

**Community Board 12, Manhattan General Meeting Minutes  
9/27/05 (Hammer Health Sciences Building)**

**Members Present**

Dora Maria Abreu  
Jackie Rowe Adams  
Anita Barberis  
Wayne Benjamin  
James Berlin  
Aidee Camacho  
Emilia G. Cardona  
Martin Collins  
Sybil Dodson-Lucas

Adam Eggers  
Leslie Foster  
Obed Fulcar  
Julissa Gomez  
Beatrice Hall  
Andre Harris  
Eduardo Hoepelman  
Joyce F. Holland  
Albania Jimenez

Shirley Joyner  
Mark Levine  
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter  
Maria Luna  
Glenda Swanson Massa  
Jay D. Mazur  
Helen Morik  
Pamela Palanque-North  
Angelo Ortiz

Julio Peguero  
Zead Ramadan  
Barbara Smith Ramos  
Julio Rodriguez  
Nelson Rojas  
Joseph Sanchez  
Cleofis Sarete  
Aaron Scott  
Steve Simon

Bracha Statman  
Gloria Vanterpool  
Manny Velazquez  
Milagros Vicente  
Janifer Wilson

**Members Excused**

Raquel Batista  
Kotie Cannon  
Fern Hertzberg  
Jose Lopez  
Renato Mena

**Member Absent**

Rafael Beaumont

7:13 **Call to attention & welcome** by the Chair, Martin Collins, who gave the following report:

- Thanked Renee Tirado for her service as CB12 District Manager and acknowledged her work with City agencies and CBOs.
- Economic Development Corporation hasn't held a meeting to update the community on **Sherman Creek** since 12/04 despite several requests. CB12 and electeds are appealing to EDC for a meeting soon. Commended Parks Department & DOT for their involvement and responsiveness.
- **Sanitation** has added cleaners and additional basket pick-ups. CB12 still advocating for DSNY to expedite building new District 8M garage and move their trucks from the W215<sup>th</sup> St. depot. Last month's CB12 Adopt-a-Basket Program outreach resulted in 84 new businesses participating.
- CCNY Architectural Center, our urban planning consultant, gave a detailed report on the **District-Wide Planning Study** work schedule at the 9/13 ExComm meeting. This 18-month project has an estimated cost of \$70k. We are actively seeking funding sources; suggestions welcome.
- Attended 2 recent meetings on project to **reopen the High Bridge**. CB 12 member Joseph Sanchez is the project's coordinator.
- New home for **Dyckman Job Center**: 4055 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., at W. 216<sup>th</sup> St. They'll have a short-term lease at current location (4660 Broadway) until the new site is ready. Thanks to the Borough President and the Board for their advocacy to keep these services and 300 jobs in the community.
- Complement of **police officers** is now 150 per precinct, down from 180 three years ago. Drive-by policing has replaced community beat officers while drug and quality-of-life crime complaints have increased. State Sen. Schneiderman has called a community meeting on 10/19 at IS143.
- **Introduced board new members** Obed Fulcar, Angelo Ortiz & Bracha Statman.
- **Wished a speedy recovery** to Renato Mena, who recently was hospitalized.

7:19 **Mark Levine, District Manager Search Committee Chair**. Introduced Committee members: Dora Maria Abreu, Wayne Benjamin, Emilia Cardona and Maria Luna. We are committed to identifying the best people for this important position. If anyone knows candidates who might be interested, there are still three days until the 9/30/05 application deadline. The board staff has been logging in envelopes, but not opening them; committee will do this after the deadline has passed. Look forward to presenting two or three finalists at a special board meeting on 11/21. We have received 25 envelopes so far, and are hoping to meet/exceed the 60 received last time. (We received 10 resumes yesterday, 9/26.)

7:22 **Deborah Blow, District Service Cabinet report**: Public recognition of Jeffrey Laufer for his work.

- Update on DDC project for catch basins.
- DEP re: hydrants – need outreach now, while summer is still fresh in our minds, to educate people about not using hydrants for cooling off.
- No up-ticks in crime except for a particular pattern of muggings of elderly on Bennett Avenue; suspect still at large.
- Increased policing in parks has resulted in safer parks, although there are still some noise issues.
- Gave statistics on where police in our precincts are going, including parade details, the Gulf in the wake of Katrina, etc.
- Gave information on upcoming events, including Medieval Festival on 10/2 and Uptown Treasures Day on 10/16.
- Several board members addressed operational issues w/ the staff, which will follow up.

7:30 Quorum finally having been achieved during Ms. Blow's report, there was a **motion to adopt the agenda** by Sybil Dodson, which was seconded by Jay Mazur, and passed without objection or discussion. There immediately followed a **motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting** by Emilia Cardona, which was seconded by Glenda Swanson Massa, and passed without objection or discussion. Ms. Dodson made a **motion to approve the minutes of the July Committee of the Whole**, which was seconded by Pamela Palanque-North. There was a brief discussion as to whether these minutes required approval, since the meeting itself is not required. The matter was referred to the Bylaws Committee for clarification.

