

MINUTES OF HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

October 5, 2006

Committee Members Present

Julio Rodriguez, Chair,
Kotie Cannon, Assistant Chair
Jay Mazur
Edith Prentiss
Eduardo Hoepelman

Comm. Members Absent

Glenda Swanson Massa (esc.)

Board Members Attending

Guests: Project Renewal – Ricco Cox and Renee Williams, Resident – Anthony Parson

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Meeting Convened at 7:20PM. Opening remarks Julio Rodriguez, Chair - he indicated that in a letter from Martin Collins and himself, HPD Commissioner Donovan, was requested to provide someone to attend one of our meetings and explain the TIL program. The Director of TIL responded and will come to our next meeting when we confirm the date.

Our last meeting was held jointly with Public Safety in order to take up the idea of a network of surveillance cameras in select neighborhoods. After discussion, the H&HR committee decided it does not want to take on this project at this time although it has interesting possibilities.

The Chair opened the floor for a presentation of an application for an IRA at 974 St. Nicholas. The presenting party was not present and no action was taken.

The presenter for the Lawyers Alliance of NY was not present and the Chair moved to the next agenda item.

Following last months meeting in which the H&HR committee was asked for opinion regarding the alleged murder of a local man by a resident of the Armory shelter, the committee came to consensus that the shelter should be moved from its present location. Today, the chair presented a draft resolution reflecting that sentiment to the committee for discussion. He referred to the fact that a second murder, allegedly by two residents of the shelter, took place after the first incident and he reported on a meeting held at the shelter by the Department of Homeless Services regarding the types of individuals housed and about shelter operations.

During the discussion that followed, the clinical Director of the Ft. Washington Shelter Ricco Cox, and Ms Renee Williams, also of the shelter staff, commented and responded to questions from committee members. Regarding a question about regular written reports and data, Mr. Ricco stated that he would try to get copies of those reports for the committee. He added that the Dept. of Mental Health & Mental Hygiene and the Dept. of Homeless Services visit the Armory regularly to audit and inspect.

Kotie Canon moved that the committee accept the draft resolution prepared by Julio with the modifications suggested by the members; Edith Prentice seconded the motion which passed as follows:

	Yes	No	Abstain
Committee Members	5	0	0
Board Members	0	0	0
Public	0	0	1

The committee voted to make the 2nd Wednesday of the month the regular day for committee meetings.

As follow-up to the "Teach In" on available housing rehab programs in CB12 agreed to last month, Julio Rodriguez presented an initial project description. The consensus was that the date should tentatively be January 20, 2007

The committee then discussed the Expense and Capital Rankings to be suggested by the committee. The results of that discussion and the averaging of the individual committee member rankings is as follow:

1. Increase funding for Code Enforcement & Litigation.
2. Provide funding for Anti-Eviction & SRO legal services in CB12.
3. Increase funding for Dept. of Buildings Inspector's.
4. Increase funding for Domestic Violence programs in CB12.
5. Increase funding for Housing court Info services.
6. Increase funding for Community Consultant & Neighborhood Preservation Consultant Programs.
7. Fund for employment training programs for Public Assistance recipients
8. Maintain Landlord Training Program

Capital Ranking

1. Provide funding for affordable housing by community standards
2. Increase funds for preservation & rehabilitation of occupied & vacant homes & multi-family housing.

A letter arrived re: 561 W. 186th St and 478 W. 158th St. showing vacate orders due to damage caused by fire. The committee wonders where the people are and what is expected. Edith will gather more information.

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kotie Cannon, Assistant, Chair, H&HR Comm.

Land Use Committee - Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2006

Committee Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair
Isaiah Bing
Ruddy Santana
Aaron Scott

Committee Members Absent

Dora Maria Abreu
James Berlin

Board Members Present

Adam Eggers
Pamela Palanque North
Aidee Camacho
Kotie Cannon
Joyce Faison

Guests: Yeshiva University Reps – Jeff Rosengarten, Robert Salpeter, Joe Shattoff, Georgia Pollak, H.O.K. Architect – David Scheck, Resident – Charles P. Rainfor, Property Owner – Albert Fredericks (Kramer Levin, Project Renewal – Clifton Hill and Rob Jones, Production TV – Kelvin Rivera, MBPO Land Use Intern Samelys Lopez (NYU Wagner), Ethan Cohen, Rex Curry – City College Architecture Center

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM. Land Use Chair, Wayne Benjamin, provided an overview of the evening's agenda and introduced Samelys Lopez who is the planning intern assigned to Community Board 12 by the Office of the Manhattan Borough President for the 2006 / 2007 academic semester. Ms. Lopez is a graduate student at NYU's Wagner School. She worked in the office of State Senator Serrano (former City Councilman) where she learned about the work of community boards and became interested in urban planning.

