

Minutes from the monthly meeting of
Manhattan Community Board #1
Held
May 26, 2009
Three Legged Dog
80 Greenwich Street, NYC

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm. Noel Jefferson chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson in accordance with the CB1 bylaws.

Public Session:

Molly Bidol, (Assembly Member Glick's office)

- Mayoral control of schools must include parental input.
- MTA bailout plan is a stop-gap measure and needs to be revisited.
- Is calling for a freeze on rent hikes from the Rent Guidelines Board.

Kaziem Woodbury, (Downtown Alliance)

- Thanked everyone who helped with the community planting day.
- 11th annual Dine Around Downtown on June 2nd 11:00am – 3:00pm at Chase Plaza.
- Bike Around Downtown --- visit DowntownNY.com/bikearound for information about free rentals.

Jimmy Yan, (Counsel, Borough President Scott Stringer's Office)

- Spoke about some restrictions for community board members with regard to political activities. Political work including fundraising and lobbying is not allowed when community board business is being conducted.

Dan Benjoya, (B.P. Scott Stringer's Office)

- Is working to protect New York City's water supply from gas drilling upstate.
- The BPO will continue to work with CB1, DOT and members of the working group regarding the recent dislocation of commuter buses from the East River waterfront.
- Stonewall 40th anniversary discussion June 10th 6:30pm – 8:30pm at Hunter College.
- Working to make the Community Education Councils more independent from the Department of Education.

Janell Vaughan, (South Street Seaport)

- Fulton Stall Market open Friday and Saturdays 10:00am – 6:00pm, South Street between Fulton and Beekman.

John Ricker, (NYC Comptroller Thompson's Office)

- Has online information with updates about MTA service cuts.
- Calling on Water Board to address the escalating water and sewer rates.
- Kicking off 'Save Our Homes Initiative' to help with foreclosures. Call help line at (212)669-4600.
- Unemployment benefits have been extended.

Paul Goldstein, (Assemblyman Silver's office)

- The Speaker is encouraging the stakeholders to negotiate and make progress to resolve the impasse at the WTC site.
- MTA bailout was approved on May 6th.
- The Fulton Transit Center will receive Federal stimulus money.
- MTA announced that it will not eliminate M6 bus service.

Councilman Alan Gerson,

- Had meeting with Congressman Nadler regarding the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which would include first responders and residents among those receiving funding for health benefits related to 9/11.
- Met with LMDC to encourage expansion of the small business grant program.
- Said Mayor Bloomberg is trying to undermine Community Boards by cutting their budgets.
- City Council hearing planned for June 3rd on the progress of the WTC site.

Sheila Garson, (Figment Festival)

- Free event on Governors Island June 12-14, for information visit: figmentnyc.org.

Alicia Mehl, (Resident)

- Wants a ban on hydraulic gas drilling near the NYC water supply.
- Thanked CB1 for its resolution.

Michele Quigley, (Access Community Health Center)

- Event on symptoms of dementia on May 29th 2-4 pm, 15 St. James Place, (212) 780-2575.

David Casavis, (Resident)

- Is advocating elimination of the offices of the Borough Presidents.

Erin Drinkwater, (Congressman Nadler's Office)

- 9/11 Health and Compensation Act will provide 70 million dollars for WTC health programs.
- Federal stimulus funds secured included \$195.4 million for Long Island Railroad East Side access, \$78.9 million for the Second Avenue subway, Phase I.

David Kupferberg, (Resident)

- Was happy Speaker Silver saved the M6 bus line.

John Raskin, (State Senator Squadron's office)

- The Senator held a press event announcing legislation to that would enhance enforcement of illegal vending by fingerprinting perpetrators.
- Is pushing for increase in use of red light cameras in Lower Manhattan.
- Working to keep the FDIC in Lower Manhattan.
- Proposed legislation to increase penalties for unsafe driving.
- Supports mayoral control of schools.

Serge Borousky, (M1-5 bar)

- Asked CB1 to recommend renewal of his liquor license for 52 Walker Street.
- Says he will work with the neighbors on any quality-of-life issues.

Marc Tauss, (Resident)

- Asked CB1 to recommend disapproval of liquor license for Amuse at 114 Franklin Street, saying it will negatively affect quality of life in the neighborhood.
- Submitted a petition to the CB.
- Says there are 15 to 20 bars within 500 feet of this establishment.
- Soundproofing is inadequate.

Alan Turner, Lisa Giobbi, Snow Guilfoyle, Katie Kydon, (Residents)

- All are opposed to a liquor license for Amuse at 114 Franklin Street.

Jeff Ehrlich, (CB1 public member)

- Says Amuse Bar will have a 40 foot bar with 44 seats.

Business Session:

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on April 28th, 2009 were adopted as presented.

