

**Community Board 12, Manhattan  
General Meeting –September 22, 2009 – (Yeshiva University)**

**PRESENT**

Dora Maria Abreu  
Jackie Rowe Adams  
Richard Allman  
Jennifer Araújo  
Anita Barberis  
Wayne Benjamin  
James Berlin  
Isaiah Bing  
Emilia Cardona  
Rolando Cespedes

Martin Collins  
George Cruz  
Ingrid Dominguez Brito  
George Espinal  
Julissa Gomez  
Ramona Gomez  
Ariel Hart  
Albania Lopez Jimenez

Mark Levine  
Tony Lopez  
Elizabeth Lorris Ritter  
Maria Luna  
Rita McKee  
Edgard Nau  
Pam Palanque North  
Rafael Osoria  
Edith Prentiss  
George Nelson Preston

Zead Ramadan  
Tammy Rivera  
Nelson Rojas  
Cleofis Sarete  
Steve Simon  
Gloria Vanterpool  
Manny Velazquez

**EXCUSED**

Helen Morik  
Glenda Swanson  
Massa  
Cheryl Pahaham  
Ninoska Uribe

**ABSENT**

Rev. Antonio Almonte  
Carole Mulligan  
Ines Saldana Olesen  
Andrea Reyes  
Rolando Rodriguez  
Ruddy Santana

The Chair, Manny Velazquez, **called the meeting to order** at 7:20pm;

- Chairman Velazquez explained what the general meeting packets contained committee assignments and board member directory, Manny explained that the lists should be kept confidential, information of cell phones and home information are off limits to outsiders
- Chairman Velazquez also explained the importance of transmitting information properly via the internet on subject matter relating to board business or board member to board member should be consistent with by law protocol
- He ask our parliamentarian, James Berlin to interpret the by laws for clarity
- Manny expressed his concern to the board members about their attendance and the lack of quorum in Septembers committee meetings
- Manny said that attendance is mandatory when selecting a person for a leadership role position, candidates who might be interested in being considered for administrative positions should be mindful of their attendance requirements. As it appears to be a problem now it will be monitored closely and those persons negligent will be receiving warning letters
- Chairman Velazquez found the using of the internet during the summer was a helpful tool in getting information out to the public and community based organizations, he recommended as a community we be active in that process
- Manny reported that upcoming elections for the administrative posts would coming up in December, a nominating committee would be selected shortly
- He explained if you are on the nominating committee, you must eliminate yourself from the nominating process, so give it some thought if you are considering

**SLA's requirements for community board review.** Rita McKee: last month we looked at a liquor store which didn't need

Ebenezer Smith gave the **District Manager's report** (7:39pm), apologizing for lack of written report, but he was too busy.  
173. A: I will attend.

**Guest Presenter: NYC Department of Information Telecommunications & Technology (DoITT) 311 System**

With the achievement of a **quorum (8:13pm)**, Ms. McKee made a **motion to adopt the agenda** which was seconded by Rolando Cespedes. There was no objection to the suggestion to move the Health & Environment Committee report to #3, before Economic Development, or to the main motion. Emilia Cardona made a **motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting**, which was seconded by Mr. Benjamin. Ms. Cardona made a second **motion to approve the minutes of the December meeting**, which also was seconded by Mr. Benjamin and passed without objection.

**Elected Officials' Representatives' reports (8:15pm)**

: (8:17) written report (get highlights) senior ctrs, MTA finance, something else.

Monica Taveras of the Mayor's CAU declined to speak, as there had been an extensive presentation already from a Mayoral agency.

Frank Hess for NYS Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell: the Assembly is trying to pass an early budget in March, rather than waiting until April.

**Public Speakers' Session (8:31pm)**

Yoshafña Hill, Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone: manager of workforce development. Upcoming event geared to helping un- and under-

Tess Shaw, community resident: Noise issues on Dyckman. After many calls to 311, we finally realized that the problem isn't a concert or park or cars, but Mamajuana Restaurant. We've contacted Councilmember Jackson's office about this. This restaurant plans to expand, I don't know what that means, but will more business mean more noise? This is a real problem for area residents. What are the relevant noise guidelines?

Odalys Cruz, US Census Bureau: gave information on what the census is, and why it's important. The 435 Congressional seats are reapportioned to

Peter Walsh, Coogan's Restaurant: Announced the upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> annual Coogan's Sals Sharocks & Blues 5k race on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>. This year's event will have an estimated 6,000 runner, and will start a little further up Ft. Washington Ave (near J. Hood Wright Park) and go around the Cloisters. This will provide a better turnaround, and also will alleviate pedestrian traffic around the hospital. The armory still will be used for registration, and the children's races still will be at 170<sup>th</sup> Street. Children who run do better in school. Julissa Gomez: why is the route being changed? A: The starting point was moved to 173<sup>rd</sup> Street because the runners were backed up all the way to Broadway, which was dangerous.

Will go around cloisters and end just short of the armory. Road runners has several race categories; anyone can signup at [www.nyrr.org](http://www.nyrr.org). Children's races are from one-year-old to age 12, with sign-up that morning.

George Espinal, 34<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council: NYPD crime prevention section will register your electronics at the next council meeting, tomorrow at 7:30pm. I encourage all to attend. 4295 bway. We generally meet the fourth Wednesday of every month.

