

February 2006 Minutes

Full Board Meeting Sheldon Fine, Chairperson

February 7, 2006

Red Oak Apartments

Mr. Fine called the meeting to order at 7:24 PM.

**Minutes from previous full board meeting were approved, as amended:
39:0:0.**

The minutes erroneously listed Helen Rosenthal as absent.

Chairman's Report: Sheldon J. Fine

- Although there has been a lot of activity on the Community Board, the Chairman expressed concern about spotty attendance at meetings. He designated February as Attendance Month. If a member is going to be absent from or late to a Full Board meeting, he or she should contact the Board office by 1 PM. After that time please contact Bobbie Katzander on her cell phone—917-971-1759. Members and Co-Chairs should contact each other about attendance at committee meetings.**
- Manhattan Borough President and Borough Board will hold public hearings on the City's budget on 2/13 and 2/16. The community is invited to testify.**
- Mr. Fine presented to Shanifah Rieara, MCB7 Community Associate, a gift in gratitude for five years of dedicated service. She is joining the Manhattan Borough President's staff as the Director of the Northern Manhattan office.**
- George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Co-Chairperson of the Business & Consumer Issues Committee, reported that three years ago, the Board created the Commerce Committee with a mandate to look at business and consumer issues. Committee is also responsible for approving multi-block street fairs. The following meeting agendas have been scheduled: February 9 - Con Ed rates; March 8 - Department of Consumer Affairs; April - Area Banks; May 19 - Community Pharmacies; June - Restaurant Bike Messengers.**
- John Howell, Chairman of the Public Safety & Environment Committee, introduced Herman Schaffer from the Office of Emergency Management. Mr. Schaffer talked about the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. He invited everyone to consider volunteering for its emergency preparedness program. Community boards are coordinating the recruitment for an eleven week training program, leading to CERT membership.**

District Manager's Report: Penny Ryan

- Deputy Inspector James Murtagh is now the Commander of the 19th Precinct on the East Side of Manhattan. Captain Keith Spardaro is the new Commander at the 20th Precinct. Kathleen Fanning, current Commander of the 24th Precinct, has been promoted to Deputy Inspector.

- This month's Manhattan Borough Service Cabinet, chaired by the Borough President, reviewed issues of interest to all of the community boards, including the new Noise Code, NYCHA, Department of Education, and 311. The February agenda will focus on 311. District managers were asked to forward pot hole complaints to the MPBO. A consolidated list will be forwarded to DOT's Manhattan Borough Commissioner for action.

- This month's District Service Cabinet continued its work on commercial SROs in CD7 and school safety issues.

Manhattan Borough President's Report

Joshua Bocian, Director of Community Affairs, introduced David Cohen as the new liaison for

MCB 5 and MCB7. Mr. Bocian also introduced the Deputy Borough President, Rosemonde Pierre-Louis. Ms. Pierre-Louis has focused on domestic violence issues as a litigator and is a resident of Harlem. Her portfolio includes community board reform and affordable housing. She reported that the Borough President has created a committee to develop criteria for community board appointments and reappointments. The Borough President is reaching out to civic organizations about the role of community boards. Board appointments will be completed by April 1, 2006. The Manhattan Borough budget hearings will be held on 2/13 in the Harlem State Office Building on West 125th Street and on 2/16 at One Centre Street.

Reports by Legislators

Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito: 90% of concerns in her district are housing concerns. She has created a housing taskforce that will address: 1) public housing; 2) Mitchell Lama housing; 3) tenant-owned buildings. There are divergent views on solid waste management issues because the district includes Manhattan's west side and the south Bronx. She is open to comments from Board Members on these issues. Her number is (212) 828-9800. Ede Fox is her Legislative Director and Melinda Velez is her Chief of Staff.

Public Session

- Micah Kellner, Council Member Inez Dickens' office: The Council Member is enthusiastic about CB7's West 96th -110th Street Planning Task Force and is supportive of rezoning.
- Christina Garvey, Senator Schneiderman's office: Introduced her replacement, Michael Meade. The Senator is pleased about the newly formed Housing Committee. He introduced a resolution to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade.
- Carrie Schmitz introduced herself as the liaison from Assembly Member Danny O'Donnell's office.
- Joselinne Minaya, NY County's District Attorney's office: Spoke about internships for junior high and high school students (14-18). The only requirement is that they be resident of Manhattan. They are accepting applications until April. Her contact number is 212-335-9082.
- David Chang, Senator Duane's office: Announced the newsletter that outlines the Senator's agenda. Announced a campaign for tenants who reside in Shalom Family buildings and have complained about widespread building violations and mentioned the American Museum of Natural History's facade restoration.
- Elizabeth Starkey, Democratic Party: Announced the special election on 2/28 for the 67th Assembly District. There will be two candidate forums: 2/16 at Goddard Riverside, sponsored by West Side Sprit; and 2/22 at Hargrave House (111 West 71st Street) at 7 PM, sponsored by West Side Federation.
- Peter Arndtsen, Director, Columbus-Amsterdam BID: Expressed concern about gun violence.
- Dan Held, Con Edison: spoke about higher residential energy bills.
- Ruben Dario Vargas, West 104th Block Association: Requested angle parking on CPW-Columbus block. Speaker was referred to the Transportation Committee.

Business Session

Transportation Committee

Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig, Co-Chairpersons

193 Columbus Avenue (West 68th–69th Streets.) The resolution to approve the new application DCA#1216111 to the Department of Consumers Affairs by Yun Hua on Columbus, Inc., d/b/a Yun Hua, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 12 seats was adopted: 38:0:1:0.

Parks & Preservation Committee

Lenore Norman and Klari Neuwelt, Co-Chairpersons

Joint with Transportation Committee

270 Columbus Avenue, d/b/a SQC (West 72nd-73rd Streets.) The resolution to approve application #062272 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to alter an existing enclosed sidewalk café was adopted: 38:2:0:0.

Parks & Preservation Committee

333 West End Avenue (West 75th-76th Streets.) The resolution to approve application #06-3914 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to enlarge window openings was adopted: 40:0:0:0.

Reconstruction of sidewalks around Theodore Roosevelt Park, West 77th-81st Streets, Columbus Avenue-Central Park West.

The following resolution was adopted: 40:0:0:0.

WHEREAS, all of the perimeter sidewalks of Theodore Roosevelt Park are in need of reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, the American Museum of Natural History will soon be undertaking a major restoration project of its 77th Street facade; and

WHEREAS, the perimeter sidewalk on Columbus Avenue appears to be in worse condition than the 77th Street sidewalk, and the Columbus Avenue sidewalk appears to have substantially more foot traffic than the 77th Street sidewalk;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan approves the final design for the reconstruction of the sidewalks surrounding Theodore Roosevelt Park, including related landscaping, renovated tree pits, new lighting and benches;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan disapproves that aspect of the project that anticipates deferring reconstruction of the Columbus Avenue sidewalk at this time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan urges the Department of Parks and Recreation to allocate the available budget for the project toward reconstructing the Central Park West, Columbus Avenue and 81st Street sidewalks with priority over the 77th Street sidewalk.

