

**Manhattan Community Board 12**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 20, 2022**

**Attendance:** Joel Abreu, Jumirna Alcober, Marielle Ali, Richard Allman, Mary Anderson, Jay Baez, Wayne Benjamin, James Berlin, Daniel Bonilla, Tanya Bonner, James Bosley, Eleazar Bueno, Daryl Cochrane, Nobles Crawford, Luis Cruz, Robin Cruz, Katherine Diaz, Mansita Diawara, Domingo Estevez, Luana Ferreira, Barbara Frazier, Cimary Hernandez, Miriam James, Leopoldo Jimenez, Osi Kaminer, Michelle Lee, Francisco Lopez, Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Maria Luna, Emily Marte, Jay Mazur, Isidro Medina, Deborah Nabavian, Jonathan Nunez-Frometa, Steve Simon, Carl Unegbu, Angel Vasquez

**I. Call to order**

a. Meeting was called to order at 6:39pm

**II. Adoption of the agenda**

a. Luana Ferreira asks for clarification on the expiration of her term.

b. Tanya Bonner asks why the item on an investigation on why Ayisha Oglivie was not included in an IT matter is not an agenda.

i. Jim Berlin mentions that the item can be included as a part of old business.

ii. Ayisha Oglivie mentions that she received a letter without clarity. Also mentions that no communication was sent to the board about the meeting ending abruptly.

c. Tanya Bonner motions that the agenda be amended to move the topic from old business to the regular body of the agenda; Ayisha Oglivie seconded the motion.

i. Liz asks for when it would be moved to the agenda.

ii. Tanya clarifies that she would like the agenda item to be included before the public session.

d. The motion does not pass. The agenda is adopted as drafted.

**III. Adoption of the minutes**

a. Daryl Cochrane motioned to approve the minutes.

**IV. Chair's Report**

a. Shares that the community has been very receptive and helpful to new arrivals.

b. Thanks Katherine Diaz and Angel Vasquez for stepping up.

c. Liz Ritter calls for a moment of silence for Sally Fischer and shares the funeral service information.

**V. Nominating Committee**

a. Daryl Cochrane thanks the board officers for their service and the work the nomination committee has done.

b. Clarifies the order of the election, rules, and procedures.

c. Candidates for Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, and Chair deliver their speeches and take questions after each speech.

d. Daryl Cochrane shares there are 39 people in attendance. To win their election, the person must win 20 votes.

e. Steve Simon clarifies that this should be a time for floor nominations for Secretary because the position remains vacant.

i. Liz Ritter nominates Steve Simon, Steve Simon declines

ii. Osi Kaminer nominates Liz Ritter, Liz Ritter declines

- iii. Fe Florimon nominates Carl Unegbu; Carl Unegbu is on the nomination committee and does not have the tenure
- iv. Osi Kaminer nominates Barbara Frazier; Barbara Frazier accepts the nominations
- f. Mansita Diawara wants to know when the bylaws taskforce meets. Shares her frustration with references to the bylaws to move board business forward without a full explanation.
- g. Refer to the voting sheet.

**VI. District Manager's Report**

- a. The office is working with two interns from CLOTH high school who started at the beginning of the month. They are helping organize the office. One intern already worked with the office over the summertime. It's also an educational opportunity for the students.
- b. Last month, at the general meeting, it was brought to the office's attention the conditions of path to the little red lighthouse. The conditions have not changed for years. He has been in touch with the president of the J Hood Park foundation. The issue is the disrepair, with a big sink hole on the pathway. He has brought up the issue with the Manhattan Borough President's office who is looking for funding.
- c. Congratulates Eleazar Bueno for his leadership over the last three years.
- d. Ayisha Oglivie wants to know whether HPD and DOB have been present at the district manager's meeting to get updates on the disrepair of 705 and 709 W. 170<sup>th</sup> Street. Ebenezer promises to reach out to HPD and DOB to get an update by next month.