**Committee Reports:**

**Elizabeth Lorris Ritter for Parks & Cultural Affairs:**

**Emilia Cardona for Public Safety** (9:08pm):

**Gloria Vanterpool for Aging** centers. People must speak up soon and often, not just one time

**Mark Levine for Traffic & Transportation Committee** (9:21pm): Presented a resolution to co-name SW corner of 159<sup>th</sup> & Amsterdam in honor of was accepted as friendly; the resolution passed unanimously (32 votes) without further discussion.

**Wayne Benjamin for Land Use**: (9:40pm) gave a brief update on a proposal for landmarking on Audubon Terrace. An hour-long presentation at the last Committee meeting included the Landmarks Preservation Commissioner; it is nice to see this issue finally getting the attention it deserves. A resolution to reinstate and renew a BSA variance for the Exxon-Mobil station on Broadway & 155<sup>th</sup> Street passed unanimously (32 votes) with no questions or discussion.

**Steve Simon for Health & Environment**: (9:45pm) reminded the Board of a resolution discussed at length and voted on at our November meeting. It received the unanimous support of the 22 Board members present, but as that did not constitute a quorum, it cannot be considered as having in CB12, the data they hope to collect, and the improvements in air quality they hope to establish.

**Zead Ramadan for Economic Development**: (9:48pm)

There being no further discussion, the remaining resolutions received yes-no-abstention-not-voting tallies as follows in a roll call:

- #1 NO OBJECTION to new DCA Enclosed Café license for El Nuevo Caridad (1618 St. Nicholas Ave.) passed unanimously (30 votes).
- #2 NO OBJECTION to new SLA On-premise Liquor license for De Café (4842 Broadway @ Academy) passed 27-2-1-0.
- #3 NO OBJECTION to new SLA On-premise Liquor license for WH Billiards (500 W 207 btw. Nagle/Post Aves.) passed 28-2-0-0.
- #4 OBJECTING to new SLA On-premise Liquor license for Pachenga Sports Bar (561 W 163 near Broadway) passed unanimously (30 votes).
- #5 NO OBJECTION to renew SLA On-premise Liquor license for International Food House (4073 Broadway btw W 171/172) passed 29-1-0-0.
- #6 NO OBJECTION to renew SLA On-premise Liquor license for Monkey Room (589 Ft. Washington Ave. @ W 187<sup>th</sup>) passed 23-4-3-0.
- #7 NO OBJECTION to renew SLA On-premise Liquor license for Melodia (154 Post Ave (btw. W 207<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.) passed 24-2-4-0.
- #8 NO OBJECTION to renew SLA On-premise Liquor license for Empire Szechuan (4041 Broadway @ W 170<sup>th</sup>) passed 24-2-4-0.
- #9 NO OBJECTION to renew SLA On-premise Liquor license for Il Sole (229 Dyckman btw. Seaman/Broadway) passed 29-1-0-0.
- #10 OBJECTING to renew SLA On-premise Liquor license for El Fogon (3856 10<sup>th</sup> Ave @ W 206<sup>th</sup>) passed unanimously (30 votes).
- #11 NO OBJECTION to renew SLA Restaurant Wine license for El Pollo Provocon (1495 St. Nick btw. W 184/185) passed 24-2-4-0.
- #12 NO OBJECTION to renew SLA Restaurant Wine license for Ceci Restaurant (78 Sherman btw. Dyckman/Thayer) passed 29-1-0-0.
- #13 NO OBJECTION to renew SLA Restaurant Wine license for La Terraza (3881 Broadway btw. W 162/163) passed 24-2-4-0.

**New Business/Announcements:** (10:20pm)

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- Ms. Luna offered congratulations to Ms. North, who just became a grandmother. There were applause and congratulations.

**Socrates Solano for Congressman Charles Rangel**, (10:22pm),

The meeting was **adjourned** by acclamation at 10:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Secretary.

**HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES - MINUTES**  
**September 10, 2009**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cheryl Pahaham, Chair  
Glenda Swanson-Massa, Asst. Chair  
Juan Alonzo  
Carole Mulligan

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Nicole Foster (Excused)  
Melanie Hidalgo (Absent)  
Ruddy Santana (Absent)  
Pamela Palanque-North (Excused)

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Staff Member Present:** Paola Garcia

**Guests:** Anthony Parson, Resident; Liz Accles, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies; Angela Fernandez, Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights

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Chairperson Cheryl Pahaham convened the meeting at 7:15 PM. No quorum.

The committee invited Angela Fernandez, executive director of the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights (NMCIR) to present on services for the community and joined the Health and Environment Committee for the discussion. NMCIR serves 5,000 to 7,000 people each year provides immigrants with free assistance obtaining citizenship, work permits and visas. NMCIR planned a citizenship fair on September 19, 9 AM, at Tolentine Elementary on Andrews Avenue and West Fordham Road in the Bronx. She noted that NMCIR also has an office in the Bronx and partners with organizations to serve immigrants across a broad spectrum in their own languages. A citizenship fair was also planned for Manhattan.

