

Manhattan Community Board 12
Meeting Minutes
November 22, 2022

Attendance:

Eleazar Bueno, Katherine Diaz, Angel Vasquez, Jim Berlin, Daryl Cochrane, Isidro Medina, Domingo Estévez, Jonathan Nunez-Frometa, Jonathan Banas, Robin Cruz, Mary Anderson, Liz Ritter, Mansita Diawara, Tanya Bonner, Wayne Benjamin, Debby Nabavian, Osi Kaminer, Maria Luna, Jumirna Alcober, Ayisha Oglivie, Bruce Robertson, Daniel Bonilla, Fe Florimon, Jay Baez, Joel Abreu, Leo Jimenez, Francisco Lopez, Richard Allman, James Bosley, Marielle Ali

- I. **Call to order**
 - a. Meeting called to order at 6:43pm
- II. **Adoption of the Agenda** – November 2022 Minutes
 - a. Chair Eleazar Bueno motioned to approve the meeting agenda
 - b. Isidrio Medina seconded the motion
 - c. Motion passes
- III. **Adoption of the Minutes** – October 2022 Minutes
 - a. Maria Luna motions that the October 2022 minutes be adopted
 - b. Liz Ritter seconded the motion
 - c. Motion passes
- IV. **Chair's Report** – Eleazar Bueno, Chair
 - a. Chair Eleazar Bueno gives the floor to Ross Former to present this year's Dyckman Scholars.
 - i. Ross Former delivers presentation on the Dyckman Scholars and names this year's scholars: Richie Barua, sophomore at Columbia College; and Shahid Talbid, junior at Columbia College.
 - ii. Albert Garcia -- Columbia University Class of 1997 -- delivers a speech on the Dyckman Scholars program, its history and community impact as a former Washington Heights student who benefited from the program.
 - iii. Tanya Bonner shares that she would more advance notice when meeting will be hybrid or have an in-person component.
 - b. Ayisha Oglive shares that she is part of the IT task force and would have liked to have been engaged in setting up the technology for the in-person component of today's meeting.
- V. **Nominating Committee** – Daryl Cochrane
 - a. Daryl Cochrane shares that there are 30 member who are eligible for nomination.
 - i. There are 2 people who self-nominated prior to the meeting to fill 6 roles. For the office of Chair, we have Katherine Diaz, and for the office of 1st Vice Chair, we have Angel Vasquez.
 - ii. The nominating committee does not have names for Treasurer, 2nd Vice Chair, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary.
 - b. Nominations from the floor.

- i. Assistant Secretary
 - 1. Domingo Esteves nominates Jumirna Escobar; Jumirna Escobar accepts the nomination
- ii. Secretary
 - 1. Liz Ritter nominates Bruce Robertson; Bruce Robertson declines
 - 2. Leo Jimenez nominates Cimary Hernandez; Cimary Hernandez declines
- iii. Treasurer
 - 1. Liz Ritter nominates Tonya Bonner; Tonya Bonner declines
 - 2. Joel Abreu nominates Domingo Estevez; Domingo Estevez declines
 - 3. Marielle Ali nominates Michelle Lee; Michelle Lee pending
 - 4. Eleazar Bueno nominates Marielle Ali; Marielle Ali pending
 - 5. Liz Ritter nominates Osi Kaminer; Osi Kaminer declines
 - 6. Joel Abreu nominates Isidro Medina; Isidro Medina declines
- iv. 2nd Vice Chair
 - 1. Liz Ritter nominates Emily Marte; Emily Marte declines
 - 2. Eleazar Bueno nominates Fe Florimon; Fe Florimon declines
 - 3. Domingo Estevez nominates Cimary Hernandez; Cimary Hernandez accepts
 - 4. Marielle Ali nominates Nobles Crawford; Nobles Crawford declines
- v. 1st Vice Chair
 - 1. Angel Vasquez is a candidate from the nominations committee
 - 2. Osi Kaminer nominates Ayisha Oglive; Ayisha Oglive accepts
- vi. Chair
 - 1. Katherine Diaz is a candidate from the nominations committee