7:34 **Presentation by Gladys Henriquez, Director of External Affairs for the NYC Department of Small Business Services**. Mayor issued Executive Order #71 two weeks ago to increase the use of minority and women-owned businesses in City contracting. This is an important part of the city's economy and workforce, as 98% of all businesses in NYC are small businesses. A "small business" is anything with fewer than 100 employees, irrespective of revenue/income. SBS monitors how much of the City's contract budget goes to minority and women-owned small businesses, reports to the Mayor. SBS also helps small businesses negotiate the bid process to get some of the set-asides. SBS also offers an employment service both to help individuals looking for jobs and businesses looking to hire. For more info, contact her at 212-513-6407. **Questions:** Pamela Palanque North: Please tell us about programs to decrease unemployment of minority males. A: have \$10m outreach and training program. Can't give progress report yet, as program is new. Commissioner believes in training for the sake of employment, not training for training's sake. Milagros Vicente: invited her to next Economic Development Committee meeting. Member of the Public <through Shirley Joyner>: where to go to get info to start a small business? A: SBS Business Solution Centers; repeated contact info. Member of the Public <through Milagros Vicente>: info on data as to why so many small businesses fail. A: A lot has to do with inability to understand lease you're signing, and then rents go up, and business is stuck. We are addressing this issue through outreach and education.

7:47 **Recognition of PO Victor Matos and PO Maria Franco for their heroic rescue** of 10-month-old baby girl on 9/8/05, by carrying her to NYPH after she was stabbed. Much applause. Presentation of certificates by Mr. Collins and Dr. North. Brief comments by 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Commanding Officer Jason Wilcox, who hailed them as the finest of New York's Finest. "These new officers could have frozen or hesitated, but their training and instincts kicked in to save this girl's life literally when seconds counted." DI Wilcox also cited the arresting officers who apprehended the suspect immediately. Officers Matos and Franco each made brief comments. Franco: "That's why we took this job." PO Matos noted: "We carried the baby, but this was a team effort." Thanked community as well for working with the NYPD, trusting officers and helping them do their job. [During their respective presentations, each of the electeds and their representatives thanked these officers in turn.]

#### 7:56 Public Speakers' Session

Fernando Fernandez, Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone: acknowledged CB12 and UMEZ board member Zead Ramadan. Announced upcoming seminars on a variety of subjects, and gave out flyers. Messrs. Ramadan and Collins noted that Dr. North also is now on EZ's board.

7:58 Paul Hintersteiner. Spoke about his father and Arts Interaction, the group he led. Grateful for recognition of his father in the form of a proposed street co-naming per a resolution under consideration later in the agenda. Hopes that AI will be revived. Much applause.

8:00 Joan Fairservis, supports street co-naming; cited Joe Hintersteiner's inspiration to the community, its residents and children, and the arts.

8:02 George Espinal, Friends of Payson Avenue, spoke about his experience working on a play street on Post Avenue last summer, especially the extent to which children do not feel safe in certain parts of this community. Both precincts are really understaffed, and we need more police. Is planning a demonstration at City Hall to demand more police.

8:05 Rafael Garcia, community resident: wants to open a newsstand on 135<sup>th</sup> Street & Broadway. He was advised to go to CB9.

8:06 Lynne Opinante, Washington Heights Branch Library: Announced upcoming programs, including artists' reception on 10/7. Spoke about ongoing relationship with Eddie Albino and Community Arts Showcase.

8:08 Gilda Serrano, Senior Associate Director, Dyckman Clinic and WH Child Health Center: Been around since the 30's; now under auspices of the Health & Hospitals Corporation. Offer low-cost/sliding scale health services to the uninsured that do not qualify for Medicaid. Steve Simon: do these facilities need additional staff? Should we rank that highly when we do budget priorities next month? Yes.

8:11 Eddie Albino, Community Arts Showcase. Spoke in homage to Joe Hintersteiner and the standards and values that he brought to this community, praising his artistic sensibility and all that he offered this community.

8:13 Jim Wilson, 110 Seaman Avenue Tenants Association: spoke regarding lack of policing in the neighborhood. "They know how to do the job, and they are willing. But they are too few." Believes that Inwood is unsafe. Encouraged people to attend the 10/19 meeting. Also looking to network with other people looking to work on this issue.

8:18 Sander Dulitz, former CB12M Chair: spoke in support of Joe Hintersteiner street co-naming. Standing with him were former CB12M chairs Maria Luna, Jim Berlin and Sybil Dodson, as well as Board Member Leslie Foster, President of the WH-I Chamber of Commerce. Spoke fondly of Mr. Hintersteiner's example of compassion and love for the arts and the community.

8:21 Jose Adames, former candidate for Mayor: Protested his treatment by two different parties, with respect to his attempts to run for Mayor. Has issue with NYC's electoral system, and the justice system to which he appealed this perceived unfairness. Asked for our support. Also said that we need new voting machines.

8:25 Carmen Rojas, Parent Coordinator, Juan Pablo Duarte School, PS132: Last year we had asbestos problem and had to move to another school. This year they found more asbestos, as well as lead. DOE says everything is fine, even though they're still doing work. The children can't go outside and eat lunch in the auditorium. Asking board to approve closing 182<sup>nd</sup> Street between St. Nicholas and Wadsworth Avenues for a play street on school days between 11a-2p. She has 800 signatures on a petition. This is a safe street with no potholes, etc. [Youth & Education Committee member Angelo Ortiz, who was translating for Ms. Rojas, confirmed this.]

8:30 Bob Isaac, Community Resident: spoke in support of street co-naming. Joined by Aliza Holtz, former AI Board member, who spoke of how Mr. Hintersteiner honored the artist within the individual: "it is only fitting to honor him by co-naming a street in his memory"; and Dave Hunt of Cogan's, who hailed Joe as a great artist and "a holder of a PhD in diversity".

