

Manhattan Community Board 12
General Board Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2022

- I. **Call to order**
 - a. Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:37pm
- II. **Adoption of the agenda – September 2022 Agenda**
 - a. Agenda is approved
- III. **Adoption of the minutes – June 2022 Minutes**
 - a. Minutes are approved
- IV. **Chair’s Report – Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson**
 - a. Chair shares that over the summer the office uploaded all resolutions dating back to 2000 on the website.
- V. **District Manager’s Report – Ebenezer Smith, District Manager**
 - a. Assisted the staff to upload the resolutions dating back to 2000 because that is what was found in the filing cabinets. Clarifies that not all documents are up there because some hardcopies are missing. Asks board members to share any documents they may have possession of so they can be uploaded. He shares that the board has a list of missing documents.
 - b. The office also updated the community board directory.
 - c. Scooters, e-bikes, and regular bikes are used on the Highbridge park path while people are walking and jogging. A report was sent to the police and parks department to help deter this action.
 - d. Two sexual assaults were committed on 9/14 and 9/24 by a man riding a scooter. The vehicle was involved in the sexual assault.
 - e. Two hit and runs have occurred this month. One happened on 9/21 at 7:30am with a 13-year-old child hit by a car on his way to school; an additional hit and run occurred on 163rd and Amsterdam Avenue.
 - f. Pinehurst Avenue from 180th to 181st street will be closed from 10/5 to 10/12.
 - g. The Radio Tower Hotel opened this summer.
 - h. Next month every committee will have to go over the budget ranking exercise.
 - i. Liz Ritter:
 - i. She would like for announcements to stop being included as agenda items on her agenda.
 - j. Councilmember De La Rosa would like for each agency responsible for cleaning the subway stations along with On Point NYC, which is helping keep streets and parks clean, provide the board with a monthly report on their efforts.
 - k. Debby Nabavian shared that there is an outreach and public safety telephone number that residents can call to reach On Point NYC. The organization can send a cleanup crew within an hour.
 - l. Katherine shares with the board our role in the NYC budget process. She explains that we rank our community budget needs. We will first spend time during our committee meetings to do the budget ranking and then we meet as a board to do a larger board ranking.
- VI. **Elected Official’s Reports**

- a. Yodalis Moran – Deputy Chief of Staff to Senator Jackson
 - i. The office has been assisting constituents on housing matters.
 - ii. Monitoring influx of asylum seekers.
 - iii. A class size bill was signed by the Governor.
 - iv. A bill to support 9/11 workers sponsored by Senator Jackson was signed into law.
 - v. Liz Ritter wants to know where is best to bring donations for asylum seekers.
- b. Councilwoman De La Rosa
 - i. Shares that her office has been working with the Dominican Women’s Development Center, NMIC, Dominicanos USA, Cabrini Immigrant Services, and Presbyterian to determine the exact families. We have about 62 families in northern Manhattan. DWDC’s LGBTQ Youth drop-in center in the basement of Holyrood Church is serving as a donation collection center. New York Presbyterian has vaccinated the students. The students are split between PS132, PS143, and the School of Law and Justice at the George Washington High School Complex.
 - ii. 167th Street and Audubon will be co-named.
 - iii. There have been attacks at Fort Washington Park. The office has been in touch with the NYPD and Parks Department to make sure parkgoers are safe.
 - iv. Office has started this year’s cycle of participatory budgeting.
 - v. Barbara Frazier asks: Wouldn’t the Gregorio Luperon school be a better choice because they work with students who are new arrivals? What is the tentative plan for the tent city?
 - 1. CM is against the tent city. The Mayor is making the tent city has a first point of contact for 48-72 hours to provide the shelter system a reprieve.
 - vi. Luana Ferreira: Is there any talk about the victims of Hurricane Fiona and any resources?
 - 1. CM shares that there is a donation drop center next to Congressman Espaillat’s office.
 - 2. The Hispanic Federation has established a donation process, which you can learn more of online.
 - 3. 809 Restaurant is a donation collection site.
 - vii. Isidro Medina: Thanks, the Councilmember for bringing the SBS Commissioner to the commercial corridors uptown.
 - 1. CM mentions that the sheds are coming down.
 - viii. Jay Mazur: He believes the tent city needs to be strongly opposed.
 - 1. CM mentions there is a hearing on the matter on Friday. She repeats that she is against the tent city and has been very vocal about it.
 - ix. Tanya Bonner: The Dyckman Plaza has issues related with bike lanes blocked by events. Some of the events hosted by the restaurants on the plaza are very loud.
 - 1. CM thinks we need to revisit the agreement on the use of the space. She agreed to talk offline on the issue.

