

**Community Board 12, Manhattan
General Meeting Minutes - September 23, 2003**

Members Present:

Mason Almeida
Jacqueline Aristy
Anita Barberis
Cleofis Sarete-Cabral
Aidee Camacho
Kotie Cannon
Emila G. Cardona
Nelson Castro
Martin Collins
Mireya Cruz

Walther G. Delgado
Sybil R. Dodson
Rafael Escano
Luis Facundo
Peter Ferrara
Leslie Foster
Beatrice Hall
Joyce F. Holland
Mark Levine
Jose Lopez

Maria Luna
Jay D. Mazur
Benjamin Mantell
Renato Mena
Kirk Miller
Helen Morik
Dr. Pamela Palanque North
Julio Peguero
Zead Ramadan
Barbara Smith Ramos

Julio Rodriguez
Nelson Rojas
Rose M. Santo
Steve Simon
Socrates S. Solano
Dago Suarez
Glenda Swanson-Massa
Bienvenido Toribio
Milagros Vicente
Sandra Wachspress
Homer Young-Kennedy, III

Members Absent:

Wayne Benjamin (Excused)
James Berlin (Excused)
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter (Excused)
Ron Peterson
Juan F. Sanchez
Gloria Vanterpool
Msgr. Gerald Walsh
Elouise Whitehurst

Call to order at 7:25pm. Chair amended Agenda, moving the District Manager's report to Item 3, and placing the Parks' resolution before Traffic & Transportation's resolutions. Motion by Steve Simon to adopt the amended agenda was seconded by Sybil Dodson and passed unanimously. Motion by Ben Mantell to adopt June minutes was seconded by Glenda Swanson-Massa and passed unanimously. Motion by Rose Santo to adopt July Committee of the Whole minutes was seconded by Bienvenido Toribio and passed unanimously.

District Manager's Report, Gregoria Feliciano:

- DOT installed delineators on Riverside Drive at Henry Hudson Parkway entrance without input from CB#12. Many complaints from residents. DOT to report findings of 3-month study to Traffic & Transportation Committee's October '03 meeting.
- Open fire hydrants during summer a safety issue. Toured problem hydrants with DEP representatives, who agreed to develop an intensive educational campaign before next summer. Also 40 sprinkler caps to be stored at Board Office for more immediate action to open hydrants.
- Dept. of Consumer Affairs business multi-lingual education and outreach targeted Washington Heights. Plan to schedule Inwood.
- Mobile food vendors: multi-agency task force effort to insure compliance with codes. Random inspections uncovered serious health violations.
- DEP inspection of car wash on Broadway & Cumming St. found violations, which will be monitored. Other car wash places on agenda for inspection.
- Budget consultation with nine city agencies completed.
- DOT requesting a bus shelter on the NE corner of Ft. Washington Ave. & W. 168th St. in front of the Armory. T&T and Aging Committees advised.
- Review our Guidelines for Street Activity Permits.
- Mike Ryan, Sanitation Dept. Superintendent (212 567-4600)—Increased basket service 11-7pm. Problem of household garbage in baskets. Need to educate residential/commercial where garbage should be placed. 11,000 summonses issued last year in NYC. Area around NYP Hospital on Ft. Washington Ave. has basket truck pickup M, W, F and truck pickup T, Th, Sat. Issue discussed with Commissioner Doherty at Borough Consultations. Containers filled with commercial debris should be removed when full – summons issued if not removed timely. Containers get to be 'catch basin' for residential garbage. Advise him of any illegal dumping and problem areas.

Chair's Report, Zead Ramadan:

- Expressed condolences to Liz Ritter on the passing of her grandmother and attended the wake on Sunday on behalf of the Board.
 - Jump-started the lapsed job-training program promised by Columbia University when it built the Audubon Ballroom research building in 1990s. Eligible students from Washington Heights and Inwood will be considered for 12 training slots annually. The program provides stipends to enable students to take 1,000 hours training lab technicians and other health-related careers. CUNY administers the stipends from \$609k in PILOT (payments in lieu of sales taxes) funds. Upon graduation, potential job placement at Columbia and/or NYPHospital. S. Simon integral to re-activating this program and will stay on top of it.
 - Sherman Creek Task Force – Stakeholders meeting in late October-still in discovery stage. Requested that a presentation of results be made to the full Board. Our vision touched on many of the items spelled out in the Audubon Partnership study, including waterfront access, home ownership, affordable housing, a school, and commercial and professional office space.
 - Borough Budget Consultations – OMB gave our Board high marks on being well prepared in our advocacy efforts on behalf of our community. Chair thanked all the board members who participated in this 5-hour marathon. NYPD hamstrung by budget cuts re: more officers for CB#12.
 - Budget Priorities – In October we will rank them as a Board. Sherman Creek should be given a top priority as it offers so much for our community.
 - Comment made re all processes conducted by the Board: follow our By-Laws and City Charter and they will be transparent to all Board members.
 - Congratulated B. Mantell on his new position with the Queens County District Attorney's office, but this will be his last meeting with us.
- S. Dodson requested we send DSNY Commissioner Doherty our thanks, as he was the only Commissioner in attendance at the Consultations. Chair also suggested that we thank the Mormon Church for permitting us to hold a hearing with DOT on its premises.