VI. **District Manager's Report** – Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

- a. Last month it was reported that ConEdison would be turning off service for anyone who is in arrears. This past week, ConEdison announced two programs for people in financial need.
- b. The Strike Enforce Team attempted to make an arrest in a building on Vermilyea Avenue. There was a shooting that took place, and it is still unknown whether the individual killed himself or if the police shooting resulted in his death.
- c. Asks for all Chairs to review the December 2022 calendar to make sure that the dates and times are accurate.
 - i. Mary Anderson notes that the calendar still indicates her committee meeting is for 10am when it should be 10:30am.
- d. Liz Ritter brings up that the Friends of J Hood Wright Park organizing is working on cleaning and maintaining the pathway on Haven. There are at least five agencies that are responsible for various parts of the pathway. She would like to know if any of this has been discussed at the district services cabinet meeting.
 - i. Ebenezer Smith shares that various maintenance issues have been assigned to each responsible agency. Invites Liz Ritter to attend the next meeting.
 - ii. Liz Ritter would like for a written report.
- e. Tonya Bonner brings up that Ayisha Oglive does not feel included and that it is concerning that no conversation was had on the matter.

- i. Makes a motion that an investigation be conducted on why Ayisha Oglive was excluded from supporting the technology set up of today's in-person component.
- ii. Ayisha Oglive seconded the motion.

VII. **Special Report** – Chief Dudley, FDNY

- a. Reports on the fire that occurred on 204th Street
- b. Steve Simon asks if the cause of the fire has been investigated, which the fire chief indicates that they do not know the cause.
- c. Ayisha Oglive missed the date of the fire. The fire chief shares that it was on 11/20/22. She adds that she would like to know more about the 220 Audubon Avenue fire—she would like to have regular updates on fires that occur in our community.
 - i. Sandra Sanchez – the fire marshals are still investigating the 220 Audubon Avenue fire.

VIII. **Elected Official's Report**

- a. Jamilah Sanchez, Office of Councilwoman De La Rosa
 - i. The Councilwoman's office has been on-site for each of the recent fires that have occurred and has been working with the FDNY to help families.
 - ii. The office had a transportation town hall last week with transportation advocates, NYPD, and the MTA present.
 - iii. Councilwoman's office is calling on the Governor to sign the bill that would establish new workplace standards for nail salons in NYC.
- b. Yodalis Moran, Office of Senator Jackson
 - i. Office has been an additional resource on the fire scene.
 - ii. Organizations that want to be considered for grants in the FY24 budget need to send a letter to the office.
 - iii. Bill S224-A prohibits landlords from charging a fee to tenants who live in rent stabilized units for keeping their A/C installed if they pay for their electric bills.
 - iv. Free Store Bonanza will take place next month at Alianza Dominicana.
- c. Evelyn Collado, Office of City Comptroller Brad Lander
 - i. Recently released an outline for a framework on property tax reform.
 - ii. Office conducted an analysis of over 2,300 buildings to develop their recommendations.
 - iii. Released a financial report on the state of our city services.
 - iv. Invites the board to the office's housing conference next month to discuss the ongoing housing crisis.
 - v. Wayne Benjamin mentions that the comptroller should consider tightening up the rules around Local Law 79.
 - vi. Osi Kaminer wants to know how two local laws are being promoted. The office will follow up with Osi personally.
- d. Oliver Betances, Office of Councilman Shaun Abreu
 - i. The councilman continues to work on the rat infestation problem.
 - ii. Introduced a bill to expedite sidewalk repairs around NYCHA buildings. The office is looking to move on this bill.

- iii. Completed a sanitation tour with the SDNY commissioner to highlight the dirtiest areas of our community in hopes of getting the areas cleaned up.
- iv. Participatory voting is underway.
- v. Jumirna Alcober brings up the case of Gabriel Garcia who is the 18th person to pass away in Rickers. She brings it up because he is from Council District 7.
- e. Laurie Tobias-Cohen, Office of Congressman Adriano Espaillat
 - i. Student loan payments will not resume 12/31/2022; that has been pushed back to 6/30/2023.
 - ii. Submissions are open for
 - iii. Congressman Espaillat and Senator Gillibrand have introduced the Resilience Transportation Act in response to the 10-year anniversary Hurricane Sandy.
 - iv. The community lost a tremendous leader in Reverend Dr. Calvin Butts
 - v. Congressman attended COP27 as part of Speaker Pelosi's delegation.
 - vi. The state of the district is coming up.
- f. Madeline McNamee, Office of Assemblymember Manny De Los Santos
 - i. Office has given out hundreds of turkeys
 - ii. Will continue to host Assemblymember on your block biweekly to be directly accessible to constituents in need

