

## YOUTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 7, 2007

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cleofis Sarete, Chair  
Albania Jimenez  
Jackie Rowe Adams  
George Espinal  
Romona Gomez  
Francisco Guzman  
Carole Mulligan

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Jose Lopez  
Maria Luna

### C.B.12M Staff Present

Jeffrey Laufer

**GUESTS:** Jessica Reyes-LEA, Kiiana Reyes-LEA, Jason Garcia-P.A.L, May Chin-DYCD, Roberto De La Rosa-Resident

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Meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by Cleofis Sarete, Chair of the Youth & Education Committee.

### Resolution to Remove Tweed Courthouse name

Jacob Morris presented to the committee with a resolution he drafted. He believes this can make a difference in a symbolic way. Mr. Morris also completed an extensive research on Mr. Tweed which resulted in Mr. Morris labeling Mr. Tweed as the biggest thief in New York State.

A discussion occurred after Mr. Morris presented his resolution and the committee felt that they need to take a closer look into the matter. Committee Member George Espinal called a Motion to table the resolution to the next Youth & Education committee meeting which will give the committee some time to look into the removal of the name "Tweed". Motion was seconded by Committee member Jackie Rowe Adams. The committee voted unanimously to table the resolution.

### Update on Art Stroll

Latinas En Accion President Albania Jimenez stated her organization will recruit four youths from Washington Heights & Inwood to train them to create and design giraffe's for the June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Hike the Heights event spearheaded by City Life Is Moving Bodies (C.L.I.M.B). The Youth will be paid a stipend courtesy of Latinas En Accion.

### Youth Funding Presentation by George Espinal

Mr. Espinal made a presentation to the committee regarding the amount of youth living below the poverty line in Community Districts 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12. He also showed the amount of families living below the poverty line in these communities. According to his presentation Community District 12 has the highest youth population in contrast to all of the other community districts mentioned in his presentation. Mr. Espinal collected his information from the U.S Census Bureau.

### May Chin, Department of Youth and Community Development.

Ms. Chin thanked Mr. Espinal for his diligence and asked Mr. Espinal to join the DYCD advisory board which they currently have some vacancies. Ms. Chin stated that since Bloomberg took office his administration has increased the amount of monies that go to youth development. Mayor Bloomberg placed 32 Million dollars into the OST (Out-of-School Time) budget. DYCD has five criteria's when it determines the amount of monies allocated to a community district.

- Youth Population 6-15 Years of age
- Youth Poverty Rate at 100% of poverty line
- Rate of youth 16-19 not in school, not in High School, and not in labor force
- English Language Learner
- Single Parent household with youth

Washington Heights & Inwood received 47% of the monies allocated to Region 10. Therefore, 2.8 million dollars was given to the Washington Heights & Inwood area. Ms. Chin stated the funding allocated *"is somewhat of a fair share"*.

**NYPL- Judith Rodriguez** She urged everyone to write to your elected officials Council member Robert Jackson and Council member Miguel Martinez in keeping our libraries opened for six days a week.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by George Espinal

**COMMITTEE FOR THE CONCERNS OF THE AGING- MINUTES**  
**May 08, 2007**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Sybil R. Dodson-Lucas, Chair  
Fern Hertzberg, Asst. Chair  
Nelson Rojas  
Ramona Gomez

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Gloria Vanterpool

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Staff Present:** Deborah Blow

Guests: John Gutierrez- Mirror Group; Gretchen Wagner- Global Strategy Group; Norma DeCandide- Resident; Ethel Linden Stoll- Resident; Stephanie L. Harris- NY Parks & Recreation; John Kinney- Resident; Maghi Blech- VSNY TimeBank  
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Meeting convened at 10:10am, greetings to attendees and opening remarks by Sybil Dodson-Lucas, Chair

First matter presented was a resolution regarding Medicare Advantage. John Gutierrez and Gretchen Wagner spoke and requested support for the resolution to keep Medicare Advantage programs with federal funding. Some examples of these Medicare programs are VNC Choice Select, and Blue Cross. There are proposed 15-18% cuts for the next fiscal year. The resolution vote went as follows: 7 Approved, 0 Against, and 2 Abstained. The resolution will be presented to the Board. They will have speakers return in June. The Committee has invited Chris Dalmini from VNS Select to join us at the next meeting.