Public Session:

Edith Prentiss: Ensure that during track season at the Armory the buses have a place to park without impacting the community. Ramp is not accessible. Issue with businesses taking over sidewalks not permitting pedestrians to pass. New floor of bakery on 181st St. is two inches higher than sidewalk.

George Espinal: Two events at Ft. Tryon Park – Avon Walk for Breast Cancer and The Medieval Festival. Saw men engaging in sexual activities; this is pervasive throughout the park. NYPD must get involved in helping to solve this problem.

Amy Horowitz & Rafael Inglasias, Phoenix House: Substance Abuse Program serves kids 12-20 who are using drugs. After-school program. Various agencies refer candidates. (212-831-1555)

Rebecca Stevenson, Lead-Safe House Health Fair: Programs available in northern Manhattan regarding immigration, individual tax assistance, uncontested divorces. Linked with Lehman College. (212-543-0260 x201)

Emilio Lopez, Mgr., Highbridge Recreation Center: Open to public, noon-9:45pm. Year-round programs include aerobics, soccer, volleyball, basketball, pool and ping-pong. Improved game and dance rooms. Computer resource room and special needs programs. Halloween party 10/30. (212-927-2012)

Ian Wiesner, Accion NY: Not-for-profit organization providing micro loans to small businesses with no access to traditional sources of credit. \$500-\$50,000 with term of 3-60 months and annual interest rate of 11-16%. Located at 115 East 23rd St. with more than 12 years experience. (212-387-0377)

Jane Bolster & Mary Weir, Uptown Treasures: Celebrate Uptown Treasures event, Sun, Oct. 26th, 11am-5pm. Consortium of nine institutions (Cloisters, Dyckman Farmhouse, Morris-Jumel Mansion, American Academy of Arts & Letters, Hispanic Society, etc.) Free shuttle buses at Audubon Terrace. Geared to families. End with special concert at 4pm at Hebrew Tabernacle. (212-696-7995)

Judith Rodriguez, NY Public Library: Invitation to "What you should know about Lupus" talk on Sat.-Nov. 15 at 1:30pm at Inwood Branch.

Jose Ortiz & Ann Webster, Cloisters/Ellen Epstein, Vollmer Assoc.: Improving access to museum and making it comply with ADA. Landmarks Preservation Commission will review end of October. Create a pedestrian ramp conforming to ADA, utilizing lower drive. Modify cobblestones with new version easier to traverse, achieving flush grading and eliminating some curves. Upper drive for vehicular traffic. Improve the bus island shelter. Preserve landscape.

S. Dodson: What will you do with the cobblestones you remove, as we would like to keep them for use in our community? Include in resolution. Milagros Vicente: How many handicapped parking spaces? Two. Access to the museum? Plans include an elevator later. Timetable? Not clear, as Cloisters must seek funding after Landmarks approval.

Jane Jackson, NY Restoration Project: - Swindler Cove Park on Harlem River at the east end of Dyckman is now open. Five acres of gardens, salt marsh, waterfront access. Open to the public during daylight hours. (212-333-2552)

Helen Morik, NYP Hospital: US News & World Report magazine named hospital to honor roll as #11 nationally, the only hospital in NY. Handed out latest stats for both NYP campuses. Career Information Day based on opening of Children's Hospital drew more than 1,000. Free mammogram for uninsured women on Oct. 4 8am-3:30pm.

Nicole Smith, Partnership for Parks: Annual "It's My Park!" Day on Oct. 18. Volunteer projects have been organized for Ft. Tryon & Inwood Parks and Pinehurst/181st Street steps. (212-408-0230)

Public Officials Reports:

Councilman Miguel Martinez:

- Sherman Creek Task Force has only one member of the Board and that is not equitable representation. Should include merchants, schools and district community members. We should share our vision and needs with the city agencies and not vice-versa.
- Traffic congestion along 181st Street and also the crosswalk at 177th Street & Broadway should be studied.
- Compare number of street activity permits with those in other communities before limiting those in our community.
- Power of the Community Board is in its diversity. Concerned about adequate representation on the Board. Councilman was queried as to what he considered adequate representation and whether he was advocating quotas. Responded that Board leadership does not reflect a community that is 70% Latino and denied advocating quotas.

Response from Chair: 1) The standard criteria for leadership positions is attendance. 50% of last year's 34 Board members did not qualify. Leaders meeting the criteria were offered positions, which some rejected. No political deals to negotiate leaders. Advocates for the community are part of these appointments. 2) All of the stakeholders in Sherman Creek will be invited to meeting on October 27th. The task force is in discovery phase, i.e. researching who owns property. Discussion ensued concerning how the CB12 representative was chosen for task force, which was by invitation.

State Senator Eric Schneiderman:

- Sherman Creek is a valuable piece of real estate, the profit margin is so extreme. Requisite is active intervention by the community and the elected officials to ensure our vision.
- Major fiscal crises in state and city and no help from Washington. 90% of the things started not completed, for example reform of the Rockefeller drug laws, insurance parity for mental health patients, raising minimum wage.
- At the Federal level, Congress taking brakes off the gun industry. Introducing a bill to get State Legislature to impose a Code of Conduct on gun industry so manufacturers can be held accountable for improper sale of weapons.
- Freedom Ride in support of rights of immigrants – October 4 in Flushing Meadows. Sept. 27 March.
- Fair share of school funding in NYC from the state – reaching out to businesses.

