

MOLLY HOLLISTER  
CHAIR

CLAUDE L. WINFIELD, FIRST VICE-CHAIR  
AHSIA BADI, SECOND VICE CHAIR



JESÚS PÉREZ  
DISTRICT MANAGER

BRIAN VAN NIEUWENHOVEN, TREASURER  
BEATRICE DISMAN, ASST. TREASURER  
KATHY THOMPSON, SECRETARY  
DAVID COLBY REED, ASST. SECRETARY

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX  
P.O. BOX 1672  
NEW YORK, NY 10159-1672

**CB6 Housing, Homeless, and Human Rights Committee**  
**March 13, 2018 – 6:30 PM**  
**433 1st Avenue (NYU School of Dentistry), Room 210**

**Meeting Minutes**

Present: Aissata Camara (Committee Chair), Rajesh Nayar (Vice Chair), Aaron Humphrey, Pamela Vassil, Sondra Leftoff, Carin van der Donk, and Claude L. Winfield.

Excused: Claire Brennan

Absent: None

Guests: Michael Stinson, Comptroller's Office; Larry Welgrin, Comptroller's Office; Patricia Mars; Max Furman; Margaret Biedel; Ben Jacobs, Council Member Powers; Pe Ling He, Bellevue; Maria Pot Dominguez; Diego Carvajal; Jake Schmidt, Open New York

**Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda/Previous Meeting's Minutes**

Aissata Camara called the meeting to order at 6:38pm.

Rajesh made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Pam and passed.

Rajesh made a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 13th meeting. The motion was seconded by Pam and passed.

**Committee Business**

Agenda Item 1: Presentation by the Comptroller on Audit of City-Owned Vacant Lots

Comptroller's office sent representatives to speak to Committee. Michael Stinson and Larry Welgrin Audit was done on HPD vacant lots in Feb 2016 for date range of June 2014-Sept 2015 – City Owned Lots. Audit found HPD held 1,125 up to 15 years being held for urban renewal. HPD had not established plans for these lots. 670 would be developed. 310 had development issues (i.e. infrastructure problems) 150 lots for other developments. Follow up review and found they did not transfer the lots. 118 lots transferred to developers from over 400 lots reported by Comptroller's office. 588 no

transfer dates. 400 lots have been pushed back with no transfer dates. 2018-2021 for the 400 lots to be transferred. Historically with HPD long period of time to transfer lots. In CB6 District, none of those lots exist. The plan for the lots was to include affordable housing. Not all but varying percentages. City makes deals to include affordable housing with developers. Oversight is Mayor's office and City Council. Corey Johnson has oversight committee. HPD needs to target realistic dates to get these lots transferred to developers and other agencies. HPD has not provided details as to why transfer has not occurred. CBs can 1) Resolution in support of Audit; 2) Write letter to HPD. Comptroller's office will assist on crafting language. Go after HPD, cc-ing Mayor and City Council. Vacant Lots Mapped on Open Data Sites? Not aware of it. Sondra suggests to Comptroller's Office to use outside resources to assist in mapping. Also Picture the Homeless is not involved in HPD city owned lots audit. Claude mentioned Councilmember Kallos Intro. regarding portal for vacant lots. – Discussion completed.

## Agenda Item 2: Discussion of Committee Structure and Goals

Sondra had a proposal regarding restructuring of the Committee. Time limits for each agenda item new part of Committee Structure. Sondra based document on two years' experience on Committee. Certain ways to increase productivity and goals. Outlined content and structure. Structure: Loss of 5 members from Committee. Reduction in size. Introduction why on Committee would be useful to members. Proposed sitting around a table to talk to one another. Referenced CB 7, decide on one topic for year and work on it every meeting. Sondra feels there is discontinuity in Committee. Learn from community about housing issues. Focus should be Community not City Wide though City Wide important. Year-long agenda proposed. Content and Goals (i.e. Loss of Affordable Housing – Loss of Rent Stabilization, Changes in Commercial Space, Landlord-Tenant Issues, Homeless, Open Data System Training). Goals of Community Board – proposed should be outreach – need to do outreach to get more people informed. Too isolated. Who calls CB Office to complain about issues for each committee. Hold Housing Workshops. Pam suggested BIDs involvement would be useful to Committee. BP mission is advisory to agencies but suggested we should be more pro-active. What form can we be pro-active? Follow up with those buildings benefiting from 421-a. Homeless Shelter Providers rather use Community Advisory Board meetings to discuss the issues of the shelters with neighborhood residents, elected officials, CB6, etc. The meetings allow for the discussions issues about the shelter at large. Meetings held at shelter. Safe Haven CAB set up has been pushed by Committee to DHS/HRA and Service Provider BRC. Committee working with CB office, provides names of potential members for the CAB as well as keep the lines of communication alive to ensure that information is disseminated to Community District. Claude brought history of Committee and work it has done and how transition of community board members so new members are leading the way. The issues from the document have been addressed and continue to be addressed but with new members getting up to speed, these items will restart. Pam re-affirmed that we should set up our goals for remainder of this year. Aissata closed with stating her understanding and learning the concerns about Committee direction. Connect with Community is concern. What is our mandate as a Committee is another concern. Aissata directed members to

read CB6 website. Resources on website. Bylaws is an agenda that is created to discretion of the Chair. Chair can push certain items that affect Community and City Wide. Praised Sondra's efforts and being more inclusive but balance with the mandate and bylaws. Aaron explained the prior Chairs have allowed fresh new ideas which hits the topics of Committee. Sondra proposed next meeting, members should bring one idea of their passion. Pam proposed to opening up new ideas not past ideas. Carin praised the survey for being a good start. Next meeting revive data collection. New Chair expresses as members should be respectful and collegial when discussing issues. Chair wants all ideas not just most vocal ones to bring ideas. Discussion Ends.

### Agenda Item 3: Discussion of the Results of Committee Member Survey

Tabled

### Agenda Item 4: Report on Flatiron 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Partnership Meeting

Survey – 5 most important issues: Homelessness, Overcrowding, Noise, Gentrification and Affordability. BID does a lot in district and Board Office has minutes of the meeting. BID does sponsorships. Unfortunately 197a in our District which sought to preserve residential buildings over commercial entities east of Lexington Avenue. Unlikely to have a BID in our Community Board. They surround our Board but we would not benefit from it. Solow Site – Allows commercial building in the lot by FDR. Maybe a BID can arise from it but there are delays in building. 203-204 Fair Share, 197a, b and c Land Use. Organize Community. Document Pam provides will be attached to minutes.

### **Old/New Business/Chair's Report**

Harmonium minutes not available. New Business Rent Freeze Forum in June. BP office will support. Aissata will discuss with VC and Chair of Board office to have the forum.

Carin mentioned Child Welfare Presentation she attended. Important for Committee, Child Welfare workers see a household without mattresses, only recourse is remove child from housing. No resources available to get furniture into home.

NY1 report of Dept. of Corrections using shelters to release ex-convicts into general public after their sentences.

District Needs Statement has our Committee needs. Required reading for Committee members.

Next Committee meeting will close out the issues about Committee structure.

### **Adjournment**

Aaron made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Claude and passed.  
Aissata declared the meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

Minutes submitted by: Rajesh Nayar

**Submitted 4/5/18**