#### 8:32 Elected Officials & Their Representatives

**NYS Senator Eric Schneiderman**: Cited many bills that passed Assembly that failed to pass the Senate, which tends to be less pro-NYC public safety and public welfare. The conservatives in the Senate are pushing an agenda to fight fraud in Medicaid so they can cut health care spending. "This is more about political concerns than real concerns for public healthcare." Also noted that there is a fundamental lack of political courage in Albany for not standing up to the rest of the state. NYC provides a \$10 billion subsidy for the rest of the state. We wouldn't have to cut funding for schools, cops, etc., if we weren't subsidizing the rest of the state. "That's not just bad government, that's injustice. My efforts to support community at the grassroots and to change the way Albany does business will continue." **Questions:** Ms. Dodson: is it time to consider a third precinct? A: yes, but it's a matter of political will; it's a good issue to raise. Member of the Public <through Milagros Vicente>: are there any solutions to parking problems in neighborhood? A: It's an extraordinary problem. There are plans in the works to build more parking facilities, but this will probably be inadequate. The reality is that the real estate boom is coming. We shouldn't pretend that this is not happening. Rather, we should leverage this development and talk with all real estate developers to ensure that parking, schools, daycare and other public-use facilities are included in any new development in this community. The Upper West Side did not do a good job of this, but the Lower East Side has been more successful. Maria Luna: what are we going to do to attract quality applicants to NYPD when people can't afford to live here? A: Even in a country with severe poverty like the Dominican Republic, [President] Leonel Fernandez gets that police salaries must be raised. Yet we are lowering them here. It doesn't make sense.

8:47 **Rafael Escaño for Comptroller Bill Thompson**: welcomed everyone to a new year of conscientious community involvement. Echoed points that Ms. Henriquez raised during her presentation on Small Business Services. Spoke about procurement: any business looking to do business with City must pay prevailing wages, or they cannot get a contract with the City.

8:50 **Frank Hess for NYS Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr.**: Northern Manhattan community response to Hurricane Katrina was impressive. Filled two 21' trucks with food, clothing, medicine, etc., which AI Taylor drove to Gulfport, MS. Spoke in favor of street co-naming, for which the Assemblyman urges support. Distributed report of this year's passed legislation. "Some good, some not so good; we always hope to do better."

8:53 **Annamaria Jones, Deputy Chief of Staff for NYC Councilmember Miguel Martinez:** Thanked everyone for attending meet-and-greet for new Board Members last week. With regard to the recent (9/24/05) murder of 21-year-old Cheyenne Patricio by her boyfriend, Councilman Martinez is united with Alianza Dominicana and other CBOs to work on problems of domestic violence. Murders are up citywide in this category, and we need to attend to this issue in terms of policies, enforcement and services.

8:57 **Joe McNearney for NYC Councilmember Robert Jackson:** Hearing held on bill to establish environmental purchasing office to monitor environmental preferences in City procurement. Require to purchase products with highest recycled content. Looking forward to passage within the next month or two. Largely supported in Council, but Mayor's office is largely opposed. Southern portion of the Broadway repaving project will be completed tomorrow. Start north of 185 thereafter. Announced upcoming press conference regarding minority/women owned business initiatives.

#### 9:03 Committee Reports

##### Traffic & Transportation, Jim Berlin, Assistant Chair.

- In presenting resolution to co-name the bend of Haven Avenue at 168<sup>th</sup> Street for Joe Hintersteiner, Mr. Berlin spoke of Mr. Hintersteiner's talent, inspiration and above all, his humility. **Discussion:** Mr. Simon: believes the resolution doesn't honor Joe in the way he deserves. We should honor his memory and his legacy by reviving the Hintersteiner Gallery in the CB 12 office space. People don't notice a street name and will not know who Joe was based on a street name. We will honor him best by reestablishing the art gallery that bore his name. Zead Ramadan: I recommend we do both. Helen Morik: They aren't mutually exclusive; we can and should do both. Ms. Dodson echoed these thoughts: was close to Joe and studied watercolor with him; believes we must return the gallery, but supports the street co-naming as well. Maria Luna: agrees with Mr. Simon with regard to gallery, but urged unanimous support to honor Joe. Mr. Collins: We will make every effort to reopen the Hintersteiner Gallery. The resolution passed 39-0-1-0.
  - **Resolution regarding ramp at 140 Wadsworth Ave.** (bet. W. 180<sup>th</sup> and 181<sup>st</sup> Sts.) at a ground-floor medical office that wants to install an ADA-accessible ramp. There was some discussion as to proper wording and clarification with regard both to guidelines and how much the ramp would extend into the sidewalk. The resolution passed 38-0-2-0.
  - **Resolutions regarding newsstands.** The City has strict guidelines with respect to placements, obstructions, etc. Mark Levine asked how (if at all) these newsstands will be affected by new regulations with regard to street furniture design. A: probably not at all – probably grandfathered. There was much discussion about the one at 158<sup>th</sup> & Broadway, and questioning the placement away from the subway. Apparently once the regulations changed, the location of a previous stand is no longer compliant; the proprietor will have his business at the new location. Several Board members who live proximate to the proposed location asked questions. There was no discussion on the other resolutions, which opposed the proposed stands for a variety of reasons, depending on the particular proposal. A series of five resolutions in favor of a newsstand on Broadway between 157<sup>th</sup> & 158<sup>th</sup> Streets, and opposed to newsstands at Broadway & 169<sup>th</sup> Street, Broadway & 180<sup>th</sup> Street, Broadway & 207<sup>th</sup> Street, and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 207<sup>th</sup> Street passed unanimously, with 39 votes.
  - Committee Chair Jay Mazur announced upcoming joint meeting with the Economic Development Committee on Oct 7<sup>th</sup> at St. Jude's Church.
- 9:50 **Economic Development, Milagros Vicente:** a joint resolution on granting new liquor licenses to seven establishments located throughout the community passed 30-1-4-0 with no discussion. In response to a closing comment about the proliferation of drinking establishments in this community and whether this is a good thing, Ms. Vicente noted that the Board does not approve these applications, we only make recommendations. One establishment where we knew of a problem was pulled from the resolution.
- 9:58 **Land Use, Wayne Benjamin:** a resolution in favor of a permit extension for a parking lot at 21-23 Hillside Avenue passed unanimously (35 votes) with no discussion. Mr. Benjamin gave an update about the City College planning study and possible links to CB12M's website.
- 10:01 **Public Safety, Pamela Palanque North:** thanked CB12 members for their work at the American Red Cross' call center. ARC still has an acute need for more volunteers for call centers, to go to the Gulf and to respond to local disasters.
- 10:03 **Housing & Human Services, Julio Rodriguez:** Gave brief summary of policy agenda for upcoming year, including informational seminars for first-time homeowners and on immigrant services.
- 10:04 **Youth & Education, Cleofis Sarete-Cabral:** planning more community awareness workshops on youth and violence. Spoke in support of remodeling of NYPL facilities to keep apace with changing technology, and more after-school/homework help programs. Last meeting had guest speakers from charter schools.
- 10:07 **Parks & Cultural Affairs, Zead Ramadan:** J. Hood Wright Park retaining wall is collapsing in pieces. Must have a capital project to fix it. Also the area is not ADA-accessible. Deputy Commissioner Kavanagh has lined up \$900k in public funding, but we need additional funding from the City Council. Also gave update on the New York Restoration Project, noting Julia Ericson, new ED, who has pledged to increase lines of communications between NYRP and the Parks Department. Also reported on continuing work on the proposed plans to reopen the High Bridge and construct an access path. Finally, announced new mountain bike trail to be built in Highbridge Park. In response to a question from Dr. North, Mr. Ramadan noted that four new PEP officers should start by December; hopefully we can keep working to get more.
- 10:13 **Aging, Sybil Dodson:** thanked co-chair Fern Hertzberg for her support. Announced upcoming seminar on changes to Medicare Part B?
- 10:15 **Health & Environment, Steve Simon:** continuing to discuss issue of availability of translators at NYPH; announced upcoming meeting on this topic. Taking off his Committee hat, and putting on his Parks Department hat, he announced the opening of the new Coogan's Bluff playground at 156<sup>th</sup> Street & Edgecombe Avenue. Ms. Dodson made some suggestions for guests at upcoming committee meetings. Mr. Berlin: can the committee look at mental health medications compliance so we don't have any more baby stabbings? A: CB 12 should invite FECS to a meeting to discuss this. Ms. Swanson-Massa: is there a list of locations where flu shots will be available? A: Because so many places offer this service, it would be difficult to come up with a comprehensive list, but beginning 10/10 NYPH will be providing flu shots at various locations. There is plenty of vaccine available this year – no problems such as last year.