- c. Laurie Tobias-Cohen – CM Adriano Espaillat
 - i. Congressman Will continue to have his coffee the Congressman.
 - ii. For the Corner Project, residents can call 718-415-3703 to report an area with syringes for cleanup.
 - iii. The Congressman will host a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration in the coming weeks.
- d. Evelin Collado – City Comptroller Brad Lander
 - i. City will be investing \$400 million on ESG bonds.
 - ii. Working with credit card companies to create a merchant code for sellers of guns and ammunitions to better track these purchases.
 - iii. Put out a statement today on the mayor’s tent city. It is the commitment of the mayor that these will not be shelters, but rather an area to triage.
 - iv. Office has recouped \$3 million in unpaid wages settlement. Individuals can go online to enter their name and check whether they are owed any money.
 - v. Jeanie Dubnau asks about community board oversight on housing issues. Evelin says that a housing expert can be made present for a community board meeting.
- e. Porfirio Figueroa – Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine
 - i. Have been distributing COVID safety materials
 - ii. Shares the needs for asylum seekers including hygiene products

VII. Public Session

- a. Adriana Alba from Children’s Aid Early Childhood Program. Preschools all around the city. In our area they have spots for home-based programming. For more information you can call 212-544-0221.
- b. Jeanie Dubnau from RENA – Housing is one of the most important issues facing the community. Several times years ago the board voted against the high-rise buildings that are being planned. On October 15 at 11am RENA will be having a long march to support affordable rents and condemn evictions.
- c. Emma Roberts – She has lived on Ellwood Street for the last seven years to raise a concern and get guidance. She is increasingly concerned about the policing of Ellwood on several holiday occasions with the block. She does not feel that it’s the right approach to policing.

VIII. Committee Resolutions

- a. See voting tally sheet

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Business Development – Francisco Lopez, Chair
 - i. Chair is absent
- b. Public Safety – Eleazar Bueno, Interim Chair
 - i. Refer to the minutes
- c. Land Use – Wayne Benjamin, Chair
 - i. Refer to the minutes for all details
 - ii. Welcomed a new committee member; had a discussion with a representative of the Urban Land Institute about an upcoming workshop on Friday, 9/30, which will be well represented by land use committee members; Land use projects

- d. Concerns of the Aging – Mary Anderson, Chair
 - i. Absent
- e. Health & Environment – Steve Simon, Chair
 - i. Apologizes because minutes have not been submitted
 - ii. Does not have an up-to-date report on COVID of our community, but as of the time of committee meeting there had been 153 new cases; the minutes will include up to date figures.
 - iii. Committee is urging health department to open a Monkeypox vaccination center uptown; and has been urging the Allen Pavilion to reopen the psych unit
- f. Housing & Human Services – Emily Marte, Interim Chair
 - i. Did not send over the minutes, but it will be out by tonight
 - ii. 37 Hillside Avenue was the one agenda item—requested extended hours on Saturday construction; the resolution passed the committee, but not the full board; the project was going to present to Land Use, but were directed to housing; the actual total will be sent via email regarding the additional cost of not getting the extended hours; they are reaching out to neighbors about their request before coming back to the committee
- g. Youth & Education – Fe Florimon, Chair
 - i. Absent
- h. Traffic & Transportation – Debby Nabavian, Chair
 - i. Hoping to have MTA at the October meeting to have sense on the various projects that are taking place in the neighborhood
 - ii. Jay Mazur shares that upper management at the DOT has a very high vacancy rate
 - iii. Ayisha mentions that agencies are having a difficult time having representatives show up before the agencies and wants the Chair to work closer with the city to have people present
 - iv. Tanya wants to acknowledge senseless recklessness on our streets, including the death of two individuals on 207th Street; implore Debby to work with DOT to address the street recklessness.
 - 1. Debby responds that we have enforcement issues that are not relevant to her, and the board is brainstorming on ways to configure a committee that can respond to the enforcement issues.
 - v. Daryl wants to mention that on his block both of his sidewalks are blocked; Debby mentions that there is not a lot of coordination between agencies, but she can talk more offline

X. Old Business

XI. New Business

XII. Announcements

- a. The Medieval Fair will be this weekend.
- b. We have a memorial celebration at United Palace on October 18 for Norma.
- c. WEACTION is having a gala in Morningside Heights on October 27.

XIII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 9:29pm