Present: Sheldon J. Fine, Andrew Albert, Richard Asche, Annette Averette, Hope Cohen, Page Cowley, Alberto Cruz, Victor Gonzalez, Jean Green-Dorsey, Phyllis Gunther, Marlene Guy, David Harris, Robert Herrmann, Lawrence Horowitz, John Howell, Chaumtoli Huq, Ulma Jones, Bobbie Katzander, , Eric Nelson, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Gabrielle Palitz, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Melanie Radley, Luis Reyes, Freddie Richardson, Helen Rosenthal, Oscar Rios, Madge Rosenberg, Ethel Sheffer, Charles Simon, Sean Small Elizabeth Starkey, Steve Strauss, Barbara Van Buren, Tom Vitullo-Martin, Melanie Wymore, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Dan Zweig.

Absent: Barbara Adler, Linda Alexander, Lance Dashefsky, Guillermo Gonzalez, Douglas Griebel, Joyce Johnson, Barbara Keleman, Patricia Stevens, D. Maria Watson.

On leave: Georgette Gittens.

Steering Committee

Sheldon Fine, Chairperson

February 28, 2006

Mr. Fine called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

1. CB7 By-laws attendance item.

Mr. Fine reviewed Article 1, Sections B and C of CB7's current by-laws, which follow below. Section C#1, which relates to removal for cause, does not set forth a clear process. After discussion, the Steering Committee voted to approve the following clarification of this section: 15-0-0-0.

The Membership Committee with an affirmative vote of two-thirds of its members may recommend to the Steering Committee that a Member be removed for cause. Said Member shall be given a written statement of the charges against him or her and shall be given an opportunity to respond in writing to the charges. Upon the Member's request, a hearing on the charges shall be held before the Steering Committee. If two-thirds of a quorum of the Steering Committee recommends removal for cause, the full record of the hearing shall be presented to the full Board for its action. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of a quorum of the full Board is required for removal. The full Board's recommendation of removal for cause shall be sent to the Manhattan Borough President.

The current Membership Committee has three members: Bobbie Katzander, Joyce S. Johnson, and Sheldon J. Fine.

Section C#2 of the By-Laws, which defines "cause", is also unclear. The Steering Committee voted to approve the following clarification of this section: 15-0-1-0.

"Cause" shall include but not be limited to a Member's failure to fulfill any of the duties or

responsibilities outlined in Section B above. Recognizing that regular attendance at Board and Committee meetings is essential in order for a Member to fulfill his or her duties and responsibilities, the Board has determined that eight absences (total of full Board and assigned committees) within any period of twelve consecutive months shall constitute cause for removal.

A reference to "request for a leave of absence" will be added, if it is not in the current by-laws.

A Board Member who knows that his or her life circumstances will preclude attendance from more than two consecutive months may request a leave of absence in writing to be approved by the Chairperson.

The clarifications to the by-laws will be read at the March 7th full Board meeting and voted on at the April 4th meeting.

2. Attendance follow-up.

Mr. Fine reviewed committee attendance for February and reported that 75% of the members attended their respective committee meetings and suggested that co-chairpersons call members who are not attending. He is meeting with the Manhattan Borough President on March 1 to review Board appointments. Annette Averette has resigned

3. Report by each committee on one agenda highlight in March.

The following were mentioned:

Transportation, Andrew Albert - Newsracks

Parks & Preservation, Lenore Norman – follow-up on meeting with Landmarks Preservation Commission

Budget, Helen Rosenthal – outreach to block and neighborhood associations and beginning of District Needs Statement for FY2008

Melanie Wymore – 59th Street Recreation Center rehabilitation

Youth & Education, Luis Reyes - April report and forum on kindergarten lottery

Business & Consumer Affairs, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero – discussion with Department of Consumer Affairs

Health & Human Services, Barbara Van Buren – Changes in St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital's clinic services

Housing, Victor Gonzalez – discussion with the Department of Housing Preservation & Development on illegal SRO conversions.

4. New business:

· **Mr. Fine reviewed the NYC Council Intro that would require financial disclosure by community board members. The Steering Committee adopted a resolution opposing the Intro as unnecessary, intrusive and unmanageable, stating that CB7 has tough ethics rules that it enforces: 16-0-0-0.**

· **George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero reported that OTB has renewed its consideration of 143 West 72nd Street as a betting parlor site. The Committee adopted a resolution denying a "letter of no objection", which was requested by OTB, for the site: 16-0-0-0.**

· **Barbara Van Buren reported on community meetings regarding 260 West 99th Street with the Lantern Group, HPD, the SRO Law Project and tenants. Mr. Fine will write to the Commissioner of HPD expressing the Board's concerns about status of the project.**

Present: Sheldon J. Fine, Andrew Albert, Hope Cohen, Victor Gonzalez, Alberto Cruz, Marlene Guy, Chaumtoli Huq, Bobbie Katzander, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Luis O. Reyes, Madge Rosenberg, Helen Rosenthal, Barbara Van Buren, Melanie Wymore, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero. District Manager Penny Ryan.

CB7 By-Laws

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

B. Duties and responsibilities of Members; conflicts of interest; public statements.

1. In order to fulfill the responsibilities outlined in Section 3800, paragraph d, of the City Charter and in order to assure broad District representation on all issues before the Board, each Member shall serve on standing committees as provided in Article IV, Section A, of the By-Laws and shall regularly attend meetings of the Board and of the standing committees of which he or she is a Member. In addition, to assure quorum requirements of Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), public hearings as set forth in Article IV, Section A, of the By-Laws, each Member has an obligation to attend at a minimum such hearings on matters (1) of which he or she has special knowledge and (2) of concern to the standing committees of which he or she is an assigned or public member.

2. Any Members participating in Board consideration of a matter representing a conflict of interest shall abstain from voting on such issue and shall be so recorded. It shall be the responsibility of the Ethics Committee of the Board to prepare and circulate to all Members the position of the Ethics Committee of the Board and to annually review its position. It shall be the responsibility of each Member to recognize conflict of interest situations; in the event of doubt, a Member may refer the question to the Ethics Committee.

3. Except as provided in Article VI, Section C, of the By-Laws, any Member appearing before a governmental body or otherwise making a public statement which conflicts in any respect with positions adopted by the Board shall not identify himself or herself as a Member of the Board when making such a statement. No Member shall represent the Board's position before any city or other governmental agency or authority unless designated to do so by the Chairperson of the Board.

C. Removal for cause.

Following the procedure outlined below, the Board may remove a Member for cause.