The committee adjourned its joint meeting with Health and Environment and began its own meeting, with a presentation by Liz Accles, from the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies on the impact of welfare reform and the kinds of reforms Community Board 12 might advocate. According to Liz, it was important to ask why more people were not receiving welfare, given the rising poverty and unemployment rates. Welfare was intended as a safety net, with caseloads expected to increase when unemployment and joblessness were increasing. Despite current economic need, the caseload is not increasing and a much smaller percentage of the poor were assisted by welfare today than in 1995, prior to welfare reform. Possible reasons for this trend include a difficult, multi-step application process that seems designed to frustrate and deter applicants; a high rate of denials of applications, possibly erroneous or unjustified denials; a pervasive and persistent historical stigma associated with welfare use; and very low benefit levels that keeps users below 50 percent of the federal poverty threshold, among other reasons. Liz gave the committee a copy of her agency's report and invited committee members to participate in a welfare reform working group that was preparing to make recommendations for changes to the federal welfare law, which is up for reauthorization in 2010. After some discussion of welfare reform, in which concerns were raised for veterans, seniors, immigrants and the mentally ill, the committee agreed to study this issue further and to draft a resolution recommending reforms in a subsequent committee meeting.

The committee then began discussing the FY 2011 budget request. It was agreed that instead of asking for funds for general services already provided by municipal agencies (such as "increase funds for daycare," or "provide more code inspectors") that the committee would ask for funds for specific programs operated by nonprofits or schools in CD 12. The chair asked committee members to speak to representatives of community organizations to identify potential operational or capital needs and asked the committee to submit a list of requests before the general meeting, preferably by September 18. Committee members agreed that this was a better strategy than what was done previously.

Other agenda items, such as planning the committee's work for 2009-2010, would be addressed in October.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Cheryl Pahaham, 09/17/09

## Land Use Committee - Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2009

### Committee Members Present

Wayne Benjamin, Chair  
Anita Barberis, Asst. Chair  
James Berlin  
Dora Maria Abreu  
Isaiah Bing

### Committee Members Absent

Richard Allman  
Tamara Rivera

### Board Members

### Public Member

Vivian Ducat

Staffer: Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Guests: Dan Held-Columbia University, Sandra Harris-Columbia University(Govt & Comm. Affairs), Joe Mannino-Columbia University, Leon Wynter-Harlem COC, Gail Addiss-Resident, Eric Platnick-Congregation Mita, Alejandro Baquero-Cifuentes(EDC)

1. The Land Use Committee ("Land Use" or the "Committee") was called to order at 7:10 PM. Land Use Chair welcomed committee members and guests back from the summer break and asked the committee members to introduce themselves.
2. Eric Palatnik, a lawyer representing Congregation Mita (the "Owner"), made a presentation to the Committee concerning the BSA application (Application Calendar No.: 182-09-BZ) filed in connection with 612 West 180<sup>th</sup> Street (the "Property"). The Property is a former synagogue built circa 1923 that was purchased by the Owner in 1982. The Property does not conform to current zoning with respect to side and rear yard requirements, but since it pre-dates the 1960 zoning resolution, it is a legal non-conforming building. Approximately five years ago the Property was enlarged; the work was undertaken without building permits. The construction consisted of enlargements to the second and third floors and enlarges the existing Novitiate [generally defined as the space in the building - church, convent, monastery - devoted exclusively to the needs of novices for sleeping, training, etc.] located on these floors. This illegal construction resulted in both building code and zoning violations. The zoning violations relate to the aforementioned side and rear yard requirements. The existing building does not have to comply with these zoning requirements but the new construction must comply. In order for the Owner to address building code violations it must first obtain certain zoning variances from BSA to address/legalize the zoning violations. Without the zoning variances the Department of Buildings cannot work with the Owner on the building code violations.

Mr. Palatnik continued the presentation noting that the Owner acknowledges that it went about undertaking the construction backwards, should have first obtained the necessary approvals and is not making any excuses for not proceeding properly. The Committee was advised that the church has approximately 370 members and that the additional space is needed to accommodate programmatic needs for traveling missionaries. The Novitiate is not occupied at all times; occupancy tends to vary with church events, meeting, etc. On average it is occupied by 10 to 75 people. Mr. Palatnik also advised Committee the Novitiate is a Use Group that is permitted as-of-right under zoning and that under federal and state law religious institutions are given significant deference as to zoning and as to the ability to rely upon programmatic needs to support requests for zoning variance applications.

The Committee asked to be provided with further background on the programmatic need for the additional space, expressed concern with the construction being completed without approvals and permits and asked if the Owner was also seeking to have the building department violations waived. Mr. Palatnik agreed to forward more information to the District Manager with respect to programmatic needs and advised that all building code and fire and life safety violations must be addressed; they cannot be waived. LU will host a public hearing at its October 2009 meeting to formerly consider this application.

