

**Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2009**

Committee Member

Emilia Cardona, Chair
George Cruz
Andria Reyes
Rev. Antonio Almonte

Committee Absentees

Ninoska Uribe - excused
Ingrid Dominques-Brito

Board Members Attending

Staff: Deborah Blow, Community Coordinator

Guests: Albert Hendrix-Citywide of AMB, Clifton Hill-Project Renewal, Samuel Richardson-Project Renewal

Opening remarks Emilia Cardona, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm and the participants introduced themselves. Mrs. Cardona asked Mr. Hendrix to give a report on his group's activities.

Mr. Hendrix is a member of Citywide Volunteer Ambulance Medical & Rescue Service. They are 1st responders who are certified and trained in advanced First Aid and CPR. The group provides sustainable medical and rescue operation services until EMT or higher city agencies arrive. The group is equipped with two way radios which are manned 24/7.

After the presentation, the group's discussion centered on the quality of life problems plaguing our community. Possible solutions were discussed. The plan is to present these problems and solutions to Chief Diaz, Borough Manhattan North and the Deputy Inspectors (33, 34 pcts) at the June 3rd meeting.

Problems

- Drag racing at both ends of CB12M
- Motor cycle groups cruising from north to south CB12M
- "Pop-up-parties"
- Excessive noise from doubled parked cars in front of sidewalk cafes
- Drug activity in some of the parks
- Drug activity by some of the subway station entrances

Solutions

- Assign additional personnel to both precincts
- Assign Impact Response Team
- Use tactical platforms in the super problem areas in both precincts
- Establish a satellite precinct on Dyckman until the 34th pct. can be divided
- Create a new precinct to cover the area from Dyckman to W. 218th St.

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Blow and reviewed by Emilia Cardona

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES - MINUTES
May 7, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Cheryl Pahaham, Chair
Glenda Swanson Massa, Asst. Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Pamela Palanque-North (Excused)
Ruddy Santana (Excused)
Carole Mulligan (Excused)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Juan Alonzo
George Fernandez

Staff Member Present: Ebenezer Smith

Guests: Anthony Parson, Resident and Two Other Community Residents

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Chairperson Cheryl Pahaham convened the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Pahaham announced the June Housing Court forum. A discussion on the difficulty of finding a decent judge, tenant harassment and the difficulty of securing an attorney ensued.

Pahaham welcomed the two new board members, Alonzo and Fernandez, and thanked them for coming to the meeting. She described some of the activities of the committee and introduced Assistant Chair Swanson Massa. Alonzo and Fernandez asked questions about the committee and discussed housing issues and other concerns that they would like to pursue while on the board.

Two community residents who live near the 37 Hillside Avenue proposed project, came to the meeting to hear what the committee was doing and participated in the casual discussion on housing in the community.

Pahaham also announced that at the June 4, 2009 committee meeting, Caroline Bhalla, Associate Director of the New York University Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy, would come present on its affordable housing database and other housing issues of concern in CB 12.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Cheryl Pahaham, 05/22/09

Land Use Committee - Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2009

Committee Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair
James Berlin
Tamara Rivera
Richard Allman

Committee Members Absent

Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair
Isaiah Bing
Dora Maria Abreu

Board Members

Vivian Ducat (Public Member)

Staffer: Deborah Blow, Community Coordinator

Guests:

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1. Absent a quorum informal discussion began at 7:250 PM; the meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM when quorum was established. Land Use Chair Wayne Benjamin noted that Vivian Ducat was not reappointed to Community Board 12- Manhattan (CB12-M) but will continue to participate in the Land Use Committee ("LU" or the "Committee") as a Public Member. The Committee was also advised that the final presentation of the Soft Site Analysis of Washington Heights and Inwood by planning intern Mike Kolber that was scheduled for this meeting has been rescheduled to the June LU meeting.

2. Mr. Benjamin provided an update on the 37 Hillside Avenue project and the public meeting held by Borough President Stringer on May 5th concerning this project. The Committee was informed that the comments and concerns expressed at the May 5th meeting echoed those made by members of the public at the April 09 LU and General Meetings. The Committee was also informed that the Borough President stated that the BSA application for 37 Hillside Avenue has been withdrawn and is to be resubmitted by May 26th for a June 9th follow-up BSA hearing. (Note: On May 12th CB12-M received a letter signed by Scott Stringer, Eric Schneiderman, Adriano Espaillat and Miguel Martinez in which it is indicated that the project has been withdrawn but noted that the site can still be developed under an as-of-right scenario or another BSA application). It was also emphasized that in order to grant a zoning variance based on conditions that create practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship the BSA must find all of the following:

- a) unique physical conditions make compliance with the zoning resolution unduly difficult;
- b) there is no reasonable possibility that development in conformity with zoning will yield a reasonable return;
- c) the variance will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood or district;
- d) the hardship has not been created by the owner or the predecessor in interest; and
- e) the variance requested is the minimum variance required to alleviate the hardship.