10:21 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**September 8, 2005**

**Committee Members Present**

Dr. Pamela Palenque North, Chair  
Kotie Cannon, Asst. Chair  
Aidee Camacho  
Adam Eggers  
Andre Harris

**Committee Members Excused**

Julissa Gomez  
Joyce Holland

**Board Members Present**

Martin Collins, Board Chair  
Wayne Benjamin  
Steve Simon

**Public Member**

Ernest McNamee

**Guests:** PO Tony Trinidad, NYPD-34<sup>th</sup> Pct.; PO Alexandra Sanchez, NYPD-33<sup>rd</sup> Pct.; Phyllis Smizaski, Resident; Heriberto A. Ramos, Resident; Rafael Sosa, Beach Lane Management; Reyes Marte, Beach Lane Management, Simeon Martinez, Hillside Ave Neighborhood Association;

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The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Chairs remarks: "Anyone who wants to help the American Red Cross by volunteering at the 24 hour Call Center to respond to urgent needs of the Hurricane Katrina victims, please see me at the conclusion of this meeting contact me this week."

**Public Session:**

- Heriberto Ramos spoke concerning a fire at 1352 St. Nicholas Ave. Tenants have been displaced, valuables lost and the landlord has been slow to respond. The chair recommended a private meeting between tenants and service providers and facilitated by CB12M.

**Precinct Reports:**

- Police Officer Sanchez, 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct- was unable to participate in the meeting due to the fact that in the area, a 4-year-old child was abducted in a local restaurant, that evening. Officer Sanchez distributed a photo of the child and asked citizens to contact the NYPD if they should see the child in the area. (Note: The Chair reported to the abduction site after the meeting and was informed that the child and the kidnapper had been found in lower Manhattan)
- Police Officer Trinidad, 34<sup>th</sup> Pct- "Average" summer, crime is down 15% for the year. During the summer 1100 summonses were issued and 87 motorcycles were confiscated.

There are 2 robbery patterns that were reported to the committee:

1. On Bennett Ave, Black male attacking senior citizens, 5 occasions over 4 months.
  2. 181 and Amsterdam Ave, 2-3 weeks, Robberies of people walking on the bridge. An arrest has been made, more details to come.
- there have been a total of 5 homicides for the year.
  - They have received a lot of noise complaints, regarding Ft. Tryon Park.

- a woman was attacked while jogging in Inwood Park hurt during a fall after fighting off suspect. The attack occurred at approximately 5-6 am.
- Community council meeting will take place on September 28, 2005 at 7:30 pm; their focus will be on gangs and school safety and noise complaints.
- The 34<sup>th</sup> Pct. has a new Executive Officer, Captain Pintos. He replaced Captain Colon, who is now the commanding officer at 23<sup>rd</sup> Pct.

Aidee Camacho commended the 34<sup>th</sup> Pct. regarding traffic issues around street fairs this summer.