**VII. Elected Official's Report**

- a. Evelin Collado presents for the Comptroller's office. Shares that there is a climate dashboard that tracks the city's commitment to low-carbon and resilient city. There are two reports to highlight: an audit report of SBS concluding that the agency failed to equitably distribute loans; the second is a title vacant report highlighting the serious agency vacancy issue.
- b. Yodalis Moran presents from Senator Jackson's office. The Senator is gearing up for new session and will continue to chair the committee on civil service and pension. He has had three bills signed into law since our last meeting. As for events, the office has been distributing goods to asylum seekers. The office continues to apply pressure on bad landlords.
  - i. Steve Simon wants to point out that the top 4 of the worst landlords on the Public Advocate's report own buildings in Washington Heights and/or Inwood.
  - ii. Marielle Ali wants the Housing and Human Services Committee to work more closely with the Senator's office.
- c. Jamilah Sandoval from Council Member De La Rosa's office shares that the office can help facilitate building inspections. Thanks, Liz Ritter, for her leadership on the parks committee for the redesign of 186<sup>th</sup> Street basketball courts. She shares the council member's legislative work the last few months.
- d. Debby Nabavian presents from Congressman Espaillat's office. The state of district is tentatively scheduled for January 29 with location and time TBD.
- e. Cari Hernandez presents from Assembly Member De Los Santos's office. The office is focused on constituent services; the office hosted a Christmas pop-up to do gift giveaways; on December 28<sup>th</sup> the office will offer a free mammogram screening for residents with or without insurance.

**VIII. Borough President's Reports**

- a. Porfirio Figueroa thanks all board members for our service and a special thanks to Chair Bueno.
- b. The mayor's executive order extended the COVID-19 declaration through this evening.
- c. Urges all to go to the Manhattan BP's website to get updates on upcoming happenings. The 2023 application portal is open.
- d. State of the Borough will be Tues., Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
- e. Thanks, the Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee for the work on the 1 million trees program.
- f. Reminder that COVID vaccines are still available.
- g. Liz Ritter wants to know about the time and venue for the State of the Borough—the time is 6-9pm with location TBD.
- h. Ayisha Oglivie asks about Manhattan-wide community board member events—the answer is those are in the works with the State of the Borough being one of the firsts.
- i. Steve Simon shares that he is thankful for the COVID-19 vaccine announcement.

**IX. Public Session**

- a. Keturah Abdullah works with Behind the Book—they work to bring diverse authors to students. They work to publish their work. They are working with Harbor Heights Middle School. She would like to organize 8<sup>th</sup> graders to meet with the community board to learn more about our work.
  - i. Steve Simon wants to know the location of the school, which is in PS173.
  - ii. Cimary Hernandez wants her contact information because she has worked close with the school.
  - iii. Her contact information is [keturah@behindthebook.org](mailto:keturah@behindthebook.org)

**X. Committee Resolutions**

- a. Refer to the resolution language
- b. Refer to the voting tally sheet

**XI. Committee Reports**

- a. **Parks and Cultural Affairs**
  - i. There was going to be a resolution on the 186<sup>th</sup> Street basketball court redesign, but it has been delayed until the parks department fully incorporates the community input.
- b. **Business Development**
- c. **Land Use**
- d. **Concerns of the Aging**
  - i. Refer to the minutes. There will be a meeting next month on Alzheimer's.
- e. **Health & Environment**
  - i. New COVID cases are on the rise in the community with vaccination rates rising only slightly.
- f. **Housing & Human Services**
- g. **Youth & Education**
  - i. Refer to the minutes.
  - ii. Wants to thank the WHBID and CM De La Rosa for making the holiday lights possible on St. Nicholas.
  - iii. Shared the link to the list of worst landlords.

**XII. Old Business**

- a. Tanya Bonner wants to know how the board will be held accountable over issues with Ayisha Oglivie's feelings of feeling excluded from the IT taskforce.

- b. Jim Berlin as parliamentarian shares that this is not a topic that can or should be discussed at a board meeting. He recommends this go to the executive committee and the new chairperson to attempt to straighten out the issue.
- c. Liz Ritter makes a motion that we have an IT task force that includes members of the board who are willing to serve and have the right experience; Osi Kaminer seconded the motion.
  - i. Ayisha Oglivie shares that it's a broader issue than just an IT task force issue. This is a bigger issue with the board.
  - ii. Jim Berlin clarifies that the only person with appointment ability is the Chairperson.
- d. Joel Abreu shares that there this is nothing to be voted on because there is no resolution.
- e. Joel Abreu calls for meeting adjournment; Francisco Lopez seconded the motion; Liz Ritter objects to adjournment
  - i. Roll call is conducted and meeting is adjourned at 11:20pm on a 19-5-3 vote

**XIII. New Business**

**XIV. Adjournment**