70, (2) With the increase in crime in Inwood Park, need the police to do a better job; also spoke about Safe Corridors program and peace march; set our priorities to support eliminating the skip-stop (1 & 9) subway service affecting our neighborhood, obtained \$200,000 for paths in Inwood Park as well as funds for repaving of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Comment from Helen Morik that the CERT team is working with hospital emergency staff. Dr. North thanked the Assemblyman for the graciousness shown to the CERT team members on their trip to Albany.

Rafael Escano, for the Office of the Comptroller: Welcomed new Board members.

Bradford Sussman, for Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields: Welcomed Mr. Ramadan's participation on the bus tour of Manhattan; reminded all to call 311 with any complaints and the appropriate agency will address the problem; noted upcoming events (Gay Pride, 6/3 and Women in the Arts, 6/9).

#### **Resolutions & Committee Reports:**

Aidee Camacho, Traffic & Transportation: presented three resolutions–

- (1) Amended ADA Accessibility for 100 key stations. (Passed 34-0-0-0.)
- (2) Co-name Vermilyea Ave. btw Dyckman & Academy Streets "Firefighter Thomas A. Brick Way". (Passed 33-0-1-0.)
- (3) Support a Greenmarket on Isham St., btw. Cooper & Seaman, Saturdays, 8a-4p. (Passed 33-0-0-1.)

Martin Collins, Economic Development: asked for volunteers for June 9<sup>th</sup> Art Stroll reception. The 184<sup>th</sup> Street garage expects to open late October, with 375 spots. Applications for parking will be available in July. Staples will create 30-40 new jobs; applications will be available during the summer.

Steve Simon, Health & Environment: will meet on 6/1 with the parents of children attending P.S. 132 concerning the asbestos found on the top two floors of this school. Hope to have representatives from the Dep'ts of Health & Education and the School District to address the parents' concerns.

Dr. Pamela Palanque-North, Public Safety: concerned about gang-related crime in Inwood and working diligently to make the 34<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct aware that there are major problems with gangs that need to be addressed. A "Youth Gang Awareness Seminar" will be held on June 16 at the Clark Conference Center in Milstein Building at NY-Presbyterian Hospital, 2:30-5:30pm.

Wayne Benjamin, Land Use: reiterated that a Public Hearing on June 14 will review a BSA application seeking a variance to waive zoning height, so as to construct a new 9-story building at 703 W. 171 St. between Ft. Washington & Haven Avenues.

Meeting adjourned 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted: Anita Barberis, Asst. Secretary

**Land Use Committee / Community Planning Task Force  
Joint Meeting Minutes  
May 5, 2004**

**Committee / Task Force Members Present**

Wayne Benjamin, Chair, Land Use (LU/CP)  
Luis Facundo, Chair, Community Planning TF(CP)  
Jay Mazur (LU)  
Rose Santo (LU)  
Martin Collins (LU /CP)

**Committee Members Absent**

Anita Barberis, Asst Chair, LU excused  
Julio Rodriguez, excused  
Peter Ferrara, excused