Some information about the Eloise Whitehurst street naming was presented to everyone. Eloise Whitehurst was a forceful woman with strong character and was always about improving conditions for you and your neighbors. She was also on the ACNC Board. The naming will be at 202<sup>nd</sup> Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, on Dyckman.

Tai Chi will be available from 9-10 at the "Y".

Ethel Stoll reported that at J. Hood Wright Park, bathrooms on Sundays are a big problem. Job training participants seem to have diminished and it's having a negative impact. It is now being addressed by Stephanie Harries and the staff for improved coverage so they will be open. The Walking Club kicks off at J. Hood Wright Park on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The ramp and wall need improvement. The ramp is broken and hollow so it continues to collapse. There is a horrible and dangerous smell in the NW corner of the park. There is money allocated by Councilman Jackson to help remedy these issues. The retaining wall is also being addressed.

There have been complaints about 180<sup>th</sup> and 165<sup>th</sup> Street Post Offices.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes were respectfully submitted by Fern Hertzberg.

**TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**May 07, 2007**

**Committee Members Present**

Mark Levine, Chair  
Beatrice Hall, Asst. Chair  
Anita Barberis  
James Berlin  
Dr. James Freeman  
Edith Prentiss  
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

**Committee Members Excused**

James Tasini

**Staff Present**

Jeffrey A. Laufer

**Guests:** Maurice Bruet, DOT; Josh Orzeck, DOT; Len Scheidt, Urbitran Assoc; Regina Gradess, Resident; J.F. Rudy, Resident; Lillian Torres, Resident; Jean Bonnes, Foot Park

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Mark Levine opened the meeting at 7:09pm. He welcomed the two new board members to the Committee and also welcomed Anita Barberis back to the committee.

**Update On Traffic Study For The Sherman Creek Area**

Maurice Bruet (Deputy Boro Director for DOT) & Josh Orzeck of DOT said that the money is available and the traffic study has begun. They will be looking to redirect some street traffic as well as pedestrian traffic. The study will cover the area between the following streets: Broadway, Nagle Avenue, Dyckman Street, Tenth Avenue and 220<sup>th</sup> Street. They will also be taking counts at thirty-two (32) intersections. Len Schneidt from UrbiTran Associates is DOT's consulting firm for the study. Mr. Schneidt said that the study should forecast to about the year 2030. He said that the study will propose solutions to improve the flow of traffic & reduce congestion in the area. The study will last for about six months. Sherman Creek Development has some funds to help with the study. Len Schneidt said that they would more than likely return to update the Committee before the study is complete. Maurice said that if the Committee has any concerns please send them to the consultant and to him.

**Improving Traffic Signage to indicate location of Mother Cabrini Shrine**

Maurice (DOT) said that there is no city policy to do additional signage on streets.

**Update On Haven Ave. Retaining Wall Reconstruction**

Josh Orzeck (DOT) said that he has begun to look at the retaining walls in the area. Jim Berlin stated that the Park Dept would be repairing the Wall by J Hood Wright's Park soon. Carol Blagman, from Castle Village reported that DOT had finally corrected the signage at RSD/181<sup>st</sup> street.

**Proposal to rename the Washington Bridge (aka 181<sup>st</sup> St. Bridge) Connecting Wash. Heights & the Bronx**

The proposal was once again tabled because Maurice did not know whose jurisdiction the Bridge comes under. He promised to establish this within the next day or so.

Hot spots in CB12 Margaret Fitzgerald, a community resident, talked about the constant gridlock & congestion at 177<sup>th</sup> St. & Broadway and also at 178 & 179 streets /Broadway.

Mr. Bruet of DOT will be doing a traffic study on 181<sup>st</sup> & he will try to stretch the project to cover the above streets. He said that some federal funds have become available to help with this study. This study will collect data on where the traffic is going & coming from.

