

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD #1
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
199 CHAMBERS STREET, RICHARD HARRIS TERRACE
MAY 22, 2012

Public Session

Sarah Diaz – Assemblymember Glick's rep.

Concern about children waitlisted at local schools. There will be a public meeting about Hudson River Park on May 31st at St. Paul's Chapel. A proposal to amend the legislation governing the park will be discussed.

Congressman Nadler

He spoke about redistricting. His district has changed to include slightly more of Manhattan and less of Brooklyn and still includes CB1. Mentioned a meeting with Rep. C. Maloney about including cancers in the 9/11 Health Act. The threat of a debt ceiling, possibly after this year's election, is looming again and could be disastrous. Congressman Nadler indicated that he did not like divided government and that one party should always be in charge. Also, that his budget is too tight to have town hall meetings. The Congressman took questions from audience.

Robert Moore – Resident of Tribeca

Spoke about a petition protesting the burgeoning numbers of bars and restaurants in Tribeca applying for liquor licenses. An increase in late night noise and other unwelcome behavior is often the result. Asked CB1 to carefully vet these applications and asked the SLA to enforce the 500-Foot Rule and expressed the need for a better system than 311 for people to report problems.

Jennifer Rajkumar – District Leader

Launching an initiative to register votes called VOTE DOWNTOWN. Downtown for Change is another organization to support the Obama Campaign. Supports the New Amsterdam Market's proposal for a permanent market in the New Market and Tin Buildings in the Seaport area.

Lisa Ecklund-Flores – Church Street School for Music and Art Founder

Provides programs for all ages. New teen program using collaborative space for music and art launched in fall 2011. There are now 60 -70 kids on Friday evenings and the School was voted best teen hangout in New York magazine. Name comes from location; 72 Warren Street. Rental space is available.

Jemuel Ripley – PS 394 (Spruce St School) Parent Executive

Traffic around school is an issue. Has been working with NYC DOT to increase safety for pedestrians around the school and supports this evening's resolution about traffic controls.

Susie Rodney – Tribeca Resident

Have concerns about Dog Park on Warren Street and the conditions there and hopes for peaceful coexistence between dog owners and residents. Noise is an issue along with health concerns. Questions another dog park in Hudson River Park

Jacob Morris

Spoke in support of Youth & Education Committee resolution calling for economic impact study of NY Public Library centralization initiative.

Melinda Konigsberg & Eileen McCrohan – 170 John Street Liquor License Application

Very concerned about the impact of this operation if application is granted. Request that CB1 limit the hours of operation for this establishment to closing time of midnight on weekdays and 1 AM on weekends.

Jeff Mihok – CB#1 Member

Update on “Sphere” sculpture. Cited growing support for moving it to the 9/11 Memorial. Those interested can contact Savethesphere@gmail.com.

Justine Cuccia – BPC Resident

Also, spoke in support of moving the Sphere to the Liberty Garden section of the WTC site.

Yume Kitasei – Council Member Chin's rep

Newsletters in back. Focused on proposed cuts to after-school programs and loss of day care seats. Introduced bill-banning use of shark fins by restaurants.

Robert Verdier- Tribeca Resident

Called attention to building at corner of Greenwich & Canal Street, John Weiss Smith House, that is in significant disrepair.

Amy Bergenfeld – Civil Service Bookshop at 38 Lispenard St.

They have been in the neighborhood for over 50 years. Spoke about missing street sign.

Mary Cooley – State Senator Squadron's rep

Thanks to Julie and CB#1 for supporting tenants at Independence Plaza North. The fight goes on and is important to other tenants as well. Recently met about cuts to after-school programs and the method used to decide which ones to cut. They wrote a letter supporting the proposal by the New Amsterdam Market.

Tricia Joyce – CB#1

Heard today that DOE ordered PS 276 to add a fifth kindergarten class. This is contrary to what the school overcrowding task force recommended. This will result in classes having 32 pupils. Art and science classes will have to be closed to accommodate this change. People need to organize to oppose this.

Andrew Horwitz – Director of Public Programs, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council

They are organizing the 2012 River-to-River Festival, which will begin on June 17th. He described several of the events and locations. Check out rivertoriver.com

John Fratta – CB#1 Member

Thanked Julie Menin for her leadership and help in bringing needed resources to the district. John proposed co-naming North Moore Street “Anne Compocchia Way.”

Adam Malitz – CB#1 Member

Congratulated Jennifer Rajkumar.

