

Community Board 4 Minutes  
Public Meeting  
Wednesday, January 2, 2013, 6:30p.m.  
Fulton Center Auditorium, 119 Ninth Avenue

The meeting began at 6:39pm.

CB4 Chair Corey Johnson opened up the meeting wishing everyone a happy new year and then opened up the public hearing for the Special Permit application for a PCE (Physical Cultural Establishment) presently operating as Bally's Total Fitness at 350 W. 50<sup>th</sup> Street. No one from the public was signed up to speak on the item, so CB4 Chair Johnson closed the hearing.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Christine Berthet opened the public session and called people signed up to speak.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Jeffrey Peyser (resident)

- Supports the proposal for the park
- was part of the effort to establish a park on Dyer between 34<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> Streets
- told CB4 he was proud to play a role in the establishment of the proposed park and enjoyed meeting with other interested residents and businesses
- he reached out to private donors, including corporations for potential sponsorship or matching funds to help in raise money for the park
- park proposal would bring much needed green space to the neighborhood
- very happy to be involved in this project.

Meta Brunzema (architect)

- provided CB4 with designs of the proposed park
- worked with a group of residents and other stakeholders in the design of the proposed park
- explained the history of location and relationship between Port Authority and land - Port Authority owns the land on Dyer Avenue between 34<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> Streets
- intent of the park is to be inclusive and hopes CB4 will support proposed park

Danielle Sheypuk (resident, Miss Wheelchair New York)

- thinks Dyer Avenue traffic is a very dangerous spot for people in wheelchairs

- having a park there is very safe and if it is ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant and accessible there would be increased safety where all members of the community can benefit.

#### Leslie Johnson

- spoke about her support of the proposed park on Dyer Avenue

#### Kathleen Treat ( Chair of the Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Association)

- residents want the proposed park
- the proposed park is vital to the community
- proposed park will be ADA compliant

#### Amy Gross

- \* supports the proposed park as its many benefits cannot be overstated
- \* cars careen down 34<sup>th</sup> Street to go to Dyer Avenue, as a result it is a dangerous crossing

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Christine Berthet attempted to close public session but was informed there were other community members signed up to speak. CB4 board unanimously recommended the proposal to the Port Authority. Some members of the board, made it clear the project should proceed, once there was a budget and funding in place.

#### Julia Martin

- works with the Hudson Guild
- buses #11 and #20 do not run on time
- bus #11 goes to Lower Manhattan before it turns around
- bus #20 gets stopped in the Port Authority
- City council passed a law requiring delivery bicycle riders to wear helmets. She has seen them riding around without helmets. We need to keep pressure on restaurants to make sure they follow the law.

#### Bill Borock (Director, Council of Chelsea Block Association)

- requested CB4 to have public hearing to deal with Con Edison pipeline extension, as CB2 recently held hearings and is against the extension of the pipeline

Donald Bernstein (attorney for the Highline hotel)

- appeared before the BLP committee in October and received support for its liquor license renewal
- a few former employees attended and spoke at the CB4 meeting on December 5, 2012 and stated the hotel closed due to Hurricane Sandy and as a result had been let go
- hotel is still closed
- he spoke and met with Miguel Acevedo and employees
- both side resolved issue: employees will re-apply for their jobs once the hotel begins operating again
- hopes to get support from CB4 for liquor license application

Miguel Acevedo (President, Fulton Houses Tenants Association)

- initially, employees were scared of losing their jobs and are now supporting the applicant, Highline Hotel. Mr. Acevedo thanked the CB4 and the applicant, Highline Hotel, for resolving this issue.
- thanked elected officials and volunteers who helped and visited homebound seniors during the storm

Lilly Pollack

- complained about very loud house music from Pier 94 during 3 continuous days
- unable to reach anyone, contacted 311 and received no response and no one from Pier 94 intervened
- will work to resolve this problem
- was referred to the Quality of Life meeting on 1/7/2013

Carol Demech

- spoke about the delays on bus line 14D and illegally car parking in bus stops around 14<sup>th</sup> Street, between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> avenues
- because cars illegally park in these bus stops, it is very difficult people in wheelchairs to enter the bus
- contacted 311 and the police
- would like to know what more she can do and thinks CB4 should be aware of the problem

Abby Smith

- should market Overeaters Anonymous meetings at Fulton Houses

- told CB4 she arrived at the meeting on a disability scooter and travels around on scooter
- No curb cut on every corner; thus, City must provide curb cuts at every corner
- lack of curb cuts creates wear and tear on scooters costing consumers money
- wants to donate her service to help the Chelsea Preservation Committee

CB4 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Berthet referred her to the January 16 Transportation Committee meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Berthet closed the Public Session and introduced State Senator Richard (Dick) Gottfried. State Senator Gottfried informed CB4 new state Senator Brad Holyman was representing Chelsea. State Senator Gottfried stated he personally enjoyed the last fourteen (14) years Tom Duane served as senator. State Senator Gottfried thinks we will be well-served by new State Senator Brad Hoylman in the neighborhood and the New York Senate. State Senator Gottfried thanked residents, neighborhood organizations, Hudson Guild, police officers, city employees and CB4 for the help they provided to tenants of Fulton Houses who were without heat and electricity for many days. State Senator Gottfried also stated:

- there will be a 50/50 divide in senate, not clear who is going to win 63<sup>rd</sup> seat
- Albany will take up (1) gun control legislation-hopes with change in public opinion and Cuomo's help the legislation will pass, since year after year the NYS Assembly passes gun control legislation and it goes nowhere in the Senate ; (2) major campaign finance legislation requiring increased disclosure of spending entities.
- State Senate bill to institute early voting in New York, studies show early voting increases voter turnout, hopes we pass it in the Assembly.
- State Senator Gottfried supports legislation where you can vote via absentee ballot for no reason, other states do it and it increases voter participation.
- In regard to Hudson River Park, special session did not happen, the March 2013 budget or later one should address it  
State Senator Gottfried along with Robert Sweeney of Long Island, advocated extending the comment period of fracking systems; On January 10 and 13, 2013, there will be new public hearings on fracking in Albany.
- preventing fracking in NYC Watershed area is profoundly important, said State Senator Gottfried

CB4 Chair Corey Johnson thanked State Senator Gottfried and then moved to adopt the agenda and last month's minutes. The December 2012 minutes were adopted. CB4 Chair Johnson informed CB4 we would cross out #3 and #16. Hearing no opposition, CB4 adopted the agenda.

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Ernesta King (NYC Department of Health)

- spoke about the Big Apple Prescription Program provides discounts, to subscribers, on their prescription and some over-the-counter medications
- the program is being underutilized by NYC residents
- residents with or without insurance are eligible for the benefits
- can obtain a card at [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov)

Jessica Silver (Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer's Office)

- invited members of the public to apply for open positions on CB4 board and left flyers so the public can learn more about the positions
- explained the deadline to submit an application is January 18, 2013 and applications are available at [www.mbp.org](http://www.mbp.org)
- discussed new report released by the Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer *Start Up City: Growing New York City's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem* that looks at the tech economy in NYC, including computer science curriculum in high schools and helping medium –sized businesses locate office-space
- copies of the report were left on the back table for the public and CB4 members and available at [www.mbp.org](http://www.mbp.org)

Laurie Morrison (State Senator Brad Hoylman's Office)

- State Senator Hoylman looks forward to working with CB4 and elected officials
- stated State Senator Hoylman's email was still not running but encouraged local residents to call State Senator Hoylman's office with any concerns or questions at 212-633-8052 or go to [www.bradhoylman.com](http://www.bradhoylman.com)
- official swearing-in ceremony for State Senator Hoylman will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2013, from 2pm-4pm at FIT's (Fashion Institute of Technology) David Dubinsky Student Center

Paul Sawyer (Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal's Office)

- Assemblymember Rosenthal returned to Albany
- public comment period on hydrofracking will close on January 12, 2013
- stated Assemblymember Rosenthal sent a letter to Governor Cuomo requesting that the entire process on hydrofracking be stopped and re-opened after the release of the of the new health impact study
- In Albany, there is currently proposed legislation in areas of gun control, election and campaign finance reform
- any suggestions or questions, please contact Assemblymember Rosenthal's office at 212-873-6368 or via email at [assembly.state.ny.us/mem/linda-b-rosenthal](mailto:assembly.state.ny.us/mem/linda-b-rosenthal)

Michaela Miller (City Council Speaker Christine Quinn)

- Speaker Quinn sent a letter to U.S. House Speaker Jim Boehner (R-OH) expressing her and the City Council's outrage and disappointment about the U.S. House of Representatives left the current session without appropriating 60.4 billion in Hurricane Sandy relief.
- \* On Monday, Speaker Quinn sent a letter to the New York City District Attorneys and judges calling on them to enact the toughest penalties for those preying on victims of Hurricane Sandy.
- free curbside pick-up of Christmas trees until 1/19/2013

Ben Schacter (State Senator Adriano Espaillat)

- introduced himself and informed CB4 & public, and that as a result of redistricting, part of Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen are now in State Senator Espaillat's district
- provided information about Senator Espalliat's district office in Inwood at 5030 Broadway and contact information- 212-544-0173
- stated State Senator Espaillat is looking to open a satellite office Downtown

#### **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT (Robert Benfatto)**

- On January 28, 2013, the annual New York Street Survey, which ask residents to survey the number of homeless people in their neighborhood, will occur

#### **CHAIR/REPORT COMMITTEE- None**

Item #1 – approved

#### **Councilwoman Gale Brewer**

- spoke about the problem of rats at John Jay College
- Windmere will become a hotel, the plan put forth by the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty has been accepted and the Landmarks Committee is very involved
- Durst proposal- will be heard by City Council's subcommittee on Land Use; Councilwoman Brewer stated she will do everything in her power to make sure it includes permanent affordable housing.
- 1/7/2013, 6pm. Hunter College, Manhattan hearing on Redistricting for City Council
- 1/16/2013 at City Hall, Governmental Operatives Committee
- Free Clinics (1) Monthly Housing Clinics 2013 at Goddard Riverside Community Center and (2) E-Recycling Event on Sunday, January 27, 2013 from 10-4pm at the YMCA, 5 West 63 Street.

- Councilwoman Brewer's bill, which will go to full Council in January 2013, if a property owner receives 10 Complaints, and does nothing, then the City can put a lien on the owner's property.

State Senator Tom Duane

- spoke about being a CB4 member in the 1980 & 90's was the greatest training for his career in public service
- said our neighborhoods wouldn't be the same without the work done by community board members
- spoke about his work and the work of a coalition in the Chelsea Plan of 1996, saying people who worked on it gave up a lot to get it in place
- said "thank you " to the community

Items 6, 7, 8, 9 –Passed

Item 10- adopted with changes

Item 2,4, 5- Passed

Item 11,12,13, 14, 15- Passed

Item 17 and 18- Passed

Meeting adjourned at 9:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evangeline Gomez  
Co-Secretary CB4