**Board Members Present**

**Staff Member Present**

Miguel A. Reyes, Community Assistant

**Guests:** Edwin Marshall, Dept of City Planning, Morgan Powell, -Friends of Roberto Clemente State Park

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1. The joint meeting of the Land Use Committee and Community Planning Task Force was called to order at 7:45 pm.
2. Land Use Chair Wayne Benjamin advised that the presentation by a representative of the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission has been rescheduled to June 2004.
3. Edwin Marshall, Department of City Planning ("DCP") provided the Committee with a response to CB12's letter to Amanda Burden, Director DCP which summarized the ongoing Audubon Avenue / Amsterdam Avenue Study and inquired as to what assistance DCP could offer to advance and finalize the study. Mr. Marshall advised that DCP cannot offer financial assistance at this time but that he will continue to work with CB 12, DCP will also assign a project manager to work with CB 12 and a team of other DCP staffers will also assist as needed. Martin Collins reported that, as requested by the Land Use Committee at its April 2004 meeting (refer to item 4 in 4/14/04 minutes), CB12 has committed \$5,000 towards consultant expenses for Audubon Avenue study, and subsequent to conversations with Harlem Community Development Corporation ("Harlem CDC"), it has committed an additional \$5,000. Mr. Collins also noted that Harlem CDC President Diane Phillpotts expressed interest in learning more about other CB 12 community planning initiatives and noted that Harlem CDC may be able to assist with additional funds. The Committee responded favorably to DCP's allocation of additional human resources and the funding commitments and will seek to schedule a kick-off meeting with all parties within the next few weeks.
4. A brainstorming session of issues related to Sherman Creek was undertaken as an outgrowth of the April 2004 committee meeting. Rose Santo commenced the discussion noting that consideration should be given how underutilized land in the Sherman Creek-Inwood planning area can be put to better and more productive use without waiting for up-zoning or rezoning and further noted that various existing low-rise structures along major streets in the planning area can as-of-right under current zoning be taller mixed-use (residential and retail) structures. Ed Marshall elaborated on this point indicating that, for example, the current zoning along Dyckman Avenue allows for a wide range of uses and some flexibility with building form but the current structures / property owners do not take full advantage. As an

additional example it was noted that the C4-4 zoning which exists in the planning area would allow a movie theatre to be build as-of-right, but no cinema currently exists. The general consensus of the Committee was that efforts should be made to incorporate a discussion of development that is possible under existing zoning into the Sherman Creek planning process and to reach out to property owners, the Empowerment Zone and other stakeholders to focus attention on this matter. The brainstorming session progressed to include matters related to contextual design and it was noted that, given the presence of parks, the river and natural terrain, natural features in addition to built urban form are factors that must be considered in the planning process. Luis Facundo raised a point pertaining to the possibility of including all or most of Inwood in a special zoning district that would allow for greater density, higher buildings and adjusted parking requirements. Mr. Marshall noted that Inwood has a great mixture of housing types and it would be interesting to look at one or more Inwood zoning districts that would balance growth and preservation, saving that which gives Inwood its unique character but allowing the area to accommodate growth. It was further noted that a section of Inwood has suburban-style single family homes for which CB12 may want to consider seeking landmark designation or down-zoning since much larger buildings can be built on these sites as-of-right but redevelopment of this nature would destroy the character of the area. The Committee generally agreed that special attention should be given to unique and definable places / physical form in Washington Heights and Inwood and that the Community Planning Task force could use a computerized geographic information system (G.I.S.) to create a map/ digital layer of information highlighting areas where consideration of some type of preservation or recognition should be studied. It was noted that, in general, G.I.S. can be a useful tool to help Board members and community residents visualize design and development options for Sherman Creek or other planning initiatives and that attention should be given to ascertaining what digital information is readily available to CB12 for free or at limited expense (Ed Marshall committed to get back to the Committee with information on what is available from City Planning).

5. Martin Collins reported that the Sherman Creek Inter-Agency Task Force is considering applying for grant funds from various sources including the NYS Bond Act - Environmental Restoration Program, the J.P. Kaplan Fund, the NYS Brownfield Opportunity areas and the NYS Environmental Protection Fund - Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. CB 12 would likely be a co-applicant for the brownfield grant and would be requested to support the other grant applications.
6. The minutes of the April 14, 2004 Land Use Committee meeting were approved (Moved: J. Mazur; Seconded: M. Collins; Vote: 5-0-0)
7. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Wayne A. Benjamin

**TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**MAY 3, 2004**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT	CB 12 MEMBERS ATTENDING
Aidee Camacho, Chair Dago Suarez , Asst.Chair James Berlin Anita Barberis Joyce F. Holland*		Pamela Palanque-North Wayne Benjamin

**Zead Ramadan, Chairman**  
**Deborah Blow, Community Associate**

**GUESTS**

John Kinney-Isham Park Restoration Project, Chief Frank Ritchie, Batt #13, Edith Prentiss, Community Resident  
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Chair Aidee Camacho opened meeting at 7:10PM with the introduction of the members of the committee.