Miosotis Muñoz for Congressman Charles Rangel: The Congressman thanks you for the well wishes while he is recuperating from surgery. He is co-chair of Immigrant march and has buses available.

Carlos Rodriguez for Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields:

- Sponsored a transportation study of 181st Street on a grant
- Power Parent Conference on Saturday, Nov. 1 at LaGuardia High School behind Lincoln Center
- Opened a Parent Resource Center at 125th St. with bilingual information
- Let's work together concerning Sherman Creek

Committee Reports:

Parks & Cultural Affairs, Dago Suarez, Asst. Chair: Introduced resolution in support of planned work at the Cloisters to comply with ADA. Amended resolution to include accommodation of seniors and retention of cobblestones for use elsewhere in the community. Passed unanimously (37-0-0-0).

Traffic & Transportation, Kirk Miller, Chair: Introduced two resolutions to add names to streets as follows:

- adding "Jimmy McAlary Way" to the southwest corner of West 215th Street & Park Terrace West. Passed 35-1-0-0.
- adding "Florence & Herbert Irving Way" to Ft. Washington Avenue from the north side of 165th Street to the south side of 168th Street. Passed 30-1-4-1. S. Simon raised concerns about NYPH's failure to provide adequate response to board's resolution of last December concerning future status of Ambulatory Care Network services and commitments made to community. H. Morik intends to present letter to board tonight. S. Simon said he would abstain since he has not yet seen the letter.

Hot spots to look at: Henshaw & Riverside Drive; 181st Street; car washes utilizing traffic lanes.

Aging, Glenda Swanson-Massa, Chair: Reviewed bus shelter being requested at NE corner of 168th Street & Ft. Washington Ave., in front of Armory.

Health & Environment, Steve Simon, Chair: Had Lupus presentation and update on state of midwives at NYPH. Next meeting, 10/8: representatives from Healthy Neighborhood Program and Columbia Dental Care Network. Will review supporting legislation for 6-day pickup of waste baskets, additional fines for residential or commercial garbage in these waste baskets.

Housing & Human Services, Beatrice Hall, Chair: Next meeting, 10/2: Volunteers of America to give update on building at 165th Street & Broadway. Update from Deputy Commissioner of Administration for Children's Services.

Youth & Education, Sandra Wachspress, Chair: Next meeting, 10/1: New Parent Coordinators in schools, update from school district and libraries. Correction in minutes: "Caring PROGRAM, not pregnant."

Public Safety, Dr. Pamela Palanque-North, Chair: Next meeting, 10/1: will have commanders of 33 & 34 Police Precincts. Will address the 168th Street Shelter. Many people living in the subways. Proposal from the Office of Emergency Management to certify 20-30 folks in emergency preparedness. It entails 20 hours of training using FEMA curriculum, similar to the Red Cross.

Economic Development, Martin Collins, Chair: Sunday, Nov. 23- Artists Day. Update on 184th Street garage, now costing \$12.6 million, up from \$9.3 million. Majority of construction jobs will be union. Utilities not turned off at site, has hamstrung soil remediation, which has deferred the closing.

Announcements:

- Dominican Symphony Orchestra will perform at Lincoln Center Friday, Oct. 3.
- General Board meeting will be at the Y on Nagle Avenue.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38pm

Respectfully submitted: Anita Barberis

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 8, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT	CB 12 MEMBERS ATTENDING
Kirk Miller, Chair Aidee Camacho, Asst. chair James Berlin Joyce F. Holland Dago Suarez	Anita Barberis, excused Walther G. Delgado	Helen Morik

Zead Ramadan, Chairman
Gregoria Feliciano, District Manager
Deborah Blow, Community Assistant

GUESTS

Daniel Warren, Project Manager-Baker Engineering NY, & Reps, Al Jablowsky,, Dept.of Design & Construction, HowSheen Pan, DDC, Mini Thomas, NYC DDC, Arvind Patez, DDC, Carlyle Cole, DDC, Barb Morgenbesser, NYCDOT Capital Planning, Mona Isleander, Columbia University, Mike Fitelson-Manhattan Times, Phyllis Smizaski-Resident, McAlary Family – John, James & Bryan, Jimmy Jurado, Resident-RSD, Eric Bruno, HOP Coordinator-NYPH Dept Psych, Addis Alem Teguegne, Resident-RSD

Meeting commenced at 7:10pm, Chairman Kirk Miller greets guests and introduces new board members on the committee.
Order of agenda changed, to accommodate guests.

Mr. Warren, Project Manager and representatives provided a 20minute presentation of **Project HWM1157 Reconstruction of 10th Avenue** from W. 206th Street to W. 218th St. (1st design update). Representative from the NYC Department of Design & Construction expressed the purpose to improve ride ability concurrence on geometric features curbs, drainage, sidewalk and ridership; (207th St. and W. 218thst.-principle locations chief improvement – W. 225th St. accidents over 3 years attributed to subways support columns)

Recommendations:

- Improve safety
- Capacity improvement
- Design (other proposals, lighting, by 2 segments 3 blocks, pipeline, water main, sewage replacement upgrading traffic signals.