Lillian Torres brought a petition with about one hundred signatures asking for a traffic light at the intersection of 166<sup>th</sup> St. & Audubon Ave. Lillian stated that the intersection is very dangerous because motorists are not observing the stop sign. There is heavy pedestrian traffic in the area because of the various clinics.

**Foot Path update**

Jean Bonnes talked about the successful footpath clean-up on April 21, 2007. She also mentioned that the mayor would be allocating forty million dollars to update Ft. Washington park which would also cover the foot path.

Update on W. 215<sup>th</sup> Step Street Jean Bonnes presented a large piece of concrete from the steps to help show the condition of the steps. Mr. Bruet (DOT) said that some emergency repair work will be done this Month and again next year. He also said that the steps should get rebuilt on/about July '2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm. Respectfully submitted, Beatrice Hall

submitted and the applicant briefed LU, the Committee may want to invite the applicant back to advise of any changes that may have occurred. The extension of the commercial overlay requested would permit certain existing retail stores to be legalized and would allow for the expansion of retail space by displacing six ground-floor residential units. The tenants in these units would be offered units in other near-by buildings owned by the applicant. It was agreed that the applicant would be invited to either the May or June LU meeting.

5. The Committee and guests engaged in an initial brainstorming session to begin to identify the types of stores and/or other services and uses that might be desirable as tenants for the George Washington Bridge redevelopment project. Some of the prospective tenants and uses discussed are as follows:

- A new Post Office to replace the 180<sup>th</sup> St. Post Office (with the old site redeveloped for housing)
- A Department of Motor Vehicles office
- Theatre/performance space
- Community meeting space / Space for existing tenants
- A day care / Children's indoor play space (like Gymboree)
- An immigration office / An employment office
- A quality food market that is larger than a typical neighborhood-size supermarket
- Expanded food choices – not 50 versions of the same corner store / A quality restaurant
- Trader Joe
- Barnes & Noble or other quality, diverse bookstore – with a CD and DVD section
- Sports Bar as an amenity/meeting place near bus concourse
- Entities and uses that draw the community in / a Bowling Alley
- Men's Warehouse or Syms
- Community gallery at bus concourse level / Work with Arts for Transit to improve A-Train Station
- An observation deck with views of Hudson River, GW Bridge, etc.
- An information kiosk / center featuring events, etc. in Washington Heights and Inwood.

Many service- and traffic-related matters were discussed which, it was decided, are best addressed by the Traffic and Transportation Committee. Joe McNearney from Councilman Jackson's office urged the Committee reach out to existing local businesses and to consider strategies for working with them so that they may have the opportunity to be tenants in the new GWB project and provide some of the good and services discussed above. Follow up on this recommendation is a good next step as is discussion and collaboration with the Economic Development Committee.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Wayne A. Benjamin

**Land Use Committee - Meeting Minutes**  
**May 2, 2007**

Committee Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair  
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair  
Dora Maria Abreu  
James Berlin  
Martin Collins  
Ruddy Santana  
Isaiah Bing  
Vivian Ducat

Committee Members Absent

Ines Saldana Olesen

Board Members Present

Manny Valesquez  
Steve Simon  
Cheryl Pahaham

Staff Present

Jeffrey A. Laufer

**Guests:** Aaron Malinsky, Paul Slayten, -P/A Associates, Virginia Dajani, Executive Director-American Academy of Arts & Letters, Jim Czajka, Primary Architect-VBA & JVC Architects

