



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

Chairperson's Report for July 2013

Catherine McVay Hughes

It has been another extremely busy month for Community Board 1. Together we continue make our neighborhood better and stronger than ever. I would like to report on the important issues and milestones that we have worked through this month with fellow board members, the CBI staff, elected officials and government agencies.

Milestones

- Statue of Liberty and Ellis Islands have resumed after Sandy and temporary security tent installed in The Battery next to Castle Clinton (July 5, 2013)
- 3 World Trade Center term-sheet signed between Silverstein Properties and Group M, a division of branding and communications giant WPP, for 500,000 square feet move for over 3,000 employees from two Midtown locations in 2017. The anticipated lease term is for 20 years. Both parties have committed to finalize a lease for signature by the end of the summer. 3 WTC was designed by Pritzker-prize winning architect Richard Rogers to LEED-gold sustainability standards and is state-of-the-art and high tech. (July 9, 2013)

Meeting

- South Street Seaport Museum Meeting with Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Levine, Council Member Chin and representatives of Speaker Silver, Senator Squadron and Borough President Stringer (07/03/2013)

Conference

- Building Back Better: NY Rising Storm Recovery Conference, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo – appointed co-Chair for the Southern Manhattan section of Community Reconstruction Zone Program; goal of program is to empower localities to develop and implement recovery plans after the damage done by Sandy, Irene, and Lee; in partnership and with the support of the state; roughly a six month planning process timeline which will end with a final plan; opportunity for Public Engagement through public input and involvement at key milestones in the planning process; \$25 million in planning grants will be allocated to Southern Manhattan to support the implementation of projects and activities identified in the CRZ Plans the community will produce (Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany, 07/18/2013)

Press Conference

- Friends of Bogardus Garden Announcement of \$400K in Capital Funding From Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer (\$300K) and Councilwoman Margaret Chin (\$100K) Towards Re-Build of Hudson Street Pedestrian Plaza: Media, Businesses, Residents in support of expanded and re-imagined green space in the heart of Tribeca; with President

Tour

- CB1 Planning Committee Tour of the WTC Calatrava PATH Station with the PANYNJ (07/08/2013)

Updates

- Civic Center Plan referred to Borough Board for July vote; CB1 voted abstained (07/18/2013)

Letter

- Letter on WTC Campus Security Plan to NYPD Commission Raymond Kelly that because of the unique threat posed by the history of this site, we understand that a comprehensive security plan is both prudent and necessary. However, we ask that additional meaningful steps are taken to mitigate, as much as possible, the inconveniences and hardship the security plan will likely cause, in addition to increased transparency and communication throughout the process; cosigned with Speaker Silver, Congressman Nadler, Council Member Chin, Senator Squadron and Borough President Stringer (July 2013)

Award Ceremony

- Bloomberg Administration Decade of Design 2002-2013 – Outstanding Project in CB1 is the Capsouto Park with a Fountain by Elyn Zimmerman; by investing in NYC's built environment and making first-rate design a priority in public projects across the five boroughs, the City has helped to renew the creative spirit that shapes the way people experience New York (City Hall, 07/17/2013)

Announcements

- Neighborhood Game-Changer Investment Competition Info Session, LINK, Wednesday, July 31, 2013 @ 1:00pm, NYC 110 William Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY
- Diana Switaj started as Director of Planning for CB1 Monday, July 8th
- Only planned meeting in August is Landmarks at this time, but do please check CB1 website, sign up for email updates, and follow CB1 on Facebook for updates – however, I would like to meet or talk to CB1 members, so please contact me to arrange a time that is convenient for you so that I can hear from you directly about your concerns.
- September has many holidays, so please note that the schedule is a bit different than usual
- 9/11 Memorial Community Night Passes are available for Sunday, September 8th.

Addendum

By Vice Chair A. Notaro

Meetings

- Borough Board President Scott Stringer Monthly Meeting - Two resolutions impacting CB1 were presented for voting. (1) East Midtown Zoning with a vote of 16-0-2 so the affirmative vote rejected the zoning change. CB#1 voted yes. (2) Civic Center Sale (ULURP) came to a vote with the elected officials and only CB1 able to vote. 49-51 Chambers and 346 Broadway were presented as separate resolutions that were identical except for landmark wording for 49-51 Chambers and CB1 school seat issues and 346 Broadway had wording about the media center and build-out funding for Community Facility. Both passed with a 10-0-2, with CB1 abstaining. 346 Broadway will be the first minority development company south of 110 Street. (July 18, 2013)
- Mayor's Office 346 Broadway Conference Call - The Mayor's Office notified CB1 that there was a technical issue with the sale of 346 Broadway. The building has a parking garage for about 100 cars that received its special permit by the original owner in 1958. When the City purchased the building it never renewed the permit, which expired in 1971, but it continued to operate the facility as parking garage. The new buyers found this lien in a title search and made this a condition of sale or the sale price would be reduced and our media center could be eliminated. Their request for us was to waiver our right to review this Board of Standards and Appeals Application for a Variance (BSA) procedure (not ULURP) to allow the garage to continue in use. Due to timing issues, CB1 agreed based on city officials being here tonight to answer questions. (July 19, 2013)
- NYC Economic Development Corporation, Office of Long Term Planning & Sustainability - NYCEDC invited CB1 and CB3 to a briefing on the implementation of the Southern Manhattan plan from the City's "A Stronger, More Resilient New York" Report (SIRR). Sea Level Rise estimated for 2050s: 11-24 inches (Middle Range) to 31+ inches (High End), based on updates to the NYC Panel on Climate Change 2009 analysis. In planning for extreme climate, rising sea levels and the effects of storms like Hurricane Sandy, the report described a "levee" which would raise the land edge stretching from Battery Park to Pier 35 in CB3 (just north of Manhattan Bridge) on the East River. Tomorrow (Wednesday) NYCEDC will release an RFP to determine the feasibility of such a project. Both Boards were very concerned by the scope of this and the potential that this expansion of the land could be used to develop more housing and impact existing infrastructure and plans now being made. We asked for maximum community participation. We want to be partners and not just stakeholders in the process. Feasibility component will be completed by December 2013. (July 25, 2013)