2. The Land Use Committee ("LU" or the "Committee") held a public hearing to consider the application submitted to the Board of Standards and Appeals ("BSA") by Yeshiva University ("YU") seeking various zoning variances in order to facilitate the construction of a new university building – The Glueck Center for Jewish Studies (the "Project") (acting application no.: 104478815). Representatives of YU and the architecture firm Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum ("HOK") made a presentation to the Committee concerning the Project and the zoning variances requested under the BSA application. Jeff Rosengarten, YU began the presentation. Mr. Rosengarten indicated that the Project is the first new building YU has undertaken in 20 to 25 years. It is proposed to be constructed at a site located at West 185th Street (515 West 185th Street), west of Amsterdam Avenue (the "Site"), adjacent to YU's Gottesman Library (the "Library"). The Site is currently used by YU as parking lot. The design of the proposed non-complying building is a 52,000 square foot, six-story structure that covers most to the Site. A complying, as-of-right building would be one-to-three stories taller and would have smaller, less efficient floor-plates. David Scheck, HOK continued the presentation addressing the Project's architectural design. The Project create a new entry at the corner of West 185th Street and Amsterdam Avenue that will become the main entrance for both the Library and Project. The Project which will be linked to the Library on the ground floor, will contain a large two-story space (called a Beit Medrash) for group study that will accommodate approximately 600 students, class rooms, meeting rooms and offices. Al Frederick, Esq. discussed the zoning variances required to construct the non-complying building. The Committee was advised that both the building's use (community facility) and gross square footage are permitted under the Site's R7-2 zoning. However, since the Site is only 50 feet deep, half as deep as a typical NYC lot, full-compliance with zoning would force a building design that does not efficiently house the Jewish Studies program. Mr. Frederick advised the Committee that zoning variances are required with respect to lot coverage, rear-yard, and height and setback (sky-exposure plane) requirements. It was noted that YU also owns two small lots on Washington Terrace that are adjacent to the West 185th Street lot and that these lots were added to the Site to help with lot-coverage compliance (no structure will be build on these small lots, they become part of the Project's rear yard) but a variance is still required as the Project occupies approximately 3,200 square feet more of its lot than permitted by zoning. Zoning requires a 30 foot back yard which would require the building to set-back significantly once it reaches an elevation of 23

COMMUNITY BOARD 12 – GENERAL MEETING
Will be held on:
Tuesday, October 24, 2006 at 7:00 PM (Promptly!) at
Yeshiva University, Belfer Hall 2495 Amsterdam Avenue. (Near W. 184th St.)