3. Dan Held of Columbia University ("CU") made a presentation to the Committee concerning a proposed project at CU's Bakersfield Campus. Mr. Held introduced Sandra Harris and other members of the CU team present, indicated that his office was responsible for facilities projects at the Morningside Heights campus and the Bakersfield campus and advised that project presentations are being made to solicit feed-back from the public and other stakeholders. The Committee was informed that the project has the dual goals of providing waterfront access and making Bakersfield more of a community destination that is patronized as an extension of Inwood Hill Park and as an active athletic facility. The project as envisioned will restore the existing salt-water marsh and include a boardwalk. Various project renderings were presented to the Committee. Mr. Held noted that most of the property impacted by the project is on the Bakersfield campus but that a portion of the water's edge has uncertain ownership and is being considered to be controlled by NYC Parks Department (Parks). The western extension of West 218<sup>th</sup> Street and Inwood Hill Park also border the portion of the Bakersfield campus where the project is to be located and will be impacted by matters related to design and access. The Committee was advised that CU is working with Parks and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection on the project, CU would like to complete the project within the next two years and that a special permit from the Department of City Planning is required to address compliance with waterfront zoning requirements. LU recommended that CU make a presentation to CB12-M's Parks committee and asked what efforts were being made to outreach to residents near Bakersfield. Neighborhood resident Gail Addiss noted that she generally liked what she heard but would like to see more street trees, is concerned about the implementation of noise-abatement measures that CU promised to undertake in connection with new HVAC equipment that was installed on campus and that the barbed-wire at the top of an existing fence is not attractive and conveys a negative message. In response, the CU reps stated that they too are interested in more street trees, will fulfil the promise to complete noise abatement measures and realize that the subject fence is not attractive and needs to be replaced.
4. Alejandro Baquero-Cifuentes of the NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) made a presentation to update the Committee on the status of the Sherman Creek Waterfront Esplanade study. The Committee was advised that EDC has selected a consultant pursuant to a RFP process to prepare a master plan for the proposed Sherman Creek Waterfront Esplanade. The consultant selected is Weiss and Yoss, a Manhattan-based woman-owned business enterprise. Mr. Baquero-Cifuentes noted that the goals of the master plan include improving public access to the waterfront, exploring the feasibility of developing a continuous esplanade that is an attractive asset to the community and determining how property ownership impacts options for developing an esplanade. The master plan will set a broad framework that will be refined as the recommendations coming out of the study are explored further and implemented. The study is expected to take one year to complete and will include design options, cost estimates, maintenance budgets and strategies for maintaining the esplanade. The Committee was also informed that an advisory committee will be created that will be responsible for working with EDC, the consultant

and other stakeholders to shape the vision of the study and to develop ideas for further exploration. Community Board 12-Manhattan will be asked to participate in the advisory committee. A date has not been set for a kick-off meeting of the advisory committee. LU recommended that EDC meet with CB12-M's Parks and Culture committee (Parks) to brief it on the study and suggested that LU, Parks and Public Safety be represented on the advisory committee.

5. Mr. Benjamin advised that Committee that the discussion of Fresh Food Store Zoning Text Amendment (the "Amendment") was removed from the agenda because it was his understanding that the Department of City Planning (DCP) had voted on the Amendment in August. However, per an email received from Edwin Marshall a few hours ago, he now understands that DCP held a public hearing in August, will vote on the Amendment in late-September (likely September 23<sup>rd</sup>) and the City Council will vote on it in October. Wayne reminded the Committee that Mr. Marshall and other DCP representatives made a presentation on the Amendment at the June 2009 LU meeting, but since a quorum of the Committee was not established no vote was taken. At the June meeting LU was informed that the intention of the Amendment is to bring fresh food stores to under-served areas in the city by increasing the opportunity for new fresh food stores to be opened, increase shopping selections and convenience for residents. The highest concentrations of under-served areas are in Northern Manhattan, the South Bronx, Central Brooklyn and Jamaica, Queens (**refer to the June 3, 2009 LU minutes attached for further details**). After further discussion a motion was made (J. Berlin) and seconded (O. Bing) in support of the Amendment. The resolution was passed based on the following votes:

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

6. The meeting adjourned at t 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Wayne A. Benjamin



**Community Board 12, Manhattan Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee**  
**September 1, 2009 – CB 12 Office (711 W. 168<sup>th</sup> St.)**

**Committee Members present:** Elizabeth Lorris Ritter; Rabbi Joseph Kalinsky; George Fernandez; Cynthia Carrion

**Excused:** Zead Ramadan, Joe Wojak, David Kach     **Absent:** Emilia Cardona, Ninoska Uribe, George Nelson Preston, Jasmine Moy

**Board Members present:** Steve Simon

**Guests:** Jennifer Hoppa, Desmond Spillane, Laura Drawbaugh & Chris Crowley, NYC DPR; Leslie Peoples & Frank Barber, Stantec; Andrew Keshner, Columbia School of Journalism; David Nimowitz, Terry Lorden; Christopher Lyons; Nancy Fiaschetti

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**The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm, with welcome & opening remarks** by Committee Chair Elizabeth Lorris Ritter. The Greenmarket was discussion deferred to the October agenda as representatives of the NYC Council on the Environment are still in discussion with representatives of Columbia University & Presbyterian Hospital with regard to siting. It was noted, however, that all parties are committed to finding a workable site, and that CENYC also remains committed to identifying an appropriate site in the 180s/190s for a Sunday market to meet the needs of the community as well.

**Phase II of Bennett Park Renovations** (presentation by Chris Crowley, DPR Architect)

\$1.2 million contributed by Borough President Scott Stringer and Councilmember Robert Jackson. There have been several community meeting and on-going dialogue with area residents, Harvest Festival organizers, PS 187 families and staff, representatives from Elected officials, members of CBOs and other stakeholders, who were all a part of needs assessment, which noted the need to accommodate: a growing senior population, many dog owners, and a large number of children of different ages and their need for a play area. Additionally, the park must tell the historic story of Fort Washington. Also the central area which has variously been planted as a lawn is unsuccessful, turning instead into an unusable, unattractive "dirt bowl."