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1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.
2. A presentation was made to the Land Use Committee ("LU" or the "Committee") by James Czajak, Architect and Virginia Djani, Executive Director, the American Academy of Arts and Letters (the Academy") concerning the Academy's proposed plan to build a connecting addition / link between its building (633 West 155<sup>th</sup> Street) and the adjacent building formerly occupied by the American Numismatic Society (617 West 155<sup>th</sup> Street). Both buildings are part of the Audubon Terrace complex, a Historic District. The Committee was advised that Academy purchased 617 West 155<sup>th</sup> Street in 2005 with the intention of expanding the Academy's exhibition space. Before undertaking the exhibition space project (the "Project"), the Academy first needed to repair the roof of 617 and to replace its boiler. The Academy is now poised to proceed with the Project, which is to proceed in two phases. The first phase encompasses renovation of 617's existing West Exhibition Hall and the construction of a glass-enclosed link between 633 and 617. The second phase primarily encompasses the renovation of 617's East Exhibition Hall. The Committee was also advised that, since the Audubon Terrace complex is a Historic District, the link between the two buildings is designed to be as transparent as possible so as to visually maintain the space between the structures - the only interruption in Audubon Terrace's West 155<sup>th</sup> Street façade - and to physically fit within the bays of the existing building's facades. LU was advised that staff at the Landmarks Preservation Commission ("Landmarks") has reviewed and is favorably disposed to the design of the proposed connecting addition. The construction cost of the link and the renovation of the West Exhibition Hall is estimated at \$400,000. After further discussion a motion was made (Martin Collins) and seconded (Ruddy Santana) to support the application submitted by the Academy to Landmarks to build a link between the two existing buildings. The motion was passed by the following vote:

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstaining</u>
Committee Members:	8	0	0
Other Board Member:	0	0	0
Members of the Public:	0	0	0

3. A presentation was made to the Committee by Aaron Malinsky and Paul Slaton, P/A Associates ("P/A") concerning their proposed development project located at Broadway and Sherman ("4650 Broadway" or the "Site"). In particular, Mr. Malinsky shared with LU recent discussions with the City concerning the space needs of the Code Enforcement office of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD") and the Internal Affairs office of the New York City Police Department ("NYPD"). These city offices are currently tenants in a building located at West 133<sup>rd</sup> Street and Broadway that Columbia University wants to acquire as part of its Manhattanville project. The Committee was advised that HPD and NYPD each need approximately 60,000 to 70,000 square feet of office space. While the Site can accommodate approximately a building of approximately 270,000 square feet, its R7/C2-4 zoning limits the amount of office space to 25,000 square feet. Mr. Malinsky indicated that P/A had envisioned a mixed-use development that would include residential, retail, and community

Now, Therefore  
Be It Resolved  
That:

Community Board 12-Manhattan recommends that any legislation enacted by the NYS Legislature to renew the 421-a program included the modifications listed below:

1. Extend the Exclusion Zone citywide so that 421-a property tax benefits are provided only to developments that provide affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households.
2. Establish a dedicated State/City fund to provide additional subsidy where proceeds generated by the market-rate units are insufficient to cross-subsidize the low-income units
3. Require affordable units to be on site.
4. Provide for the long-term preservation of affordable units created under 421-a.
5. Require household income targets (affordability requirements) to take into account the area median income of the community district in which a development is located, i.e. income-targeted affordable housing.
6. Provide for 50% of the affordable units to be targeted to existing residents, including people with disabilities, of the community district in which a project is located.
7. Increase the requirement for affordable units from 20% to, at minimum, 30%.
8. Expand the affordability requirements to allow for a portion of the affordable units to households at or below 60% of area median income and a portion of the units to households at or below 100% of area media income, i.e.: tiered levels of affordability, based on demand generated by local community district households.
9. Establish a limit on the total amount of tax benefits that market-rate units may receive (a Luxury Cap). Give further review to the assessed value at which the Luxury Cap is set and consideration to a maximum market value above which a unit would not ineligible to receive any 421-a benefits.

And Be It Further  
Resolved That:

Community Board 12-Manhattan recommends that any legislation enacted to renew the 421-a program provide for the periodic review of the performance of the program and modification to program guidelines, as necessary, to ensure the compliance with the intent of enacted reforms.