- I. **Adoption of the Agenda / Adopción de la Agenda**
- II. **Adoption of the Minutes / Adopción de los Minutos**
- III. **Chair's Report / Informe de el Presidente:** Martin Collins, Chair
- IV. **District Manager's Report / Informe del Director del Distrito:** Charles Defino, District Manager
- V. **Announcement of the Nominating Committee**
- VI. **CBO Presentation by the YM&YWA of Washington Heights & Inwood**
- VII. **Borough President's Report**
- VIII. **Public Session / Sesión pública (3 minutes per person / 3 minutos por persona)**
- IX. **Elected Officials' Reports / Informe de Oficiales Electos (6 minutes / 6 minutos)**
Representatives of Elected Officials / Representantes de Oficiales Electos (3 minutes / 3 minutos)
- X. **Committee Reports / Informe de Comités:**
 1. **Land Use:** Wayne Benjamin, Chair
Resolution supporting Yeshiva University zoning variances to construct their Proposed Project at 515 West 185th Street
 2. **Housing & Human Services:** Julio Rodriguez, Chair
Resolution requesting closure of the Fort Washington Men's Shelter
 3. **Youth & Education:** Cleofis Sarete, Chair
Resolution supporting the construction of a new school at 200 Sherman Avenue
Resolution requesting that the New York Public Library provide the Inwood branch with six-day security guard coverage.
 4. **Economic Development:** Manny Velazquez, Chair
Resolution recommending SLA grant new On-Premises Liquor: 1) La Caridad Restaurant #3, 1004 St. Nicholas Avenue (West 160 St.)
Resolution recommending SLA grant license transfer of On-Premises Liquor to 2) Restaurant on Tenth (DBA: Ambaroom) 3795 Tenth Avenue (between W. 203-204 Street)
 5. **Traffic & Transportation:** Mark Levine, Chair
 6. **Concerns of the Aging:** Sybil R. Dodson-Lucas, Chair
 7. **Health & Environment:** Steve Simon, Chair
 8. **Public Safety:** Pamela Palanque North, Chair
 9. **Parks & Cultural Affairs/UMEZ Report:** Zead Ramadan, Chair
- XI. **New Business/ Adjournment – Asuntos Nuevos / La Suspensión**

ADDITIONAL RESOLUTIONS MAY BE PRESENTED AS PART OF THE AGENDA

Simulations Translation Available/Traducción Simultanea Disponible

A: Con Ed is talking to the City about waterfront access and other issues related to Sherman Creek plan, will meet with principals to deal with construction impact on schools and will work closely with police and other agencies to deal with security issues.

M. Martinez: Con Ed made a presentation to me showing the route going down Tenth Avenue. Concerned about the impact on traffic and about Con Ed upgrading its old power lines.

A: The proposed route always has been down Broadway to W. 204th St. and then over to Tenth Avenue and south to the substation site at Academy and W. 201st Sts.

Q: Who benefits from this project?

A: The key is reliability of Con Ed to deliver power. The transmission line and substation will serve Washington Heights-Inwood, the north and west Bronx.

Q: Can you put a green roof on the substation?

A: We're putting one on a similar substation in East Harlem, using design elements, no plants.

M. Martinez: Con Ed should release all information you have on health risks.

A: We have brochures on EMFs we can provide.

Q: When will the work take place?

A: The initial feedback from DOT is that the work would only be done during the day, but it might make sense to work around schools at night when they are not in session.

M. Collins: Preference should be given for hiring of local residents.

A: Our jobs primarily involve skilled trades and union members, but we can use job training programs sponsored by community-based organizations.

Q: What is the life span of the new cables?

A: 50 years.

Q: Will there be any impact on the "A" train station at W. 207th St.?

A: No.

H. Morik: The best route would be to go down Tenth Avenue.

A: There are a lot of utility lines already underneath Tenth Avenue. DOT told us we can't use it because of the street reconstruction project. They didn't want us to tear up a new street.

2. **Discussion of Budget Priorities** – The committee discussed its nine expense and two capital budget priorities. It was agreed that "Restore funding for Manhattan's only Lead-Safe House" would be the #1 expense budget priority and "Expedite construction of a new Sanitation garage for District 8M and relocate its trucks from the W. 215th garage" would be the #1 capital budget priority.

3. The mail was reviewed.

4. Next Meeting: November 1, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Simon

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING---OCTOBER 4, 2006

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT	BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Steve Simon (Chair)	Isaiah Bing (excused)	Martin Collins (Chair)
Beatrice Hall	Bracha Statman	George Espinal
Basilia Gomez		Jackie Rowe Adams
Helen Morik		Manny Velasquez
Matthew Chachere (Public Member)		

GUESTS: Councilmember Miguel Martinez; Rose Longo - Assemblyman Adriano Espaillat; Wendy Garcia - MBPO; Reps from Con Edison - James Mooney, Peter Chan, Sophia Garcia, Fernando Perez, Mike Watkins; Dyckman Houses tenants - William Riddick, Bessie Robinson, Mary Ellen Fries, Fannie Maple, Novelletta Wilson; Park Terrace East residents - Rick McClintic, Osi Kaminer, Gail Mack, Mary Richman; Post Avenue residents - Margaret Woolery, Shirley Diaz-Albertini; Warren Towns, Cumming St.; Columbia University - William Ebner, Vicente J. Villalba; Joe Asosto; Otto Pena, Manager-Wireless; Brian Fenton, 218th St.; Jon Levy, W. 207th St.; Michelle Arellano, Gustavo Ramirez, Viera Miller - Nagle Ave.; Manhattan Times - Elissa Strauss.

