



Diane Collier  
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## COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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### **Rezoning Taskforce January 19, 2017, 6:00 pm Board Office**

#### **\*\*\* MINUTES \*\*\***

- Present:** La Shawn Henry (Chair), Nilsa Orama, Xiomara Pedraza, Jeremiah Schlotman, Shantal Sparks, Steven Villanueva, H. Candy Vives-Vasquez, Jesse Yang, Angel Mescain (staff)
- Excused:** Alex Kohen
- Absent:** N/A
- Guests:** George Janes, CB11 consultant; Connie Lee, Pilar de Jesus, Urban Justice Center; Marina Ortiz, East Harlem Preservation; Stephanie Farmer, New Light Baptist Church; Dartunorro Clark, DNAinfo; Shawn McLearn, Placeful; Joanna Delson, Civitas; Greg Scott, Grow NYC; Asanda Westbrook, Poetic Empowerment Project

1. Call to Order – Adoption of Agenda
  - a. Meeting called to order at 6:12 p.m. with 4 of 9 members present. (No quorum.)
  - b. Quorum reached at 6:30 p.m.
2. Presentations & Discussions
  - a. Welcome Taskforce (by La Shawn Henry, Chair)
  - b. Reviewed goals of the Rezoning Taskforce
    - i. The group will initially focus on the East Harlem (EH) Rezoning— informing and helping the board form our eventual position on the ULURP application. The group will be tasked throughout the ULURP process with informing the public and receiving community input as needed to ensure CB11's ULURP recommendation will be the optimum position that addresses the concerns of a wide and diverse district. Activities to meet these goals may include special public meetings for community engagement. Open for discussion. Our Land Use Consultant, George Janes, will be assisting the group during the entire process.
  - c. Discussion regarding sentiments about the Department of City Planning (DCP)'s East Harlem Rezoning Plan
    - i. The following are areas of focus identified by Taskforce members and member of the public present at the meeting after discussion:
      1. Density:
        - a. Evaluate levels of density proposed as it relates to the current context of the neighborhood, and examine the amount of affordable units which could result with Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH)

- b. Explore how parking needs that will likely arise as a result of the increased density will be addressed
- 2. Community Input:
  - a. There is a need for input from a greater number of community members and stakeholders (including those in opposition to the rezoning), and a recognition that the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan (EHNP) is not necessarily reflective of the whole community (as not every area of East Harlem was represented in the workshops)
- 3. Community Engagement:
  - a. Ensure DCP uses ‘layman’s terms’ when discussing with the community the impact of the rezoning
  - b. Educate community on the particulars of public financing as it relates to affordable housing
- 4. Affordability:
  - a. Examine the levels of affordability tied to the proposed plan and the potential impact of elimination of “community preference”
- 5. Preservation:
  - a. Evaluate how the proposed rezoning plan (i) preserves culture and character of East Harlem, (ii) promotes small business retention, and (iii) protects low-income housing.
- d. Presentation of differences between EHNP and DCP’s Proposed Plan (by George Janes)
  - i. Major differences is with 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Park Avenue
- e. Discussion on engaging and educating board and community about the EH rezoning
  - i. Taskforce welcomes input from the community and encouraged those in attendance to invite others to future meetings to share their thought on the rezoning, and continue the dialogue about the rezoning
  - ii. CB11 staff will continue to provide updates on CB11 website re: the work of the board and will continue to reach out to community based organizations to help disseminate information
  - iii. Taskforce will seek to obtain information regarding the number of rent-regulated buildings that are located within the proposed rezoning boundaries
  - iv. Taskforce will also explore the possibility of obtaining a photo-simulation from DCP—particularly for 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Park Avenue—to help the board visualize potential new development which may result from the proposed rezoning
- f. Next Steps
  - i. Taskforce will have biweekly in-person meetings. Next in-person meeting is February 2, 2017 at 6pm at the Board Office.

- 3. Old Business
  - a. None

- 4. New Business
  - a. None

- 5. Announcements
  - a. Applications are open for the 2017-2019 class of Manhattan Community Board Members. Deadline to apply is February 3, 2017.

- 6. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn by Nilsa Orama, seconded by Jesse Yang and passed at 8:10pm.**