1. The Membership Committee may recommend to the Steering Committee that a Member be removed for cause. Said Member shall be given a written statement of the charges against him or her and shall be given an opportunity to respond in writing to the charges. Upon the Member's request, a hearing on the charges shall be held before the Steering Committee recommendation to remove, the Steering Committee recommendation and the full record of the hearing shall be presented to the Board for its action.

2. "Cause" shall include but not be limited to a Member's failure to fulfill any of the duties or responsibilities outlined in Section B above. Recognizing that regular attendance at Board and Committee meetings is essential in

order for a Member to fulfill his or her duties and responsibilities, the Board has determined that four unexcused absences within any period of twelve consecutive months from regular meetings of the Board or four unexcused absences with any period of twelve consecutive months from regular meetings of a standing committee to which a Member has been appointed shall constitute cause for removal.

Youth and Education Committee

Luis O. Reyes and Alberto Cruz, Co-Chairpersons

February 16, 2006

West Side YMCA

Luis Reyes and Alberto Cruz called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Introduction of board members to the community in attendance

Introduction of each community member and organizations to the youth and education committee.

Wingspan Arts

- **Introduction of program and activities offered to students and families throughout the city and community board 7. Wingspan was founded by Gary Bernstein in 2001 as a not for profit.**
- **Wingspan Arts Program is currently in place community board 7 at PS 191, West side collaborative, Mott Hall II, and Computer School 2 at PS 9. Wingspan is also working with the Historical Society.**
- **Funding for the program is provided by the 21st century grants which are part of the "No Child Left Behind" program.**
- **75% of participants attend through the assistance of scholarships.**
- **A merit program has been implemented throughout the city where 15 out of 120 applicants will participate in the program at the cost with no financial information necessary.**
- **Diversity of participants and staff vary according to location / neighborhood / population.**
- **Students participating in the program are from all over the city with 75-80% of participants residing in Community Board 7.**

- Programming consists of visual, dance, and performing arts. All of their programming is considered emergent. Wingspan has also worked with school administration to develop physical education curriculum. Other programs offered are capoeira, Afro-Caribbean percussion, and multi-cultural dance.
- Wingspan also offers a conservatory program during the summer months. Now in it's fourth year. This summer's production is "City of Angels". This summer after four years on the Upper West Side the conservatory will be moving to the East Side of Manhattan due to the lack of appropriate and affordable space on the upper West Side. The new location is The Allen-Stevenson School located at 132 East 78th street (Lexington Avenue).
- A development associate was just recently hired to look into funding opportunities through out the community.
- For more information on Wingspan Arts programs go to www.wingspanarts.org

Kindergarten Lottery: A Community Report and Forum

- First round of the lottery process took place on Monday, February 13.
- Notification to parents concerning the next steps in the process will be mailed February 17, with completion of the process expected on March 24.
- "The Kindergarten Lottery" a community report and forum, with presentations from Department of Education superintendent of district 3 Judy Aronson and The Center for Immigrant Families.
- Each Presentation will be limited to 15 minutes. Elected officials will be limited to 5-10 minutes.
- Forum hopefully will be sponsored by Community Board 7, Presidents Council for district 3, Center for Immigrant families, CEDC 3.
- The Youth and Education Committee is looking to bridge families in the community and the Department of Education.
- Possible dates for the forum are
 1. Thursday, March 30
 2. Wednesday, April 5
 3. Thursday, April 6
- Possible locations for the forum are:
 1. Public School 163 located on 97th street between Amsterdam Avenue and Columbus Avenue

2. Joan of Arc Complex located at 154 W. 93rd Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Columbus Avenue

3. Public School 75 located on 96th street and West end avenue.

· Time of event will be 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

· (Subsequently, the date of Thursday, April 6, 6:00-8:30 PM, and the location of Joan of Arc Complex, 154 West 93rd Street were decided.)

· Local elected officials will also be invited to participate on the panel and to report on any findings considering the application process.

· Department of Education will look into providing Spanish-English translation equipment for the forum. Luis will discuss the feasibility of translation for other languages (French, Haitian Creole, and Urdu) with central DOE officials.

· Information to community will be sent by email to school principals, parent coordinators, and community based organizations to pass out to families.

· Community Board 7 / Youth and Education Committee will develop flyer and translate into Spanish.

· Community Board 7 Chair Sheldon Fine will be asked to welcome community to forum.

· Alberto will contact elected officials regarding participation on the panel.

· Sharon will be liaison with parent organizations and will contact Larry Wood and Angela Fuller current co-presidents of district 3 presidents' council.

· The committee and community members in attendance discussed the possibility of providing babysitting during forum. Funding for babysitting and for refreshments will be discussed with District Manager Penny Ryan and Community Board 7 Chair Sheldon Fine.

· Center for Immigrant Families will contact possible child care providers for babysitting during forum.

· Agenda for forum:

6:15 PM-6:30 PM - Welcoming and Introduction by

Community Board 7 Chair Sheldon Fine

6:30 PM-7:00 PM – Presentations by District 3, NYCDOE, and Center for Immigrant Families

7:00 PM-7:30 PM – Elected official presentations

7:30 PM-8:20 PM – Community conversation/Question and answer session

8:20 PM-8:30 PM – Closing

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Committee members present: Alberto Cruz, Luis O. Reyes, Marlene Guy, Sharon Parker-Frasier. Absent: Guillermo Gonzalez, David Harris, Patricia Stevens.

Community Members present: Paul Ashley – Wingspan Arts

Jessica Bashline – Wingspan Arts

Donna Nevel – Center for Immigrant Families

Ujjin Aggarwal - Center for Immigrant Families

Susan Tucker – Park River Independent Democratic Club

D.J. Sheppard - Department of Education CSD#3

Transportation Committee

Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig, Co-Chairpersons

February 14th, 2006

1. 412 Amsterdam Avenue (West 79th-80th Streets.) Renewal application DCA#1158198 to the Department of Consumers Affairs by 412 Amsterdam Avenue Corp., d/b/a Bettola, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 13 tables and 26 seats.

Owner Sebastiai Cappitta appeared for Bettola.

Resolution: Resolved that CB#7 approves Bettola's request for a renewal of their unenclosed sidewalk cafe, with 13 tables and 26 seats.

Vote: COMM: 4-0-0-0. NCB: 2-0-0-0.

2. 414 Amsterdam Avenue (West 79th-80th Streets.) Renewal application DCA#1016775 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by BEK Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a Savann Restaurant, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 8 tables and 17 seats.

Owner Galip Ozbek appeared for Savann.

Resolution: Resolved That CB#7 approves Savann's request for a renewal of their unenclosed sidewalk cafe, with 8 tables and 17 seats.

Vote: COMM: 4-1-0-0. NCB: 2-0-0-0

3. 718 Amsterdam Avenue (West 94th-95th Streets.) New (modification) application DCA#1217245 to the Department of Consumers Affairs by Iano Corp., d/b/a Acqua, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 13 tables and 26 seats.

Robert Callahan, expeditor, appeared for Acqua. This is a modification to the existing cafe due to DCA's requirement to unbolt two-top tables that were previously connected to allow for tables that will accommodate 4 seats. The # of seats remains the same, but the tables are reconfigured.

Resolution: Resolved that CB#7 approves Acqua's new (modified) application for an unenclosed sidewalk cafe with 8 tables and 16 seats.

Vote: COMM: 5-0-0-0. NCB: 2-0-0-0.

4. 425 Amsterdam Avenue (West 80th-81st Streets.) New (modification) application DCA#1218074 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 425 Amsterdam Avenue Corp., d/b/a McAleer's Pub, for an unenclosed sidewalk café with 8 tables and 16 seats.

Keith McAleer appeared before the committee for McAleer's Pub. This is a modification due to the passing of Mr. McAleer's father, who held the license. It is the same configuration, but the license will now be held by Keith McAleer, instead of his father.

Resolution: Be it resolved that CB#7 approves McAleer's Pub's request for a new (modified) application for an unenclosed sidewalk cafe with 8 tables and 16 seats.

Vote: COMM: 4-0-0-0. NCB: 2-0-0-0.

5. 476 Amsterdam Avenue (West 82nd-83rd Streets.) New (modification) application DCA#1218332 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Upper West Rest Corp., d/b/a Fred's, for a unenclosed sidewalk café with 22 tables and 44 seats.

David Honor, co-owner appeared before the committee. The restaurant has approximately 61 ft of frontage on Amsterdam Avenue and is now using a recessed area (the moat) for seating as well. Seating in the moat does not take up sidewalk space, as it is a couple of steps down. As Fred's has taken over an adjacent storefront (south of their main space), additional table can be placed in the moat, as well as a few on the sidewalk.

Resolution: Be it resolved that CB#7 approves Fred's new (modified) application for an unenclosed sidewalk cafe with 22 tables and 44 seats.

Vote: COMM: 4-1-0-0. NCB: 0-0-2-0.

6. 462 Amsterdam Avenue (West 82nd-83rd Streets.) New application DCA#1218320 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Sol Y Sombre Ltd., d/b/a Sol Y Sombre, for an unenclosed sidewalk café with 12 tables and 24 seats.

Francisco Bermeo, owner, presented to the committee. This cafe replaced Sabor, on Amsterdam Avenue. The original plans reflected a space that did not meet the Board's standards & was problematical. Mr. Bermeo was asked to modify his initial plans to reflect the Board's desire for a 9 ft wide cafe. He agreed to do this and will bring modified plans to the Full Board meeting. The Committee passed the following resolution, provided the new plans are received.

Resolution: Be it resolved that CB#7 approves Sol y Sombra's new application for an unenclosed sidewalk cafe with 12 tables and 24 seats.

Vote: COMM: 4-1-0-0. NCB: 2-0-0-0.

7. 100 West 106th Street (Amsterdam-Columbus Avenues.) Renewal application #B01397 to NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission by U.C. Columbus Radio Dispatch, Inc. at 100 West 106th Street for a For Hire Base Station license.

Carlos Herras, manager of Columbus Radio Dispatch appeared. Approximately 55-60 vehicles are owned by Columbus, but are never at the premises at any one time. There has been no change since the last renewal

Resolution: Be it resolved that CB#7 approves Columbus Radio Dispatch's request for a renewal of their For Hire Base Station License.

Vote: COMM: 6-0-0-0. NCB: 2-0-0-0

Joint with Lincoln Center Task Force

Lawrence Horowitz, Chairperson

8. Presentation by NYC Department of Transportation and Department of City Planning on Pedestrian Improvements in Lincoln Square Bow-tie.

NYC DOT Manhattan Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgione appeared with her new liaison to CB#7, Josh Orzeck. Ms. Forgione laid out DOT's plans for approximately 8 neck-downs in the Lincoln Center bowtie area, expansion of the small island in the area of West 66th Street, and other minor pedestrian-friendly improvements. After a lengthy discussion of traffic signals, as well as other pedestrian-friendly steps that could be taken, the following resolution was passed by the joint committees:

Be it resolved that CB#7 approves the Department of Transportation's pedestrian improvements to the bowtie area, but acknowledges that these are short-term improvements to a very problematic intersection, and

Be it further resolved that CB#7 calls, once again, for a more comprehensive study and solution to the Lincoln Center area's unique traffic problems.

Vote: COMM: 11-0-0-0

9. New business:

Reuben Vargas, representing the West 104th Street Block Association, from Amsterdam to Manhattan Avenue, officially requested angled parking on one side of 104th Street. The Committee will visit the block to ascertain the feasibility of this proposal.

Present: Committee members Andrew Albert, Dan Zweig, Linda Alexander, Ulma Jones, Barbara Keleman; Board Chairman Sheldon J. Fine; Board members Phyllis Gunther, Lenore Norman. Committee members absent: Guillermo Gonzalez, Bobbie Katzander, Oscar Rios.

Business and Consumer Issues Committee

George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero and Madge Rosenberg, Co-Chairpersons

February 8, 2006

Guest: David Gmach, Director of Manhattan Public Affairs for ConEdison.

Fall hurricanes that destroyed natural gas extraction are responsible for sharply increased Con Ed bills, according to David Gmach.

The website www.poweryourway.com lists Energy Service Companies (ESCO's) that provide the power that Con Ed distributes. The site also offers ideas for energy conservation. Large buyers have benefited from the competition between ESCO's.

Small businesses and residential customers have not gotten better rates.

NY State Energy Research Agency (NYSERTA) offers energy conservation counseling and gives advice on how to lower costs of manufacturing.

Con Ed mentors Washington Irving High School and donates to many city programs including sponsorship of the Lincoln Center BID tree lighting.

Lance suggests we contact WEST SIDE SPIRIT and other local papers to cover meetings and make announcements.

George plans a flyer to notify the community that the Dept. of Consumer Affairs will be at our next meeting to address consumer questions and complaints.

Madge Rosenberg

Present: Madge Rosenberg, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Lance Dashefsky, Ulma Jones.

Parks and Preservation Committee

Lenore Norman and Klari Neuelt, Co-Chairpersons

February 9, 2006

Introduction: As a follow-up to issues discussed at the January meeting, Klari Neuwelt described the status of the Naumberg Band Shell and the issues concerning the limitation of events on the Great Lawn in Central Park.

Joint with Land Use Committee

Richard Asche and Page Cowley, Co-Chairpersons

1. 120 West 72nd Street (Amsterdam-Columbus Avenues.) Application #06-4311 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to construct a new 16-story building.

Frank Angelino, attorney for the developers, introduced BSKS Architects LLP, who presented a slide show that illustrated the modified design of the property. Architect George Schieferdecker explained that they added more horizontals lining across the façade to better unify portions of the façade. In addition, the balconies were removed from the façade and the base was given a more standard use of stone with a quiet “up and down” and reduced complexity of the ground and second levels. Second floor will still remain a recreation facility as part of the quality housing program which also mandates a specific height and position on the street. The cornice reveals a bent plate reading with glass and metal.

