

CB4
FULL BOARD MINUTES
March 6 , 2013
Fulton Center Auditorium

CB4 Chair Corey Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING- MAYOR'S FY 2014 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

CB4 Vice Chair Burt Lazarin spoke about the Mayor's budget of 70 billion, with a surplus of a little over 1 billion. According to Lazarin, the IBO (Independent Budget Office) is predicting a surplus of a little over 400 million in 2014. This year's surplus will become money for the 2014 budget. Lazarin added the CB4 comment on the preliminary budget, will discuss how all-previous budgets focus on one-shot surplus budgets and , in Lazarin's opinion, we can't rely on it every year. For the last 30 years, we have had a surplus. Lazarin also expressed concern about non-recurring items ; for example, years 2013-2016 did not contain any reserves for collective bargaining purposes and most New York City employees, have been working 3 years without a contract. Lazarin asked Ms. Gonzalez if anyone had signed up to speak on this matter. Ms. Gonzalez replied in the negative.

GENERAL PUBLIC SESSION

Bill Borock- President, Council of Chelsea Block Associations

- major concern: we know alternative energy is a good thing, but if something happens, the entire monitoring will not be worth anything
- previous requests have been made for an environmental study, and expressed it would be important if CB4 expressed its opposition that pipeline not be built until a health or environmental study is completed
- referred to a gas vault collapsing on W. 15th Street and Con Ed has been working on W. 16th and 7th Avenue for 3 years and it hasn't been going so well
- upset CB4 's letter (Item #1) was not strong enough

David Kupferberg - resident

- need comprehensive bus service in Manhattan

R Minor – HK 50/51

- article in newspaper: if information is correct, there is a bar on the Lower East Side that has chosen not to abide by stipulations for background music and has loud bar music. Would like CB4 position.

Sarah Bartlett- Tribeca resident, founder Neighbors Against the NID

- opposes the NID (Neighborhood Improvement District) for Hudson River Park
- it will tax property owners to help pay for Hudson River Park
- CB1 passed a resolution in favor of the NID; CB4 last community board to vote on NID
- we don't need NID we can use private dollars
- Can get more information and access to the petition signed by those opposing the NID by sending an e-mail to NOHRPNID@gmail.com

Deley Arzinelle- resident of W. 15th Street

- since 1987, not one week out of the month we do not have a Con Ed problem
- company building the pipeline has a bad record of explosions
- would like to work with CB4 in addressing these issues with letter Item 1

Wenji Wong- representative of Shen Yun

- spoke about the Shen Yun which will begin in April 2013 at Lincoln Center
- sponsoring a Chinese culture workshop, will address many issues including how Russian culture destroyed aspects of Chinese culture, sign-up in the back of the room if interested in attending the workshop
- Ernie Anastos highly recommends Shen Yun

Heather Woodfield, One Percent for Culture

- commended CB4 for addressing and supporting group's advocacy efforts in getting an increase in the City Budget for 1% or more
- stated the Mayor cuts the cultural budget each year and her campaign lobbies to increase the cultural budget and restore it to the previous year's budget levels
- money from the cultural budget supports a lot of organizations in CB4

Laszlo Reichardt- resident

- supports Mix 2, although tenants have come up with certain other stipulations regarding noise of HVAC and quality of air shaft

David Cochrane- resident

- making a public announcement he has no further issue with Briciola
-

Frank Lowe- resident

- passed out a letter detailing his opinion on the Spectra natural gas pipeline
- spoke about the history leaking transmission pipes, regular spills and fire and explosions

- concerned about radon, polonium and lead

Sydney Tegeler- President, 501-506 9th Avenue Tenants Association

- had several meetings with people of Mix 2 and proposed some changes to the language of the stipulations

Bill M.- resident

- announced the 9th Avenue Food Festival in May 2013 and wanted to know if anyone on CB4 had spoken with organizers of event
- said Joe Restuccia, Chair of the Housing committee, is a direct conflict of interest given he heads a housing organization

Raul Larios- CB4 member

- gave an update on the Community Jobs Project
- happy to report businesses such as Friends of the Highline, Clinton Housing Development Corporation and Lobster Place (which filled at least 20 positions) are involved
- gave out web address

Phyllis Waisman-resident

- Need to have natural gas pipelines is a figment of Con Ed's imagination and to remember the explosions that occurred in San Bruno
- need a comprehensive health and water study to see the environmental effects of Spectra

