

**COMMUNITY BOARD 12, MANHATTAN
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 24, 2002**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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| Jacqueline Aristy | Luis Facundo |
| Anita Barberis | Ivelisse Fairchild |
| Rafael Beaumont | Venecia Fernandez |
| Abby Belkin | Leslie Foster |
| James Berlin | William A. Garcia |
| Emilia G. Cardona | Herbert Harwitt |
| Martin Collins | Joyce F. Holland |
| Mireya Cruz | Jose Lopez |
| Fredericka Cuenca | Elizabeth Lorris Ritter |
| Walther G. Delgado | Maria Luna |
| Sybil R. Dodson | Benjamin Mantell |
| Rafael Escaño | Renato Mena |

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Nelson Castro
Nelson Gomez
Beatrice Hall (Excused)
Norma Nadien (Excused)
Marcos Navarro
Julio Peguero
Milagros Vicente
Elouise Whitehurst (Excused)

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The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. The Chair reminded the public who wished to speak to sign up. Once quorum was attained, motions to adopt the agenda and the minutes were passed

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT: Gregoria Feliciano

Highlights from the written report: Borough Consultations for several agencies took place over the summer. Spoke of capital and expense items. Additional consultations will take place on October 10th. Budget Priorities hearing will be held at the Board office (711 W. 168th St.) on October 15th.

The new Lilly Brown Playground on Riverside Drive and W. 163rd Street has been dedicated. Gorman Park on Wadsworth Terrace is operational. The step street on 181st Street is safe to use. It has not been completed. The only thing left to do is the landscaping. Ms. Jeanlee Poggi of the W. 181st Street Beautification Project will keep a careful watch on it as it progresses. DOT's Safety City will open on October 2nd at 11:00 AM.

Crime numbers are about the same but burglaries and muggings are up. There has been an increase of theft at the hospital – unattended property. The log of complaints shows that the number of open hydrant complaints went down from 215 last year to 40 this year.

A newsletter for the Board has been created. It will come out quarterly and will get information out to the community. Mr. Miguel Reyes, Community Service Aide, edited the letter.

Captain Capul, Executive Officer, 33rd Precinct introduced himself. The Precinct Council meeting will take place tomorrow 9/25 at 7:30 PM.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Zead Ramadan

Budget Consultations – described the process. You have 30 minutes to make your presentation. There are 7 in a row. You meet with the heads of the departments/agencies and try to convince them to meet the community's needs.

PUBLIC SESSION

Robert Townley - Community Resident – residents are being issued tickets on Haven Avenue for parking on bike lane on Mondays and Thursdays. He will speak to the Transportation Committee.

Sheila Milner – Community Resident – Wants Mobile Instructional Unit sign removed as it is obsolete and wastes parking spaces at 689 Ft. Washington Avenue. Same with driveway at the old St. Elizabeth's Hospital at 700 Ft. Washington Avenue.

Michael Alvarez – New York Public Library – beginning October 7th different libraries will be closed 1 day a week except Saturday. Inwood not affected because it is the regional branch for this district.

Q: Does the fact that it's a regional library mean that it is most used?

Response: It has the most resources and is most heavily utilized.

Interrupted the public session to introduce Manhattan Borough President, C. Virginia Fields for the installation of officers of the Board. She introduced State Senator Eric Schneiderman. She reminded the Board that she started in politics as a board member in Community Board 10 which she later chaired. We, the members, are fortunate and important. She introduced Councilman Miguel Martinez. She encouraged us to be as active as possible so as to make our community stronger. We, the members of the Board, are the infrastructure – we represent and are the voice of the people. We are a strong building. Reminded us that we have Carlos Rodriguez who is her representative to our Board and will communicate all and any concerns to her. Plus we can always call her office.

The officers were installed then the chair on his own. He has been elected to speak and represent us at all times. She reiterated the need to support the officers and the Chair in particular.