Public Response:

Ray Willingham queried about the distance the footprint recedes to the back of the building. Architect responded that the building extends to the lot line and windows would be covered.

Richard Garmeise wanted to know what the impact of the glass would be next to the limestone building.

Howard Weiss, representing 118 West 72nd Street (the terra cotta building to the west), commented that they sought in earnest to be able to look at the plans. He said they are hoping that the committee will hold off on a decision. He added for the record that 118 West 72nd Street will take exception to the application because certain plans were not yet available.

Committee discussion followed, including urging the applicant to meet with Mr. Weiss to hear his building’s concerns.

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2006 the applicant presented a design to the Parks and Preservation Committee of Community Board 7, Manhattan, that

was not fully detailed, and that raised numerous significant concerns as to its appropriateness; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated January 19, 2006, Community Board 7, Manhattan, expressed numerous concerns about that design, and requested that the Landmarks Preservation Commission adjourn its scheduled February 7, 2006 hearing on the application in order to permit the Parks and Preservation Committee to consider a modified and more fully detailed design at its next scheduled meeting; and

WHEREAS, the LPC adjourned its hearing on this application to February 21, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the applicant presented a substantially modified and more fully detailed design to the Parks and Preservation Committee on February 9, 2006,

Community Board 7, Manhattan, approves application # 06-4311 to construct a new 16-story building at 120 W. 72nd Street, except that it disapproves the design for the residential entrance, and urges the applicant to modify the entrance design to make it more distinctive; and

Community Board 7, Manhattan, with regard to the color of the limestone base and brick upper floors of the facade, urges the applicant to choose materials toward the "cream" end of the spectrum between "cream" and "gold" being considered for those design elements; and

Community Board 7, Manhattan, expresses its appreciation to LPC for adjourning its hearing on this application at Community Board 7's request; and

Community Board 7, Manhattan, expresses its appreciation to the applicant for modifying its initial design to address many of the concerns expressed in Community Board 7's January 19, 2006 letter.

Parks & Preservation Committee

2. Riverside Park. Presentation by the Department of Parks & Recreation on a temporary public arts project in Riverside Park.

Jim Dowell, president, Riverside Park Fund, presented. He pointed out that this project was to both celebrate the Park's 20th Anniversary and enhance public awareness. The group is proposing using the work of seven to eight individual local artists whose work has been shown throughout the city. He called it the "un-Gates," because it will enliven the park but will not engulf it. The works of art may even be created on-site. Concepts of the pieces were presented for review. Karen Bravin, curator, also presented and described three of the projects. The Committee said it looked forward to reviewing final designs and placement.

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Riverside Park Fund have proposed a temporary art installation of approximately seven or eight site-specific works commissioned to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Riverside Park Fund, to be installed from May through September, 2006 at various locations in Riverside Park; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 7, Manhattan, applauds the work that the Riverside Park Fund has done and continues to do in supporting Riverside Park, and congratulates the Riverside Park Fund on its 20th anniversary,

Community Board 7, Manhattan approves the concept of the installation of approximately seven or eight site-specific art works in Riverside Park from May through September, 2006.

7-0-0-1

3. Presentation of the final design for the reconstruction of the Promenade in Riverside Park, West 83rd Street to 91st Street.

Margaret Bracken of Riverside Park presented. The design has not changed from the preliminary design.

WHEREAS, the Promenade project has been on Community Board 7's list of capital budget priorities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will repair and improve a seriously deteriorated major recreational feature of Riverside Park that is heavily used by recreational users,

Community Board 7, Manhattan, approves the final design for the reconstruction of the Promenade in Riverside Park.

8-0-0-0

4. 56 West 66th Street, ABC (Central Park West-Columbus Avenue.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to modify the cooling tower.

Presented by Cosmo Veneziale, Munro and Veneziale Architects, LLP. The proposal is to remove a 30-year-old cooling tower and replace it with a two-celled cooling tower. It will be placed on the same dunnage but on a smaller footprint and three-feet lower. It will be fabricated from stainless steel.

WHEREAS, the proposed replacement cooling tower is smaller and of less obtrusive material than the existing cooling tower, and does not have a top railing;

Community Board 7, Manhattan, approves the application of ABC to modify the cooling tower on the roof of 56 W. 66th Street.

8-0-0-0

5. 15 West 81st Street (Central Park West-Columbus Avenue.) Application #06-1588 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to modify rooftop addition built in noncompliance with Certificate of No Effect 98-1929.

William Gleckman, architect presented. He said that the plans for the existing structure had been approved by LPC based on its projected invisibility, but that it proved to be visible from Columbus Avenue. The owner was given a violation and instructed to modify the addition.

Page Cowley felt that there was not enough information. Klari Neuwelt felt that this was an unusual circumstance might not merit the kind of scrutiny suggested. The applicant declined to meet with the Committee at 6:30 PM prior to the March 7 Full Board meeting so that the Committee could review more detailed plans. Page Cowley agreed to prepare an e-mail to the applicant listing the additional information that the Committee needed to make a decision, including a more comprehensive view of the roof plan, site plan, plot plan and height information. Lenore Norman suggested that the Committee ask LPC to hold the record open. The Committee decided to write a letter to LPC to that effect.

NOTE: The applicant did not wait for the Committee's e-mail, but rather forwarded by e-mail information that the Committee felt was not complete. The LPC hearing took place on February 21, 2006, and, as indicated in the LPC website, the application was granted as modified. The Committee decide to propose a resolution disapproving the application at the March, 2006 Full Board meeting in order to be on record on the application.

6. 646 West End Avenue (West 91st-92nd Streets.) Application #05-6447 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for construction of side- and rear-yard addition and modification of the front areaway.

Rabbi Blumberg introduced the mission of the synagogue. Elise Quasebarth, historic preservation consultant, described the application for a side and rear yard addition, elaborating on the plans. The extension does not come forward to the street and is only on one side. The addition comprises one story and basement set back from the street by 45 feet. Mike Goldsmith,

Lovett Goldsmith Architects, presented the floor plans. Among other things, a handicapped entrance will be provided.

Alex Linus, resident 640 WEA, protested the plan because the distance between the windows of the two buildings is non-conforming.

Abraham Warshaw, owner of single family house down the courtyard from synagogue on 296 West 92nd Street, was concerned about the upkeep of the back area and his quality of life.

Superintendent of 646 WEA reported that the back area would be improved with the removal of the outside boiler.

Tim Cavali, resident of 646 WEA, reported that DOB's website denied the application. Corridor may be historic pathway, Fowler's Way. Ms. Quasebarth responded that it was not in existence as Fowler's Way.