M. Collins, CB 12 chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. This meeting was held at the office of the Audubon Partnership for Economic Development, 513 W. 207th St.

S. Simon, committee chair, arrived a few minutes later. He pointed out that Con Ed's application is pending before the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC), which will be holding a public hearing in the community on Oct. 17 at New York-Presbyterian Hospital's Milstein Building. A copy of the application is available at the Inwood branch library and at the CB 12 office. CB 12 sent a letter to Con Ed with more than 30 questions about the project. He asked the members of the public to voice their questions and concerns so they can be included in the ongoing discussions about the project.

1. Presentation on Con Edison's Proposed Construction of a Transmission Line and Substation in Inwood - David Gmach, Director, Manhattan Public Affairs, Con Edison described the proposed project using display boards and an illustrated handout. He stated that the plan is to have the new transmission line in place by summer 2009. He also said the plan is being amended so that the line will not cross through property owned by Time Warner at W. 220th St. (avoiding the problem with contaminated soil cited by that company at Public Service Commission proceedings).

Q: Can't you use Tenth Avenue instead of Broadway?

A: It's not feasible at this time. The current Tenth Avenue reconstruction project is due to be completed in June 2007. Both projects would have to be redesigned.

Q: What will be the impact of the new substation on P.S. 5?

A: The school is on the other side of Sherman Creek, a distance of a few blocks from the substation. We will coordinate the construction with the school and have reached out to the principal. The substation will not produce any fumes; nothing is being burned.

Q: Will this project cause additional asthma cases in the community?

A: No.

Q: How many lanes of traffic will be affected by the excavation work?

A: Generally only the parking lane.

Q: Will any compensation be provided to businesses affected by the work?

A: No.

Q: How long will the excavation work in Inwood take?

A: About 6 months. About 200 feet or ¼ of a block will be dug up at a time. The trenches will be three feet deep.

Q: What will be the effect from electro-magnetic fields (EMFs)?

A: There should be none. There are no standards on health risks from EMFs. In addition, there is no residential development next door to the substation.

M. Collins: Con Ed should work with the City to develop its unused parcels along the waterfront as part of the Sherman Creek rezoning plan. Waterfront access is very important to the community. Also concerned about the noise impact on three schools near construction work and the need for 24-hour security at the substation.

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

OCTOBER 5, 2006

Committee Members Present

Jay Mazur, Chair
Beatrice Hall, Asst. Chair
Edith Prentiss

Committee Members Excused

Elizabeth Ritter
James Berlin

Board Members Present

Guests: Phyllis Smizaski Resident; John Kinney, Resident

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by the chair, Mark Levine. He cancelled agenda item #5 and added DOT's suggested list of streets for repaving in CB12.

Update on Con Edison's Substation Construction & The Traffic Implications:

The Health & Environment Committee held a public hearing in Inwood last night with Con Ed representatives present. The hearing was well attended by the Inwood Community. Con Ed intends to proceed with their current plans despite the number of objections that were heard from the affected community. The community was urged to come and speak at the public service commissioner hearing on, October 17, 2006.

Bus Stop at 4966 Broadway & West 207th Street:

Mrs. Geraghty called the Martin on 9/21/06 again wanting to know what CB12 had done about the street long bus stop at 4966 B'way. This bus stop is impacting their quality of life and the residents want this bus stop returned to original area.

Since, the MTA has not been responsive to CB12; it was suggested that we write to Assemblyman Adriano Espaillat and State Senator Eric Schneiderman and ask them to contact MTA about this distressing problem.

Ranking of Budget Priorities:

The committee ranked its capital and expense budget priorities. We added one new capital item (rehabilitate West 181st IND subway station).

DOT's list of streets that needs to be repaved:

B.Hall will work with Martin to priorities DOT's list and also add the additional streets to their list.