#### **Public Session Continued:**

- Simeon Martinez reported that a "Hillside Boys" gang has been disrupting the community, Thursday evening- Sunday on Hillside Avenue. He spoke about noise, music and drug use. Resident wants more police action.
- Resident discussed: Officers on duty nights/weekends do not act in accordance with what citizens were told by commanding officer of the 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Frustrated by communication gap within the Precinct Community Police Officer is supposed to respond when there are a number of 311 complaints for the same problem.
- Rafael Sosa and Reyes Marte, from Beach Lane Management, spoke about the situation on 651 West 171<sup>st</sup> Street; individuals are removing security cameras from building, dealing drugs and terrorizing residents. Police officers did not watch the surveillance tapes or take a report when this was reported to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct. Public Safety Committee members and attendees viewed the videotape during the meeting. All agreed that the tape graphically illustrates an organized attempt to conceal crime in front of this location.

**City Parks PEP Officer issue:** There are 11 new officers coming to Northern Manhattan and will be stationed at Highbridge Park. Board Member Steve Simon, who works for the Parks Department provided more details on the total number of PEP Officers hired by the City.

**Private Session:** The committee needs to evaluate capital and expense Budget priorities before October 11, 2005. The Committee will meet an hour before the October 6 Committee Meeting and complete the ranking of items and identify issues and topics to be addressed at Public Safety Meetings for the rest of the calendar year.

Possible topics for future meetings- Area drug problem, possible Subway calamities (terrorism, derailment, etc.) and balancing everyday problems vs. major emergencies.

Next meeting is 10/6; meeting topic: Illicit sale of Narcotics in the area and review of noise complaints in CB12M and enforcement of the Noise Code Laws.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Adam Eggers and Dr. Pamela Palanque North, Chair

Prepared by Jeffrey A. Laufer, Community Assistant CB

**Traffic and Transportation Committee Minutes  
September 12, 2005**

**Committee Members Present**

James Berlin, Asst. Chair  
Anita Barberis  
Obed Fulcar  
Renato Mena

**Board Members Absent**

Jay Mazur, Chair

**Board Members Present**

Martin Collins, Board Chair  
Aidee Camacho  
Maria Luna

**Staff:** Deborah Blow, Community Associate and Jeffrey Laufer, Community Assistant

**Guests:** Paul Hintersteiner, Resident; Lillian Mercado, Resident; Bob Issac, Resident; Solanger Cabral, Resident; Phyllis Smizaski, Resident; Dago Suarez, Resident; William Guerrero, Resident; Florence M. Rice, Resident; Ricardo Rivera, Resident; Maria Cordones, Resident; Jeremy Eagle, Resident; Maurice Bruet, NYC DOT; Ellen Fine, Operator of 168<sup>th</sup> Street News Stand; Mirza Rehman, Proposed operator of 180<sup>th</sup> Street News Stand; Mirza Mahmat, Proposed operator of 180<sup>th</sup> Street News Stand; Mirza Baiq, Proposed operator of 207<sup>th</sup> Street News Stand; David Hunt, Coogan's; Eddie Albino, Community Arts Showcase, Frederick Gautier, Community Arts Showcase; Mary Kamble, Community Arts Showcase; Joan Fairservis, Arts Interaction;

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At 7:05pm, Jim Berlin, Assistant Chair, opened the meeting and chaired this meeting in the absence of the Chairperson, Jay Mazur, who was not able to attend. To expedite the meeting, given the extensive agenda, J. Berlin set the ground rules of 1 minute for each speaker, after they were recognized by the Chair.

Amended the agenda placing New Business after Old Business. Accepted by show of hands.

A. Request to co-name Haven Avenue at West 168-169 Street "Joe Hintersteiner Place."

-Bob Isaac gave background of Joe Hintersteiner, former Executive Director of Arts Interaction, which shared space with our Community Board office ten years ago.

-Maria Luna supported this co-naming given Joe's extensive community service.

-Dave Hunt, co-owner of Coogan's also supported this action, as he offered his restaurant as the showplace for the organizations artwork and even auctions.

-Joan Fairservis had been on the board of Arts Interaction since 1979.

-Alissa Holz was a member of Arts Interaction for ten years working with Joe.

-Jim Berlin added his comments relating to the good work Joe did for the community.

Jim Berlin read the entire resolution to better acquaint the members of the public with Joe's devotion and service to our community.

VOTE to support this co-naming: T&T=3-0-0; Board members=3-0-0; Members of the public=24-0-0

B. Reviewed applications to install five (5) new newsstands in our community.

1. Southwest corner of 158<sup>th</sup> St and Broadway

-Maria Luna championed support for this stand as the old one at 157 St. has been boarded up for years and will be torn down given this new location (same ownership).

-Florence Rice, a resident for 60 years added her support.

Jim Berlin read the resolution supporting this newsstand, as it conforms to the guidelines set by Department of Consumer Affairs.

VOTE to APPROVE: T&T=3-0-0; Board members=2-0-0; Members of the Public=15-0-0

2. Southwest corner of 169<sup>th</sup> St. and Broadway

-Dave Hunt, co-owner of Coogan's explained that this area is very congested and requested a moratorium on street furniture.

-Maria Luna opposed the site.

-Ellen Fine, owner of newsstand at 168<sup>th</sup> St and Broadway for 75 years, opposed the site.

-Dago Suarez observed another newsstand north across 169<sup>th</sup> St next to Remy's dinner- area seems to be well served.

-Aidee Camacho requested the guidelines before voting.

-Maurice Bruet, Deputy Commissioner of DOT responded that the guidelines are complicated.

-Jeffrey Laufer supported the newsstand as healthy competition.

