

Community Board 12
Executive Committee
November 15, 2022, Meeting Minutes

- I. **Call to order** – Eleazar Bueno, Board Chair
 - a. Meeting is called to order at 6:41 pm
- II. **Board Chair’s Report** – Eleazar Bueno
 - a. Secured the United Palace for our November 2022 general board meeting if the executive order does not get extended for another month; The Dyckman Scholars event will also take place next Tuesday
 - b. District Manager Merit Raise Review
 - i. Discuss went to executive session as it is a personnel matter
 - ii. Resolution on a salary increase for the district manager
 - 1. Steve Simon motioned for an amendment to the resolution; Fe Florimon seconded the motion.
 - a. A friendly amendment was made to remove the words “and evaluation” from the resolution.
 - 2. Angel Vasquez motioned for the resolution to pass with the friendly amendment; Debby Nabavian seconded the motion.
 - a. The resolution with the amendment passes with a vote of 11-1-1.
 - c. Public Safety – Acting Chair, Eleazar Bueno
- III. **District Manager’s Report** – Ebenezer Smith
 - a. Thanks to the executive committee for reviewing his salary increase petition.
 - b. The repair has been made on 165th Street and Amsterdam
 - c. The office has been reviewing the budget consultation and the assessments of the district that need to send to the city.
 - i. Ebenezer will send the final rankings to the board this week.
 - d. Domingo Estevez asks whether the 181st Street bus lane will be made permanent.
 - i. Isidro Medina shares that the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation has informed the community that it will be permanent.
 - ii. Debby Nabavian shares that the board voted for the bus lane and we should not work against the work of the board.
 - iii. Wayne Benjamin shares that the impact has been off balance.
 - iv. Eleazar Bueno speaks as a local merchant of the area. If the intent is to alleviate the traffic, the bus lane has not achieved that.
- IV. **Review of Future Meeting Items**
 - a. Review of December 2022 and January 2023 Meeting Calendars
 - i. Steve Simon mentions that on the January calendar his committee meeting was moved to 7 pm. His meeting should be moved back to 6:30 pm if the virtual format continues.
 - ii. Mary Anderson notes that her committee meets at 10:30 am, not 10 am as the December 2022 calendar indicates.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Youth & Education – Fe Florimon, Chair
 - i. The committee had a few presentations scheduled. The 33rd and 34th police precincts did not attend. There was a presentation on a new policy the DOE has adopted ceasing all radio communication in the event of a classroom incident, instead, there is a phone number teachers must dial.
 - ii. Steve Simon shares that the department of education has instituted an anti-bullying program. There is a curriculum that the DOE provides to schools.
- b. Traffic & Transportation – Debby Nabavian
 - i. The committee now has a new MTA governmental liaison. DOT and a bike group came to present on installing a bike lane on the Washington Bridge, which the committee voted on as the sole resolution item during the meeting. Shares that there is a small business crisis in northern Manhattan.
 - ii. Isidro Medina believes that the meeting went well. He participated in the meeting to represent small businesses. He did not agree with the removal of the parking spots on Laurel Place for the bike lanes to the Washington Bridge.
 1. Debby Nabavian responds by saying she believes the local precincts and fire stations should relinquish some of their reserved spots.
 - iii. Domingo Estevez on the bus lane on 181st Street shares that he believes there is a lack of community engagement related to the impact the bus lane has had on the community's streets.
 1. Debby Nabavian responds that we need to continue to ask for data from DOT. The data she has received so far is difficult to interpret so she will continue to push for better data.
 - iv. Daryl Cochrane shares that the elevators in the A-train entrance on 184th Street have been slow to arrive.
- c. Concerns of the Aging – Mary Anderson, Chair
 - i. Did not have a formal presentation at the last committee meeting, but the committee discussed the continuation of having zoom meetings because of the time of day of the meeting. People can't get to the meeting if the time changes. The meeting participation has tripled since the start of Zoom. The committee also had a conversation about bus stops, particularly the elimination of the M3 bus stop on 192nd and St. Nicholas. On Thursday, from 9:30-11 am the Washington Heights Inwood Council for the Aging (WHICOA) will have a meeting to present upcoming Medicare changes.
 - ii. Wayne Benjamin shares that our ability to meet virtually is a function of state law. He would like to know if it would be advantageous to send a letter to the state elected officials.
 1. The letter will be making it to Senator Jackson's office.
 - iii. Steve Simon shares that the letter should go to the Governor and believes it should come from the board.
- d. Health & Environment – Steve Simon, Chair
 - i. Parks Department and the Community Board honored Sally Fischer on Sunday, 13, 2022. The Parks Department will be naming a stewardship award after Sally.