Increased Commercial Traffic on residential streets:

Residents complained of oversized trucks on residential streets all over CB12 and in particular 187th St. & Overlook Terrace and Riverside Dr. West. The community needs more & better enforcement from our two precincts because these commercial vehicles are adding more & more dangerous fumes to our already polluted air.

Community resident wants an update on the requested traffic study for 187th ST. & Overlook Terrace northbound to 190th ST & Ft. Washington Avenue.

The impact of film production on Parking:

It was suggested that the affected community be allowed to use alternating parking, since, same areas are used so frequently.

The committee will prepare a resolution for the, November 6, 2006, meeting to let the Mayor's film production office know what a hardship this puts on the affected neighborhoods.

The return of the Farmers Green Market to southern heights:

Vivian Ducat a Board member asked the committee for support to have the Green Market reinstated. She said that several locations had been suggested already, but she did not know if they would present traffic problems or if the suggested sites would be favorable to the vendors. After, more discussions Vivian was asked to try and get the new vendors that are operating in the Harlem area to come to West 155th Street between B'way & Riverside Dr. One of the new vendors has a much better variety of products (Spanish as well as the traditional).

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm. Respectfully submitted by: B. Hall

COMMITTEE FOR THE AGING MINUTES
October 10, 2006

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sybil R. Dodson-Lucas, Chair
Fern Hertzberg, Asst. Chair
Gloria Vanterpool

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Rita McKee
Nelson Rojas
Emilia Cardona

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Beatrice Hall

PUBLIC MEMBER

John Kinney

Guests: Leslie Foster-Isabella (Former Bd Member) Betty Lehmann-Isabella, Perry Loraine-Resident, Ethel Linder Stoll-Resident; Zamira Setaro-Con Edison, Monica Cohn-Jewish Community Council-Wash Hgts., Mitchell Staub -Metlife, Norma De Candido-Resident, Nicole Basso-Resident, Deborah Katznelson-YM&YWH, Ina White-Volunteers of America

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Meeting convened at 10:15m

Opening remarks by Sybil Dodson-Lucas, Chair.

- New regulations - SSI Recipients deductible set at 50% to pay for disability - up from 30%
- HRA info is now available from Website encourage library access to internet
- Volunteers of America – **Ina White**, Housing complex for primary services include social services, substance abuse, reconnecting to family, seniors in residence (560 W. 165th St.)
- YW-YWHA – **Deborah Katznelson**, Washington Heights & Inwood 54 Nagle Avenue NY, NY 10034 Available services include :
 - ❖ Senior Center, MOW, Project NOMME, social services, transportation, small home repairs
 - ❖ Looking at baby boomer generation and their options 40-65yrs old
 - ❖ Focus (end Oct-Nov) 8-10 people groups and questionnaires to plan programs. (Called "Ventures")
 - ❖ Limits of their catchment area are w. 181st St. to 218th St. Concert series starts Sunday Oct. 22, Jan Chapin. Senior center open on Sundays.
- MetLife – **Mitchell Stub**, MetLife long term care planning and products. Presentations will include outreach to Spanish speaking members of community. Committee chair invited him to return for long-term care discussion. Among questions raised for follow up were:
 - ❖ \$300,000 nest egg
 - ❖ NYS law changes
 - ❖ Protection of assets
 - ❖ Is policy transferable?
 - ❖ Longevity insurance
 - ❖ If you have it and drop it, then what?

For Future Discussion/Guests/Activities

Pooled Income Trust Fund – Attorney Nadya E. Rosen from Lenox Hill Neighborhood House invited Allen

Pavilion Screening Healthy Seniors in Inwood /Washington Heights October 12th.

Winter 2006/7 Availability of flu shots & locations to obtain them

Access-A-Ride: Responding to community complaints (speaker to be invited)

Borough President Scott Stringer hosts Transportation Conferences on 10-12-06 at Presbyterian

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am

Respectfully submitted by Sybil Dodson-Lucas with Fern Hertzberg

Project Renewal's representatives responded to the Captain's remarks by informing the Committee that they only get limited information about clients' pasts. They do know that the majority of their clients have mental illnesses and/or chemical dependency issues. Unfortunately, the Department of Homeless Services does not always supply the most detailed histories about their clients, especially regarding history of criminal offenses.

The 33rd Precinct is working to remove any shelter residents who are on probation or parole, complimenting Project Renewal for their assistance and cooperation in making a recent arrest.

Asst. DA J. Minanya forwarded the following report after the meeting:

34th Precinct 1) Regarding the homicide of Mr. Gerstle on Bennett Ave.: the case was adjourned for trial on October 5th, 2006. The next date is set for October the 19th, 2006. The defendant is of course remanded (no bail); and, 2) There are two defendants for another homicide. They were both indicted on 10/05/06 and are due to be arraigned in Supreme Court on November 1, 2006. The defendant that allegedly did the stabbing is being charged with Murder in the First and the second defendant is being charged with Murder in the Second. They have both been remanded as well.

33rd Prec.: The defendant in the homicide that took place in August on W. 169th Street was arraigned in Supreme Court this past Tues. 10/10/06. The next date is set for November 14, 2006. He is being charged with Murder in the Second Degree and is remanded.

At this point in the meeting a discussion arose about Surveillance Cameras. The Committee decided that any further discussions will be raised only when working with local crime prevention groups such as tenant associations or the land-lords task force. The land-lords task force was recently disbanded by the District Manager but there seems to be a demand for this group. The Committee Chair will follow up on this matter with the Board Chair and District Manager.

Concerns were raised about Project Renewal, criminal backgrounds and acts of residents. The Project Renewal representative informs that DHS closely regulates the facility. The question is brought up of whether DHS should exclude violent offenders. The Committee requests that DHS and Project Renewal both attend the next meeting in November for further discussion.

The Committee set the following schedule for future topics:

1. November --An Informational Meeting on the W.168th Street Men's Shelter.
 2. December-Presentation by the FD NY on fire prevention and fire safety during the holiday season.
 3. January-Presentation on Internet Safety as well as Internet predators (focus is on protecting youth and parent tips and insights).
 4. February-A session on illegal guns and gun violence, focusing on our community Illegal fireworks will also be discussed.
- Meeting adjourned by the Committee Chair at 9:30pm.

Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes October 4, 2006

Committee Member

Pamela Palanque North, Chair
Adam Eggers, Assistant Chair
Kotie Cannon
Julissa Gomez
Aidee Camacho

Committee Absentees

Andre Harris- Excused

Staff Attending

Charles DeFino, District Manager
Deborah Blow, Community Coordinator

Guests:

NYPD PO Haydee Pabey- 34th Precinct, Juanita W. Rier- Resident, Rob Jones- Project Renewal, Clifton Hill- PRI/Fort Washington, NYPD PO Alexandra Sanchez- 33rd Precinct, Assist. DA Joselinne Minaya

Meeting Called to Order at 7:07pm.

The meeting began with a public session in which representatives of Project Renewal had no statement.

34th Precinct - Halloween Safety

- Store owners should be warned and aware not to sell eggs or shaving cream to minors.
- Officers will speak to the children in schools regarding Halloween Safety.
- Youth Officers & specialized Units will be working hard on the days leading up to and including Halloween.

34th Precinct Report – Officer Pabey

- Arrests have been made in all shootings in the last 2-3 months except one, in which the name of the suspect is known.
- Vice Unit is targeting the Restaurant Bleu due to recent resident complaints.
- 34th Precinct Council Meeting is on October 25th, at 7:30pm

33rd Precinct Report – Captain Dowling

- An arrest was made of a homeless man for Gun Possession.
- There is one ongoing investigation on a homicide. 3 arrests have already been made in the homicide that occurred on 9-29 on W 160th Street
- There have been 2 gun arrests in the past week on 160th Street.
- 4 arrests have been made for the stealing of fire places from a home on Riverside Drive, based on a call from a resident.

Comp Stats:

- Rape rate has gone up. There have been 31 rapes for the year. Prior years had about 14-15 on average. 80% of the rapes involved statutory rape. None of the rapes were committed by strangers.
- Illegal gun possession has gone down overall 3% compared to the same 28 day period last year.
- Auto-theft is up compared to the same 28 day period last year.

The Precinct stated that the homeless shelter has been working well with CB12.