Proceeding with the agenda, Battalion Commander Frank Ritchie presented a request to co-name in front of 29 Vermilyea Avenue between Dyckman & Academy Streets "Firefighter Thomas C. Brick Way." Firefighter Brick lost his life battling a fire on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 206 Street on December 16, 2003. He presented a biography and request from the family as well as supporting letters from the Chiefs of Battalion 13 and the Captains of Ladder Company 36. With the concurrence of the T&T committee members, board members and members of the public, we will present a resolution to the full board for their approval. (Vote: 4-0-0, 2-0-0, 2-0-0) \*(J. Holland absent for vote) .

Community resident Robert Brieff requested our review of the signage change in his neighborhood which is Cabrini between 187<sup>th</sup> and 190<sup>th</sup> Streets. Areas that had been designated "No Parking" have been replaced with "No Standing" (effective November, 2002). Consequently, this does not allow a person, like himself, with a disability that makes walking difficult, to park his car which has a special handicap permit at a "No Parking" sign that no longer exists. The rationale from the DOT, as outlined in Maurice Bruet, Acting Deputy Borough Commissioner's March 26, 2004 letter to Mr. Brieff, stated these changes were implemented to provide a safer environment for the residents of the neighborhood. He further explained that the changes were necessary to allow for "daylighting," which involves the removal of parking spaces at certain corners in order to allow drivers a clearer view of an intersection as a way to reduce accidents. Mr. Brieff questioned why only in his neighborhood, as there are many other corners that should be considered for "daylighting." It was further revealed that these changes were a function of complaints made by members of the community about limited sight distance. There was much discussion about what we could do to assist Mr. Brieff with his request. Suggestions ran the gamut of determining the number of handicap permits within our community to support the argument for maybe some dedicated handicap parking, or have the "No Standing" signs time preferences to allow parking in the evening. We will contact DOT for further discussion on this matter.

Reviewed resolution on "100 Key Stations", which was returned to our committee to be reworked. Minor corrections were made to accommodate the general transportation services, while asking for the MTA's review of all the stations for ADA compliance. Vote: 4-0-0, 2-0-0, 1-0-1. \*(J. Holland absent for vote) Passed and will be resubmitted to the general board for their approval.

Amended the agenda to include why we have not requested in writing to the Chair of our Board the written request from John Kinney to become a public member of the T&T Committee. Heated discussion with reference to process, communication and action ensued. As a public member has a

one-year term, it was determined that we would defer Mr. Kinney's request for the new term, beginning July 2004.

Edith Prentice requested that we look at clearing the bus stop on the north side of Broadway at 183<sup>rd</sup> St. where the police and private residents are now angle-parking their personal cars. This raised the issue of why the 34<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct parks their personal vehicles on sidewalks and in areas that are not considered "Self-Enforcement" areas. This pattern of abuse is a bad example for the community, who just follow the leader. Dago requested that we write to the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct and request that they, at least clear the bus stop, all fire hydrants, and ADA accessible cut-outs. It was suggested that we review our many requests to this Precinct and One Police Plaza that angle-parking on Broadway is a detriment to our community, as it is the only through north-south pathway through our community.

Reviewed the mail.

Meeting adjourned: 9:15PM/ab



**HOUSINGS & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 3, 2004**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Beatrice Hall, Chair  
Barbara Smith Ramos  
Steve Simon  
Jacqueline Aristy

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mireya Cruz

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Zead Ramadan, Chairman**

**Deborah Blow, Community Assistant**

**GUESTS**

Antonio Garcia, Director-Eviction Prevention Div.-Catholic Charities

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The meeting begin at 7:08pm with opening remarks by the chair.

Antonio Garcia, Director (Eviction Prevention Division) for the Catholic Charities was the guest speaker.

Mr. Garcia said that Catholics Charities had units in five sites (Dyckman, Hamilton, St. Nicholas & Waverly in Manhattan and one site in the Bronx.