James Sparks, president of co-op across the street, 645 WEA. Has no objections to the addition but does not want the stucco. Only other concern is that the sidewalk may be used in lieu of the back courtyard currently implemented for garbage, etc.

Lisa Castleman Glazer, discussed the Kolliel and its importance to the community.

Harry Skidel, member of the Kolliel board, said it was a two-year project that was a win-win project. Also pointed out that the courtyard entrance was a secondary entrance.

Committee discussion followed. Co-chair Lenore Norman requested that the synagogue return next month. Committee's concerns: the material for the building, i.e., brick versus stucco; the blank front of the addition; the DOB violations; and the comprise of a second-floor oriel window.

The applicant has agreed, at Committee's request, to postpone the hearing LPC for one month to March 21, instead of February 21.

7. Report on greenway at West 110th Street and Amsterdam Avenue and plaque in honor of Minerva Bernardino, the first ambassador to the US from the Dominican Republic.

Lenore Norman described the brass plaque, which will be on a low poll. The Committee had a photograph of the proposed plaque.

WHEREAS, Minerva Bernadino is an appropriate subject for public recognition on account of her substantial contribution to world affairs; and

WHEREAS, the proposed plaque honoring Minerva Bernadino is of appropriate design;

Community Board 7, Manhattan, approves the application of the Department of Parks and Recreation to place a plaque honoring Minerva Bernadino in the Greenway at 110th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.

8-0-0-0

Present: Committee members Lenore Norman, Klari Neuwelt, Page Cowley, Phyllis Gunther, Gabrielle Palitz, Linda Alexander, Lance Dashefsky; Board Chairman Sheldon J. Fine; Board members (for joint committee item) Hope Cohen, Bobbie Katzander. Committee member absent: Patricia Stevens.

Housing Committee

Victor Gonzalez and Charles Simon, Co-Chairpersons

February 13, 2006 Meeting

Present from the Housing Committee were Co-Chairs Victor Antonio Gonzalez and Charles Simon, as well as Marlene Guy, Joyce Johnson, Sharon Parker-Frazier and Melanie Radley. Other board members present were Melanie Wymore and Annette Averette. Guests included Anne Cunningham and intern Angel Mescaïn from City Council Member Gale Brewer's Office, as well as Michael Meade-Office of State Senator Schneiderman's Office, Molly Doherty from the West Side SRO Law Project, Lauren Hovel from The Columbia Spectator, Chris Santee, and Nicolas Legrand, T.A. President of Riverside.

The meeting opened with a discussion of the problems associated with SROs, including the city's placement of the homeless and the illegal conversions of SROs into tourist hotels. Chris Santee then opined that some of the issues with respect to public housing and affordable housing (including SROs) could be tackled together. Discussion followed about the two different tracks on which the Housing Committee is proceeding this year, and the need to maintain those tracks in order to be able to assess progress towards tangible goals. The discussion also acknowledged the different agencies and regulatory schemes associated with public and affordable housing.

We introduced Molly Doherty who gave a brief history of the West Side SRO Law Project. Molly explained that SRO's were originally for transient use but are rapidly becoming a form of permanent housing. She then gave two examples of SRO's converted into tourist hotels -- the Beacon and the Quality Inn. We discussed Section 248 of the Multiple Dwelling Law and the Fire Safety Code. We touched on Residential Zoning Laws. We discussed the nature of fines that are levied and concluded that they were insufficient to deter illegal activity; we agreed that legislation would likely be required to address this shortcoming and acknowledged that new legislation is often the most difficult path to solve a problem.

In addition, we reviewed the performance of some of the agencies associated with regulating SROs such as the Health Department, the Fire Department, DOB, HPD, ECB and Finance. Molly suggested that HPD was very responsive and effective, as compared with DOB, but also said that one of the biggest problems was the lack of a central coordinating agency. Anne recalled that a Mayor's Office (now defunct) once had oversight responsibility for SROs, and that this was a good model. We agreed that it would make sense to invite HPD to send a representative to our next meeting, so that we could learn more about how the various city agencies with regulatory responsibilities relate to one another, and solicit ideas for how CB7 could play the most constructive possible role re SROs. Anne Cunningham suggested that we draft a resolution for delivery to the City Council and the Administration that stated CB7's commitment to addressing the problems associated with SROs; we agreed to pursue this route but also to seek more active ways to engage. We acknowledged the need to learn much more about the existing SRO Task Force spearheaded by Council Member Brewer and others, so that our CB7 efforts would complement the Task Force's efforts rather than duplicate them. Charles agreed to invite HPD to our March 13th, 2006 meeting. We also asked Molly to return.

Victor Gonzalez reported on his recent meeting with others from CB7 and tenants of Douglass Houses. Joyce Johnson mentioned that she was in ongoing communication with Jane Wisdom, the T.A. President of Douglass Houses. We agreed that we should enlist the help of CB7 staff in addressing some of the recurring tenant issues that are raised at Douglass Houses.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Health and Human Services Committee

Barbara Van Buren, Chairperson

Agenda for Tuesday, February 21st, 7:00 PM Meeting

- 1. Follow up Lantern Group's project at 260 West 99th Street.**
- 2. Presentation on Domestic Violence in the community.**
- 3. Beginning of review process of social agencies in community that are funded by government agencies, and of placement by city agencies of their clients in housing in the community.**

Land Use Committee

Richard Asche and Page Cowley, Co-Chairpersons

February 15th, 2006

American Museum of Natural History

The agenda included two items to be discussed jointly with the Housing Committee and Health & Human Services Committee (210 West 102nd Street) and with the Transportation Committee (27 West 72nd Street, a.k.a. The Olcott).

- 1. 210 West 102nd Street.**

Representatives from the architect, SLCE, the housing partner, the Settlement Housing Fund and the developer, the Zeckendorf Organization, presented the design, inclusionary housing program, the supportive housing program for formerly homeless families, management, and the owner/property transfer respectively. The architects gave a comprehensive presentation that described the site and floor plans and showed a rendering of their proposed building. This was followed by an explanation of the mission and type of housing that was to be accommodated – 24-single parent families with children (under 10 years of age) would transition from shelters to permanent housing over a period of 2 to 5 years. In addition to apartments, counseling and a variety of support services would be available on site to help parents and children.

There were a number of questions that were posed by CB7 Committee members and the members of the public. The majority of these questions concerned three principal areas:

The Architecture

Issues raised included the following: Allowable floor-area-ratio (FAR) on the site; if this project is "as-of-right;" the height of the building; the height and depth of the setback facing West 102nd Street; the rationale for the change in the materials from the base to the upper levels; the treatment of the first setback parapet (in particular the break in the parapet from stone/cast stone to open type railings over the entrance door); the treatment of the entrance to the building with a canopy over it; and lastly the treatment of the ground floor that seemed out of scale and context to the neighboring brownstones. The general comments focused on the overall architectural treatment of the façade that most members of CB7 and the public did not believe reflected the character, context and scale of the street as the proposed project is a relatively large mid-block development.

