



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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JOHN WEIS
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

Draft Minutes for Full Board, January 6, 2010

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ULURP #: N100068 ECM: an application for an enclosed sidewalk café (6 tables/12 seats) at Merchants NY, 112 Seventh Avenue (17th Street).

Pamela Wolff is opposed to the enclosed sidewalk café as it is now due to its current size. If the present size could be made smaller she would be in favor. That was the only public citizen who spoke about the ULURP.

Public Session

Adam Myerhoff spoke on behalf of the Census Bureau who are currently hiring for the 2010 Census both full time and part time jobs.

Jenna from the Manhattan DA's Office announced the new Deputy Director for Community Affairs, Leona Davidson.

Chairman's Report

Chairman, John Weiss yielded to Lee Compton to report on the Hudson Yards agreement. Lee said that though he was somewhat disappointed about the total number of affordable housing units, the team that included Joe, Sara, and Elisa had accomplished the preservation of approximately 1700 units of permanent affordable off site housing. Also the final plan for the development includes more open space with public use and accessibility clearly defined and a school to be constructed in the first phase.

Appointed Paul Seres new co-secretary to replace Tony Juliano who had to resign because of a change in residence.

A newly created task force is monitoring the CB4 website to ensure changes are being implemented; and to suggest additional improvements.

Announced that he will be meeting with the Commander of Midtown South to discuss the investigation of the alleged anti-gay bias incident outside a bar on Ninth Avenue in the fall and the possible failures of the reporting process.

Elected Officials' Reports

Seth Berliner for Senator Tom Duane reported on the budget changes. Announced the Senator did not want to cut budgets for health benefits. Modified or rejected 75% of the Governor's proposed health cuts.

Sandy Myers from Borough President's Office spoke of the efforts for Community Board recruitment.

Jeffrey LeFrancoise spoke for Assemblyman Gottfried and congratulated the success of the WRY moving forward.

Greg Monte representing Assembly member Rosenthal not happy with the MTA to cut the student metro cards as well as access a ride to the elderly and disabled.

Melanie LaRocca for Speaker of the City Council Christine Quinn. Announced a social networking campaign for HIV/AIDS awareness.

District Manager Bob Benfatto announced that meetings originally scheduled on January 18th, which is MLK day, have been moved, CPP is now on the 19th and Quality of Life is now on January 21st.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – LETTERS & RESOLUTIONS

Chelsea Preservation and Planning (CPP)

Item 1: Letter to BSA re enclosed sidewalk café at Merchants, 112 Seventh Avenue

Walter has concerns about the residences that are above the proposed enclosure. Martin asked if the owner of the venue could come in for further discussions. Lee said that the owner was given opportunity to plead his case. Roll call vote was taken 35 in favor.

Item 2: Letter to DCP re Citywide Text Amendment re Residential Streetscape Preservation

Item 3: Letter to GTS et al. re Tutu Center

Burt added that the Tutu center when they did speak to the community were not exactly straightforward. JD is proposing that we request a meeting with the new management of the center. Ed claims that it is actually zoned correctly and as of right, even though the Tutu center agreed to not use it as a hotel.

Business License and Permit Committee (BLP) - North

Item 4: Letter to SLA re Sri Om Balaji Corp. d/b/a Aaheli – 826 9th Ave (54/55)

Item 5: Letter to SLA re 334 Hotel Management LLC d/b/a StayBridge Suites Time Square NY– 334 W. 40th Street

Item 6: Letter to SLA re The Second Stage Theater Inc. – 305 W. 43rd Street

Item 7: Letter to SLA re Dream Team Partners LLC d/b/a Rice N Bean – 744 Ninth Avenue (50/51)

Item 8: Letter to SLA re Rachel on Ninth Corp. d/b/a Rachel’s – 608 Ninth Avenue

Business License and Permit Committee (BLP) - South

Item 9: Letter to SLA re Regional Thai – 208 Seventh Avenue (22)

Walter would like clarification on the policy on open windows with amplified music.

Item 10: Letter to SLA re 119 7th Avenue Cafeteria LLC d/b/a Cafeteria – 119-121 ½ Seventh Avenue

Item 11: Letter to DCA re Tutto Bene Restaurant Inc. d/b/a Chelsea Ristorante Italiano – 108 Eighth Avenue (15/16)

Item 12: Letter to DCA re Midan Rest. Inc. d/b/a Morans – 146 Tenth Avenue (19)

Mary is suggesting that the cb reach out to the owners of Morans again given their long history with the neighborhood. Additional information needs to be added in the letter regarding why the community complaints existed with regard to their sidewalk café “creeping” over their unmarked designated boundaries.

Quality of Life/Education, Libraries, and Cultural Affairs Committee (QoL)

Item 13: Letter to SAPO re Hell’s Kitchen Flea Market

Waterfront and Parks Committee (WATER)

Item 14: Letter of Support for “Root for Trees”

Item 15: Letter of Support for 36th (canoe) greening & other HY sites

Item 15 was removed from the agenda and postponed.

Transportation Planning (TRANS)

Item 16: Letter to TLC re taxi stand at 57th Street and Eighth Avenue

Item 17: Letter to NYPD re crime stats related to traffic enforcement

Item 18. Letter to DOT re Parking regulation West 34th Street between 9th and 10th avenue

JD states that a light rail system on on 42nd Street will effect traffic patterns on 42nd, 43rd, and 44th streets and since the board does not have an official position we should remove that from the letter.

Item 19: Letter to DOT re Study of Surface Transportation Plan for Midtown Manhattan

Executive Committee (EXEC)/Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Land Use Committee (C/HKLU)/Landmarks Committee (LAND)/ Housing Health, Human Services Committee (HH&HS)

No items to report

Theater Task Force

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM