

**Full Board Meeting
Lawrence Horowitz, Chair
May 6, 2003**

Chair Larry Horowitz called the meeting to order.

Chair's Report

Introduced new board members Michael Roberts and Deborah Gobble-Lewine. Sherri Taft-Leonce was introduced as the new liaison representing the Manhattan Borough President's office. Emily Lloyd, Columbia University, announced that the Faculty School at Broadway and West 110th Street would open on September 16th for K-4. There will be 123 students, with the average financial aid being \$17,726. Board members Ethel Sheffer and Larry Horowitz are delegates for Columbia University's Master Plan Community Advisory Committee. John Howell invited everyone to attend the May 14th Uniformed Services Committee meeting for a presentation by American Red Cross on emergency preparedness. Helen Rosenthal gave a presentation on the budget crisis and asked board members for their input on a letter supporting aid to NYC to Governor Pataki.

District Manager's Report

Penny Ryan announced that new regulations on news racks are in effect and asked that all violations be reported to the board office. 311 continues to evolve; call the board office to report and track complaints. www.nyc.gov has a new section entitled "My Neighborhood." 105th Street (Columbus-Manhattan Avenue.) received loans thanks to the help of Assistant District Manager John Martinez. The sanitation concerns with Carmines and its neighbors have been resolved. Fairway continues to be a concern.

Legislators' Reports

Council Member Phil Reed spoke on the city's budget. Sales tax increase and income tax increase are regressive. Spoke in support on Frederick Douglas Circle proposal.

Council Member Gale Brewer announced that the Manhattan Delegation would hold three days of hearing on the budget. Local input is needed. To register to speak, contact her office or Council member Reed's office. Working on a solution to save West 86th Street Presbyterian Church. P.S. 166 students made models of buildings in the neighborhood, which is in the District Office.

Public Session

Scott Burke, Hudson Waterfront Association, announced the availability of moderate-income apartments at 160 Riverside Blvd.

Tom Richardson, NYC Campaign Finance Board, announced their role in 2003 elections.

Letitia Guillory, Riverside Park South, announced upcoming programs in the park.

Diana Schneider, ROAR, announced there no more night flyovers over the West Side.

Barbara Adler, Columbus Avenue BID, announced a weekend celebration on Columbus.

Alan Flacks spoke against 311 and the cost.

Dan Cohen reported on community requests for a supermarket at Broadway and 103rd Street, PPTs and the 72nd Street IRT Station; ball field concession at North Meadow in CP.

Linda Rosenthal, Congressman Nadler's office, announced that 290 Broadway would be the Ted Weiss Federal building.

Chris Cullen, State Senator Paterson's office, spoke on the State budget and the African burial ground.

Jason Haber, Assemblyman Scott Stringer's office, spoke.

April Humphrey, State Senator Schneiderman's office, spoke on the MTA lawsuit to roll back the increase fares and announced a rally on Full Governance Reform, May 15th at JHS 143, 7PM.

Business Session

Transportation Committee

Co-Chairs: Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig

Joint with

Parks, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee

Co-Chairs: Barbara Adler and Robert Herrmann

1. Resolution to approve the reconstruction of Frederick Douglass Circle at Central Park West and Cathedral Parkway (West 110th Street.) was adopted: 26-0-0-0.

John Riddick, Central Park Conservancy, gave a brief presentation on the design for the signalized traffic circle, including plans to address the underground stream, sinking sidewalk and roadbed on Central Park West, tree plantings above the IND subway station, changes in sidewalk widths, changes in parking regulations to allow drop off areas for Towers on the Park buildings, and new bus stop location. Cars and other vehicles may still stop in front of the Tower buildings, but not park or stand. Cutouts would create conflicts with traffic.

Ethel Sheffer commended the design and the committees' work, and said community objections about building access and "driveways" were not compelling and in conflict with NYC tradition.

Public Speakers:

Amy Chen encouraged the board to consider the recommendations and alternative plan of the Project for Public Spaces and stated that Towers would like a role in reviewing and modifying the plans for the Circle.

Michelle McDonald asked the board to consider tree planting and work with Central Park Conservancy.