The architects were gracious in responding to the various issues defending the design on both programmatic and aesthetic grounds.

Housing and Social Services

Comments were general in nature and some of the issues raised included: the transfer and concentration of social services and lower income/supportive housing all within a few blocks on the Upper West Side; the nature of the counseling services and the number of staff to be provided both on-site and off-site; the eligibility and regulations that tenants would need to adhere to in order to qualify; in the event of violations of the requirements, what the consequences would be (alcohol, drug and substance abuse violators in particular); concern for repeated relocation of families and the effect that this might have on integrating and successful transition of families to more permanent housing conditions; and lastly a request to see if the homeless families already displaced on the Upper West Side could be accommodated at this site as a priority. A letter was submitted by a neighborhood resident voicing concern about the number of homeless shelters and the effect that this has on the immediate area and the existing socio-economic diversity already in the neighborhood that will be further burdened.

The spokespersons were responsive to all of the questions. In particular to the housing of current displaced West Side families, Settlement Housing Fund would look into the matter and get back to the community board.

The off-site housing arrangement

There were several questions related to this site being the off-site housing under the Inclusion Housing Program for 15 Central Park West at West 61st Street . It was explained that the West 102nd Street parcel was purchased at the same time, but was not the inclusionary housing relating to 15 CPW. There were also questions raised about the status of the project, the proposed start date, and the duration of construction. It was confirmed that the project has been filed with the Department of Buildings and was awaiting final approval and permitting, and that construction would take approximately 14 months.

As there was considerable concern over the appropriateness of the street elevation facing south, there was a resolution drafted on condition that the following six design issues could be resolved and the present design changed. These points are:

1) Produce a sky-exposure plane model to modify the height at the street-wall. It was suggested by members of CB7 that the setback could be introduced one or two floors lower, which although creating a taller setback, it would have the effect of reducing the immediate height of the street-wall against the adjacent eastern property.

2) Simplify the color palette of the brick and the cast stone/ stone. The variation and placement as presented was not in keeping with other six story buildings in the vicinity.

3) Reconsider the entrance canopy. This was not a feature of the streetscape or the smaller tenement type apartment houses or brownstones.

4) Reconsider the setback parapet to be of one material across the façade, not broken as shown, as either metal railings or a stone coursing/intermediate parapet.

5) Modify the entrance door to the building to denote the entrance rather than a commercial type doorway and verify adequacy of width.

6) Modify the ground floor window size and scale more in keeping with the brownstone or small apartment house type rather than the larger square opening.

The resolution to approve the proposal with the inclusionary housing provided that the six points outlined above were incorporated into a final design was adopted: Approved - 6, Opposed - 1, Abstain – 2 (1 for cause).

2. 27 West 72nd Street a.k.a The Olcott.

The project was defined as ULURP – N050489ZAM to the Department of City Planning for the conversion of a lobby entrance and construction of a 14-space accessory garage below grade requiring a new curb cut on West 73rd Street.

The owner's representative, Jeremiah Candreva from Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP gave the presentation and described the requirements of the ULURP process and the project.

There were a variety of comments and questions about the size, configuration, operation and need for the garage. The general discussion focused on the number of residential units in the building and the number of spaces (14-15) that were being provided. The number of spaces was being questioned as to the frequency of operation and the type of staff that would be supporting the garage operation. Mr. Candreva responded that this project was being constructed for the owner and that the garage would be open on a 24/7 basis, fully attended. Mr. Candreva was unable to state how or even if the residents of the condominium would be selected for use of the spaces. The line of questions was to determine if the parking spaces were for the convenience of the owner and to see if by removal of one on-street parking space that there was indeed benefit in removing other cars off the street.

Mr. Candreva confirmed that a traffic study had been made and that there would be no impact or impediment to the street traffic.

There were additional questions regarding the measures that would be taken for pedestrian safety, the extent and level of flashing lights and warning alarms that would be used in conjunction with the automatic operation of an "up-and-over" type of garage door. As the project is in an historic district there was concern over multiple signage and illuminated signage. Mr. Candreva confirmed that the signage was minimal and that this issue had been reviewed and approved by the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission. These questions were directed solely at disturbance of quality of life issues in a block that already had two other curb cuts and garages – the Dakota service entrance and the Mayfair.

The committee and members of the public that asked questions were concerned about the number of cars to be provided for and if the garage could be expanded in the future by taking further basement space. Also there was concern regarding the operation of the garage that this could be changed at a later date and also enlarged by a future operator. Mr. Candreva

stated that the building would manage the garage and that a Restrictive Declaration would be part of the approval from the City Planning Commission. There was also concern for potential over-parking for transient day parkers that could create further congestion. Lastly, community board members discussed the opportunity that this approval would create in setting precedent for other owners to incorporate parking when the spaces appeared to be for the owner's own use and not for other tenants.

As no explicit answer could be provided that responded directly to the last series of issues and questions, it was agreed by those committee members present that no resolution would be made and that further information would be required. Mr. Candreva was requested to obtain the information and clarifications asked for by the committees and to present before the next full board meeting on March 7 to determine if a resolution could be compiled and agreed to for presentation and voting at the Full Board meeting. If no further information could be provided, the applicant was asked to return to the next committee meeting, preferably with the owner to better understand the nature of the project, its operation and use.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Page Cowley, Co-Chairperson, Land Use Committee.

Present: Land Use Committee Members Richard Asche, Page Cowley, Hope Cohen, Steve Strauss, D. Maria Watson, Tom Vitullo-Martin; Health & Human Services Committee Chairperson Barbara Van Buren, Housing Committee Co-Chairperson Victor Gonzalez (also on Land Use); Transportation Committee Co-Chairperson Andrew Albert; Board Chairman Sheldon J. Fine, District Manager Penny Ryan.

Absent: Barbara Adler, Robert Herrmann, Eric Nelson, Melanie Radley, and Ethel Sheffer.

Public Safety and Environment Committee

John Howell, Chairperson

February 2, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Howell at 7:25 P.M.

Agenda Item No 1- PSA6- Presentation by Captain Kevin Heslin

The first agenda item was a presentation by Captain Kevin Heslin, the Commanding Officer of PSA (Public Service Area) #6, which covers New York City Housing complexes from 56th Street to Dyckman Street in Northern Manhattan, and coordinates its work with eight police precincts including CB7's 20 & 24th Prcts. PSA 6 serves Amsterdam Houses & Addition, Frederick Douglass Houses & Addition, Wise Towers, and De Hostos . Captain Heslin reported that PSA 6 has a total of 117 officers, six of whom cover the CB7 NYCHA properties. PSA 6 had the highest increase in number of new officers in the City, growing from only 89 officers in 2004. Number of officers designated for CB7 area NYCHA properties: Amsterdam Houses -two; Douglass Houses- two; Wise Towers and De Hostos – two.