Their Homeless Prevention program targets families that are eligible for public assistance, with minor children in the household ( TANF) and/or Safety Net (SN) clients. Families who are not on Public Assistance, but are eligible for assistance are also included in the target group.

Q. What is Jiggetts? Ans. Barbara Smith-Ramos explained what and how Jiggetts came into being. She explained Jiggetts is a lawsuit that was filed in 1987 (for a client name Barbara Jiggetts) and continues to the present. The lawsuit challenged social services public assistance grant allowances. The Judge ordered Social Services to increase the shelter allowance to a more reasonable rate. While the Dept of Social Services was working to created a new system the Jiggetts-Judge increase the allowance (effective 1/1/90)-- for a mother & one child from \$215.00 per month to \$450.00, families with two children from \$250.00 per month to \$550.00, families with three children from \$286.00 per month to \$650.00, families with four children from \$312.00 per month to \$700.00 and there after the allowance is \$25.00 per additional child. The old allowance did not change for a single adult.

The State of New York has two types of welfare programs and they are Family Assistance Program and the Safety Net Assistance Program. Families receiving Public Assistance (TANF) can apply for Jiggetts relief, but Safety Net families are not eligible Jiggetts relief. Safety Net families can apply for Temporary Supplemental Shelter Program. The TSS program has a \$3,000.00 cap and this program only pays one time. Clients that don't comply too one of HRA's rules can be denied the Jiggetts or TSS.

Q. What is the One Shot Deal? Ans. One Shot Deal is for people who work. Those clients are supposed to pay the money back.

As of November 1, 2003, a new Public Assistance allowance for households with children went into effective, although rents has skyrocket since 1987 the new rates are not that much better. The old rent rate for one child was \$215.00 and the new rate is \$277.00.

Catholics Charities provides services beyond HRA's contract services for example they help security private funds for clients and they also provide emergency food & shelter for needy clients.

Mr. Garcia also pointed out that for every \$3.00 paid in Jiggetts the Food Stamps allowance is reduce by \$1.00. He also stated that Jiggetts is on appeal because the State would like to get rid of Jiggetts Relief.

MAIL REVIEW:

1. Mail from the Washington Heights & Inwood Coalition Re: Food Stamp outreach program for resident who need help applying for F.S.
2. Flyer-Rally for the Right to get Inspections & Repairs—May 13, 2004—11:30am –City Hall
3. Letter-America Red Cross—Mission—to help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.
4. Letter- U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services –announcing a new fee adjustment to be used to enhance Services.
5. DHS- Dept of homeless Services-Results of the 2/23/04 survey of unsheltered individuals. Manhattan'03 result was 1'560 & Manhattan '04 result was 1482.
6. Letter—Susan Baida –CB5 is promoting voting rights for Immigrants in NYC.
7. New Program- Neighborhood Adult Advocacy program is one of (ACDP) new services in the community. The program offers: Inf. & Referrals, Individual Advocacy, Case Mgmt., Intake & screening & Systems Advocacy

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.  
Respectfully Submitted by: B. Hall



**COMMITTEE FOR THE AGING MINUTES**  
**MAY 11, 2004**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Glenda Swanson Massa, Chair  
Leslie Foster  
Fern Hertzberg  
Nelson Rojas

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Msgr Gerald Walsh (excused)  
Gloria Vanterpool (excused)

**PUBLIC MEMBERS**

Edith Prentiss  
Norma De Candido

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Maria Luna

**Deborah Blow, Community Associate**

**GUESTS**

Ethel L. Stoll-Resident, Rose Mary Cortez-Health Outreach, Edwin Jack-Inwood Heights Inc., Mary E. Jones Springer-Resident, Zamira Setaro-Con Edison, Cecil Levinson-Resident, Imogene Hooker-Resident, Zhamme Babayne, Washington Heights "Y"

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Glenda Swanson-Massa, opened the meeting and apologized for the invited guest's absence, the meeting was turned over to reports and upcoming events.