Provides a COVID rate update. Since the beginning of the pandemic, over 61,000 people in the community have had COVID and 965 people have passed away in Washington Heights and Inwood. NYP reported that they have seen an uptick in COVID cases and the hospital continues to give out vaccines. Council Member De La Rosa's office shared information about funding she has provided to the NYC Cleans Initiative. There is a new brownfield site at 207th Street and 9th Avenue.

- ii. Wayne Benjamin brings up the incident of the individual who was shot in front of Wendy's on 164th Street and Broadway and was taken to Harlem Hospital and not to New York Presbyterian. The original answer was that Harlem Hospital is a level 1 trauma center, not NYP. Why is NYP not a level 1 trauma facility?
 1. Steve Simon responds that the committee inquired but is still searching for answers.
- e. Housing & Human Services – Emily Marte and Marielle Ali, Co-Chairs
 - i. Emily Marte presents at the last meeting. Shares that the Inwood Project on 207th Street presented to get a variance for extended hours. The agenda item was added only a few hours before the meeting, so they were only allowed to present, but no discussion was allowed. The project will be on next month's meeting. On the 37 Hillside Avenue project, the committee is still doing its research—the matter is tabled until the department of buildings can provide more information. The committee discussed priorities for future meetings.
 - ii. Marielle Ali presents items for the December 2022 meeting. An individual from the department of buildings will present on the obligation of community boards on the issue of variances for extended hours. The committee will continue to work on the Fort Washington Armory issue. As it relates to HPD and the alternate enforcement program, the committee will continue to follow up as we have some seriously distressed properties in the neighborhood. Proposes wanting to push through a resolution for International Human Rights Day.
 - iii. Steve Simon urges the co-chairs to put the specific addresses of the buildings that will be discussed in the committee.
- f. Business Development – Joel Abreu
 - i. Absent
- g. Parks & Cultural Affairs – Liz Ritter, Chair
 - i. Absent
- h. Land Use – Wayne Benjamin, Chair
 - i. The committee had a discussion with Councilmember Shaun Abreu about the various zoning projects in his council district that overlap with the Community Board. He has not decided on any of the projects he will support but shared that the City Council is focused on producing as much affordable housing as possible. The committee shared that the lower end of affordability for projects approved in CB12 is \$70,000, which is 50% higher than the local household average. The Councilman shared that with the revisions to the City Council maps some of these projects will fall under Council Member Carmen De La Rosa, which the committee has started to bring to her attention.

- i. Licensing – Isidro Medina, Chair
 - i. There will be a total of 13 resolutions presented to the board. There was one contentious application with the police precinct and the applicant disagreeing on an issue. After an extensive conversation, the matter was resolved. In total, there were about 5 withdrawals.

VI. Task Force Reports

- a. IT – Jonathan Fromenta, Chair
 - i. Absent
- b. By-Laws – Daryl Cochrane, Chair
 - i. Will have their first meeting either later this month or early next month. They will focus on the process of how to review the by-laws.
- c. Cannabis Task Force – Domingo Estevez
 - i. Absent by the time of the task force report

VII. Old Business/New Business/Adjournment

- a. The office will have available 2 paid interns. The interns will be at the office 12 hours per week. They will spend a lot of time on social media and general outreach.
- b. Daryl Cochrane shares that the nominating committee will be reaching out to eligible members by Thanksgiving.
- c. Daryl Cochrane would like to work on a possible resolution denouncing Yeshiva University for its unwillingness to accept a student-run LGBTQ group on campus. Committee members recommend that it go through the Youth & Education Committee.
 - i. Marielle Ali responds that Housing and Human Services committee would like to be included in this conversation to lean in more on the human services side.
- d. Meeting is adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Attendance

Eleazar Bueno, Chair
Katherine Diaz, 1st Vice Chair
Angel Vasquez, 2nd Vice Chair
Marielle Ali
Mary Anderson
Joelkys Abreu
Daryl Cochrane
Domingo Estevez
Sally Fischer
Fe Florimon
Isidro Medina
Emily Marte
Debby Nabavian
Steve Simon