The Master Plan will incorporate historic elements; the playground will be "fort themed," to become an educational & inspirational place; improve ADA access to the park's features and bathrooms; improve the play area with the additional of a spray station, fort, access to rock & expanding playground. It was noted that Bennett Park is the highest elevation in the island, but that the historical marker must be more visible & accessible. The lawn will be divided into two panels for passive recreation; there will be a newly delineated Fort area (following the lines of the original fort) for ball play; two drinking fountains; new fencing; benches; and wicker hoops in lieu of high chain link fencing. Dog owners using south area of park for undesignated dog run would like to get public perimeters for including dogs. It was made very clear that the park cannot accommodate a dog run, that no dog run is planned now nor will one be approved in the future, and that increased enforcement is necessary to combat the current problem with off-leash dogs. An additional \$3.5 million in funding for next phase to extend the playground, move and improve the comfort station, and add a children's garden and a new entrance to park.

Community recommendations for Phase I included keeping southern entrance on the western perimeter, as travel usage patterns clearly support points of access from both ends on Pinehurst Avenue; keeping the park open until the usual hours of 1am and not locking the park but continuing to allow walk-thrus from the subway entrance across the street from the park; improve signage indicating other fields available for baseball. Otherwise, the plan was well received.

Community members welcomed the opportunity for Phase II, and supported adding it to the list of Capital Expense priorities for FY '11 during the budget ranking process next month. Phase I is anticipated to commence in the late Spring '10 and last approximately 9 months with a target completion early in the Spring '11. Jennifer Hoppa also noted that running water has been restored to the existing bathroom, so fixed-post staff now can be stationed at park.

With respect to the perpetual issue of dog excrement and off-leash violation, Ms. Hoppa asks that community members contact her with specific information of perpetrators for follow-up and to issue summons. It also was recommended to rank the request for additional enforcement personnel highly among expense priorities for FY '11.

**Plaza Juan Bosch Plaza Proposal** (Presentation by Laura Drawbaugh, DPR Architect)

The Plaza is located in Highbridge Park, adjacent to Amsterdam Ave. between 190<sup>th</sup> – 193<sup>rd</sup> Streets. Yeshiva University is a located few blocks south, and Isabella Geriatric Center across the Avenue. The community's concerns with the area include drag-racing along Amsterdam Ave., as there are no traffic lights and the street is relatively straight. CB 12's Traffic & Transportation Committee to advocate DOT/ MTA for a traffic light rather than speed bumps. It was also suggested to consider a planted median or other traffic calming measures.

Plaza Juan Bosch will be a commemorative plaza for the Dominican professor and first democratically elected president of the Dominican Republic, an especially appropriate honorific for residents of this largely Dominican community. The Plaza will include benches with Taino symbols and "tree of life" motif, and will use purple as main design color in honor of the, the political party that he founded (PLD). An open book monument will be created, with quotes in English and Spanish engraved along the path. Paths will be repaired, adding lights; views will be restored through targeted pruning; beautiful and eco-friendly materials will be used throughout the re-design. DPR is mindful of security issues, and also the need for available pole taps for electricity at public events. The project will cost \$500k, and is due to begin construction in the Spring '10. Members of Both the Committee and the public agreed that the proposal was a welcomed addition to the neighborhood and praised Parks for their thoughtful and beautiful design. The Committee recommended that DPR work with neighboring schools and Isabella for art collaborations.

**Fort Washington PlaNYC Project Updates:** (Jennifer Hoppa): \$11 million cut to Parks budget will impact future projects, though projects already funded will continue as planned. PlaNYC Phase I – Hudson River Valley Ft. Wash/Inwood Hill Greenway Project will include: a bike ramp and ADA access under the Henry Hudson Parkway from the northern end of the Fort Washington Greenway down to the Dyckman fields area. The project has \$3.75 million slated for construction costs. The project will allow for access to the Ft. Washington Greenway & Inwood sections of the Hudson River Valley Greenway.

As of now the Fort Washington Park PlaNYC renovation which was to have included a path west of the mid-cluster ball fields currently is not going forward, though the renovation of the ball fields themselves will go forward. It was requested to add funding for Phase II (including renovation of the mid-park cluster playground) to the FY '11 Capital Expense priorities.

Lighthouse link project: This project will create a new segment of waterfront greenway and overlooks from Dyckman Street down to approximately 181<sup>st</sup> Street. The pathway includes \$2.1 million in Federal transportation funds matched by Ft. Washington PlaNYC projects. Construction timeline anticipates a Fall '10 start. A copy of the plans will be kept in the CB12 office for public viewing. Cynthia Carrion agreed to draft a letter to NYS DOT regarding clean-up of Dyckman Street near the entrance to Inwood Hill Park.

**Capital & Expense budget priority rankings for FY '11:** October Meeting will look at FY 2011 for ranking of capital projects and expense program spending. After some discussion it was agreed that it made sense to collapse the path work projects in various parks into a single larger path project for CD12. It was also noted that the retaining wall at J. Hood Wright Park has been completed and the item should be removed from the priorities listing. Several projects have been funded and are now in design or construction (Roger Morris Parks perimeter sidewalks, Riverside Oval, Roger Morris Park retaining wall and ADA ramp, Indian Road Playground and High Bridge reopening) and should be ranked "CS" for continuing support, rather than being assigned a priority number. Based on feedback and discussions over the last year, it was agreed that the following 4 items should be added for consideration in the ranking process: removal of hazardous debris from former boat house at Sherman Creek; Javits Playground renovation (this much-used playground is 20 years old, in disrepair, and does not conform to contemporary safety standards); and the Phase II renovations to Bennett & Ft. Washington Park Playgrounds as noted above. There were no new expense items, though it was agreed to reference garbage pick-ups and horticulture personnel within the maintenance personnel item; and to correct a typo in the item regarding street tree pruning.