The Precinct has been working with the Department of Health to inspect street food vendors for possible violations.

The chair asked Captain Dowling if he thought that a resolution needed to be made by the committee regarding the shelter. The reply was that any time you have a group of people with a history of mental illness and chemical dependency; there will be problems but that the 33rd Precinct was able to deal with the issues.

PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES – October 3, 2006

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT
Zead Ramadan, Chair
Emilia Cardona
Vivian Ducat
Rafael Osoria
Aaron Scott

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Assistant Chair

STAFF ATTENDING
Jeffrey A. Laufer

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Martin Collins, Chair
Angelo Ortiz, 2nd Vice Chair
Edith Prentiss
Steve Simon

Guests: Drew Becker, NYRP; James Kushner, Rotary Club of Inwood; Flora Holderbaum, Rotary Club of Inwood; Joseph Sanchez; NYC Parks High Bridge Project; Obed Fulcar, Friends of Sherman Creek

Zead Ramadan welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7:15 pm.

1. NEW YORK RESTORATION PLAN

- ◆ The committee mentioned trucks driving in Fort Washington with the speed of 30-40 mph, where it should be 5 mph.
- ◆ Committee would like to work on Fort Washington's paths (redo) due to the fact that some are in wrong localities.
- ◆ The Committee is working with Americorps to create a horticultural program with the homeless.
- ◆ The Committee is also working with Botanic Garden. It is creating two Manhattan team, M-1 and M-2. The committee won't have to pull people off Highbridge Location for Fort Washington.
- ◆ Question arose in having a community garden, raising beds for disability access, using vegetable at the New Leaf Café. The question of interest cropped up.
- ◆ Agenda for deforestation: cleaning, greening, and reforestation (in managing forest). The Committee recommended that the Parks Department to have an actual plan (Enhance planning).

Joe Sanchez from Highbridge asked New York Restoration to work with his coalition that offers his services. The Committee will work with trail-blazing people in the Anne Loftus Playground in Fort Washington Highbridge.

Edith Prentiss mentioned that an ADA-compliant trail goes Highbridge itself. The Climb program is working there already.

Sherman Creek trail restoration- NY Restoration is involved in dealing with the flat chips for trail at Sherman Creek. Parks is doing the street ends and NYP is doing the cleanup.

Tony asked if Riverside Park and Fort Tryon Park will join NYP. Tony mentions more education is needed to have the park used correctly.

Zead asked if there is any contract already in place. He would like to give more programming money to Fort Washington Parks if the community requests it. Zead mentions how in the last six years Highbridge has seen a real turn around. Zead mentions that is 177th ST. people are living underneath tree beds; mentions that another organization is needed in helping with the parks.

Joe Sanchez asked if any plans for education programs. Sanchez would like to use the programs.

Zead mentions the fluid access at the 165th Street; all the routes are now dangerous. Zead invites NY State DOT to see what's happening with the ramp between 155th St and 158th St.

Edith Prentiss states that the Fort Tryon map with elevations and steps is very good. Prentiss asked if the committee can have that for other parks.

Zead asked if the RFP is reapplying for the New Leaf Café.

NYPR- Has three hundred thousand from grant, instead of doing air conditioning and redoing lower-floor bathrooms, will redo basement.

Tubby Hook beautification

Who controls it? How many years are left on the lease?

Farmer's Market

Zead mentions that the SE Park of the district is not well served. Zead states that a market in southern area ruled move possible: Rose side, Precinct, 170 Broadway and Fort Washington, Kinney Park (beside Chase Bank)? 166th St between St. Nicholas and Audubon (short block) *Steve Simon suggestion

Inside parking: Committee has set up meeting with Sandra Harris for next week.

CAPITAL PRIORITIES

- ◆ Committee asked for feasibility study on improving ADA compliant accessibility to Fort Washington Park. Committee asked Steve Simon why there are no curb cuts on the Green Streets; Green Streets are DOT property.
- ◆ Priorities J. Hood Park has been dropped. Buszek continued support. The Committee mentions that Gorman shouldn't be part of Buszek.
- ◆ The Committee found paperwork regarding budget priorities acceptable except it is Riverside Oval (not Riverside Drive Oval).