Daniel Warren reviewed design/map to illustrate design sketch roadways W. 207th St. to W. 218th St. & 10th Avenues, narrow lanes, columns, sidewalks; asphalt composite pavement to replace cobblestone

No (L) turn on W. 207th St. – restriction placed, (L) on Isham Street to eliminate congestion, ® turn lane on W. 2007th St. Parking on both sides of 10th Avenues. Clears intersections, aids traffic flow to be smoother

10th Ave. at W. 218th St. Signals phased out (2nd step process) 10th Ave. gets flashing light and one green light at W. 218th St. 3rd phase (S) Broadway and (N) 10th Avenues traffic – alleviates side swiping limiting (L) turn at W. 218th St. to 10th Avenues. W. 225th with Mall Creation

other proposals see

W. 207th St. will be restricted during holiday for new proposals. Mr. Warren thanked the board for the presentation, and DOT has no space for cobblestone, Mr. Warren will follow-up with DOT.

Al Jabowsky stated DOT concurred with DDC for preliminary design.

Bd member Dago Suarez spoke about carefully assessing 10th Avenue. Bus Depot (northbound)

Daniel Warren referred to the topography of 10th Avenue and W. 218th St. – travel is not as heavy as other areas. He clarified that Broadway will be two lanes going north.

(L) on Isham is good – 35 cars per hour were assessed according to Mr. Warren. A. Camacho added to Helen Morik's statement how the diversion compromises the safety on school children and creates a new feed for speeding on Park Terrace West and Seaman Avenue. Ms. Holland, Board member stated DDC should consider a tour with the board to identify and review trouble spots.

Chairman Kirk Miller asks if there are any questions for the Board. Kirk Miller stressed and cautioned DDC that the community be accessible to the community and not a thruway for non residents. Kirk Miller stated we are not happy with the design. HowSheen Pan, DDC acknowledged she is chief engineer and comments can be forwarded to her.

Ms. Morik, of New York Presbyterian spoke on behalf of Herbert & Florence Irving's contribution and major gifts to research projects and patient care in the 1980's. Her recommendation to consider their names to be added at W. 166th St. to 168th & Ft. Washington location as a commemoration for the Oncology Center which operates from the 10th –13th floor was remodeled with a donation of 85 million dollars, all private/clinic patients are seen at one facility. Committee voted in favor of

	In Favor	Opposed
Committee Members	5	0
Board Members:	1	0
Members of the Public:	16	0

Another resolution was brought to the floor by the McAlary Family, representative John McAlary the brother of the late Jimmy McAlary whose life was lost September 11th at the World Trade Center. In his memory the family requested the board to consider adding his name to the location where he and his family once resided, 45 Park Terrace West at W. 215th St., at the intersection instead of Seaman Avenue & Isham Street which was their original request. Board member Berlin requested that a biography be submitted, to acquaint the committee with some background. It was voted that "Jimmy McAlary Way" would be recognized instead of "Jimmy McAlary Place".

	In Favor	Opposed
Committee Members	5	0
Board Members:	1	0
Members of the Public:	16	0

The committee's next guest was Eric Bruno, Dept of Health & Mental Hygiene, 4588 Broadway (W. 196th Street & Broadway) requests four parking spaces to accommodate patients.

The committee tabled the issue until further information is given to Ms. Blow, liaison to the committee and then forwarded to board for review.

Addis-Alem Teguegne, raised concerns of pedestrian safety. Resident of 1781 Riverside Drive discussed the traffic reconfiguration instituted in June 2003 at Henshaw & Staff Streets in front of 1793 Riverside Dr., north border of Cloisters, northbound side – exit leading to Riverside Drive.

Response: Dago Suarez will meet with residents to seek a solution to the accident problems and DOT to provide full disclosure of impact study at October's meeting.

Based on Capital & Expense Priorities, Committee voted on the following Budget Proposed Priorities 1) Broadway 10/3 -- 2)Subway 7/1, -- 3)Harlem River Drive 9/2, -- 4) Construction Ferry 14/4

Meeting Adjourned 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted by: Aidee Camacho

PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
September 2, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Emilia Cardona, Chair
Dago Suarez, Assistant Chair
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter
Homer Young Kennedy III
Glenda Swanson Massa

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Rafael Escano
Renato Mena

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Gregoria Feliciano, District Manager
Miguel A. Reyes, Community Assistant

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Berlin

GUESTS

Karen Argenti, Hilary Kitasei and Anthony Waldsley, Henry Hudson Parkway Task Force, Diana Douglas, Friends of J. Hood Wright Park, Hamilkarr Roldan, La Milagrosa Baseball League, Jose Ortiz & Ann Webster, The Cloisters, George Espinal, Friends of Payson Avenue, Marcy Auerbach, Danza Washington Heights, Nancy Bruning, Friends of Fort Tryon Park, Phyllis Smizaski, Resident, Carla Redix, On a Mission Outreach.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM.