District Manager's Report:

Noah Pfefferblit noted that the Chairperson was unable to attend the meeting that night, so he would cover her report as well as his own.

- Commended Bob Townley for supportive comments he made about community boards and reported about Manhattan Borough President Stringer's event in association with the four other Borough Presidents, planned for June 10 on the steps of City Hall, to protest the proposed cuts. Noted that the office would send an email encouraging everyone to attend and stressed the importance of a strong showing from CB1, as the proposed cut was completely unreasonable. While CB1 would fight the proposed cuts as vigorously as possible, planning was needed in the event that they are carried out. Noted that Roger Byrom would discuss later in this meeting contingency plans that CB1 was drawing up.
- We received extremely positive news from the Department of Transportation about the displacement of buses from the East River esplanade. The Academy buses – which make up the better part of the buses involved – were moved to facilities that Academy already operates in midtown and New Jersey. Academy agreed to try this on an interim basis and it is hoped that it will become a long-term solution. This was a great victory for CB1 since we defeated a plan that was clearly inappropriate and our intervention produced a much better result. Commissioner Sanchez agreed to our request that he regularly update appropriate CB1 leaders on this matter. An additional group of buses will be displaced when work starts farther north on the FDR Drive and we hope to work closely with DOT on these buses as well.
- Thanked the CB1 members who agreed to mentor our new members. All of the new members attended the CB1 orientation and the mentors agreed to contact them shortly thereafter.
- Commended Kasey LaFlam, the outgoing CB1 Urban Planning Fellow, provided by a program administered by the Manhattan Borough President's Office, for her excellent work at CB1. Also thanked the two high school students provided by the Municipal Art Society who presented graphics at recent CB1 meetings to illustrate issues being discussed.
- Introduced Michael Levine to report about the Chinatown Working Group. Mr. Levine said a town hall meeting will be held on June 1, 2009 and invited all interested to attend.

Committee Reports:

NOTE: IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE A COPY OF A RESOLUTION SUMMARIZED IN THE MINUTES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CB 1 OFFICE AT 212 442-5050

Quality of Life Committee

RE: LMCCC update on Construction Projects in Lower Manhattan

- Let CB1 or LMCCC know if there are any construction related issues that need to be discussed in this venue.

RE: Presentation by DOT on LookNYC bike awareness program
- Bike lane routes are available on the DOT website.

RE: Presentation on State Senator Daniel Squadron's illegal vendor legislation – Possible resolution
- In forth WHEREAS take out 'definitively identified' and start with; 'Licensed vendors will be tracked by finger printing...'

BOARD VOTE: 24 In Favor 7 Opposed 1 Abstained 0 Recused

The Youth Committee

- **Swine flu by NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Update**

Reported that Mike Congo, a Public Information Specialist from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Office of Community Relations, spoke with the committee about the swine flu epidemic and its impact on the local school-age population. Mr. Congo noted that his agency is keeping up-to-date information about the epidemic on its website.

- **LMDC about RFP for grants to Lower Manhattan schools – Update**

Mike Murphy, Press Secretary and Angela Rossi, Project Manager, informed the community about the impending release of the RFP for funding for Lower Manhattan schools. They noted that informational sessions would be held for principals and other representatives from the schools.

RE: Request for support by Center for Arts Education – Resolution

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

RE: Naming of Spruce Street School after New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver – Resolution

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

RE: School Rezoning Timeline

- A representative from the Department of Education will attend an upcoming committee meeting to outline the planned process for zoning the two schools that are to open in Lower Manhattan in coming years and discuss community concerns about the zoning.

BOARD VOTE: 29 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Battery Park City Committee

- **New location of Poet's House at 10 River Terrace by Lee Bricetti, Executive Director and Carlin Wragg, Community Relations Manager – Report**

- There will be a tour of the facility for CB1.

- **Route 9A walkway/bikeway shift between Murray and Chambers, which began work Saturday, May 2, by representatives of the NYSDOT 9A Project. – Report**

- Walkway/bikeway will shift back.

RE: Proposed street closure on Sunday, September 13, 2009, Battery Place between Little West Street and First Place by Harmony on the Hudson Family Music Festival – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 29 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

- **NYCDOT traffic analysis of South End Avenue and Thames Street intersection – Report**
- There will be more traffic at the intersection when school opens.

Arts & Entertainment Task Force H. Reed

- Installation at Collect Pond Park – Report
- Will open October 3rd and feature a wood structure with open slots and flowers.

Personnel Committee R. Byrom

- Working on a contingency plan if the community board proposed budget cuts go through. This would involve moving one staff member over to a consultant position that is off the city budget and covered with privately raised funds.

