

Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting – November 17, 2008 – Russ Berrie Pavilion (1150 St. Nicholas Ave.)

PRESENT

Dora Maria Abreu
Jackie Rowe Adams
Richard Allman
Anita Barberis
James Berlin
Isaiah Bing
Kotie Cannon
Emilia Cardona
Rolando Cespedes

George Cruz
Vivian Ducat
George Espinal
Julissa Gomez
Ariel Hart
Tony Lopez
Maria Luna
Glenda Swanson Massa
Rita McKee

Helen Morik
Carole Mulligan
Pam Palanque North
Ines Saldana Olesen
Rafael Osoria
Cheryl Pahaham
Edith Prentiss
Zead Ramadan
Andria Reyes

Tammy Rivera
Nelson Rojas
Ruddy Santana
Steve Simon
Ninoska Uribe
Gloria Vanterpool
Manny Velazquez

EXCUSED

Wayne Benjamin
Martin Collins
Mark Levine
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Edgard Nau

ABSENT

Jennifer Araujo
Ingrid Dominguez Brito
James Freeman
Ramona Gomez
Albania Jimenez Lopez
Rolando Rodriguez
Cleofis Sarete

The Chair, Manny Velazquez, **called the meeting to order** at 7:25 pm. There was no quorum at that time. The **Chair reported** as follows:

- The General Meeting date was changed due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Board members are urged to attend the December 16th meeting, during which we will hold Board Officers' elections for 2009.
- The staff thanks committee chairs for sending their minutes on time.
- Our web site is down. We are working with the NYC Department of Information Technology and Telecommunication (DoITT) to get a new site through the City's server. In addition to a more user-friendly programming interface, there will be no charge to the Board to host the new site. We anticipate the new website will be up soon.
- Met yesterday with Project Renewal (the organization that runs the men's shelter at the Armory) which again promises to help with the quality-of-life issues raised by the community. Project Renewal has moved more residents into independent living. The police are committed to helping with enforcement.
- Sanitation: if you see a street corner without a trash receptacle, please let the Board office know.
- We are in the process of working with DOT in finding proper locations for street vendors. Dyckman Street and Amsterdam Ave. food trucks are under review for proper placement. Once these locations are reviewed, CB12 will request that DOT evaluate St. Nicholas Avenue as well as 207th Street. Please report any street vendor issues to the office. DOT also has initiated placement of parking meters on the SE corner of Dyckman & Broadway. The meters will minimize accidents and protect pedestrians. DOT also completed a field evaluation of Audubon Ave between 190th & 193rd Streets, and decided that additional controls are not necessary. Rita McKee asked that the avenues intersecting with 181st Street also be evaluated.
- The Legal Aid Society's Community Law Offices, which serves low income residents of Manhattan, has reopened in Harlem following renovations. Individuals seeking legal help should call 212-426-3600 (fax: 212-876-5365) or visit 230 East 106th Street, www.legal-aid.org.
- DDC will begin reconstructing the retaining wall on Fort Washington Avenue between W 164th St and W 165th St. in the fall of 2009. The design is available at the Board office.
- Rita McKee asked about a meeting the following day with the Port Authority regarding the redevelopment of the GWB bus station. Will the Chair be attending? A: Yes, either I or the District Manager will attend the meeting, to which the PANYNJ has not invited the general public.

Dyckman Institute Scholarships: Ross Frommer, Columbia University Medical Center's Deputy VP & Associate Dean for Government & Community Affairs, and Susan DeVries, Executive Director of the Dyckman Farmhouse Farmhouse Museum, recognized students from our community enrolled at Columbia College who are the current recipients of the scholarships: Christopher Davidson (freshman); Patricia Rojas (sophomore); Iliana Felice (junior); and Arcania Garcia (graduating senior). The students spoke, thanking their family members, many of whom were present, and the Community Board for their support.

Quorum was achieved at approximately 7:45pm. Mr. Velazquez suggested that the Nominating Committee give its report right after the First Vice Chair's report. Pamela Palanque North reported that at November's Executive Committee meeting, it was decided that the Community Board should have a **strategic planning retreat**, which will be supported by Columbia University and Presbyterian Hospital. Why a retreat? Because all of the Board members need to work together on their level of performance. Dr. North stated that this work couldn't be accomplished just in our general meetings. She is asking for volunteers to help on the planning; tasks include interviewing members regarding specific outcomes needed for the retreat, and setting an agenda. The retreat should happen in the latter half of January, and will help the Board to become aware of the talents of each and every member. A sign-up sheet for the planning committee, which should number about 12, is available in the office.