*WHICOA's Legislative Breakfast, The New Medicare Law: Winners & Losers* was held on the previous Friday, was on 5/7, at Isabella. Fern Hertzberg (Director of ARC XVI Ft Washington, a new member of CB12 and a member of the Committee) reported that the information is very confusing as we are discussing what will happen in 1/06. The speakers were all very informative. The issue came down to that New York State seniors were being adversely affected because the State's EPIC program is so good. *Rx Drug Cards*: there are several problem facing Medicare beneficiaries as they are confronted with selecting a Rx Drug Card. The first is that Medicare's web site is pretty bad with incorrect information. Beneficiaries are being advised to check their medications against the card's formulary, which can change weekly, while the beneficiary is lock into the card until the end of the year. At present, CMS has approved over 75 cars, some are regional, others national. Beneficiaries in HMOs need to check if their HMO is marketing a card either to member only (then that is the only card, the member can buy) or to anyone (then the member can buy any card).

*EPIC* – how will the Medicare Rx Drug Cards (as of 6/1) affect it? NYS can continue to have the EPIC program. At the present, it is funded by Federal & State money (including the Rx Rebate Programs). As of 1/06 the Feds will prohibit their money providing benefits beyond Medicare Part D (for example offering coverage to gap the donut hole). NYS can continue to provide it but will have to fund it completely. New Jersey has stated they are enrolling all people on their drug program, on a drug card. This is important for low-income individuals who are eligible for the free \$600 worth of drugs. It is to the State's advantage to have people on EPIC & a drug card as it will save EPIC money

*EPIC - Expansion to the Under 65 Medicare Beneficiaries*: Unlike NJ & CT, EPIC is limited to New Yorkers over 65. Under the new Medicare law, it will have to be expanded to include disabled New Yorkers who have or who are in the 24-month waiting period for Medicare.

Art Stroll will be on 6/12 & 13. The opening event will be at Highbridge Rec Center on 6/9. ARC is offering transportation between venues. Contact the Board office (212-568-8600) or ARC Fern Hertzberg (212-781-5700). For other information [www.artistsunite-ny.org](http://www.artistsunite-ny.org)

**ARC 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** will be on 6/3. The honorees include Franz Leichter, Stanley Michels, Edith Prentiss, Harold Lowe and a senior volunteer. Tickets are \$50 for seniors. Call 212-781-5700 for information.

**MBIAC: The Manhattan Borough Wide InterAgency Council on Aging' free Caregivers' Conference** Navigating the Voyage of Caregiving will be on Thursday 6/210 at Fordham University's Lincoln Center Campus. It will address issues related to caring for adults (18+) For further information call 212-725-7775.

**Taxis for All:** There is an organizing meeting on Wed 5/26 at United Way (2 Park Ave -32 & 33 Sts) at 5:30 PM. Accessible taxi are important for all New Yorkers not just the disabled. For additional information Terry Moakley (United Spinal) at 718-803-3782, ext. 283 or 277. In this community, it is important that people needing an accessible trip call a car service and make a complaint to 311 when the re is no accessible vehicle available.

Minutes reviewed by Glenda Swanson-Massa  
Respectfully submitted by Edith Prentiss

Meeting adjourned 11:30am

**YOUTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**May 3, 2004**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Sandra Wachspress, Chair  
Cleofis C. Sarete, A. Chair  
Milagros Vicente  
Maria Luna  
Mark Levine  
Emilia Cardona

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jose Lopez (excused)

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Martin Collins  
Dora Maria Abreu

**PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Judith Rodriguez

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deborah Blow, Community Associate

**GUESTS**

Siegried Holzer, Community School Board District #6; Vicente J. Villalba, Region #10, NYC Department of Education, Angelo Ortiz, Inwood Community Service & the UNIDO Inwood Coalition

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Meeting convened at 7:30pm.