Balti Jean Miller announced that the Towers on the Park meeting was positive.

June Reynolds spoke in support of circle plans as it is. An engineer is needed to help with sidewalk and road. Want the memorial for Frederick Douglass.

Peter Arndsten, Columbus/Amsterdam BID offered to act as link between Manhattan Valley and the project and reported that DEBNA has given support also.

Elana Roberts spoke in support of the memorial. Concerned that some design flaws have not been addressed. Has petition of 400 signatures lobbying for modifications.

Kass Negas stated the CPW sidewalk in bad shape and needs community's help.

Shawna Vey want advisory committee to send messages to DOT.

Ephran Dunsky stated that the artwork process came out well. Problem is it doesn't belong in middle of a traffic circle, it belongs in the park.

Joyce Goodman, Assemblyman Daniels O'Donnell's office, read written statement.

2. Resolution to approve the NY Water Taxi proposal to install a water taxi service, on a temporary basis, at Pier I (70th Street) in Riverside Park was adopted: 26-3-3-0.

Barbara Adler explained this is a temporary use and will move to the 69th Street gantry when it is renovated.

Tom Fox, NY Water Taxi, spoke in support of the resolution and responded to questions about the ferry service. He stated their catamaran ferries cause less wake and noise, are environmentally friendly.

Phyllis Gunther objected saying that the 79th Street Boat Basin would provide greater access for water taxi users.

Transportation Committee

3. Resolution to approve the requests for secondary street namings to honor the following who died on September 11, 2001 in the WTC was adopted: 28-2-2-0:

- West 83rd Street between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues for Fire Fighter Ruben Correa of Engine Company 74, 124 West 83rd Street.
- West 73rd Street at Amsterdam Avenue for Fire Fighter Kevin Bracken of Engine Company 40, 131 Amsterdam Avenue, who lived on West 73rd Street for over 10 years.
- The west side of West End Avenue from West 85th to 86th Street in honor of Sareve Dukat, who lived at this location for 20 years.

The families of all three WTC victims were present and spoke briefly.

Eric Nelson asked the Transportation Committee to develop criteria for street renamings. Helen Rosenthal asked the committee to consider a recommendation that would approve all street renamings that honor WTC victims without requiring the families to attend hearings. Andrew Albert agreed to raise these requests at the next committee meeting.

4. Resolution to approve the request to reinstate the secondary name of Thelonius Monk on West 63 Street, east of West End Avenue (which ends in Thelonius Monk Circle), where he lived was adopted: 31-1-0-0.

5. Resolution to approve the recommendations in the Manhattan Borough President's Traffic Study of the West 96th Street Corridor, conducted by the Sam Schwartz Company, and CB7 priorities for the NYC Department of Transportation was adopted: 28-1-1-0.

Mr. Albert reported that these are the first in series of study recommendations the board will forward to DOT. Additional recommendations will be discussed each month.

Penny Ryan reported that Holy Name Church would be coming to the committee for approval of their playstreet on West 97th Street, Amsterdam Avenue- Broadway.

6. Resolution to approve the renewal application #B01760 to NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission by New Special Inc. at 971 Columbus Avenue for a For Hire Base Station license was adopted: 32-0-0-0.

Parks, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee

7. Resolution to approve Intro 160 – A Local Law to amend the administrative code in order to clarify the authority of the commissioner of parks and recreation to regulate the vending of written matter within the geographical areas under the jurisdiction of parks and recreation was not adopted: 2-24-4-0.

There was board discussion that included questions about the definition of a “vendor”, efforts to restrict artists since art has been defined as protected by the First Amendment, restriction of free speech, granting DPR selectivity on which artists can vend based on lottery, and the intro not solving the problem of commercial vending on parks property.

8. Resolution to approve the preliminary design for the reconstruction of Heckscher Playground and adjacent landscape in Central Park was adopted: 28-0-1-0.

Sidewalk Task Force

Chair: Hope Cohen

Joint with Land Use Committee

Co-Chairs: Richard Asche and Hope Cohen

9. Resolution to approve the Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise was adopted: 29-0-0-0.

Hope Cohen provided background on renewed efforts by the Administration to modify and clarify the Franchise. The resolution includes a request that the City Council hold hearings on the current proposal.