Respectfully submitted: Cynthia Carrión & Elizabeth Lorris Ritter



## HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES – September 10, 2009

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steve Simon, Isaiah Bing, Ernest Kach, Helen Morik, Audrey Perez, Andria Reyes, Beatrice Hall (Public Member). **ABSENT:** Edgard Nau

**CB 12 MEMBERS:** Cheryl Pahaham, Juan Alonzo, Glenda Swanson-Massa, Carole Mulligan.

**STAFF:** Paola Garcia

**GUESTS:** Angela Fernandez, Executive Director, Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights; Dr. Frederica Perera, Swapna Mehta and Diurka Diaz, Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health; Mayra Linares, Con Edison; Hugo Guzman, Harlem Hospital; Viorika Rybak and Rachel Rosenthal, Baruch College students.

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Chair Steve Simon called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and announced that it would begin as a joint session with the Housing and Human Services (HHS) Committee to hear the first presentation.

1. **Updates on services provided by the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights** – Angela Fernandez, the new Executive Director, stated that the agency, located at 665 W. 182<sup>nd</sup> St., bet. Broadway and Wadsworth Ave., provides free services to people seeking help with citizenship applications, adjustments of "green card" status, family reunification petitions, work authorizations, etc. Also offers civics classes and one-on-one tutoring. Through partnership with Legal Aid Society, it assists people facing deportation proceedings. It received a grant to open a second office in The Bronx and is holding a citizenship drive there on 9/19. A total of 5-7,000 people were served last year with a paid staff of 10 people. After Ms. Fernandez answered a few questions, the four members of the HHS Committee left to continue their meeting in another room.
2. **Effects of Exposure on Toxic Air Pollutants on Children's Health in Northern Manhattan** – Dr. Frederica Perera, Director, Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health (CCCEH), gave the following presentation:
  - Emissions from traffic & fossil fuel burning cause asthma, developmental problems, cancer risk
  - Children and fetuses don't have mechanism to clean pollutants from their bodies
  - 1982 study found damage to DNA in newborns in NY even in low levels
  - 25 -30% of children in NY reported to have asthma, among the highest rates in US
  - Ethnic disparities in exposure, higher levels in underserved communities of color
  - CCCEH's Mothers and Newborns Study focuses on 730 African-American and Latino pregnant women and their children in northern Manhattan and the South Bronx
  - The children's health is being monitored from birth through 11 years of age
  - The women wore portable backpack monitors during pregnancy, and the center analyzed the pollutants caught on the filter, including pesticides
  - Sample of umbilical cord blood also analyzed
  - All women were exposed to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), emissions from cars and buses
  - They also suffer from material hardship – lack of food, shelter, utilities. 40% reported at least 1 hardship.
  - 40% had damage to their genetic material
  - Children are tested at ages 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 – take blood and urine samples
  - Found increased respiratory symptoms – asthma and changes in the immune system
  - CCCEH contacts the families every 3 or 6 months. 95% retention rate with children over 5 years old.
  - Families are compensated for participating in the study.
  - Children with developmental disabilities or health problems such as asthma are given referrals to clinics at the Medical Center. They are treated regardless of whether they have health insurance.
  - Education and outreach on these health issues needed in the community – CCCEH works with WEACTION, interested in working with additional CBOs
  - Provides info to federal, state & local policymakers
  - Steps have been taken to reduce auto pollution – e.g., legislation to reduce bus idling, buses now use cleaner fuel
  - Recent study shows improvement in air quality
3. **Update on Con Edison's M-29 Transmission Line and Substation Project** – Mayra Linares, Community Liaison, reported as follows:
  - Finished transmission line in Manhattan & Bronx. 207<sup>th</sup> Street area not repaved yet because of MTA work.
  - Tunnel under Harlem River – no more blasting, completed waterproofing, doing concrete work.
  - Substation – façade up, plumbing etc. installed, high-voltage transformers now being installed, won't be up and running

until late 2010, trees will be planted around site.

- WH-I energy efficiency program - \$3M committed by Con Ed following July 1999 blackout. Half was put into program organized by Assembly Member Espaillat in which Con Ed sends consultants to do audits for businesses and recommend energy efficient lighting.
- Each business is entitled to a \$10,000 grant to add or replace lighting based on consultants' recommendations. Still looking for more applicants.
- Program not for residents – not enough \$.
- The other \$1.5M may go towards purchasing refrigerators and air conditioners for businesses – this idea is now under consideration.
- These funds were earmarked for UCAN at former Council Member Martinez's request but never provided to that defunct agency since a plan was never approved for the use of these funds.

Bing: Did Con Ed replace the 50-60-year-old paper insulated lead cables when the street work was done?

Linares: They changed anything they found that was defective or old.

Bing: Can you provide Con Ed's load projection for megawatt usage in WH-I? We need to make sure there is an adequate capacity for future development in the community. Linares promised to look into it.