Jim Berlin explained that this location DID NOT meet the guidelines due to the five foot canopy of two trees, which does not permit a stand at that site.

VOTE to OPPOSE: T&T=3-0-0; Board Members=2-0-0; Members of the Public= 12-3-4

(Photo taken showing the trees canopies deny a newsstand at this site.)

3. Northwest corner of 180<sup>th</sup> St. and Broadway

Due to a five foot tree canopy at this site, the stand does not conform to the guidelines.

VOTE to OPPOSE: T&T=3-0-0; Board Members=2-0-0; Members of the Public=10-2-3

(Photo taken showing the canopy at this site.)

4. Southwest corner of 207<sup>th</sup> St. and Tenth Avenue

-Renato Mena introduced the owner of store front (47 years) that would face the above location, who opposes this location.

-Dave Hunt opposed it supporting the small businesses that are viable to the community

-Dago Suarez asked if the applicant, Rafael Garcia, was in attendance. Although he was invited, he was not at this meeting.

-Julio Batista explained that this is a very congested area as the subway entrance/exit is at the corner of this block.

VOTE to OPPOSE: T&T=4-0-0; Board Members=2-0-0; Members of the Public=15-0-0.

5. Southeast corner of 207<sup>th</sup> St. and Broadway

Photo taken showing that the site would prohibit pedestrian passage as it is in front of a large grocery store (C-Town) that has daily deliveries of goods all sitting on palettes on the sidewalk.

Resident has a newsstand across the street from this location (Optimo) and opposed this site.

-Jeremy Eagle, a resident of this neighborhood, supports the families that operate surrounding newsstands, given that it is a highly congested area, he opposes this site.

VOTE to OPPOSE: T&T 4-0-0; Board Members=2-0-0; Members of the Public=12-0-0.

Old Business:

- Tenant at 700 W. 178 St has again requested that 178<sup>th</sup> St. should be repaired as it is in very poor condition. It is heavily traveled by GW Bridge traffic coming into our neighborhood.  
Maurice Bruet recommended we add this street to our list of streets that need to be repaved.
- Jeremy Eagle of 101 Cooper Street submitted another request for a speed bump on Cooper at 207<sup>th</sup> St & Isham. It seems that cars use this street as a shortcut to avoid traffic light. It was suggested that other actions might be appropriate as this street will probably not meet the warrants for a speed bump. Put on agenda for next meeting.
- Aidee Camacho would like status report on the re-routing of the M-101 bus at Ft. George- West 190<sup>th</sup> St and St. Nicholas Avenue.
- Heavy traffic on Overlook Terrace at 190-187<sup>th</sup> Sts. It is claimed that busses, 18-wheeler trucks traverse this street along with many cars. Suggestion to bring this to the attention of the appropriate agencies at the District Service Cabinet meeting.

New Business

- Dago Suarez brought a posting for a movie crew for Monday, September 12 that went up on the preceding Friday with all of the equipment parked before the stated time. This happened at Henshaw and the Marina at Dyckman. May we have a moratorium on parking in our neighborhood.
- Maurice Bruet announced that we would soon have the traffic study for Sherman Creek.
- Another resolution concerning a revocable consent for a handicap ramp to a doctor's office at 140 Wadsworth Avenue was approved by the T&T Committee; 4-0-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 10PM Minutes respectfully submitted: A. Barberis



## HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 13, 2005

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Julio Rodriguez, Chair  
Barbara Smith Ramos, Asst. Chair  
Kotie Cannon  
Eduardo Hoepelman  
Steve Simon

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Raquel Batista

Guests: Caroline Coffey-Resident, Allan Taylor-Coop[er Development LLC, Michael Abel, Director-Homeowners Assistant Program(HPD), Maria Cordones-New Pact Church

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7:20 PM = Informal Introductions and discussion. at 7:35 PM, with a quorum present, the meeting commenced.

Chairperson , Julio Rodriguez began the meeting with informal introductions pending arrival of a full quorum. He called the meeting to order when a quorum was present and recognized Ms Caroline Coffey and a fellow member of the co-op, Brian Stull, from 60 Cooper Street in Inwood.

They indicated that there is a large rock next to their 60 unit building of which they own the far half and a developer identified as Cooper Development LLC (Mr. Allan Taylor?) now owns the other half. The developer has indicated intent to remove his half of the rock and build a residential building on the land. Ms Coffey and the other co-ops are concerned about those plans for many reasons: potential damage to their building as the rock is removed, destruction of a rock which has great geological interest to many geologists who bring classes to the area, possible down grading of property values in the area if the developer can not afford a proper project. The co-op commissioned a consultant who reports that a project may be built on the property "as of right" and she asked for assistance in preventing this use of that space.

Michael Abel, Dir. Of the homeowner assistance program of HPD suggested that they try to convince the Parks department to buy the property for park use and take it off the market. Julio Rodriguez indicated he would inquire into that possibility. He also recognized Ms Coffey's request that the Housing committee try to keep her organization informed of any initiatives we become aware of to make use of the rock property.

Ms. Maria Cordones, President and Minister of MCI Circulo de Amor & New Pact Church, formally located at 2208 Amsterdam Avenue was recognized to make a presentation regarding their problems with their landlord and getting new space. The church is suing the landlord for water damage to their space and equipment and for not maintaining the space they rented there. She asked for help in finding new space that they hoped could be gifted by some agency of city government. She was told that such a gift was not likely; there are many non-profits on line looking for such opportunities. It was recommended that they look for replacement property to continue renting while they explore other ways to improve their space needs.



