

**General Board Meeting  
February 19, 2015  
16-18 OLD Broadway  
New York, New York 10027**

The roll was called at 6:45PM. We did not have a quorum so the meeting was called to attention.

Under public session the Chair wished to acknowledge the untimely death of Catherine Abate. A moment of silence was observed. Funeral arrangements will be announced.

A follow up presentation was given by Marti Weithman, Director of the SRO Law Project , Goddard Riverside Community Center concerning SRO and illegal hotels. An residence occupied for less than 30 days is called a illegal hotel. Hotels require fire evacuation information and drills, these residences are not required to effect the same procedures. This is one of the problems. There are many more stringent procedures that residences do not have to comply with that hotels do have to adhere to. A law was enacted that stated residences or multiple dwellings have to be inhabited for 30 days or more. If someone wants to complain about a residence suspected of being illegal they have to call 311 and they will be re-routed to the Mayor's office of special enforcement which handles theses allegations. Inspectors will then be sent out to investigate and they can issues summonses and fines or commence litigation. Gentrified areas of New York are showing an increased number of these residences through air BNB and other internet sites. Affordable housing has been affected due to the fact that landlords have forced tenants out to accommodate tourists in their buildings. It also drives up the rent in these dwellings. The Borough President's office has proposed a resolution concerning this which should be up for vote next month.

Assemblyman Denny Farrell spoke on the new speaker. Sidney Sheldon was indicted on three charges. Mr. Farrell spoke on the many good things that Mr. Sheldon has done for New York.

The roll was called again at 7:00P.M. We have a quorum. The meeting was called to order. A motion to adopt the agenda and the minutes was seconded.

A presentation on the strategic Vision of St. Luke's Hospital was given by Arthur A. Gianelli, President of Mount Sinai St. Luke's. Significant investment in Cardiology will be undertaken. Attention will be focused on Behavioral health. Diabetes, obesity will be focused on. They are a level 1 trauma center. They are going to build primary care and out-patient services for the community. They will be selling four building on the campus. The proceeds will be re-invested in St. Luke's. They intend to build an urgent care center. Modernization of the building and power washing will take place. They have asked the state for 30 million. Workers from the community will be hired. Pediatrics and obstetrics was removed from the center. Roosevelt will house the surgical unit and a small surgical unit will remain. BT

asked about negotiations and was told any further negotiations are not known at this time but when they arise they will be brought here to the Board. AB If the state funds you and the community comes up with a proposal to restore some services, would that be considered. Mr. Gianelli answered they would consider this point as out-patient. AB asked about operations going forward, would they be considered based upon demographics. The Chair asked about restoration of some services. She asked what St. Luke's would be doing concerning services to women and children in this community. He replied they have existing sites on 125<sup>th</sup> and 147<sup>th</sup> st. etc. to continue serving women and children. He also replied we should have dialogue on gaps in service. The Chair asked about the increase in Asthma care. His reply was that there should be more primary care concerning this and he has spoken with the medicine department and further discussion would ensue.

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An update on NYC EDC 125<sup>th</sup> st. Streetscape Improvement project was given by Joanna Gargiula, A.V.P. Capital Programs and Lusheena Warner, A.V.P. Government and Community Affairs. Better sidewalks and lighting are on the way. Conflicts with trees in certain areas. Modified sidewalk plans due to sidewalk cafés. Public toilets were not feasible for the sites where planned. Historic railway tracks will be left intact. MS. Barksdale asked about the new lighting and how it would affect the residents of 3333 Broadway. They have not looked at that yet. Mr. John relayed that there was no signage warning drivers of the work going on in the area. They will work with DOT and the Board concerning location of public restroom. Breakwater run off has been addressed. AF asked what the conscientious was about the public restroom. There were technical reasons which were addressed in a DOT memo. BT asked about historical signage. There is none at this time. HR asked about any other historical signage. They would look into it.

Public Session; The Borough Presidents' office spoke on the application process for Board members. There were 722 applications with 35 teenagers applying. Capital grant applications are being accepted until February 26, 2015. The drainage at Riverbank state park was addressed by public officials thanks to John Padmore and Catherine Abate. A letter is being drafted.

Councilman Mark Levine's office looked at constituent service cases for 2014. Housing issues were the major complaint.

Mr. O'Donnell's office annual book drive for children 6-18 years old.

Leticia James' office discussed Grand jury systems and the need for changes.

Jackie Lange from Congressman Adler's office discussed Patent control and the Congressional art competition.

Public Session; Steve Simon of the Parks Department discussed renovations for 151<sup>st</sup> street and Amsterdam Avenue area the Carmansville Playground. JA asked whether there would be an area for the dancers and other arts and crafts. Mr. Simon replied that they were re-designing the area so that there would be space, if desired for the park to have public events. CS. Asked about seating arrangements. A space was identified. HR asked about specific signage for arts and crafts areas. Mr. Simon said there would not be signage but if you wanted to reserve the area a permit should be requested from Parks department.

Sean Shaleh spoke for the Dept. of Consumer affairs on immigration and earned income credit.

Assemblyman Keith Wright, Chair of the Housing Committee; on 6/15, the housing laws need to be re-newed. His office holds a legal clinic every first Thursday of the month. He spoke on the problems at Riverton Housing complex.

Asha George - Child co-parenting cases outside of court.

Darlene Leland – Figure skating in Harlem, Ice show coming up, March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at Riverbank State Park.

Ethan Rowland – Traffic on Riverside Drive

Anthony Fletcher – Discretionary funding report and funds for 2015. March 26<sup>th</sup> Mayors' preliminary budget at 6:30P.M. at the Board office.

Alicia Barksdale- Red Cross Emergency Preparation trainings by the FDNY information being sent out.

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Ms. A. Rocker North River Wastewater treatment plant still working hard with the Borough President's office and Mark Levine's office. Meetings are first Tuesday of the month.

Padmore John – Catherine Abate very passionate about issues, she was very much appreciated on the Health and Environment committee. A moment of silence was observed for Catherine Abate. BT spoke on the energy of Ms. Abate. Ms. Adewumi shared her experience with Ms. Abate.

The roll was called. We have a quorum (31)

Action Items:

Illegal Hotels and SRO's (Manhattan inserted in the blank space) 30 Yes 1 not entitled

Letter/ Reso. Hamilton House Theatre (3560 Broadway) 28 yes 3 abstain

Intro 214 Housing Court Legislation 29 yes 1 abstain 1 not entitled

Grant Application for Upper Manhattan Mental Health Center (Friendly amendment pending further information satisfaction is recommended) 25 yes 2 no 3 abstain

Letter of support for Central Harlem Chemical Dependency Treatment Center 27 yes 1 abstain 3 no

Letter of support – Planned renovation of Carmansville Playground 31 yes

Motion to Adjourn at 9:36PM.

Respectfully submitted for corrections or editions

Carole L. Singleton