



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

Chairperson's Report for January 2015

Catherine McVay Hughes

It has been another extremely busy month for Community Board 1 since the December monthly meeting. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better and stronger than ever. I would like to report on the important issues and milestones that we have worked through with fellow board members, the CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies. We appreciate everyone's efforts and cooperation on the postponement of the Monday, January 26 board meeting due to the blizzard forecast. Thank you everyone!

Updates

- CB1 Special Landmarks Committee Meeting, the second of two, voted on a resolution regarding Landmarks Preservation Commission application by Howard Hughes Corporation for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the following proposals (01/05/15); roughly 200 people attended:
 1. Tin Building: relocation and one-story addition
 2. Pier 17 western edge/removal of headhouse
 3. Pier 17 canopy and mechanical screen
 4. Pedestrian canopy
 5. Demolition of the Link Building
 6. Construction of pavilions and lighting under FDR Drive
 7. East River Esplanade
 8. New building on Pier 16
 9. Schermerhorn Row and new building on John Street
 10. Wayfinding dynamic signs
- CDBG-DR funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Proposed Action Plan Amendment 8
 - At a height of seven feet, CB1 experienced one of the highest inundation levels in Manhattan and unfortunately two people in CB1 drowned and there was billions of dollars of damage to infrastructure, housing and commercial property and utilities
 - City plans to only allocate roughly a total of \$1.5 million to advance resiliency planning and feasibility studies in CB1 and only from Brooklyn Bridge to the Battery Maritime Building out of \$994,056,000 which is the last portion of the City's entire \$4.21 billion grant award
 - It is especially important to study how partially implemented resiliency measures, such as Phase 1 of the BIG U proposal now called the "East Side Coastal Resiliency" which only goes from Montgomery Street to East 23rd Street at \$334 million, would redirect water to surrounding areas such as CB1
 - CB1 is very concerned about the unmet resiliency needs, timeline, implementation and funding for such a proposal for "Compartment C"
 - To date only roughly \$10-20 million has been allocated in Community District 1 (specifically to small business and Build it Back programs, nothing on resiliency)

- NYC EDC recently notified CB1 that it reallocated the \$18 million Neighborhood Game Changer funds to outside of CB1 – CB1 strongly urges City to reallocate these cancelled NYC EDC funds back into CB1’s area, specifically into initiatives outlined in the SIRR report such as Coastal Projection “(A) Install an integrated flood protection system in Lower Manhattan” and “(1)” Create an implementation plan and design for an integrated flood protection system for remaining South Manhattan areas” as well as other flood resiliency measures

Testimony

- CDBG-DR funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Proposed Action Plan Amendment 8 – although the event was posted as a “Public Hearing,” it consisted of a presentation and the public was not allowed to speak at all, but only allowed to submit testimony (Educational Alliance, 197 East Broadway, Manhattan 01/15/15)

Press Conference

- NYC Council Resolution calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act; introduced opening day of NYC Council – with Council Members Chin, Miller and Vallone, along with Joe Zadroga, John Feal, responders, Mariama James, Bob Schneck and other advocates (City Hall Steps, 01/07/15)

Event

- Topping out of 30 Park Place with Silverstein and Tishman Construction (01/21/15)

Meetings

- Peck Slip Park meeting with NYC Parks and Lower Manhattan Development Corporation to discuss possible value engineering (01/26/15)
- Summons Court briefing called by City Hall – relocation from 346 Broadway to 1 Centre Street and Criminal Court to 111 Centre Street; attended with NYC Citywide Administrative Services, representatives of elected officials, Diana Switaj and others (01/20/15)
- Manhattan Borough Board Meeting (01/15/15)
- Sandy CDBG-DR HUD Funds meeting called by City Hall since NYC EDC recently notified CB1 that it reallocated \$18 million in Neighborhood Game Changer funds to outside of CB1 – attended with Senator Squadron, Council Member Chin, Jessica Lappin, Michael DeLoach, William Goldstein, Dan Zarrilli and others (01/09/15)
- Borough President’s Community Board Issue Tracking Meeting – pursuing software or other technology solutions to better track constituent issues at the Board level; thanks to Borough President Brewer for this initiative to track constituent issues since we are trying to figure out the best method so it is a welcome project (01/09/15)
- Lower Manhattan Historical Society Meeting – attended with Una Perkins and Kathleen Gupta; you are invited to their ceremony for Albert Gallatin on Thursday, January 29 at 4:30pm in front of his grave at Trinity Churchyard. Gallatin was the Secretary of the Treasury for 14 years under Presidents Jefferson and Madison and he negotiated the end of the War of 1812, and founded NYU in 1831, <http://shar.es/1bdeXf> (01/09/15)

Announcements

- BPC Ballfields Permit Application and Permit Overview Rules & Fees has been posted at <http://www.bpca.ny.gov/>
- The Trust for Governors Island announced that the permit process for use of the sports fields opened for 2015 season, register: <http://www.govisland.com/html/permits/sports-fields.shtml>
- Survey of Rent Stabilized Apartment Units in Lower Manhattan posted online
- Ninfa Segarra has been appointed Co-Chair of the Battery Park City Committee
- A Sidewalk Café Working Group under the Tribeca Committee has been created; Alice Blank will Chair with Jeff Ehrlich as Co-Chair
- CB1 just authorized the fourth of four 6-month contracts for Michael Levine's two year Planning contract. If we seek to continue to engage his service we will have to issue the Planning Consultant Solicitation in several months
- Calendars for July through December 2015 have been worked out and will be emailed shortly; please review changes to accommodate holidays
- Thanks to Pat Moore, Tammy Meltzer, Frances Curtis and Jeff Ehrlich for organizing the Holiday Party that will be postponed to spring; details to follow
- CB1 office move to 1 Centre Street is expected to occur in July 2015
- To be considered for re-appointment or to apply for a full two-year term from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2017, please submit your application and resume by **5:00 P.M., Friday, January 30, 2015.**