Business Session

The minutes were rolled over to next month since the resolution votes were missing.

Chairperson’s Report

Spoke about efforts to help tenants at IPN and thanked Diane Lapson for all her hard work.

The ULURP for Civic Center Plan – Attended a meeting convened by BP Stringer to strategize about how to make sure community needs are met as part of the proposed disposition of three city-owned buildings in the Civic Center.

99 Washington Street – Attended Quality of Life Committee to discuss violations issued by Department of Buildings. Fines of \$80,000 have been recovered by the City due to CB1 calling attention to these unpaid violations.

Gateway Plaza in BPC – Participated in Tenants Association meeting that focused on greening of buildings.

School overcrowding –We will continue to fight for additional schools that are needed in CB1.

Gave LMDC notice of her resignation from their Board and encouraged them to appoint her successor as Chair of CB1.

Roger Byrom asked that Julie help organize a commemoration of the upcoming anniversary of 9/11. Last year’s event was intended to be a special 10th anniversary event but will consider what could be done this year.

District Manager’s Report

Budget was restored at the beginning of the month (a little earlier than usual). The full budget for community boards was base-lined for the next 2-3 years, which should help make cuts less likely for those years. Went with other CB1 leaders to meet with EDC regarding helicopters using the Downtown Heliport. Raised issues about adverse impacts to quality of life from this facility. Also organized a meeting about impacts to Quality of Life in the area around the 911 Memorial. Held an orientation for new CB1 members.

Our graduating fellow, Diana, will remain with us through the summer finishing some projects. There will be a new fellow in the fall and if members have ideas for projects, they are welcome to submit them. Michael Levine testified at the City Council at a hearing concerning Piers A, 15 and 26.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee

Michael announced that there are CB1 members running for all officer positions. The following candidates will run in next month's election:

Chair – Catherine McVay Hughes

Vice Chair – Anthony Notaro & Paul Hovitz

Treasurer – Thomas Goodkind and John Fratta was nominated from the floor

Secretary – Adam Malitz and Mark Ameruso was nominated from the floor

Assistant Secretary – Dennis Gault

Julie Menin was originally going to run for Vice Chair but she has withdrawn her name.

Each candidate can submit a written statement, which will be emailed to all CB1 members and posted on the CB#1 website. At the June meeting, candidates will have 5 minutes to address the Board and answer questions. All members present can vote.

Battery Park City Committee

30 West Street-North Store, application for a restaurant wine and beer license for Café Casano LLC d/b/a Inatteso Caffè Cassano – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 31 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

NYC Pride, application for a special events permit for a rally on Monday, June 18, 2012 at Rockefeller Park from 10am to 6pm, with the actual event starting at 3pm and ending at 6pm – Report

This applicant realized that the location might not accommodate their logistical needs and withdrew the application but the committee encouraged them to resubmit if Rockefeller Park is not viable.

BPC Memorandum of Understanding – Update

We are working on a final draft of a revision of the MOU. The goal is to present it to the Board at the June meeting after review with the BPCA.

Waterfront Committee

Waterfront Revitalization Program Presentation by Department of City Planning -Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 32 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Update on Hudson River Park's Legislation Task Force

Not much more to add after Julie's report but the proposed changes under discussion, particularly at Pier 40 (which has 1.7 million square feet) are significant. The possibility of residential housing on Pier 40 has been raised. The Trust presented a compelling case for income-generation to maintain quality parks. This would require an amendment to the legislation governing the Park. There are many ideas for Pier 40 (major league soccer, schools, etc.) and while it is in CB#2, such changes in use would have significant impacts on our community. These changes would need to go through the State legislature and then ULURP.

Hudson River Park Upcoming Summer Calendar – Report

Bob mentioned that the number of planned events has been increased this year and calendars have been published.

Public Safety on the Waterfront – Report

There are not sufficient safety measures in place for when people fall into the water and this must be addressed.

Financial District Committee

170 John Street, request for reconsideration of application for restaurant liquor license for 170 John St. NYC Corp. d/b/a TBD – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 32 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Proposal to expand pedestrian space around Bowling Green Park and along Broadway – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

2 Gold Street, application for City Planning Commission Chair's certification pursuant to Section 37-73 of the New York City Zoning Resolution to allow an Open Air Café within an Urban Plaza – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

60 New Street, application for Board of Standards and Appeals Special Permit pursuant to Section 73-36 of the New York City Zoning Resolution to allow a new health club known as Cross Fit Wall Street– Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

All resolutions were taken together.