PRESENTATIONS

I. Jose Ortiz, Administrative Manager for the Cloisters

Mr. Ortiz spoke about a plan to create a separate entrance to the museum. Anne Webster gave a presentation on the visitor's entrance to the museum. She spoke about existing conditions, the hazards of the cobblestones at the entrance, and the lack of curb cuts. New plan will separate the two entrances, making the lower entrance ADA-accessible for pedestrians, and the upper drive for vehicular traffic. They will not be moving trees or structures. The pedestrian entrance will be smoother and will "look" like cobblestones. The bus drop off will be nicer looking. Ms. Webster showed different pictures showing the current look and the new improvements. Will work with DOT and other city agencies to change, fix and add signs for visitors.

A member spoke about the pedestrian crossways and signs. She also spoke about the lack of parking spaces for visitors who come to the museum especially on Sundays. Ms. Cardona said that this is a Parks Department issue and that Parks Department will be asked to come to this committee to address it.

Question: When will this project take place? **Ms. Webster:** Looking to seek funding from the Empowerment Zone "if things went well, maybe a year," or possibly as little as nine months.

Ms Cardona: Will union workers do the work? **Ms. Webster:** Yes! In general union people has done all their projects.

George Espinal: How much will the project cost? **Ms. Webster:** About \$1.4 million.

Question regarding the moving of park benches. **Ms. Webster:** project will add two by the entrance; and already have six throughout the property.

The resolution was supported unanimously (4 Committee members, 1 Board member, 7 members of the public)

II. Hilary Kitasei & Karen Argenti, Henry Hudson Parkway Scenic By-ways

Mss. Argenti and Kitasei gave a brief power-point presentation describing this federally funded program which is administered by New York State. A scenic by-way is a road corridor (including surrounding parkland and context) of regionally outstanding, scenic, natural, recreational, cultural, historic or archeological significance. There are forty-four scenic by-ways in NYS, but none in New York City.

Hudson River Valley is the relevant area, and Henry Hudson Parkway qualifies on all 6 categories:

Scenic - visual experience of the parkway and it's corridor, from the perspective of the motorists, pedestrian, bikers, and apartment dwellers.

Historic - a design breakthrough by then-Parks Commissioner Robert Moses. Corridor also includes a gallery of individual landmarks.

Recreational - ample biking, hiking, boating along the highway, as well as in parks in Riverdale, Inwood, WH and Upper West Side.

Cultural - Little Red Lighthouse festival, Wave Hill, Harlem, Cloisters, etc.

Natural - greenbelt and fly-away for birds, natural catch basin for run-off, substantial contributor to island cooling effects.

Archeological - Inwood Hill Park cover Native American residence.

The Scenic By-way process in NYS has to be community based and involves cooperation among multiple groups: in this case, 4 community boards (Manhattan 7, 9, 12 and Bronx 8) a task force has been formed and has been gathering public input through meetings in all communities. This community input forms the consensus on which the corridor management plan will be based.

Grade variations and lateral variations (dips, “S” curves, etc.) were part of the historic design to add visible interest and as a safety measure to control speed.

Scenic By-way description will ensure consistency in signage, railings, entry/exit, and other features and ammenitites.

There was much discussion as to next steps, the upshot of which was to invite the presenters to the next Executive Committee or general meeting, with movement towards a letter of support.

NEW BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diana Douglas, President of Friends of J. Hood Wright Park, raised the issue of pit-bull owners stripping bark from the trees. Chair recommended that 33rd and 34th Precincts be contacted because this is serious vandalism. Mr. Young-Kennedy also suggested several community activist approaches including installation of chicken wire and plantings as a visually appealing barrier.

Phyllis Smizaski, community resident, raised issue of bikers in parks, especially harassing pedestrians, and speeding on city streets (especially down Overlook Terrace).

Marcy Auerbach, Danza Washington Heights and Dance New York is having a major festival September 6th showcasing the local dance talent together with the downtown dance and arts scene. NYRP is also holding a family festival that morning. This is a celebration of dance and the parks. The fall festival will be from 11:30am to 3:00pm; the dance program begins at 3:00pm.

Hamilkarr Roldan, Commiss oner of adult baseball league (La Milagrosa Baseball League) is trying to establish an AA baseball league in the area. Plays at Roberto Clemente Parks and Central Park, but 60% of the players come from this community, but there are no fields for adult play. He would like see improvements to Highbridge Parks ball field, such as removal of boulder out in left field and reparation of the dugouts. A suggestion was made to look into using fields at the end of Dyckman Street as well as reaching out to the NYRP for possible improvements. For more information check out web site at www.rbibaseball.net

BUDGET PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

Cultural Affairs: Capital
1 - \$1 million for Highbridge Aqueduct

Cultural Affairs: Expense
1– Malcolm X Memoria Museum

Parks: Capital
1 - J. Hood Wright Park retaining wall
2 - Water truck, graffiti removal and lawnmower
3 - Highbridge landscape
4 - Highbridge children's playground
5 - Jumel Mansion

Parks: Expense
1 - Fund additional maintenance personnel
2 - Fund more PEP Officers

Meeting Adjourned at 9:42PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Elizabeth Lorris Ritter

**COMMITTEE FOR THE AGING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 2003**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Glenda Swanson Massa, Chair
Gloria Vanterpool

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Leslie Foster (excused)
Msgr Gerald Walsh (excused)

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Deborah Blow, Community Assistant

GUESTS

Jose Ortiz, The Cloisters, Ft. Tryon Park, Ann Webster, Rep The Cloisters, Zhorme Babayene-YM-YWHA, Ethel Linder Stoll, Resident, Norma De Candido, Resident, Stephanie Harris, NYC Dept of Parks & Rec. J. Hood Wright, Verna Arthur, DFTA, , John Kinney, Inwood Patrol, Walter Kehr, YM-YWHA, Mr. Levinson, Resident, Angela Johnson, RN-Ft. Tryon Long Term Home Program

Meeting convened at 10:20am by Chair, Glenda Swanson-Massa. Mrs. Swanson-Massa welcomed members and guests.