**4. Report on Fiscal Outlook and Other Developments at NY-Presbyterian Hospital –** Helen Morik, Vice President, Government and Community Affairs, reported as follows:

- The Allen Pavilion was renamed the Allen Hospital at a ceremony today featuring Mariano Rivera, NY Yankees pitcher. The building is now 20 years old. The lobby was renovated with a new donation by the Allen family.
- Following the state budget cuts to Medicaid last spring, NYPH is "holding our own." Some job vacancies are not being filled; other cost savings being implemented. Heard that Governor will reopen the budget and call a special session soon to deal with \$2B deficit. Concerned about more cuts. Hoping they won't be as serious as last round.
- President Obama's health care reform also will result in cuts. Hospital industry has volunteered to give up \$155B over 10 years. NYPH President Pardes attended one of the President's forums at the White House.
- Community Service Plan being submitted to the State Health Dept. focuses on three needs: diabetes, acute diseases such as cardiac care and emergency preparedness. Will brief us in greater detail next month.
- Plan being developed to deal with swine flu. Ambulatory Care Network hours will be expanded to provide flu shots. Hoping HHC will do the same with its clinics. Will make announcement at general meeting.
- Patients Safety Fridays – NYPH has created award-winning program in which thousands of managers meet every Friday at 8 a.m. and are taught about basic protocols, such as the need for staff to wash their hands. Teams are assigned to particular areas in the hospital to check on equipment, to see whether staff is avoiding medical errors and improving communication with patients. As a result, patients' satisfaction ratings have gone up.

**5. Preliminary Discussion on FY 11 Expense and Capital Budget Priorities –** The list of recommended priorities ranked by the committee last year was reviewed. Six of the 10 expense priorities were accepted by the full board. All 5 capital budget priorities made it onto the board's final list. The committee will vote on its FY 11 recommendations next month.

**6. New Business –** Bing: at last night's Land Use Committee meeting, EDC gave a presentation on its plan for an esplanade north of Sherman Creek. There were questions concerning environmental conditions along the shoreline and property ownership. He suggested that Simon try to answer these questions.

Simon passed out copies of handouts distributed by Congressman Rangel's office and the Commission on the Public's Health System at Assembly Member Espaillat's recent "town hall" meeting on health care reform.

**7. Mail was reviewed.**

**8. Announcements –** Hugo Guzman: Harlem Hospital's Healthy Hearts outreach team will provide free screenings at the Dyckman Family Health Center, 175 Nagle Ave., on 9/22. Blood pressure and glucose screenings will be offered at the same location on 9/26.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Simon

**Traffic & Transportation Committee Minutes**  
**September 14, 2009**

**Committee Members Present**      **Committee Members Absent**

Anita Barberis  
James Berlin  
Edith Prentiss  
George Nelson Preston  
Rabbi Joseph Kalinsky

Mark Levine  
Rita McKee

**C.B. 12 Members Present :**

**Staffer: Deborah Blow**

**Guests:** Julio batista-NYP, James Burke-WEACT, Carol Blagman-Resident, David M.-Resident  
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Anita Barberis opened the meeting in the absence of Chair, Mark Levine at 7:15pm

Discussed the on-going repairs at 181<sup>st</sup> Street #1 train station. The collapse of the ceiling deterring use of that station for a period of time had mixed reviews as to the mode of transportation passengers (including handicap access) had open to them. This station is on the Landmark register and monies to repair had just arrived from Albany so work is scheduled to begin in three months with no time frame for completion.

WE ACT volunteered to monitor station functionality and communicate, via surveys, with the commuting public as to health and environment issues during the repairs. They will forward a draft of the survey to the office for our committee's review.

Ms. Barberis recommended that the office make copies of the 116 page 181<sup>st</sup> Street Traffic Study and mail it to the committee members so that we may address the findings and concepts for possible traffic improvements at our next meeting.

Based on a public meeting on June 18 and meeting with 181<sup>st</sup> business owners and the Fire Dept on July 8, a set of three improvement packages have been developed and the preliminary results are due in October. The entire study is scheduled to be completed by April 2010.

With the reconstruction of the Alexander Hamilton Bridge, it was observed that state traffic agents were on hand to re-direct traffic without incident.

Distributed a copy of DOT's eligible paving projects in our community and asked T&T members to add streets that they feel need attention, which we will forward to DOT.

J. Berlin stated that the Washington Post announced that Google maps are now available on major side streets via GPS, which will give us time-stamped documentation as to traffic jams, like Ft. Washington Ave. on most Fridays.

Julio Batista representing Presbyterian Hospital is requesting our assistance in getting DOT to install Muni-Meters around the hospital to turn parking over more quickly. They have written letters to DOT and 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct to no avail. NYS PI is looking for authorized parking in front of their building on Riverside Drive. We should set up a meeting and include the 33<sup>rd</sup> Police Precinct commander and DOT to iron out the details.