Mr. Michael Abel, made a presentation of the Homeowner Assistance Program of HPD and made a plea for CB 12 to help make more people aware of the financial and other help available to new home buyers. The program provides up to 6% of purchase price as a long term loan which can be forgiven if the buyer stays in the home for 10 years. There are related supports available which contracted agencies can inform homebuyers about. Program brochures have been placed in the rack at CB 12 and CB 12 staff will be asked to include info in the web site.

8:30 pm      Meeting adjourned on a motion by Kotie Cannon seconded by Eduardo Hoepelman.

Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee- September 6, 2005

Committee Members Present

Zead Ramadan, Chair  
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Asst. Chair  
Mark Levine  
Aaron Scott

Committee Members Excused

Emilia Cardona

Guest: Phyllis Smizaski, Resident; Allan Scholl, Ellen Macuow, Department of Parks; Julia Erickson, New York Restoration Project; Carolann Luckner, Chair 227 Haven Ave Tenants Assoc. and Friends of J. Hood Wright Park

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The meeting was called to order at 7:05.

I. Opening remarks:

- We reviewed overall needs of CB12 parks with Borough Parks Commissioner Castro, including J. Hood Wright retaining wall. This needs special attention due to the dangerous conditions.

II. The committee welcomed Julie Erickson, new Executive Director of New York Restoration Project and praised their work in the Washington Heights and Inwood area. Ms. Erickson, who began at NYRP on 6/6/05, gave an overview of their plans for the coming year.

In Ft. Tryon:

- Responsible for cleaning Anne Loftus playground and area around New Leaf Café.
- Putting out bid for geothermal HVAC, which has minimal impact on environment.
- Concession for New Leaf Café extends to 2007.

In Ft. Washington Park

- On September 17, 2005 Little Red Light House, noon – 5 pm, followed by clean-up.
- Working with Department of Parks and Recreation on capital improvements, possibly including a playground.
- On-going tree planning.

In Swindlers Cove

- September 24, 2005 Peter J. Sharp "Head of the Harlem" Regatta
- Educational programs, including boat building for NYC public school children- some of these participants are getting important lessons in math, not just the environment.
- Wonderful wet land and salt marsh area with great facilities.

In Highbridge Park

- Poses special challenges due to size and topography.
- Doing a lot of work to remove invasive species and replace with native. For example, Norway maple is large and beautiful, but strangles other trees. These can be removed and replaced with Paw-Paw or Pin Oak, which can better supported by the local ecology
- Sherman Creek: received \$300,000 grant from New York State to build a mulch path from boat building workshop to Swindler Cove.

III. Ellen Macknow, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation spoke regarding Highbridge access routes:

- \$ 2 million federal at restore access route to bridge in anticipation of the bridge's eventual restoration.
- September 24- public awareness day for mountain biking in the park, 11 am.
- Major challenge in building access is overcoming a 70 foot ascent from the plaza to the tower. This will be overcome with a ramp from 165<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Area will be filled with native plants.
- Path will be surfaced with historic looking stone and wood.
- There will be no connection to the waterfront "greenway."
- There will be no lighting daytime use until the bridge is opened.
- Zead recommended "dawn to dusk signage.

IV. Dog run in J. Hood Wright Park, presented by Carolann Luckner.

- Neighborhood group is seeking to raise \$8,000 for dog run fence.
- Holding benefit concert on 9/24/05, 7:30 pm at Holyrood church.
- Major problem with late-night noise and other activities at the small park at Cabrini and 177<sup>th</sup> Street.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. Respectfully submitted by Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee.

## **Committee Reports**

**Youth & Education –Dora Maria Abreu, Asst. Chair** presented three resolutions: (1)Intro 550-A- requesting DOE to accurately report school overcrowding. With two corrections passed 37-0-0-0. (2) Res.1218-requesting DOE to stop charging facility fees to after-school programs. With minor corrections passed 37-0-0-0. (3) Co-Sponsor Education Forum. With minor corrections passed 37-0-0-0.

**Parks & Cultural Affairs, Zead Ramadan** presented a resolution to Preserve Audubon Terrace. The Be It Resolved was reworded -" CB12-Man. calls upon the Mayor's Office to create a task force, including the remaining Audubon Terrace institutions, the Department of Cultural Affairs, UMEZ and this Board to develop a plan to preserve and revitalize this unique educational, cultural and architectural complex." Passed 35-0-0-0.

**Economic Development, Milagros Vicente** could not retrieve committee-approved resolutions from her computer, will be presented December.

**Health& Environment, Steven Simon** presented a resolution for the Restoration of Funding for the Man. Lead Safe House which passed 33-0-0-0.

**Traffic & Transportation, Jay Mazur** presented a resolution for a traffic light control Mechanism at FDNY Engine Co. 84 for 161 Amsterdam Ave which passed 33-0-0-0 with no discussion.

**Housing & Human Services, Julio Rodriguez** Review various housing issues.

**Public Safety, Pamela Palanque North-** Thanked Chair for definition of CERT. Will address illegal guns and Domestic Round Table II addressing the aging and partners.