Opening remarks: Overview of the agenda.

- Renovation to The Cloisters. The improvement of access to the entrance of the museum architecture. Presentation by Jose Ortiz.
- Letter of support for bus shelter at the entrance of the Armory Ft. Washington Avenue between W. 168th & W. 169th Street..
- Annual Aging Plan Hearing schedule was announced by Verna Arthur for Oct. 22, 2003 at 220 Church Street

Renovation to the Cloisters:

It was felt strongly that the resolution of accessibility issues to the Cloisters was long over due, the consensus of the committee was to support the Cloisters proposed renovation project with sensitivity to maintaining the historical character of this landmark structure. We will as that our position of support be included in the resolution that is being prepared by the Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee. With a comment about the importance of accessibility to the elderly as well as those people with disabilities.

Bus shelter at NE corner of W. 168th Street & Ft. Washington:

Lengthy discussion pro and con, took place regarding the placement of the bus shelter at the corner of W. 168th Street & Ft. Washington Avenue. The impact of increased congestion and loitering by the homeless were the primary concerns expressed. While these were concerns of the committee it was felt that the benefit to seniors and the need for shelter from the elements of wind and rain for many of the elderly who wait for long stretches on the #4 bus, far out weigh some of the negative impact s that might occur. On the issue of congestion, we will ask that the Traffic & Transportation committee address these issues at that corner.

Budget Priorities:

The listing of budget priorities for Seniors was deferred for the October meeting since it was felt we did not have sufficient information on which to base our decisions. We also wanted to review and include in our discussion, budget priority information from the Commissioners office, which the chair reported is forthcoming.

Meeting Adjourned 11:30am

Respectfully submitted by Glenda Massa-Swanson & Gloria Vanterpool

Economic Development Committee
September 2, 2003
Minutes

Members Present

Martin Collins, Chair
Mason Almeida
Rafael Beaumont
Rose Santo

Members Absent

Socrates Solano, A. Chair
Kirk Miller
Julio Pequero

CB12 Members Present

Dago Suarez
Bienvenido Toribio

CB12 Staff: Miguel A. Reyes

Guests: Jaime Ventura, Van Zandt Agency, Benjamin Ramirez, El Guanaco Rest., Doroteo Genao & Ruth Robles, Broad Dyckman Car Service, Aquilino Rodriguez, Manager, Rancho Jubilee Rest., Filadelfo Ramirez, Express Broadway Inc., Z. Bongiovanni, CORO Fdn., Alexander Then, Pollo Dorado Fried Chicken, George Espinal, Friends of Payson Ave., Mike Fitelson, Manhattan Times, Savona Bailey McClain, West Harlem Art Fund, Fiordaliza Lora, Volunteers of America, Carla Redix, On a Mission Outreach, Claudia Cruz, Outreach Counselor, Lupus Cooperative, Hamilkarr Rothman, resident.

SLA New Business Applications:

Express Broadway Inc. (5085 Broadway) Applicant: Filadelfo Ramirez

Applied for a Restaurant Wine License. Located at West 217th St. & Broadway. Open 6AM-8PM Mon.-Sat., and Sun. 7AM-3PM. Restaurant has a full kitchen and a capacity of 40. Mr. Ramirez attended and discussed the application. The committee recommended the SLA grant Express Broadway a RW License.

Los Angeles #2 Restaurant (261-263 Sherman Ave.) Applicant: Pedro Palafox

The On-Premises Liquor application was withdrawn because the business is being sold.

El Guanaco Restaurant & Pupseria (4195 Broadway) Applicant: Benjamin Ramirez

Applied for transfer of On-Premises Liquor License (#1117127) owned by Mauro Peralta, 4195 Picanteria Unica Inc., to Mr. Ramirez and the new premises name, El Guanaco Restaurant. Mr. Ramirez attended and, in discussing the application, agreed the restaurant will be soundproofed since they have music and live entertainment. They have a full kitchen and the capacity is approx. 28. Open 11AM-12 midnight Mon-Thu., and 11AM-2AM Fri-Sun. Mr. Ramirez said FDNY rated location 3 months ago. No fire exit. After further review, the committee recommended the SLA grant El Guanaco Restaurant's request for transfer of the On-Premises Liquor License.

Pollo Dorado Fried Chicken (1497 St. Nicholas Ave.) Applicant: Alexander Then

Originally applied for a Restaurant Wine License; however, the SLA contacted them and they changed the application to an Eating Place Beer License. Our committee did not receive notification of the modified application. Mr. Then was asked to notify us via certified mail of the new application and was invited to attend our next meeting.