Liz Swager - FIT

- Exhibitions open to the public (1) Fashion Technology and (2) Shoe Obsession which opens on 4/1/2013 @6pm, if you want to be on list and get invite send her an e-mail

Christine Berthet- CB4 Vice Chair

- All payphones in NYC will be replaced in 2014
- Last stage of competition for finalists who have designed alternative uses
- Go to Facebook or NYC.gov to vote for your favorite design

James Wallace- CB4 member

- “UNFAIR” is occurring this weekend and includes almost 100 art works by NYC artists on 550 W. 52nd Street (52nd and 10th)

Christian Bray- Friends of Circle of 76

- for seniors by seniors
- April 7, 2013, lunch roundtable for seniors to meet CB7 and CB4 candidates and ask questions, if interested grab a flyer in the back of the room and RSVP because they are serving food and need an accurate count of people
- located at 120 W. 76th street and Columbus Avenue
- had funding problems and just funded until June 2013 after receiving help from Councilwoman Gale Brewer

Chair Corey Johnson introduced the adoption of the meeting’s agenda, crossed out Item #11, added Item #33 (J.D. Nolan replacing Chair Corey Johnson on Hudson Yards with Lee Compton serving as the alternate) all members voted for the adoption; Minutes of the last CB4 Full Board meeting were adopted.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT SCOTT STRINGER’S REPORT (David Czyzyk)

- Congressman Jerrold Nadler and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, State Senator Hoylman, Assemblymember Deborah Glick, Assemblymember Dick Gottfried, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and Speaker Christine Quinn sent a letter to the USPS regarding the closing of the Old Chelsea Post Office and had a meeting with USPS requesting more time for public comment, a public hearing and a discussion about a decrease in the space they use.
- Senior Guide is now available if you want paper copies contact David or the MBPO and they will send it to you; digital copies are available on-line at www.mbpo.org.
- The MBPO is reviewing community grant applications they receive and looking for people with an expertise in parks, early childhood education and public health. You may go to www.mbpo.org for more information.

LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT

SENATOR BRAD HOYLMAN (Ellen Lewis, CB4 liaison)

- happy to report last month NY State passed the toughest assault weapons ban in the nation
- On 3/24/13, having a massive rally at Harlem office to show support against gun violence
- Senator Hoylman recently published a comment in the Villager against Pay-to-Play in Albany (article located on back table)

- wants to ensure the integrity of the Old Chelsea Station Post Office is maintained and wants Landmarks Preservation Committee to consider it as a Landmark Building

SENATOR ADRIANO ESPAILLAT (Ben Schacter)

- Senator is aware Spectra pipeline is a big issue in the community and in response to this issue he held a forum on 2/13/2013, with Environmental Advocates of New York, regarding the environmental impact of fracking
- Senator Espaillat sponsored legislation to increase the minimum wage in the State of New York
- Senator sponsoring an art exhibit on 163 125th street about African Heritage and Dominican Independence

ASSEMBLYMEMBER DICK GOTTFRIED (Jeffrey LaFrancois)

- introduced Single Payer Healthcare Bill, that provides healthcare for all New Yorkers and builds upon President Obama's federal legislation, single payer because 1 entity pays bill eliminating administrative costs and confusion for the consumer
- Health Budget being negotiated, and is cognizant and advocated for unique LGBT health care needs in budget
- Assembly passed a 2 year moratorium to ban fracking; still awaiting report from Health department and Department of Environmental Protection

ASSEMBLYMEMBER LINDA ROSENTHAL (Paul Swere)

- 1 year old child burned to death - an example of why Assemblymember Rosenthal's bill requiring Landlord's to install radiator covers in apartment units with children 12 years or younger, at the request of the tenant, is sensible and necessary
- If any resident is being subjected to noisy construction work on repeated weekends, please contact her office at 212-873-6368 or rosenhall@assembly.state.ny.us.