A **motion to adopt the agenda** was made by Edith Prentiss and seconded by Maria Luna. A **motion to approve minutes of the October meeting** was made by Steve Simon, seconded by Emilia Cardona. Both motions were approved by voice vote with no objection.

Anita Barberis, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the **slate of candidates for Board Officers for 2009**. For Chair: Rita McKee & Manny Velazquez; for First Vice Chair: George Espinal & Pamela Palanque North; for Second Vice Chair: Cheryl Pahaham; for Treasurer: Edith Prentiss; for Secretary: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter. There was no candidate for Assistant Secretary; Mr. Simon nominated Carole Mulligan, who accepted. There were no additional nominations from the floor. It was requested that the by-laws be mailed or e-mailed to all Board members so that they will know the duties of each position.

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CBO Presenter, Christina Salvi, of **NYC Council on the Environment's Office of Recycling Outreach & Education** made a presentation about its grassroots outreach programs and recycling workshops. There was a successful electronics recycling event last weekend at various locations throughout the City, and a planned clothing and textile recycling event in Inwood in January. She noted that Washington Heights/Inwood has a low rate for recycling, and offered to meet with supers, tenant organizations and others to explain the City's recycling program. CENYC also runs the Greenmarket program, which operates two successful markets in CB12, and is looking at adding one or two more. For more information: www.cenyc.org or 212-788-7989.

Public Officials' Representatives' Reports

Wendy Garcia, for Borough President Scott Stringer: There will be a conference tomorrow on the Politics of Food. Also noted that the BP is giving away Thanksgiving turkeys to needy families through CBOs. Reminded all members that renewal applications have been sent out; please return them ASAP if you are interested in continuing to serve.

Milagros Vicente, for NYC Councilmember Miguel Martinez: Congratulations to Jackie Rowe Adams for being the NY1 New Yorker of the Week. She called attention to information regarding capital funding to local schools in the Councilmember's written report. Announced an upcoming meeting at City Hall regarding closing of Senior Centers in the City. The office will be working with the Census Bureau to offer testing for jobs for the Census; applicants must be fluent in English.

Socrates Solano, for US Congressman Charles Rangel: Congress is discussing the second bailout; we will keep you informed. Congressman Rangel thanks everyone for reelecting him to a 20th term, noting that due to his seniority he is the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. With regard to Inauguration tickets, the Congressman hasn't yet decided how to distribute the 200 tickets he has. Dr. North asked about the possible renewal of the Empowerment Zone. Mr. Solano was unsure of the Congressman's position.

Frank Hess, for NYS Assemblymember Herman D. Farrell: The special session did not happen because the leadership could not reach an agreement on budget cuts, especially relating to education and healthcare. It is believed that this will be discussed when the Legislature reconvenes in January.

Rafael Escaño, for NYC Comptroller William Thompson: Shared written report. He reported that the Comptroller is contemplating investing some municipal pension funds in infrastructure repair in order to generate employment.

Public Speakers

Pasqual Perez, Health First: Marketing representative for a Medicare HMO. Helps seniors choose them understand what is available to them regarding Medicare. They participate in public events; feel free to approach a booth. They provide lower hospitalization and prescription costs. They also identify programs that a senior may be eligible for. The service is free.

Edith Prentiss, Disability in Action: Concerned that CUNY has placed its census training program in an inaccessible venue, i.e. the CUNY in the Heights Cooper Street location. She feels that they should have chosen the CUNY satellite office on West 181st Street.

Vivian Ducat & Steve Simon, Riverside Oval Association: The ROA held a successful oral history session for residents of the River Arts building, 159-00 RSD West, and has another planned for residents of 780 RSD on December 10th. Also selling 2009 calendars, featuring the work of a local artist, for \$14.

Mayra Linares, Con Edison: Gave an update on Con Edison's M-29 transmission line and substation project in Inwood.

Migdalia Quinones, Bust a Move For Better Health: Described a proposed community program for exercise in the outdoors. Contact:

Migdalia_q@yahoo.com. Gloria Vanterpool suggested that Ms. Quinones contact other health/fitness programs in the community. She added that people should know what is available in the area. Mr. Simon stated that the Parks Department currently has a similar program in Ft. Tryon and is interested in having more such programs in other parks, particularly Inwood Hill and Highbridge. He suggested Ms. Quinones contact Jennifer Hoppa, the Northern Manhattan Parks Administrator.