Express Stationary of N. Y. Corp. (4930 Broadway) Applicant: Mansoor Sharhan

Applied for a Grocery Store Beer License. Jaime Ventura, Van Zandt Agency, represented the business. Mr. Sharhan has 14 years experience operating similar businesses. This is a new and quite large convenience store. Beer would be sold for off-premises consumption only. Open daily from 6AM until 12 midnight. The committee recommended the SLA grant the license.

SLA Renewal Applications:

The following businesses are renewing their licenses. There was no adverse history on file with the SLA, the NYPD, or CB12. The committee recommended the SLA renew the following licenses:

1. 4193 Broadway Mambi Restaurant (4181 Broadway): On-Premises Liquor License
2. KCH Corp. (566 West 181st Street): Eating Place Beer License
3. El Rancho Jubilee Restaurant (1 Nagle Ave.): On-Premises Liquor License

Please Note: We distributed the relevant Dept. Consumer Affairs business manual to each applicant. DCA has created brochures/information available in six languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Russian). Also, DEP and Operation Dumpster information was handed out.

TLC Renewal Application:

Broad Dyckman Car Service (253 Dyckman Street)

They are renewing their For Hire Base Station License (B01083). Doroteo Genao, President, attended. Broad Dyckman has more than 125 drivers, which have served Washington Heights/Inwood and elsewhere for the past 19 years, 11 at their current location. We discussed the importance of reducing ambient noise in the base area since it's in a residential location. Double-parking and milling should be discouraged at the location. Broad Dyckman will post on-base announcement to that effect. After further review, the committee recommended the TLC renew Broad Dyckman's Base Station License.

Discussion Items:

The committee's outreach to new applications was discussed. The invitation letter is accompanied by a license application questionnaire, and two flyers (English/Spanish) to be posted in the front window so the community is aware of the application. Applicants are asked to return the questionnaire before the next meeting, which will allow the most efficient use of everyone's time by furnishing the salient information in advance.

The Manhattan Borough Boards passed a resolution re: the State Liquor Authority at its August 21, 2003 meeting. It is designed to improve procedure and communication between the SLA and CBs.

The committee worked on its budget priorities and will finalize them at our next meeting. Borough Budget Consultation Agenda distributed and discussed.

In an effort to increase awareness of local businesses, Mason Almeida introduced the concept of a Washington Heights Food Festival. We discussed the major undertaking involved and both the committee and the public liked the idea very much. This will be discussed with Ex Comm. Work plan to be formulated at our committee's next meeting. May 2004 tossed out as suggested date.

The idea of joining local business and the arts in an Artist Day was discussed. This was very well received. The plan is for restaurants, businesses, organizations, to allow local artists to display their work on a weekend throughout Washington Heights and Inwood. People would patronize our local businesses and enjoy the arts simultaneously. The Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee and Economic Development will schedule an Informational Meeting in mid-October to plan the event. Outreach will take place in the interim. The Manhattan Times, Mike Fitelson, was asked to assist in publicizing. Subsequently, Mr. Fitelson, mentioned November 23rd, which will serve as a target date.

The Washington Heights & Inwood Chamber of Commerce is assembling a tourism handbook. CB12 Chair Zead Ramadan is Assistant Chair of UMEZ's Tourism Committee. Ancillary to discussion on tourism was the fact we could use more taxi stands in the community and a hotel would help.

Savona Bailey McClain, West Harlem Art Fund, mentioned CB9 will host a Business Communication & Information Day on October 11th in conjunction with the NY Software Association.

We recapped last month's DCA's Business Education Day. Washington Heights (168th St. to 181st St. from Broadway to Audubon Ave.) was engaged by four teams of DCA and CB12 members. See enclosed press release. We plan a similar effort in Inwood (Dyckman & W207th St. areas) for the fall.

The Mirage Restaurant dumpsters were addressed. The business has been cited by the Sanitation Department numerous times this year for non-compliant dumpsters. Additional outreach is required.

Bravo on West 175th Street & Broadway may close. Rent has been increased and their lease expires in November. A resident's recent letter to the Manhattan Times expressed concern for the loss of this store, especially for the senior citizens in the community.

Our next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**LAND USE COMMITTEE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 3, 2003**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Wayne Benjamin, Chair
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair
Martin Collins
Rose Santo
Julio Rodriguez

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Nelson Castro
Jay Mazur (excused)
Peter Ferrara (excused)
Walther G. Delgado

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Abby Belkin

CB 12 MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bienvenido Toribio

Zead Ramdani, Chair
Gregoria Feliciano, District Manager
Deborah blow, Community Assistant

Wayne Benjamin, Chair convened meeting at 7:28PM.

Zead Ramadan, Chair of Community Board 12 made opening remarks on the importance of the work performed by the Land Use committee on matters such as rezoning and redevelopment of the Sherman Creek area, commended the contributions of the prior Committee chair and welcomed Wayne Benjamin as the new Chair of the Committee.

The 2005 Statement of District Needs was distributed and Mr. Ramadan briefed the Committee on how the Statement was created in addition to how it is used in preparation of the Capital Plan and the Borough Budget Consultations.

The discussion continued regarding the Public Hearing scheduled for September 10th to consider the application before BSA for an extension to the term of the variance for the Shell Gas Station located at W. 181st Street & Amsterdam Avenue, in addition to the authorization to convert a portion of the premises to a convenience store was addressed.