**Aging Concerns, Sybil Dodson-Lucas-** Still pursuing definition of the Medicare D (Drug Program).

**Land Use, Wayne Benjamin** – District wide Planning Study consultants will visit each standing committee for input into the study. Edwin Marshall of City Planning will speak about Community Benefit Agreements (CBA)

9:53pm There be no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted, Anita Barberis, Assistant Secretary

**Land Use Committee - Meeting Minutes  
September 7, 2005**

Committee Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair  
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair  
Dora Maria Abreu  
Julio Rodriguez  
Aaron Scott

Committee Members Absent

Jim Berlin  
Julissa Gomez

Board Members Present

Martin Collins, Chair, CB12

**Guests:**

Regina Gradess, Morys Guzman, Herbert , Wilson Mendoza, Cinthia Mendoza, John Kinney, Francisco Santana - Neighborhood Resident, Myrna-Hillside Avenue, Yvonne Henry- Neighborhood Resident

1. The meeting, held at the Nagle Avenue YM/YWHA, was called to order at 7:10 PM.
2. Land Use Chair Wayne Benjamin made opening remarks and explained that the purpose of the Public Hearing is to obtain public comment on the requested renewal to the term of a special permit (the "Special Permit") granted by the Board of Standards and Appeals ("BAS") for a 48-car public parking lot located at 21-23 Hillside Avenue (the "Parking Lot"). Mr. Benjamin noted that since the City Charter requires 20% of the full Board to be present in order to hold a public hearing, i.e.: 10 Board Members, but only five members of the Land Use Committee (the "Committee") are present, an Informational Meeting will be held to consider the requested BSA action. If a sufficient number of additional Board members arrive the meeting will be converted to a Public Hearing. It was explained that the Parking Lot has been in operation for approximately 45 years but since it is a public parking lot, i.e.: it is not owned by any of the adjacent residential buildings, it is not permitted as-of-right under the area's land use/zoning regulations and requires a special permit which must be renewed periodically. It was also explained that the representative of the owner of the Parking Lot who was scheduled to make a presentation and be available to answer questions contacted CB12-M yesterday to advise that an unexpected scheduling conflict prevented him from attending. Mr. Benjamin advised that the complete application was on-hand for Committee Members and members of the public to review but if the absence of the owner's representative resulted in important questions going unanswered a follow-up meeting/hearing would need to be scheduled. Neighborhood residents and Committee Members familiar with the Parking Lot provided only positive comment with regard to the facility and the requested extension to the term of the Special Permit, generally indicating that the Parking Lot provided a necessary, useful and affordable service. After discussion a motion was made by Julio Rodriguez and seconded by Anita Barberis to support the requested extension to the term of the Special Permit. The motion was passed by the following vote:

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstaining</u>
Committee Members:	5	0	0
Other Board Members:	0	0	0
Member of the Public:	8	0	1

3. A general overview of CB12-M's new Washington Heights-Inwood district-wide planning study was provided. It was noted that the consultant, City College Architectural Center, will have a kick-off meeting with the CB12-M's Executive Committee on September 13<sup>th</sup>, expects to commence work on the study in October and anticipates completing the study in eight months. Public participation in the planning process was encouraged.

4. At Mr. Benjamin's request, Land Use Committee Member Julio Rodriguez discussed options available to the Committee in order for it to obtain more public input on the Audubon Avenue Study. These options include informal discussions with community residents on the street, more formal intercept interview and focus groups. The Committee indicated that it hopes to conclude this matter, i.e.: obtaining additional public input, this fall.
5. Members of the public raised concerns about insufficient places for children to play in order to keep them off of the street. Various vacant lots were discussed as potential new recreational areas. The Committee encouraged interested parties to contact CB12-M's Parks and Recreation Committee to pursue this matter further as well as to explore how existing parkland might be modified to accommodate more active play areas / ball fields.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Wayne A. Benjamin

**COMMITTEE FOR THE AGING MINUTES**  
**November 15, 2005**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Sybil R. Dodson-Lucas, Chair  
Gloria Vanterpool  
Leslie Foster  
Mark Levine  
Nelson Rojas  
Shirley Joyner

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Glenda Swanson-Massa (excused)  
Fern Hertzberg, (excused)

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Guests:** John Kinney, CPAAA, Norma De Candida, -Resident, Russell Smith, Marilyn Pacheco-Outreach Coordinator, Isabella Nursing Home

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Meeting convened at 10:05am, opening remarks Sybil Dodson-Lucas

**Greetings/Introduction**

- Invitation to John Kinney to join committee as public member
- Ms. Dodson-Lucas informed committee members of expressed interest by private group to develop assisted living facility in Inwood. Representatives of exodus group will attend committee meeting in January to present their ideas.
- There followed a discussion on Medicare Part D with emphasis on Planning for Training / Information sessions on Medicare Part D.
- October meeting at Dyckman houses will be followed by meetings in other locations of the community
- Leslie Forster suggests that the committee should coordinate With WHICOA and DR. Peralta to maximize information flow.
- Gloria Vanterpool—Some confusion resulted after the Dyckman meeting because of the amount of information that was distributed. More Spanish language information is necessary.
- Leslie Foster will take the lead on outreach to Dr. Peralta for coordination of meetings with our committee throughout the district
- Gloria Vanterpool –Suggested committee use these meetings as an opportunity to bring other community issues to light.
- Copies of Statement of District Needs were distributed at meeting.
- Committee consensus : Medicaid Part D --Train the trainers program requires expansion
- Mark Levine –Questioned how knowledgeable are the staff of the senior centers on Medicare Part D
- John Kinney – Committee needs to confirm the training schedule .Flyers in Eng./ Sp must explain how the changes will affect persons on disability etc
- Community member Russell Smith – encourages network with CBO's to assist DFTA and the Board in distribution of information
- Committee members suggest there will be an avalanche of calls and inquiries once deadline has been passed . questioned if centers re prepared to handle the volume of calls.



- Committee to develop list of area Pharmacies to send flyer, will also Contact DFTA to send message to pharmacies (Verna Authur)

Note: At the request of the Committee, the Executive Committee has agreed that a Certificate of Appreciation will be awarded to Ms. Peggy Cain. Ms Crain has served as the school crossing guard at PS 173 for 38 continuous years. The Certificate will be presented at the December 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of this committee.

Respectfully submitted: S. Dodson-Lucas