**The Resolution was approved with the following vote:**

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstaining</u>
Committee Members:	8	0	0
Board Members:	0	0	1
Members of the Public:	0	0	0

Economic Development Committee, Community Board 12

May 1, 2007

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Julio Peguero, Chair  
Tony Lopez, Ass't Chair  
Rolando Cespedes  
Rafael Osoria  
Ruddy Santana

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rita McKee  
Helen Morik  
Cheryl Pahaham (Excused)  
Jonathan Tasini (Excused)  
Janifer Wilson (Excused)

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Manny Velazquez, Chair

Guests: Luis Munoz, El Presidente Restaurant; Luis Bueno, Jose Cury, Areito Lounge; Augusto Camacho, El Tipico Restaurant; Bito Reyes, La Caridad #1

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Julio Peguero calls meeting to order at 7:17pm.

After brief introductions, Mr. Augusto Camacho spoke representing **El Tipico Restaurant**. The business is located on the corner of 177<sup>th</sup> Street. It is open 24 hours and has 20 employees, 8 of which are from the Washington Heights area. The restaurant is located below a parking lot and has been there approximately 4 years. The restaurant holds 82 people with room for 13 at the counter. They currently have an on premises liquor license but are purchasing the restaurant and wish to have the license under their name. The new owners will continue business as usual and will not rename the restaurant.

*In there request for an on-premises liquor license the committee voted 5 in favor. 1 Board member voted in favor as well.*

Mr. Luis Munoz spoke next on behalf of **EL Presidente Restaurant**. The restaurant is located on 165<sup>th</sup> Street and has been a part of the community for over 20 years. The restaurant holds 82 people and employs 20 people, 18 of which are from the community. The restaurant is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Although the restaurant is located in a residential building, the floors directly above the establishment are office space and usually vacated by 5 PM. They currently have an on premises liquor license but are purchasing the restaurant and wish to have the license under their name. The new owners will continue business as usual and will not rename the restaurant.

*In there request for an on-premises liquor license the committee voted 5 in favor. 1 Board member voted in favor as well.*

Mr. Luis Bueno and Mr Jose Cury spoke next on behalf of **UNO 13 Corp DBA Areito**. The new lounge is located at 591 Academy between Post and Sherman Avenue. Mr. Cury explained that they were very proactive and met with Captain Capul to discuss their plans with the establishment. In response to Manny Velazquez's concern about up lifting the neighborhood, Mr. Cury said the lounge will cater to local professionals and be a safe, fun place to network and meet up with peers. The hours of operation will be 6pm -12am on weekdays and 8pm – 3am on weekends. They will be looking into providing valet parking for their patrons and are in talks with 3 local parking lots to accommodate the increased traffic in the neighborhood. They intend on hiring 10 employees from the Inwood & Washington Heights area. As a precaution, there will be 5-6 security guards along with surveillance cameras. They are also looking into purchasing an Electronic ID Checker.

*In there request for an on-premises liquor license the committee voted 5 in favor. 1 Board member voted in favor as well.*

Mr. Bito Reyes spoke next on behalf of **La Caridad #1**. The restaurant is located at 2182-84 Amsterdam, between 168<sup>th</sup> & 169<sup>th</sup> street. They are open 24 hours a day 7 days a week and have 23 employees which all reside in the neighborhood. They currently have an on premises liquor license but are purchasing the restaurant and wish to have the license under their name. The new owners will continue business as usual and will not rename the restaurant.

*In there request for an on-premises liquor license the committee voted 5 in favor. 1 Board member voted in favor as well.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

## HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 4, 2007

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kotie Cannon, Asst. Chair  
Eduardo Hoepelman  
Glenda Swanson Massa  
Edith Prentiss

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Julio Rodriguez, Chair, Excused  
Rolando Rodriguez  
Cheryl Pahaham

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Elizabeth Ritter

**C.B.12M Staff Present:** Deborah Blow, Community Coordinator

**GUESTS:** Anthony Parson-Resident, PO De Jesus, Lt. Murphy

Meeting called to order at 7:20pm with introductions from Assistant Chair, Kotie Cannon, who then left to attend the Health & Environment committee meeting, occurring at the same time.

**Intro 561** "A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to an alternative enforcement program by the department of housing preservation and development for violations of the housing maintenance code and multiple dwelling law."