Financial District Committee R. Sheffe

RE: 110 John Street, application for on-premise liquor license for 110 John Street Pub, Inc. – Resolution

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

RE: 11 Rector Street, application for unenclosed sidewalk café for Rector Street Food Enterprises Ltd d/b/a George’s – Resolution

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

- **Construction of 123 Washington Street – Update**
- Noted the recent article in the Downtown Express with regard to a stop-work order in effect at the building due to incidents that occurred in association with the construction of the building.
- **Department of City Planning Grocery Study – Report** - Kasey Laflam, CB1 Urban Fellow:
- The report by the Department of City Planning determined that there was not a need for grocery stores in Lower Manhattan. CB1 disagrees.
- **CB1 Infrastructure Study – Report** - Kasey Laflam, CB1 Urban Fellow:
Kasey LaFlam has prepared a draft outline for a CB1 study of community facilities.
- **British Memorial Garden at Hanover Square - Report**
The Parks Department has offered to meet at the site to discuss any future problems or concerns in relation to the work underway.

Tribeca Committee

RE: 27 Desbrosses Street, application for liquor license for 27 Faja Foods on the Hudson, d/b/a TBD – Report

- They will come back to the committee next month.

BOARD VOTE: In Favor Opposed Abstained Recused

RE: 90 Worth Street, application for wine and beer license for Farinella LLC –Resolution

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

RE: 339 Broadway, application for liquor license for 339 Broadway Corp., d/b/a Variety Café on Tribeca – Resolution

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

RE: 458 Greenwich Street, application for unenclosed sidewalk café for Sublime Porte LLC d/b/a Turks & Frogs Tribeca – Resolution

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

RE: 34 White Street, application for renewal of unenclosed sidewalk café for Bancone LLC – Resolution

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

RE: 353 Greenwich Street, application for renewal of unenclosed sidewalk café for Apre Scott’s Inc. d/b/a Yaffa’s Tea Room – Resolution

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

RE: 114 Franklin Street, application for liquor license for Amuse – Resolution

- Add WHEREAS, there were several members of public who appeared to ask CB1 not to approve the OP license and who had quality of life concerns.

- Add THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, that there were discrepancies in the plans and that there were concerns that restaurant may become a bar/lounge.

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

RE: 52 Walker Street, renewal of liquor license for M1-5 - Report

- Letter will be sent to SLA.

Landmarks Committee

Roger Byrom

RE: 95 West Broadway, LPC application for demolition of existing two-story commercial building and replacement with six-story extension of existing hotel – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 29 In Favor 0 Opposed 1 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: Lower Manhattan Sidewalk History Board Project – Report

- Will be discussed next month.

RE: 71 Reade Street building collapse - Report

- This was demolition by neglect. DOB will come to the committee next month.

Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee

J. Galloway

The Department of City Planning Grocery Study – Report

- The Department of City Planning has concluded that according to its criteria, Community District One has enough supermarkets and does not need any more.

RE: Presentation by Columbia University Planning Studio

The Columbia University Graduate Planning Studio presented recommendations for improvements to the Greenwich South Area

RE: Proposed Gas Drilling Near Upstate Reservoirs – Resolution

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

Seaport/Civic Center Committee

J. Fratta

RE: 229 Front Street, application for alteration to liquor license for 229 Front Street Inc. d/b/a Onda

BOARD VOTE: 27 In Favor 0 Opposed 3 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: Street permit application by J & R Music World, June 18, 2009 to June 20, 2009, sidewalk closure on Park Row between Ann Street and Beekman Street

BOARD VOTE: 19 In Favor 7 Opposed 1 Abstained 0 Recused

WTC Redevelopment Committee

C. McVay Hughes

- Bill Love gave the report from the WTC Redevelopment Committee meeting due to the fact that Catherine McVay Hughes was absent.

RE: The committee had a tour of the WTC site

RE: Fiterman Hall

- Demolition plans have been approved by the government regulatory agencies.

RE: Presentation by Kathleen Culhane, Vice President, Programs, Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW)

- Presented about efforts to promote job training for women in the construction business.

RE: Presentation on the 9/11 Active Referral Project by Allison L. Pulizzi, Public Affairs Liaison, World Trade Center Health Registry

- An outreach center is planned.

RE: Fulton Street Transit Center

Tabled

Waterfront Committee

R. Townley

RE: Report on Tribeca Construction in Hudson River Park and Hudson River Park Summer

- There is no money in the budget for the proposed estuarium or dog run.

RE: Report on event called Figment on Governor's Island

- Invited all members of the board to attend this free event.

RE: Report on Pier 57 Working Group

- Marc Ameruso has been appointed to represent CB1 on this working group.

Old Business:

No old business was conducted.

New Business:

No new business was conducted

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: Marc Ameruso, Assistant Secretary