Captain Heslin also reported on current crime statistics. There was one crime reported in the 20th Pct., which is down by 5 incidents from the same period in 2005; there were three crimes in the 24th Pct., down by three from the number in 2005. It should be noted that these crime numbers are statistics on NYCHA residents in the above named complexes. Captain Heslin reported that PSA 6 has major quality of life problems, and 99% of the 311 calls on housing complaints are noise related.

John Howell suggested that in CB7's district needs statement, we recommend freeing police from administrative duties which can be handled by civilians.

Tom Vitullo-Martin raised the growing problem of identity theft and the failure of detectives to forcefully investigate such crimes. Captain Heslin said that credit companies have the authority to prosecute these offenses, but they only do so selectively.

Oscar Rios asked why the community doesn't have more foot patrols. He also reported the need for cameras on the NYCHA buildings. Bobbie Katzander suggested that this should be addressed in our district needs statement as well.

Agenda Item No. 2 Presentation by Heman Schaffer – Community Outreach Coordinator from the NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Mr. Schaffer made a presentation on the NY City CERT Program (Community Emergency Response Team) and the Ready New York program which gives NYC residents helpful suggestions about what they should do and have on hand/in house in case of an emergency. Both programs focus on emergency preparedness.

The crux of the Ready New York program is that it forces residents to think about "what if" in advance in of emergencies, i.e., costal storms, fire, etc. The key elements for consideration include planning a meeting place (near home, outside the neighborhood, outside the city), having a good communication plan (how to keep in touch , i.e, exchange cell numbers, triangulate calls), thinking about what to have in hand (important documents, money, photo id), what to have in the home to be able to subsist for up to three days, and having prepared a "go bag" of essentials . Brochures, pamphlets, and booklets on these subjects are available to the public.

Mr. Schaffer gave an overview of the mechanics of the CERT. The program brings together community volunteers who are trained by Fire and Police Departments and OEM in an 11-week, 3 hrs per week course to support first responders in case of a local emergency. OEM has an urgent goal to train ten new teams city-wide of between 30-40 members each. The goal is to start the training in March. The office is using Community Boards as the outreach and galvanizing body in forming the CERT teams with the support of OEM.

Lisa Lehr asked how team members would be screened and if prospective team members are required to have a background check and/or be fingerprinted. NYPD does a criminal background check. There is no clear standard except that the "team" organizes itself and establishes its own operating guidelines including its hierarchy and rules. Mr. Schaffer made it clear that OEM would not manage the local CERT team.

John Howell asked about liability in the event a team member is hurt in the conduct of CERT duties. Mr. Schaffer said that they would be covered by the "good Samaritan" policy and in effect the answer is yes.

The committee received the minutes from the previous meeting. Lisa Lehr made a motion for approval . The minutes were approved.

Agenda Item No 3 .- New Business

Tom Vitullo Martin once again raised the issue of identity theft and shared his personal experience as a victim of identity theft crime. He said that there is not good enforcement and coordination and protocol by police investigators. He recommended that the committee hold a hearing on this matter given that it is widespread and growing on the West Side. Oscar Rios said that the Manhattan D.A.s office could handle this and reminded the committee that Joselinne Manaya from DA Morgenthau's office is the liaison to CB7.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Committee members present: John B. Howell, Joyce Johnson, Bobbie Katzander, Oscar Rios, and Tom Vitullo-Martin. Absent: Freddie Richardson, Madge Rosenberg, Steve Strauss, Melanie Wymore.

Others present: Tom Sunderland, Lisa Lehr, Miriam Febus, Herman Schaffer, and Capt. K. Heslin.

Minutes submitted by: Joyce Johnson

District Service Cabinet

Penny Ryan, District Manager

CB7 Report on Municipal Services

February 22, 2006

1. Presentation by Herman Schaffer, OEM, on the formation of a local community emergency response team (CERT)

- OEM has asked each community board to organize a CERT for their district. Part of the responsibilities of the team, once training is completed, is to contact local first responders and establish communications and working relationships.

- OEM is training 10 teams in March, then 10 teams in both summer and fall.

- Currently there are 31 teams in NYC. Training is 11 weeks. OEM is recruiting individuals for teams.
- All team members must be over 18 and applicants must have a criminal background check.
- Members should reflect the community in which they live.
- CERT trains 35 people in each community board, who then train other members. Each team elects a captain.

2. Updates

SRO Issues

- SROs: The Mayor's Office - CAU will continue to push DHCR & Corporate Counsel to bring SRO owners who are in violation to court for litigation.
- CB7 is dealing with commercial SROs and City placement hotels. Council Member Gale Brewer's Office is working on SRO illegal conversions. The City Council is holding regular hearings on SROs and fines.
- CAU will keep working with City agencies to insure they continue to inspect SROs and issue violations as needed, and will work towards new legislation that would impose stiffer fines.
- At CB7's request, CAU will schedule another interagency inspection of the Broadway SRO. HRA changed some situations after a walk-through of the Broadway, and placed a few troublesome residents at alternative sites.

Rodent infestation and DOHMH and DSNY responses.

- School on West 85th Street a priority for rat infestation.
- DOHMA and CB7 gave DSNY a list of negligent blocks that require DSNY enforcement.
- DOHMA suggested that current garbage containers be substituted with Home Depot 35 gallon lid containers. The lid containers can substantially abate rat problems. DSNY agreed and does not have a problem with building owners using the containers. DEBNA (Block Association) will be using these containers and will act as a model.

3. Agency updates and announcements

NYC Human Rights Commission – allegations of discrimination in housing and employment may be reported directly to their office or 311.

DA's Office – The 24th precinct requested that 26 buildings be included in the Trespass Affidavits Program, but only one landlord has responded.

DEP

- **Complaints increased in after-hour construction. DEP will run the top three complaint locations and will send to CB7.**
- **Water tunnel blasting and drilling started last week on 60th Street and Amsterdam Avenue and will continue for three months. DEP is drilling down 500 feet to connect with a main water artery.**

NYPD Transit District 1 – Crime is down significantly on the 96th & 110th #1 and C stations due to the School Condition Team officers and Safe Passage officers.

NYPD, Manhattan North

- **There is a new parade application to commemorate Cinco de Mayo. This parade will run on CPW from 100th to 59th Street. NYPD is requesting CB7 input on the effects and handling of the parade.**
- **All precincts received an average of five to six new officers; the 20th Pct received a few extra.**
- **New commanding officer of the 20th Precinct is Captain Keith Spadaro who came from OEM.**
- **The 20th precinct: robberies are up due to I pod and cell phone theft. Stealing I pods and cell phones may be a serious felony crime. The precinct is making numerous arrests.**
- **Captain Kevin O'Connor is the new School Safety commander.**
- **A new School Safety program has police officers visiting children who were recently arrested to find out how they are coping.**