Neighborhood Retail and Small Businesses in Post-9/11 Lower Manhattan – Report

Increased outreach to small businesses is needed.

Update by Warrie Price, President, the Battery Conservancy – Report

Warrie thanked CB #1, Julie, and Catherine for their support. 2012 is a pivotal year. The Urban Farm is a great success and has seen a huge increase in participation over 2011. Contracts are out for the next phase of the large lawn. The Seaglass Carousel is being modeled in Canada and the cement base is being installed. FY2013, a Family Comfort Station is a priority and support is needed from public officials. Warrie was asked about wayfaring signage and they are working on this issue and developing a design that would be helpful and not intrusive.

Planning and Infrastructure Committee

Bike Share Program Workshop – Report

The program is going live June/July 2012 and the rules and use agreement are posted on the website and at each station. There will be approximately 600 stations and community input provided at meetings about the locations for sites has been incorporated.

Civic Center Consolidation and Disposition Plan – Report

June 7th is the next combined committee meeting and CB1's response to the ULURP must be submitted by July 2nd, 2012.

No Spectra Pipeline – Report

No report given in interest of time

19 Park Place - 421a Review – Report

No report given in interest of time

WTC Redevelopment Committee and Arts & Entertainment Task Force

Update on the National September 11 Memorial & Museum
Only 75% completed

National September 11 Museum
Behind schedule

Performing Arts Center
Will be at site 1B and a Board has been formed.

Return of Lend Lease Overpayments on WTC Projects – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Landmarks Committee

405 Broadway, application for signage master plan – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

169 Hudson Street, application for rooftop extension – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

100 Broadway, application for storefront infill – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

361 Broadway, application for rooftop addition – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 27 In Favor 5 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

480 Greenwich Street/502 Canal Street – Request for action by LPC for demolition of building by neglect – Report

This is a technical term meaning the owner is destroying the building by neglecting it.

28 Water Street, application for flagpole – Report
No report given in interest of time

Housing Committee

Manhattan Seniors - business plan - completion of draft – Report

Much work has been done and outside businesses will come in to review the business plan to help enable seniors to age in place.

Our CB1 parking lot as an affordable housing development – Report

Went to Department of Housing Preservation and Development and found out this site is part of the African Burial Ground and is very sensitive. It is part of the Civic Center Disposition Plan.

DRIE housing protection for the disabled – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 31 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Quality of Life Committee

99 Washington Street – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 31 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Update by Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center (LMCCC) – Report
No report given in interest of time

Regulation of Intercity Buses – Report
No report given in interest of time

Quality of Life Committee and Youth & Education Committees

Traffic Issues on Beekman Street – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 31 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Youth & Education Committee

J&R Music and Computer World Event – Report

Budget cuts at New York Public Library – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 28 In Favor 1 Opposed 2 Abstained 0 Recused

Church Street School’s Newest Program for Teens – Report

Update on the New York Harbor School’s Draft Ten Year Plan – Report

Léman Manhattan Preparatory School – Report

Update on Youth Sports and Recreation – Report

High-Stakes Testing – Resolution

M. Ameruso made a motion to table and a vote was conducted and carried so resolution was sent back.

TABLED

Tribeca Committee

415 Greenwich Street, application for a City Planning Commission Chair's certification of a minor modification of the applicable rooftop open space equivalent provisions of the Zoning Resolution – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 31 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

78-80 Leonard Street, application for a City Planning Commission Chair's certification of a minor modification of the applicable rooftop open space equivalent provisions of the Zoning Resolution – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 30 In Favor 1 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

279 Church Street, application for a restaurant liquor license for Paolo Meregalli – PVF Inc. – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 31 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

145 West Broadway, renewal application for a sidewalk café license for The Odeon Inc, d/b/a The Odeon – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 31 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

179 West Broadway, renewal application for a sidewalk café license for West Broadway Management, LLC d/b/a Landmarc – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 31 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

325 Church Street, renewal application for a sidewalk café license for 325 Church St. Company LLC d/b/a Saluggi's – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 31 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

345 Greenwich Street, application for a sidewalk café for LT & LT LLC d/b/a Viet Café – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 31 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

78 Reade St., application for a restaurant liquor license for Balcony Café Inc. d/b/a TBD – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 31 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Items #3-8 were taken together.

Seaport/Civic Center Committee