At present, if an owner fails to correct the most severe housing violations within 24 hours, HPD can order emergency repairs which are billed to the owner. Such a reactive practice fails to correct underlying and systemic problems in the building. In each of the first 2 years, Intro 561 would identify at least 200 building with at least 27 'open hazardous or immediately hazardous violations' for a building wide inspection. HPD would force owners to make effective repairs, so violations do not occur. In subsequent years, the number of violations needed to be in the program decreases.

The Alternative Enforcement Program appears to be a good proactive program that we should support. We will consider writing a resolution, if needed and testifying at the City Council if and when an additional hearing on this Intro is scheduled. Neither CM Robert Jackson nor CM Inez Dickens is a sponsor. It was agreed that they both should be contacted to ask them to sign on as well as contacting adjacent Community Boards to solicit their support.

**Armory Men's Shelter Hearing** Liz Ritter offered kudos to the committee and Board staff for a successful set of hearings. It was agreed that the presently tabled Resolution should be allowed to die and a new resolution written, next month. Thanks were also offered for Capt Joseph Dowling of the 333<sup>rd</sup> Pct presentation of information on illegal activities both with the Armory and in the community. The level of criminal activity was shocking to some. Committee members felt they now were armed with better information about the Armory to form an opinion.

The community has a substantial reservation about the continued presence of a 200 bed men shelter for homeless mentally ill, we recognize the current shelter is a significant improvement over the 1000+ men's shelter of a decade ago. We recognize that even if we want the present shelter to close the City has no plans to do so.

The new resolution needs to focus on outcomes. We need to identify our concerns and propose solutions. We need to include an acknowledgement Project Renewal's success in getting men out of the shelter and into alternative or private housing. .

Concerns were raised as to the size of the Armory and the number of men sheltered there. Several suggestions were offered as to how the Armory's impact on the community might be lessened.

1. Installation of air conditioning before this summer. CM Miguel Martinez has budget funds for AC, but it is essential that it be installed ASAP.
2. Quality of Life violations the 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct and Project Renewal should meet on a regular and ongoing basis to review Comp Stat data
3. increase on site mental health services to increase compliance with appointment and treatments

**Follow Up to 'in-place' Rehab session** – members of the panel have expressed interest in continuing the program. They will be doing further outreach to additional owners. Respectfully submitted, EM Prentiss



- ◆ There was a brief discussion of parking. No parking is available other than street parking but this was an issue mostly due to large scale concerts which no longer will be allowed.
- ◆ A resident raised an issue regarding DPR's judgment: given the lapse with regard to the previous licensee as well as the proposal prior to that, she suggested that the concession be for a shorter term and subject to annual or biennial renewal. Mr. Kloth clarified that the capital requirements are such that only a long-term license agreement makes economic sense, but that a license will be terminated if a licensee violates any of the terms.
- ◆ In response to a question about the pier north of the café site, Ms. Hoppa clarified that this is a public fishing pier which will not be privatized in any way.
- ◆ Members of Inwood Canoe Club spoke on behalf of maintaining their utility lines and requiring that the RFP require that the marina concessionaire not interrupt the Canoe Club's utilities.

When asked which of the items in CB12's letter would not be included in the RFP, Mr. Kloth stated that while mooring slips would not be "grandfathered," the RFP can't make guarantees with respect to who gets slips, but it will be a fair and equal process. As to sub-leasing/sub-licensing, sub-leasing would not be permitted as there is no lease at all; sub-licensing would be permitted with proper reviews similar as to the process for the primary concession license.

There was also a discussion of the actual process for evaluating the bid submissions. There will be a 6-8 week submission timeline from the date the RFP is released, with a walk through in the middle of the process so that prospective bidders could view the property and extant facilities.

There was a request to include in the RFP itself – not just in the contract which ultimately will be executed between DPR and the licensee – language that makes clear that non-compliance with the resulting contract would result in its termination. MOC and DPR clarified that this language is in the RFP, and also that the contract is a public document, subject to a posted public review period prior to its execution.