A project that meets some but not all of the above does not qualify for a hardship variance. Other considerations such as the inclusion of affordable housing or community facility uses, the connection of an applicant to the community, etc. cannot substitute for these findings. Mr. Benjamin indicated

that, in considering future applications for BSA zoning waivers, it is important for LU and CB12-M to focus more closely on the extent to which the proposed project meets the five findings.

3. The Committee discussed the proposed Audubon Park Historic District (the "District"). The District is located immediately north of Audubon Terrace and encompasses 19 grand apartment buildings and one two-family house. The boundaries for the District established by the Landmarks Preservation Commission ("LPC") are broader than the boundaries proposed by neighborhood residents in 2003 but narrower than the boundaries suggested by LU in 2004. Mr. Benjamin stated that various letters of support for the District were submitted to the LPC at its March 24, 2009 meeting, including letters from Borough President Stringer, the Historic Districts Council, and the Landmarks Conservancy. (Note: At the May 13th Executive Committee Meeting it was reported that on May 12, 2009 LPC voted to approve the designation of Audubon Park and Fort Washington Presbyterian Church; the City Council and City Planning must now consider LPC's recommendation). Although LU has been supportive of the efforts to designate Audubon Park CB12-M is not on record supporting the designation. It was suggested that LU pass a resolution to reduce its support to writing. LU reviewed the April 19, 2009 NY Times article that discusses the late-1800's brownstones on West 158th Street, between Riverside Drive and the Henry Hudson Parkway, that are contiguous to but not included in the District. These brownstones are older than the buildings included in the District. LU additionally discussed the apartment buildings on Riverside Drive north of West 158th Street, an area at times referred to as the Upper and Lower drives. These buildings are also not included in the District but can be argued to contribute to its character; some are featured in Michael Henry Adams' Harlem Lost and Found. The boundaries for the District suggested by LU in 2004 include both the brownstones and the buildings on the Upper and Lower Drives. Members of the public who attended the January 2009 LU meeting at which LPC made a presentation on the District expressed support for these more extensive boundaries.

After further discussion a motion was made (Richard Allman) and seconded (Jim Berlin) in support of the proposed Audubon Park Historic District and encouraging LPC to work diligently and expeditiously to designate a contiguous historic district to include the West 158th Street brownstones and a contiguous historic district that expands the District to include the apartment buildings north of West 158th Street and Riverside Drive / the Upper and Lower Drives.

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstaining</u>
Committee Members	4	0	0
Public Members	1	0	0
Members of the Public	0	0	0

4. Copies of the July 7, 2007 LU meeting minutes were distributed for reference. During this meeting SOBRO made a presentation to LU on a proposed project in collaboration with Centro Evangelistico to be located at 1769 Fort George Hill. The proposed project is similar to the 37 Hillside Avenue project as it requires zoning waivers that change the density of the project site from R7-2 to R8. SOBRO has been in dialogue with Housing and Human Services about the project but has not touched-based with LU since July 2007; it is scheduled to attend the June 2009 LU meeting.

5. There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Benjamin

Traffic & Transportation Committee Minutes

May 4, 2009

Committee Members Present

Mark Levine
Anita Barberis
James Berlin
George Nelson Preston
Edith Prentiss
Rita McKee

Committee Members Excused

George Cruz

Committee Members Absent

C.B. 12 Members Present :

Guests: Elizabeth Porter, Filomena Acevedo, Griselda Batista, Juan Hidalgo, Miguelina Echavarria, Delis Hernandez, Felix B. Checo, Josh Orzeck – DOT, Carolina D. Davis – PAL Armory, Irma Tejeda, Modesto Bautista, Juliana Hernandez, Santos Acevedo, Raisa Marcial, Ramona Hernandez, Luis Martinez, Anthony Stevens, Justin Seagal.

Chair Mark Levine opened meeting at 7:15pm and amended the agenda to include other issues.