**Opening Remarks:**

Sandra Wachspress, Chair

**Discussions:**

**Gregorio Luperon High School**

- The Department of Education (DOE) is suggesting that the Luperon High School students accept the transfer to the George Washington Educational Campus (formerly known as GW High School)
- The parents are not happy about the situation and therefore have been writing letters to DOE regarding other alternatives for a new location
- Suggestion by Emilia Cardona to bring the PTA President to a meeting to discuss the issue of Gregorio Luperon location

**Social Promotion**

- Mr. Siggie Holzer, Community School Board District #6, stated that the teachers and parents have the input as to whether or not a child should be promoted. The parent may appeal on behalf of the child
- Members of the Board suggested that the parents should be reading to their children as early as possible
- They should reach out to the agencies that give services to assist parents on how to help their children
- A suggestion was made to work on the resolution passed by the Borough Presidents Office and alter the language, come together to see how best to re-write

**Youth Gang Awareness Seminar**

- The Children's Aid Society at I.S. 218 is holding a meeting related to youth problems in the community on Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm
- Good Shepherd Church is putting together a plan to provide more services and are raising money to find a solution to the youth problem on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>
- Both I.S. 218 and I.S. 52 will address the youth issue. Angelo Ortiz provided all the dates and information on the youth meeting
- Vicente Villalba stated that he was instructed by his boss, Victor Rodriguez, Director of Student Placement and Youth Family Support Services, not to participate in the Community led youth and education meeting

Minutes respectfully by: Cleofis C. Sarete, Assistant Chair

# **PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING**

May 4, 2004

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Emilia Cardona, Chair  
H. Young-Kennedy, III, Asst. Chair  
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter  
Dago Suarez  
Renato Mena

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Glenda Swanson Massa (excused)

## **GUESTS**

George Espinal, Friends of Payson Avenue; Karen McGrath, Bailea Rehberg, Community Residents; Ted Freed, Executive Director, Andy Beck, President, Miranda Hambro, Board Member, Paysea Place Garden; Sgt. Louis Guertin, Matt Symons, Deputy Director, Urban Park Rangers; Bryan Russell Garfield, First Manhattan Development Corporation

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Minutes for the Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee May 4, 2004

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Meeting was called to order by E. Cardona at 7:45pm

Clarification of two letters previously submitted showing support from the committee

- a. The Piag letter of full commitment with the agreed upon date cut backs
- b. Letter of support for the improvements on the Michael Buczek  
Ball field: Infield reconstruction with addition of toilet facilities

Presentation by the Friends of Paysea Place Garden:

Members attending Andy Beck, Ted Freed and Miranda Hambro: requesting a letter of support for their push to become a not-for profit organization that is attempting to acquire the property on which the garden sits on which is privately owed.

Dog Run Issue below 168<sup>th</sup> Street: Presented by Karen McGrath and Bailea Rehberg.  
To create a Dog run at the tip of Riverside Park and 165 (160) streets

New York City Urban Park Rangers presented a program detailing their summer  
Activities for all the youth in the Inwood/Washington Heights community with greater outreach for the Latin community (please see attached flyer for more information). Enrollment is \$50/two week session.

The Power Point Presentation on the Seating at Payson and Inwood Hill Park was suspended due to the age of the presenter George Espinal as per E. Cardona

Conversation continued on the state of Inwood Hill Park in noting that the ground crew did repair the gorging of the grass along Indian Road.

Respectfully Submitted by: Homer Young-Kennedy, III

Economic Development Committee  
May 4, 2004  
MINUTES

Members Present

Martin Collins, Chair  
Julio Peguero, Asst. Chair  
Mason Almeida  
Rafael Beaumont  
Socrates Solano

Members Excused

Rose Santo

CB12 Members Present

Renato Mena  
Julio Rodriguez  
Dago Suarez

Deborah Blow, Community Associate

Guests: Miosotis Molina, Molina's Restaurant, Osvaldo & Sucre Rosario, Coffee Shop/Billiards, Isabel Santiago Renta, Mi New Millenium Restaurant, James Behr, Resident, Diego Almote, Resident, George Ruskoff, Resident, Eduardo Gomez, Resident, Xin Cheng Liu, Kobe Sushi Inc., Chino E. Gello, Resident

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The meeting started at 6:30 PM with opening remarks & introductions by Martin Collins.