It was noted that the renovations required for the proposed conversion had already taken place and that the Dunkin Donuts which occupies a portion of the convenience store was already in operation. A list of four questions was drafted pertaining to the process by which the conversion took place prior to BSA and community Board approval. Mr. Benjamin will forward these questions to the applicant for its response at or prior to the public hearing.

The Committee had a general discussion of potential areas of concentration for the upcoming year such as the Audubon Avenue Zoning Study, illegal retail conversions and updating the zoning in Washington Heights and Inwood.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Wayne A. Benjamin

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Simon, Chair
Helen Morik
Beatrice Hall

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Sybil Dodson
Ben Mantell
Barbara Smith-Ramos

PUBLIC MEMBER

Basilia Gomez

Miguel Reyes – Community Service Aide

GUESTS: Claudia Cruz, NYC Lupus Cooperative; Eva Matos, Columbia University School of Dental & Oral Surgery; Frank Andrews, resident.

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1. Opening Remarks – Steve Simon, Chair.

2. Presentation by Claudia Cruz, Outreach Counselor, NYC Lupus Cooperative:

Systemic Lupus is a disease of the immune system that produces an excess number of antibodies. The complete opposite of AIDS, lupus is not contagious and occurs when the immune system becomes overactive and attacks the body's tissues and organs. Symptoms include: arthritic pains, chest pains, joint pain and swelling, skin rashes, nausea, loss of hair, fatigue and photosensitivity. Cause of the disease is unknown, but there is a noticeable occurrence among first- and second-generation relatives of lupus patients. 90% of all cases are women predominantly between the ages of 15-45. There are a significant # of cases in CB12 area. NY-Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH) has an excellent lupus clinic. Report by Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) said that a large number of cases are found in minority communities, primarily among African-Americans. There are multiple tests for lupus; various tests are used to rule out other conditions and to determine the involvement of specific organs. The goal is to make testing part of annual physical. Treatment provided can control the effects of the disease and extend a patient's life span. There is no cure. Disease can go into remission; also can flare up because of stress or overexposure to the sun.

NYC Lupus Cooperative, based in East Harlem, is one of the few organizations in the city dealing with this problem. A demonstration project, it has funding for five years.

In the course of the discussion, it was suggested that a central registry of lupus cases would be very helpful in tracking the incidence of the disease to show whether it is caused by environmental factors. Doctors should be required to report cases to the CDC or to the State or City Health Departments.

3. Report on Status of Outstanding Issues Concerning Midwives and the Ambulatory Care Network

Helen Morik, Vice President for Government & Community Affairs, NYPH:

- Midwives will continue to deliver babies of mothers who don't have risk factors, such as obesity, diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure, etc. Doctors will perform deliveries when mothers have risk factors. Policy was changed two years ago but midwives were still allowed in the delivery room; it will be fully implemented 10/1. It's a high-quality health care issue; it's in our patients' best interests to have attending physicians perform deliveries. Women with risk factors who want midwives to deliver their babies will not be able to do so at NYPH. Rise in malpractice insurance may have been a factor; Elizabeth Seton Birthing Center, affiliated with St. Vincent's Hospital, had to close because of increased insurance rates.
- Formation of Ambulatory Care Network advisory board is overdue. Although ACNC has been disbanded, NYPH still wants community input. A list of possible members has been formulated with assistance of some former ACNC board members. List is too unwieldy, has to be pared down.

4. Review of Budget Priorities & Budget Consultations – last year's budget priorities and the notes from the recent district-level budget consultations were reviewed.

5. Possible Topics for Next Meeting – Presentations by Community DentCare Network and city's Healthy Neighborhood Program.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Simon

YOUTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 12, 2003

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandra Wachspress, Chair
Emilia Cardona
Maria Luna
Jose Lopez

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Cleofis C. Sarete, Assistant Chair
Milagros Vicente
Elouise Whitehurst

PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT

Deborah Cardona
Michael Alvarez

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Zead Ramadan, Chairman, CB12

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Gregoria Feliciano,
District Manager
Deborah Blow,
Community Assistant

GUESTS

Christina Hoven, Columbia School of Public Health, Virginia L. Mason, Family Support America, Pedro Laureano, Columbia University, Forest Turner, New York Public Library – Inwood Branch, Justin Clark, Columbia University, Mona Iskander, Columbia University School of Journalism, Gail Koser, Family Support America, Kirk E. Harris, Family Support America, Donald Mandell, Columbia University, David Diehl, Family Support America

Christina Hoven, Columbia University School of Public Health and members of Family Support America – a national group that supports mental health were present. Ms. Hoven has received a \$2 million dollar grant to study mental health and children.

The children of Washington Heights and Inwood were one of the most effected by the trauma of 9/11. Ms. Hoven suggested that it may have been the additional trauma of flight #587 to the Dominican Republic that blew up over the Rockaways in November of 2001 to cause this result.

The monies will provide more resources to add more mental health clinics and more staff in the school district and additional outreach to the parents. There will be a longitudinal study over the next few years focusing on the same children and their progress. Ms. Hoven suggested expediting a meeting with the present coordinators to share the facts and information and involve the families.

There was also a discussion regarding the first day of school with reports by Jose Lopez and Deborah Cardona – teachers in the local school district. Their reports were mostly favorable.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Emilia Cardona