Obstruction of subway tunnel at 184th St and Overlook Terrace.

Local residents have complained about the entrance doors, which the developer agreed to replace, however, work has stopped about seven months ago. It is rumored that the developer has run out of money and his permit expires 12/31/09. The NYC Transit is fairly upset with developer.

Requesting a speed bump to curtail the speeding on west end of Dyckman St.

Lots of noise and partying and drag racing in this area has prompted this request. This site may be tested every eighteen months to see whether it meets the warrants. The last review did not meet the Federal warrants. NYS traffic cameras could be another alternative, though legislative approval and funding is unlikely. Along with 34th Police Precinct enforcement, involve DEP (Geraldine Kelpman) concerning quality of life issues at night in this area. DoT's Asst. Commissioner for Manhattan, Maurice Bruet, suggested we write a letter requesting a camera.

PS 132 has lost 19 parking permits for teachers in the citywide effort to reduce the number of parking permits distributed. It may be difficult to recover those permits.

J. Berlin reviewed the **bus walk concerning bus idling in the "Go Green" effort**. With representatives from MTA Surface, the Manhattan Borough President's office and NYS DEP, the group reviewed the following areas: BX 12 at 207th St, 179th St between Broadway & Ft. Washington Ave and the 170th St triangle and the shuttle bus for the A train (which hopefully will be terminated as subway work is nearing an end) Training volunteers to study idling of all vehicles. Query: why are there no MTA reps at our meetings so that we may have direct conversations with that Authority?

The **181st Congestion Study** will be delayed five months due to the necessary inclusion of 179th street Bronx buses and should be completed at the end of 2009.

With 13 intersections in Inwood, preliminary design concept money is available to DDC from DOT.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Anita Barberis

Committee for the Concerns for the Aging
May 12, 2009

Committee Members Present: Gloria Vanterpool, Edgard Nau, Ramona Gomez, Rev. Almonte (excused)

Staff: Deborah Blow

Guests: Norma De Candido, Jim McNiff, Ethel Stroll, Rosemary Cortez,-Allen Pavillion

Meeting opened at 10:15 am. By Chairperson, Gloria Vanterpool

Ms Vanterpool announced that Nelson Rojas has resigned from CB12 but he would be available to give us any assistance with community issues and attend meetings when possible. He wishes to remain on the mailing list for information. It was also suggested to agency/organizations representatives to designate an alternate person to attend our meetings when they are unavailable.

Health Outreach /Allen Pavilion

Rosemary Cortez discussed the activities for the Month of May particularly noting that there was Housing Forum for seniors today at the Allen Pavilion site. @ 12noon Yeshiva University

It was announced that the committee's chairperson served on the planning committee for a workshop held at the Yeshiva University on May 1, 2009. The name of the workshop was "Navigating the Health Maze at the Cusp of the Change". It was well attended.

Copies of a useful booklet "Health Insurance Explained" distributed by a representative from Department of Aging will be sent to our Comm. Bd. Office for distribution at our next meeting.

New York Public Library

Jennifer Zorr, Head Librarian @ Ft. Washington Library announced the expanding services offered at the library for seniors. 10-12noon is available for tours and special programs, open computer instruction classes will be available with youth assistance. A library support group has been established that will meet monthly on Saturdays. Discussions will include ways in which volunteers can be of assistance to the staff at the facility. The next meeting will be held on May 30th @ 9:30am. All are welcome.

An appeal was made for volunteers to assist with writing letters protesting library cuts. A future meeting with Councilman M. Martinez to discuss his support. R. Cortez /Allen Pavilion stated that she would attempt to encourage seniors at her site to assist with this campaign. Ms. Zorr also mentioned a program that is in the planning with the Manhattan Borough President – Youth and the Environment. Updates will follow.

U.S. Post Office (West 180th St.)

It was reported that Congressman Rangel and Councilman Martinez are discussing plans with the U.S.P.O. regarding the move from its present facility. Rally is planned on Saturday, May 9th. Update will be reported at next meeting.

Note: A greater effort will be made to post our meeting and agenda in the local Manhattan Times.

- Allen Pavilion May 12th 12noon Housing Forum Isabella Geriatric Institute.
- May 29th Health and Prosperity 9am –2pm Refreshments
- Poetry Workshop @ Riverstone Senior Center May Month series

Meeting adjourned @ 11:45am Next meeting scheduled on June 9th

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Vanterpool