Mi New Millenium, 220 Nagle Avenue, is renewing their Restaurant Wine License. The owner, Isabel Santiago Renta attended and discussed the business, which is open daily from 8AM-12:00 midnight. The committee recommended the State Liquor Authority (SLA) renew this license.

Kobe Sushi Inc. will apply to the SLA for a Restaurant Wine License. They are located at 543 West 187<sup>th</sup> St., between Cabrini and Ft. Washington Avenues. Xing Cheng Liu, owner, attended and discussed the application and his past restaurant experience. They will hire six to eight employees and open daily until 11PM. The committee recommended the SLA grant this license.

Osvaldo & Sucre Rosario spoke about their new business, Coffee Shop-Billiards at 543 West 187<sup>th</sup> Street (near Audubon Avenue). The recently-opened shop has six employees and sells sandwiches, soups, appetizers, and seats 25 people. They will apply for a Restaurant Wine License. Open daily from 10:30AM - 12:00 midnight. The committee recommended the SLA grant this license.

Miosotis Molina, owner, Molina Restaurant, 3855 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, will apply to the SLA for a Restaurant Wine License. Ms. Molina opened three months ago. The restaurant has six employees, seats twenty, and is open daily from 6:30AM-11:00PM. The committee recommended the SLA grant this license.

The following SLA licenses were recommended for renewal as there was no adverse history on file and no objections from the public:

Mexican Restaurant & Tacos Neza 1455 St. Nicholas Ave. renewing Restaurant Wine  
3920 Broadway Restaurant (same address) renewing On-Premises Liquor  
La Oaxaquena Restaurant 1969 Amsterdam Avenue renewing Restaurant Wine  
Piper's Kilt of Inwood 4946 Broadway renewing On-Premises Liquor  
Los Rosarios Grocery Store renewing Grocery Beer-Wine Product  
La Caridad Restaurant #2 at 2092 Amsterdam Avenue renewing Restaurant Wine

On Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> we had a follow-up meeting with the 15 local car base owners, representatives from the Taxi & Limousine Commission, Department of Transportation, and NYPD Traffic, in response to the base owners' request for an orientation for livery base drivers. There are approximately 3,500 livery drivers working at the 15 stations. After working out logistics, it will be necessary to schedule at least six orientation sessions, three morning and three evening programs, at the Health Sciences Campus beginning in September. This will provide time to schedule the sessions and for the TLC, DOT, and NYPD to translate materials. We will meet again in July to finalize the itinerary.

The Uptown Arts Stroll kicks off with an Opening Reception at the Highbridge Recreation Center (West 173<sup>rd</sup> St. & Amsterdam Ave.) on Wednesday, June from 6:00-9:00PM. Art, music, and a Taste of WaHI will enrich the evening, which culminates with fireworks by the Grucci Brothers. The Arts Stroll continues the weekend of June 12 & 13 at 50 locations in Washington Heights-Inwood. Please see [www.artistsunite-ny.org/events/artstroll](http://www.artistsunite-ny.org/events/artstroll) and the Manhattan Times for details. Two 18-passenger shuttle buses, on loan from ARC Ft. Washington Senior Center, will transport people throughout the weekend.

James Behr, community resident, presented a letter to the committee and discussed his concerns regarding speeding on Overlook Terrace. Cars regularly exceed 40 miles per hour. He feels the situation is out of control and should be addressed immediately. Mr. Behr also mentioned that garbage has piled up in an empty lot near 100 Overlook Terrace and graffiti in the tunnel leading to the West 191<sup>st</sup> Street #1 train. These matters and Mr. Behr's letter were referred to the District Manager and the Traffic & Transportation Committee for handling.

Our next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 1 at 6:30PM. The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.

Respectfully submitted by Martin Collins.