- IV. **Footpath:** This park and access area to Fort Washington Park is now clean, thanks to recent clean up and the Precinct's efforts. Steve Simon from DPR announced that the Mayor plans to invest \$40 million in capital funds to Fort Washington Park over the next 2-3 years. There will be a scoping meeting in the next month or two; plans for renovations will be brought to the Committee within the next 6-9 months after that. The Mayor also is allocating \$63 million to Highbridge Park, including the reopening of Highbridge.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

**Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Committee Member**

George Espinal, Asst. Chair  
Jennifer Arujo  
Aidee Camacho  
Emilian Cardona  
Dr. Joyce Humber-Faison

**Committee Members Absent**

Julissa Gomez, Chair (excused)  
Kotie Cannon (excused)  
Francisco Guzman (excused)  
Rolando Rodríguez

**Staff Present**

Jeffrey A. Laufer

**Guests:** Indiana Ortiz, Resident; Lieutenant Murphy, 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct; Joselinne Minaya, District Attorney's Office; Brandie Chandler, Drop the Rock Campaign

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At 7:10 pm, Asst. Chair George Espinal called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the board and guests. He apologized for the absence of the Chair, Julissa Gomez

**33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Report- Lieutenant Murphy**

- ◆ Robberies have gone up, 8 vs. 3 for the week and 69 vs. 66 for the year
- ◆ Felony assaults have gone down, 4 vs. 5 for the week and 56 vs. 66 for the year
- ◆ Burglaries have gone up, 7 vs. 2 for the week. Perpetrators have been going through fire escapes. Burglaries have gone down for the year, 45 vs. 48
- ◆ GLA has stayed the same for the week, 2 vs. 2 and gone down for the year, 55 vs. 60
- ◆ Larceny has gone down, 0 vs. 2 for the week, and 29 vs. 38 for the year
- ◆ Rapes have gone down, 4 vs. 16 for the year

The 33<sup>rd</sup> precinct will bring truancy numbers for the next committee meeting.

**34<sup>th</sup> Precinct Report**

Absent- Will email their report and any outstanding issues.

Committee members went on the briefly discuss opportunities in ways to decrease truancy and school drop out rates. Truancy can lead to violence, a risk of getting STD's or pregnancy.

**Public Session**

Local Inwood resident complained about the Caridad Restaurant on Broadway and Academy Street. She complained about large live bands coming from the location and disputes occurring in parking lot which is located behind the restaurant. The resident has called 311 numerous times as well as other residents. She is very concerned that these small incidents will scale to a larger incident.

**Brandie Chandler- Correctional Association**

Rockefeller Drug Laws- Drop the Rock Campaign

Ms. Chandler explained that the campaign is focused to repeal the Rockefeller Drug Laws. The laws were enacted in 1973 under Governor Welson Rockefeller. The Rockefeller Drug Laws require long prison terms for the possession of sale of small amounts of drugs. The main criterion for sentencing is the amount of drugs found on the person's possession upon arrest, not his/her actual role in the narcotics transaction. Penalties apply with no regard to the circumstances of the offense of the individual's character or background; whether the offense is the first or one of many is irrelevant. The campaign would like CB12 to support Assembly Member Jeffroin Aubry's Repeal Bill that, if passed would accomplish three essential objectives:

- ◆ Restore Judicial Discretion in all drug cases
- ◆ Significantly decrease the sentence lengths for people convicted of drug offense
- ◆ Ensure that changes in the drug laws apply to those already incarcerated

Drop the Rock also advocates for increased funding for alternatives such as drug treatment, job training, remedial education, etc.

The Committee would like to revisit the campaign's repeal to the Rockefeller Drug Laws.

**Joselinne Minaya- District Attorney's Office**

Ms. Minaya had nothing to report. She invited everyone to the forum for Tenant's Issues: Criminal vs. Civil on Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 at 163 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor from 7pm-9pm.

Board Member Aidee Camacho motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm. Seconded by Dr. Joyce Humber-Faison.