IX. Borough President's Report – Porfirio Reynoso

- a. Hosted a training on community boards.
- b. Mentioned that the office created an e-commerce blueprint report to make e-commerce more efficient and sustainable.
- c. The office has gathered the support of all other borough presidents for the 1 million trees planted initiative to plan that many trees by 2030.
- d. The mayor has extended the executive order so that meetings can be on Zoom until December 20, 2022.
- e. Reports on various legislative initiatives and upcoming trainings available to community board members.
- f. Steve Simon thanks Porfirio for urging members of the board and community members to get their COVID shots. Wants to know if the public bathroom legislation mentioned includes their installation in public parks. Porfirio mentions that parks will be included in the conversation.
- g. Wayne Benjamin brings up the legislation on rodent extermination on construction sites. What is being proposed and what is going to change? Porfirio explains that the bill will require every construction project hire a licensed exterminator to be maintained throughout the entire project duration. Wayne wants to know if the difference is that now the exterminator will be required throughout the entire project, not just at the onset of the project.

X. Public Session

- a. Alberto Aquino: Director of Youth Programming at the Armory. On Halloween they had their uptown games when they welcomed 500 kids from the community. They have a free afterschool program for students over the age 6 with slots available.
- b. Andrea Belfast: Shares statistics on food waste in our community and looks for community support to a local bill that addresses the issue.

- c. Rifa Efsan: Brings up the topic of food insecurity and how it affects children in NYC.
- d. Cheryl Miller: Alleges that the chair's meeting practices are discriminatory.

XI. Committee Resolutions

- a. Resolution approving the DOT Washington Bridge Improvement Project
 - i. Yosef Kalinsky shares concern over losing 20 parking spots
 - ii. Leo Jimenez shares that he supports the resolution because of increase pedestrian safety
 - iii. Bruce Robertson shares that biking in the area near the bridge is very dangerous
 - iv. Ayisha Oglivie wants to emphasize the problems associated with eliminating more parking spots
 - v. Isidro Medina emphasizes that there is a parking problem in upper Manhattan and eliminating more parking will make matters worse
 - vi. Liz Ritter shares that she is sympathetic to the parking issue, and respectfully suggests that the resolution be amended to include language calling on DOT to find replacement parking spots
 - 1. Debby Nabavian shares that similar language already exists in the resolution
 - vii. Fe Florimon shares that DOT should consider increasing angle parking
 - viii. See voting tally sheet.
- b. Resolution supporting NYC Parks proposed Hudson River Waterfront Reconstruction at Dyckman Street
 - i. The committee passed the resolution unanimously with about 60 people attending the meeting.
 - ii. See voting tally sheet.
- c. Licensing Committee Resolutions
 - i. Agenda item #11 will be turned from a "no objection" to "objection" because proof of purchase of a sound limiter was not submitted.
 - ii. Steve Simon on resolution #8 seems to be grounds to be concerned about because there were 263 noise complaints made through 311 and the manager received 3 police summonses. The police precinct indicated that those 3 summonses were nulled. On the 311 calls, the merchant indicated that all the 311 calls came from one specific person.
 - iii. See voting tally sheet.

XII. Committee Reports

- a. Business Development – Francisco Lopez, Chair
 - i. Refer to the minutes.
- b. Land Use – Wayne Benjamin, Chair
 - i. Left the meeting by time of report.
- c. Concerns of the Aging – Mary Anderson, Chair
 - i. Refer to the minutes; committee discussed the need for virtual meetings to maintain improved participation.
- d. Health & Environment – Steve Simon, Chair
 - i. Latest COVID-19 report shows our zip codes are slightly below the citywide average.

- ii. There will be a presentation on brownfield sites on 9th Avenue and 207th Street
- e. Housing & Human Services – Emily Marte, Interim Chair
 - i. Emily Marte presents on 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 on items for the December 2022 meeting. There will be an individual from the department of buildings that 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 mentions that the mayor signed new legislation on rat mitigation.
 - iv. Ayisha Oglive mentions that HPD needs to be more present.
- f. Youth & Education – Fe Florimon, Chair
 - i. Left the meeting by time of report.

XIII. **Resolution approving salary increase raise for district manager**

- a. The board went into executive session.

XIV. **Old business**

XV. **New business**

XVI. **Adjournment**

- a. Meeting was not formally adjourned. Issues related to overextending the board’s stay the United Palace resulted in the abrupt ending of the meeting around 11pm when the laptop operating the hybrid meeting was shut off.