COUNCIL SPEAKER CHRISTINE QUINN (Harriet Sedgwick)

- On February 11, 2013 Speaker Quinn laid out a strategy strengthening the city's middle class and helping New Yorkers striving to get there. The Speaker's proposals addressed the challenges facing New York City's middle class families:

1. Creation of new middle income affordable housing units; keeping more housing permanently affordable and better preserve and improved housing stock
 2. A middle class child care tax credit
 3. A new approach to economic development including new jobs in the South Bronx, economic revitalization of Brooklyn's Industrial Waterfront and a New Regional Export Council
 4. Health Care Jobs and the creation of the New York Health Employment Coalition
 5. City's workforce development system shift to one that is demand driven and wholly integrated
- Old Chelsea Post Office: with colleagues, sent a letter to Postmaster General Donahoe of USPS expressing importance of the Old Chelsea Station to the community and urging the USPS to retain the space
 - Pre-Kindergarten restored at P.S. 52 and will be open and available to all families in September 2013.

CONGRESSWOMAN CAROLYN MALONEY

- gave a state-by-state breakdown of sequestration cuts which will be in effect for some time: (1) Head Start (2) Teachers/ school (3) Medical Research (4) Superstorm Sandy (5) Meals-on-Wheels (6) VAWA grants
- VAWA passed; reauthorization measure contained two provisions by Congresswoman Maloney: SAFER Act to improve DNA Testing of Rape Kits (provide more support of DNA kits so they can be more thoroughly analyzed) and Campus SaVE Act to help Combat Sexual Assault in Institutions of Higher Education
- any questions, please call Congresswoman Maloney at 212-860-0606

COMPTROLLER JOHN LIU

- New York City Pension Funds voted to invest in areas affected by Superstorm Sandy
- Comptroller Liu hosting Women's History Month celebration on March 12, 2013 at Emigrant Bank Building

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT (Robert Benfatto)

- Chelsea Post Office looking to have meeting on 4/13/2013
- The proposed text amendments regarding the Hudson Yard Culture Shed will be discussed at the joint CH/HKLU meeting on March 18, 2013 at 6:30pm at the Fulton Auditorium

CHAIR'S REPORT (Corey Johnson, Chair)

- Agenda Item #33 - Chair stated J.D. Nolan should be the new CB4 rep on the Hudson Yards Committee and Lee Compton will serve as the alternate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee (EXEC)

Item 1: Letter to Con Edison re Spectra Pipeline Project - PASSED

Members agreed they are learning more about the Spectra Pipeline and changes were made to Item 1 , specifically changes to lines 75, 31 and 89. CB2 has come out strong against the Spectra Pipeline. CB4 realized the letter was not perfect, but understood the importance of taking a position on this matter. Pamela Wolff spoke about waiting until we had results of health, safety and environmental study before letting Spectra pipeline construction begin.

Item 2- PASSED

Items 3,4,5,6,7,8,9 and 32- PASSED

Budget and Jobs Taskforce (B&J)

Item #10- Letter to Mayor re FY14 Preliminary Budget Response- PASSED AS AMENDED

CB4 member Walter Mankoff commented on the CB4's budget response (herein referred to as "Response"), crafted by 2nd Vice Chair Burt Lazarin and CB4 member Raul Larios, arguing the response lacked the words "we support this plan" and wasn't well articulated. Mankoff added the Response doesn't fully appreciate the burden as listed on page 6 of 22. CB4 member Joe Restuccia inquired about the origin of the Response and argued the Response was a position on a budget and we (CB4) either support an item or we don't support it. Restuccia added updated language to the section of the Response dealing with P.S. 51 (expanding location to W. 44th Street this September and a new section of full day Pre-Kindergarten that will be open and available to families in September 2013, including the number of new seats). Chair Corey Johnson asked the Budget Taskforce to consider providing CB4 with next year's Preliminary Budget Response in advance of the meeting. Burt Lazarin and Raul Larios agreed to include the recommendations made and suggested language.

Business Licenses and Permits Committee (BLP)

Item 12- PASSED

Information was given to CB4 that Briciola can stay open an extra half hour, even though they cannot serve food or wine during this time, so really can stay open until 2a.m.

CB4 member Raul Larios introduced a motion to oppose the passing of Item #12. The motion was supported by one other member and failed.

Items 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27- PASSED

Item 20 - TABLED

By-Laws Taskforce (By-Laws)

Item 28 - PASSED

CB4 member Betty Mackintosh thanked everyone who gave the Taskforce comments on the changes to the proposed changes to the By-laws to include the Director of Social Media shall provide monthly report at the discretion of the Chair.

Landmarks Committee

Item 29- PASSED

New Business (NewBUS)

Items 30, 31, 32 and 33 - PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Respectfully submitted, Evangeline Gomez Co-Secretary