The new Chair thanked all. He is honored to have been chosen and asked that we work together. He congratulated the State Senator on winning the primary and the Councilman.

PUBLIC OFFICIAL'S REPORT

State Senator Eric Schneiderman – You have many challenges ahead. He will work closely with Chair and Board. Things are bad in Albany. There is no money as in the past. We must make sure the budget gap isn't closed by reduction of services to those that need. There is a lot of frustration taking place and a lack of fair share of services: transportation, housing, sanitation, etc.

Councilman Miguel Martinez – Congratulated the new officers of the Board. The budget negotiations included increases in parking fines. He pointed out to the Department of Transportation the need for parking in this community. He did a study on angle parking. Public parking can be increased on both sides of 175th Street from Wadsworth to Amsterdam, one side on 170th St. from St. Nicholas to Audubon, and one side on 173rd Street from Wadsworth to Amsterdam. He created an advisory committee. The main problem is quality of life.

The Deputy Mayor for Economic Development has proposals from three finalists. The proposal is to develop a parking facility on W. 184th Street and Broadway. Of the three finalists two are local developers. The third, though not from the community, would work through one of the local community based organizations. This is good since it means more jobs for the community. The only developer right now is either Columbia or the hospital.

Question: What's the name of the CBO involved in the project?

Response: the Audubon Partnership. The finalist will be chosen by the end of the month.

The 33rd Precinct is working with Superintendent Izquierdo to get funds to convert the old precinct into a mini school. They need a Certificate of Occupancy. The company that owns the building donated it to the school district.

Question: How will movement of money from Housing to other priorities affect us and our priorities?

Response: It has a major affect on us. It is being discussed in the Land Use and Housing Committees in joint sessions.

Question: Why don't we have audible vehicle alarm permit to generate funds for the City? People could pay a yearly fee

The Councilman went on record to say he does not support cuts to education and services but does support increasing fines for double parking.

Suggestion from Board Member: the fines should be restructured for communities above 96th Street.

The Councilman responded that the City Council discussed this issue. It is assumed that there will not be aggressive action taken.

Question: what happened to the money for a school at Amsterdam Avenue?

Response: It was it pulled and left for Queens.

The Chair apologized for not acknowledging former Chairs Delgado, Garcia and Dodson.

Assemblyman Adriano Espaillat – acknowledged the new board. He spoke about some of the accomplishments made at the assembly level: more money for teachers in NYC, regular tuition for undocumented students at SUNY/CUNY. In the next session they have to work on the Rockefeller Law and taxes. With regard to public safety, he asked the Commissioner to visit here to address the slippage that has taken place. The community, the board, the council, the church, and community based organizations must make our voices heard. 80% of first graduating class from George Washington High School received regents endorsed diplomas. With regard to Rent law – we need to help our people from getting evicted without a cause. Rents are out of control in our community. Apartments are going for \$800+ on Audubon Avenue.

Returned to Public Session

Lynn Opinante, New York Public Library – the libraries are offering ESL classes.

Marianna DePaola – Community Resident – read an article about the history of Hamilton Grange. She reflected on the way the history of our different communities is being changed.

Ivelisse Fairchild – Ivy League – new program – computer center at the Community League of W. 159th Street.

Judith Rodriguez, New York Public Library – Inwood Computer classes – 10 to 2:30. ESL also 6 to 8 T/H

Carlos Rodriguez, Manhattan Borough President's Office – Community meeting regarding Malcolm X Museum. Zead Ramadan attended.

Ivelisse Fairchild, Chair, Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee – In November, the Parks and Transportation Committees will meet together.

Maria Luna: proposed resolution – bring suggestions to meeting October 9th.

Zead Ramadan: wants the board to be involved in selection of proposals. If not, then we should be told/introduced to person selected.

Wednesday, October 2nd at 11:00 AM is the opening of the Safety City program at West 158th Street.

Budget Consultations should be attended by all.

Respectfully submitted by:

Emilia G. Cardona, Asst. Secretary