Minutes respectfully submitted by George Espinal, Asst. Chair

## PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES –May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

### Committee Members Present

Zead Ramadan Chair  
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Asst. Chair  
Jennifer Arujo  
Ines Saldana Olsen

### Committee Members Excused

Emilia Cardona

### C.B.12M Staff Present

### Board Members Present

Manny Velazquez, Chairman  
Obie Bing  
George Espinal  
Dr. James Freeman  
Eduardo Hoepelman

GUESTS: Uno 13 Corp (Aricto); Jean Bonnes, Resident; Luz Bormidez, Resident; Maggie Clarke, RING; Peggy Guillen, Resident; Frank Price, Resident; Evelyn Fernandez, Resident; Greg Fitzgerald, MBPO; Elizabeth Lastique, CAW; Auelyz Cuncamacion, Terra Café; Luis Muniz, El Presidente Restaurant; Rogelio Diaz, Tipico Dominicano; Lilliam Perez, Senator Schneiderman's Office; Rivka Einy, Resident; Octavio Blanco, Resident; Gerardo Peter, Audubon Partnership; Nazario Brea, Resident

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### I. Opening remarks and welcome at 7:15pm by Committee Chair Zead Ramadan.

- II. **Uptown Arts Stroll:** Mike Fitelson gave an update as to planning particulars, with special emphasis on the (then-) upcoming performance event on Dyckman Street on May 6<sup>th</sup>, "Umbrella/Sombrilla," and a subsequent block party on Post Avenue. A small group broke away to meet in another room that broke away to meet in another room to nail down the logistics of these events.

- III. **Dyckman Marina RFPs:** There was a recap of the new policy by the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) pursuant to the Mayor's Office of Contracting (MOC) that full drafts are not shared with Community Boards (or anyone else) prior to their release for bid. This is a problem if communities want to ensure that their concerns are addressed. Tracy Bloch, Counsel for MOC, wanted to make sure we follow the rules, to make sure not only that the process is fair but that it also is *perceived* to be fair. This keeps progress on an equal footing so that no one knows in advance what is in the RFP, thus giving them a "leg up" on people who don't have connections. Moreover, if a member of a Community Board wanted to prepare an actual bid, it would appear unfair if they had advance knowledge of the RFP requirements. This process ensures that CBOs can compete on level ground in a way that doesn't give the appearance of a CBO having an "inside track". Ms. Bloch emphasized that "RFPs are for the benefit of communities, not an obscure agency downtown, so community feedback is important and taken seriously."

Charles Kloth of DPR's Revenue Division spoke about the letter he received from CB12 letter regarding these RFPs, which was thoughtful, detailed and helpful. Most of the items requested in CB12's letter either already were, or will be placed, in the RFP. Originally DPR's thinking was that amplified music would be prohibited entirely, but it has been decided that music might be allowed on a case-by-case basis, though not past 10pm, and not to exceed a certain decibel level. A discussion ensued regarding how to ensure that sound levels did not get out of hand and become a community nuisance. Other concerns expressed included ensuring that the RFP makes clear that bathrooms are open to the public during hours that the café is open, even if the person is not patronizing the café. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the dire need for public restrooms. DPR Northern Manhattan Deputy Administrator Jennifer Hoppa stated that DPR is working on installing public restrooms near the old Con Ed building under the Parkway, though this will take 2-3 years for completion.

Julia Marsh from the Manhattan Times asked Mr. Kloth about a 2002 NYC Controller's audit which suggested that the license be revoked due to serious violations of SLA, illegal silt removal (a serious EPA violation), underreporting of receipts, and failure to pay licensing fees. Mr. Kloth was unable to address SLA and DEP issues, but noted that revenue items were brought current when licensee paid fees owed pursuant to the licensing arrangement.

Several other issues were raised:

- ♦ Mr. Ramadan asked about public review. Mr. Kloth stated that when a licensee is selected, DPR will bring them to meet the community and to discuss concerns. He also committed to meeting annually with the Community Board to review performance and any complains.