Committee Reports

Economic Development Committee Chair Zead Ramadan offered 11 resolutions for consideration. Mr. Simon questioned the SLA permit for Sushi Vida Inc. (d/b/a Mama Sushi), which had been considered and rejected by the full Board in May, and tabled at the October meeting. He also asked if the establishment had the same ownership as Mamajuana Café, which has had complaints. (A: one of the co-owners is involved with both establishments.) The roll call votes for the Economic Development Committee resolutions were as follows:

- #1 recommending that DCA approve a one-year permit for a Sidewalk Café Sushi Vida Inc., d/b/a Mama Sushi, FAILED 11-21-0-0.
- #2 offering NO OBJECTION to SLA new Liquor License for Sushi Vida Inc., d/b/a Mama Sushi, FAILED 14-18-0-0.
- #3 STRONGLY OBJECTING to SLA new On-Premises Liquor License to 400 W 202nd Street Inc. PASSED unanimously (32 votes).
- #4 offering NO OBJECTION to SLA new On-Premises Liquor License to Locksmith Wine Bar PASSED 29-3-0-0.
- #5 OBJECTING to SLA new On-Premises Liquor License to Fort Tryon Café PASSED unanimously (32 votes).
- #6 offering NO OBJECTION to SLA renewal On-Premises Liquor License for Punto de Sabor Inc. PASSED unanimously (32 votes).
- #7 offering NO OBJECTION to SLA renewal On-Premises Liquor License for 4055 Broadway Corp. PASSED unanimously (32 votes).
- #8 offering NO OBJECTION SLA renewal Restaurant Wine License for El Guanaco Restaurant & Pupuseria PASSED unanimously (32 votes).
- #9 offering NO OBJECTION SLA renewal Restaurant Wine License 1342 St. Nicholas Ave. Restaurant Corp. PASSED unanimously (32 votes).
- #10 offering NO OBJECTION to SLA renewal Restaurant Wine License for Bijaru Coffee Shop Restaurant PASSED unanimously (32 votes).
- #11 offering NO OBJECTION to SLA renewal Restaurant Wine License for Taqueria Santa Clara Food Corp. PASSED unanimously (32 votes).

Traffic & Transportation: As Mark Levine was excused due to bereavement, Assistant Chair Anita Barberis presented three resolutions:

- #1 Co-name the SE corner of Indian Road at W 218th Street – Homer Young Kennedy Way PASSED unanimously (30 votes).
- #2 Co-name 161st Street & Riverside Drive – Alexander Felix Place PASSED 29-1-0-0.

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#3 Calling on DOT to assess the feasibility of creating a Greenway connector along Dyckman St. PASSED unanimously (30 votes).

Land Use As Wayne Benjamin also was excused (due to illness), Assistant Chair Anita Barberis presented three resolutions, the second of which, regarding an application to the BSA to reinstate and renew the zoning variance for the W. 155th Street Exxon Mobil Station, was deferred pending review by the Health & Environment Committee regarding a past oil spill at the site. The remaining votes were as follows:

#1 Resolution supporting the Land Use Review (ULURP) application by HPD for the rehabilitation and disposition of 567 West 183rd Street to a non-profit developer, FACES NY, as transitional housing for formerly incarcerated adults with AIDS PASSED 28-1-0-0.

#3 Resolution recommending a feasibility study of development options for 207th St. MTA Train Yard & Shop PASSED unanimously (29 votes), following the acceptance of a friendly amendment by Mr. Simon in the 9th "whereas" clause.

Housing & Human Services Chair Cheryl Pahaham introduced a resolution supporting comprehensive housing reform which had been passed earlier in the month by the Executive Committee, rather than the Housing Committee, due to the cancellation of its November meeting earlier this month. The resolution reflects the recommendations of the community residents and community housing organizations, including Mirabal Sisters, Riverside Edgecombe Neighborhood Association, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation and Community Union of Washington Heights & Inwood, made at the housing forum held on October 20th, and presented to CB 12's elected officials. Ms. Pahaham felt it was important for the Board to support the wishes of the community. Mr. Simon stated that the resolution was important and should be supported, and offered several friendly amendments which were accepted. The resolution passed unanimously (25 votes).

Health & Environment Chair Steve Simon introduced a resolution calling for the inclusion of Washington Heights/Inwood in the City's next expansion of the street corner public space recycling program. The resolution received all 23 votes cast, but a quorum is 24; it was not realized until the final tally that there was no quorum; therefore the motion did not carry.

A quorum having been lost, the meeting disbanded at approximately 10:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kotie Cannon, edited by Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

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