

Manhattan Community Board 12
September 19, 2022
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

- I. **Call to Order** – Eleazar Bueno, Chair
 - a. Meeting is called to order at 6:43pm
 - b. Chair Bueno asks for executive committee meetings to review the agenda and propose any changes, if desired.
- II. **Board Chair's Report** – Eleazar Bueno, Chair
 - a. Over the summer we had a SYEP student organized all of the board's resolutions from the year 2000 until present and they've been uploaded online onto the website.
 - b. We are using OWL technology for our hybrid meetings. The technology is not very complicated, and it works very well with Zoom. The staff will be available for board members to assist with technological needs until everyone is comfortable.
 - c. Katherine reports that on Sunday she shared an FAQ document to answer the most common questions we've heard and address concerns about hybrid meetings. She also has a survey she still needs feedback on, which she will send out by this Thursday. The survey is to gather information from each board member on what may have changed that could affect their board participation, what can be done to make them feel safer about attending in-person, and what they can foresee needing to make their hybrid participation a success. Katherine will check with MBO on whether the survey can be completed by board members anonymously because of open meetings law.
- III. **District Manager's Report** – Ebenezer Smith
 - a. The summer was consumed with organizing our board files, which was supported by SYEP students. Ebenezer would like for board members who have any folder with old
 - b. The office also spent the summer updating the community resource directory. Paola called every organization on our list and deleted any organizations that did not communicate back with the board. We are looking to add any new organizations. Ebenezer would like for us as board members to assist the staff in getting contact information for new organizations.
 - c. The staff has been in touch with One Point/The Corner Project and DOT who will be leading the efforts to keep the 191st Street subway tunnel cleaned.
- IV. **Review of Future Meeting Items**
 - a. Review of October 2022 and November 2022 Meeting Calendars
 - i. October Business Development committee meeting will now be on Tuesday, October 11 to honor Yom Kippur.
 - ii. Wayne Benjamin will get back to the board on the rescheduling of the October Land Use committee meeting.
 - iii. October Public Safety committee will now be on Wednesday, October 12 to honor Yom Kippur.
- V. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Business Development – Francisco Lopez
 - i. The goal was to engage WIDIC and Remarkable Food for the Medieval Festival. Both organizations declined to participate because it was too late to engage the community consider the festival is coming up next month. They also wanted the

Cannabis Control Board to present, but they also declined for this specific month.

- ii. The meeting was more of a meet and greet between older members and newer members.
- iii. Isidro shares that the festival is a good venue for small businesses to market themselves. He thanks Francisco for pushing the festival programmers to come next year and engage our local businesses.

b. Land Use – Wayne Benjamin

- i. Welcomed a new member to the committee. Touched on the land use training sessions from July. The presentations are posted on the MBO websites. Ebenezer will upload the presentation and other land use resources made available that day on our CB12 website.
- ii. The City Planning Commission has created an Equitable Development Data tool to be used to engage people in conversations about displacement related to development. The committee will discuss the tool in October.

c. Parks & Cultural Affairs – Liz Ritter

- i. Detailed presentation from the Parks Department on projects that are underway. There are a bunch of areas under construction in Fort Tryon Park. There is some work on the rock face in Fort Tryon Park that overlooks Bennett Avenue – all the parking south of the park on Bennett Ave. has been temporarily removed for the necessary construction.
- ii. We had a presentation on the construction of a comfort station in the Discovery Playground at Fort Washington Park, which will be built on top of a holding tank allowing for the station to be built without the need to connect to sewage.
- iii. Pace University students did an analysis on what's happening with the biodiversity in Sherman Creek.
- iv. Brides Mark is happening on 9/26.

d. Concerns of the Aging – Mary Anderson

- i. They welcomed a new board member to the committee. There are an additional 2 people assigned to the committee. She is concerned about having Cindy Matos on the committee because she has not been able to attend any of the meetings due to scheduling conflicts.
- ii. The committee had an excellent presentation on upcoming changes to Social Security. The program is celebrating its 87th anniversary this year.
- iii. The committee discussed their capital and expense budgets, and the committee is pretty set on their items.
- iv. The new committee member asked about how the community at large gets access to our presentation because the Social Security presentation seems to be very important.
- v. Important presentations should be flagged for the elected officials to help with outreach.

e. Licensing – Isidro Medina

- i. Welcomed a new member to the committee.

- ii. We had about 35 applications. Some were withdrawn. Some were rejected because they did not have the right documentation.
- f. Health & Environment – Steve Simon
 - i. Wants to distribute copies of a presentation the committee received on our response to the pandemic.
 - ii. Reviewed the latest COVID-19 figures in the CB showing that some zip codes have seen an increase in new cases.
 - iii. Steve plans to reach out to the State Heath Department for an answer to his resolution on the Pysch Unit at the Allen Pavilion.
- g. Youth & Education – Fe Florimon
 - i. Gabriella Estrella has resigned. The committee has 3 new members, but none showed up this month.
 - ii. CUNY presented on receiving \$1.2 million from the Robin Hood Foundation for healthcare training.
 - iii. This is the time when we will have our youth/police annual event. The event starts at 8:30am in front of the board office and the march will end at George Washington High School.
 - iv. Angel asks if the committee has been in touch with the DOE about the 25 teachers coming from the Dominican Republic to teach in DOE schools. Fe plans to have the DOE present in future committee meetings.
- h. Traffic & Transportation – Deborah Nabavian
 - i. Many of the complaints and issues raised at the committee level are enforcement issues that DOT cannot resolved. Ebenezer is trying to get someone from DAC – a traffic enforcement unit – to be present at meetings.
 - ii. The committee will see an increase in street co-naming requests. The Council Member wants the community board to weigh-in on street co-naming.
 - iii. With congestion pricing coming, we will be engaging in a conversation about residential parking.
 - iv. We all need to do budget work in October.
- i. Public Safety – Eleazar Bueno
 - i. The precinct shared that they currently only have 138 officers, significantly down from an ideal 250. There has been increase in crime in the 34th police precinct.
 - ii. In the 33rd precinct, crime numbers are down. A board member asked whether the numbers are down because of under reporting, and the Lieutenant assured the committee that it wasn't the case.
 - iii. Engaged in a conversation about whether the influx of asylum seekers could have an impact on public safety. Northern Manhattan has received about 7,000 asylum seekers.
- j. Housing & Human Services
 - i. No chair present.

VI. Task Force Reports

- a. LGBTQ
 - i. No report

- b. By-Laws
 - i. No report

VII. Old Business/New Business/Adjournment

- a. Eleazer shares that we need to resume the conversation about staff evaluations.
- b. Liz Ritter says she has mixed feelings about the new technology because it's very sensitive and picks up side chatter. This can be a bad experience for those participating virtually.