David M, resident of 900 W 190 St. asked if volunteers could assist with some kind of rehab of the 190 St. subway station tunnel off Bennett Ave. This is MTA property and is not open to volunteerism. However, we would like to invite Marcus Book- MTA community liaison to our next meeting to respond to this offer and further to keep us up-to-date on the repairs at 181<sup>st</sup> and 168<sup>th</sup> streets train stations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Anita Barberis

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**Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 2, 2009**

**Committee Member**

Emilia Cardona, Chair  
George Cruz  
Ingrid Dominques-Brito  
Andria Reyes  
George Fernandez  
Elizabeth Pepin

**Committee Absentees**

Ninoska Uribe  
Rev. Antonio Almonte  
Cheryl Pahaham  
Julissa Gomez

**Board Members Attending**

Dora Marie Abreu

**Staff:** Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

**Guests:** Dep Insp Andrew Capul 34<sup>th</sup> Pct., Dep. Insp. Joseph Dowling 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct., PO Tony Trinidad, 34<sup>th</sup> Pct., PO Robinson-Hewitt, Lt. Rivera, 34<sup>th</sup> Pct., John Kinney-Resident, Jose Simms, Chief Banks-Patrol Borough Manhattan North, PO Emily Lopez 33<sup>rd</sup> Pct., Joselinne Minaya-DA's Office, Julio Baptista-Presbyterian Hospital, Jon Avins-Homeowner, Clifton Hill-Project Renewal, Lorraine Perry-Community Activist, Derek Simons, Deborah Cardona-Resident

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Meeting convened at 7:00pm Ms.

**Opening remarks:**

Ms. Cardona welcomed everyone back and opened the meeting by asking everyone to introduce himself. She provided a little background history on her residency here in the community and each member followed her example. Said the meeting would be adjourning promptly at 9:00pm.

Chief Philip Banks, the new Commanding Officer of Patrol Borough Manhattan North, stated his main goal is to revitalize community policing. He wants the line of communication between the community and police to be improved. Chief Banks envisions the relationship between the community and the police to be a partnership. Chief Banks shared with the group his background experiences as a youth growing up in Bedford Stuyvesant and how policing worked when he served in the 79<sup>th</sup> Pct.

Question and answers ensued.

Chief Philip Banks, reiterated that building a "Notification Informant Program" will embrace more policing and community support for residents.

Question: Can NYPD support services for teens who might need medical intervention (therapy) prior to alternatives that create unsuccessful outcomes like incarceration, or gang violence.

Response: A need to increase funding would be an alternative.

Chief Banks said that an initiative for a youth fair is taking place in Brooklyn on 9-14-09 to help get the word out what alternatives are available.

Chief Banks had another meeting thanked the guests for inviting him. Ms. Cardona continued with Local enforcement .

Deputy Insp. Dowling provided the group with statistics and ask the group to be alert and cautious in paying attention to their surroundings until the rape perpetrator has been caught.

Deputy Insp. Capul reported that crime is down once again.

After Inspectors' reports, the committee addressed the budget priorities.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Emilia Cardona, typed by D. Blow



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - MINUTES**  
**September 8, 2009**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Manny Velazquez, Chair  
Cheryl Pahaham  
Wayne Benjamin  
Gloria Vanterpool  
Toni Cardona  
Mark Levine

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Pam Palanque-North  
Steve Simon  
Elizabeth Ritter  
Carole Mulligan  
George Espinal  
Tony Lopez

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Staff Member Present:** Ebenezer Smith

**Guests:** Columbia University journalism students

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Second Vice Chairperson Cheryl Pahaham convened the meeting at 7:10 PM.

District Manager Ebenezer Smith reported on his activities over the summer and on upcoming meetings.

1) The July 21 training hosted by the State Liquor Authority and the Economic Development Committee attracted 45 individuals, most of whom did not operate a business in CD 12. Three businesses from CD 12 attended; most others were from the Bronx and one came from the Village. Executive Committee members noted that CD 12 businesses should have been present.

2) After numerous denials, the Department of Transportation approved a permit for a play street on 159<sup>th</sup> Street.

3) The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) begins community board budget consultations on September 10<sup>th</sup> with Environmental Protection; Parks and Recreation; Housing Preservation and Development; Small Business Services; Economic Development and Transportation. Additional budget consultations will take place at OMB on October 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 9:15 AM (Sanitation; Aging; Homeless Services; Children's Services); and October 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:30 AM (Fire, Buildings, Human Resources Administration; Police). Contact Micky Josephs (OMB) at 917-841-5466. Ebenezer distributed a schedule of the budget process with key dates highlighted for community board input, and last year's CB 12 budget rankings and requests so that committees could assemble FY 2011 budget requests. Ebenezer commented that the FY 2011 Statement of District Needs would be ready in October and distributed to CB 12 members.

4) Other issues: With Martin Collins and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Ebenezer walked through sections of Inwood to examine the rat condition. Executive Committee members suggested that Ebenezer also do the same for the area around 158<sup>th</sup> Street, in the park. It was felt that areas throughout the entire district had severe rat infestations and that a comprehensive walk-through was needed. Ebenezer noted new construction hours on the Alexander Hamilton Bridge, 7 AM to 7 PM.

Chair Manny Velazquez reported that he tried to equally distribute members to committees, but that committee assignments were not final and that there would be additional changes. There was some discussion about the need to be vigilant about ensuing required attendance, and about adding public members to CB 12 and clarifying the responsibilities of public members. There was also discussion about coordinating with the Mayor's Office to ensure that street fair permits were issued in accordance with CB 12 policies. Manny conveyed from Pam Palanque-North that the CB 12 retreat for all board members was scheduled for October 12 from 10 AM to 4 PM. In executive session, the committee then discussed a personnel matter.

Gloria Vanterpool, chair of Aging, distributed a proposal to create "charter" senior centers for feedback.

Minutes submitted by Cheryl Pahaham, 09/28/09