Land Use Committee

10. Resolution to approve the renewal application DCA 1077541 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Janine's Place Inc., d/b/a Diwan Curry House at 302 Columbus Avenue, for a two-year consent to operate and unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 14 seats was adopted: 28-2-2-0.

11. Resolution to approve the renewal application DCA 0885890 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Café Monaco Corp., d/b/a Café Monaco at 421 Amsterdam Avenue, for a two-year consent to operate and unenclosed sidewalk café with 14 tables and 34 seats was adopted: 28-2-2-0.

12. Resolution to approve the renewal application DCA 0955642 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Amorluz Corp., d/b/a Luzia's Restaurant at 429 Amsterdam Avenue, for a two-year consent to operate and unenclosed sidewalk café with 7 tables and 14 seats was adopted: 28-2-2-0.

13. Resolution to approve renewal application DCA 0895505 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Barjer Corp., d/b/a Firehouse at 522 Columbus Avenue, for a two-year consent to operate and unenclosed sidewalk café with 11 tables and 29 seats was adopted: 28-2-2-0.

14. Resolution to approve the renewal application DCA#1099811 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Iano Corp., d/b/a Aqua at 718 Amsterdam Avenue, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 12 tables and 40 seats was adopted: 28-2-2-0.

15. Resolution to approve renewal application DCA 1102405 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by S&P 66 Inc., d/b/a Lime Leaf at 2799 Broadway, for a two-year consent to operate and unenclosed sidewalk café with 10 tables and 32 seats was adopted: 28-2-2-0.

16. Resolution to approve the new application DCA 1133460 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 513 JJT Corp., d/b/a Martell's Grill at 513 Columbus Avenue, for a

one-year consent to operate and unenclosed sidewalk café with 18 tables and 38 seats was adopted: 28-2-2-0.

17. Resolution approve the new application DCA#1131538 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Yak 1 Inc, d/b/a Pizzabolla at 654 Amsterdam Avenue, for a one-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 4 tables and 12 seats (reduced from 8 tables and 16 seats.) was adopted: 28-2-2-0.

Present: Larry Horowitz, Chair, Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Janet Alvarez, Richard Asche, Annette Averette, Peter Bailey, Dan Cohen, Hope Cohen, Sheldon Fine, Deborah Gobble-Lewine, Georgette Gittens, Guillermo Gonzalez, Jean Green-Dorsey, Phyllis Gunther, David Harris, Robert Herrmann, John Howell, Joyce Johnson, Marc Landis, Eric Nelson, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Melanie Radley, Michael Roberts, Barry Rosenberg, Helen Rosenthal, Ethel Sheffer, Patricia Stevens, Evelyn Tamarin, Barbara Van Buren, Thomas Vitullo-Martin, Melanie Wymore, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Dan Zweig.

Absent: Douglas Griebel, Betty Katz, Barbara Keleman, William Meyers, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Oscar Rios, Hector Santana, Elizabeth Starkey, D. Maria Watson.

Uniformed Services/Environment Committee
Melanie Radley, Hector Santana and John Howell, Co-Chairs
April 9, 2003

1. Deputy Chief Robert Holzmaier, NYC Fire Department

A lengthy discussion was held with the Chief, whose oversight includes most of CB7 and includes 5 firehouses and 7 trucks (4 Engines and 3 Ladders) and a compliment of 160 men. He described the organization of the department; the effect of 9-11 on its resources; and the lessons learned that have lead to greater preparedness for mass disasters. Highlights of the discussion included:

In 1973 when a wave of arson swept the city, the department was staffed with 15,000 men. There are currently about 9500 fire fighters. This will be further reduced. The department will probably lose 900 positions through attrition.

In addition to fighting fires, the department does building inspections for fire safety and sprinkler systems.

There is one Hazardous Materials Unit for the city and that is located in Queens. The Bomb Squad is stationed on Randall's Island. However, Ladder 35 at 66th and Amsterdam Avenue is trained in chemical response, specialized forces in Manhattan have a decontamination unit, and EMS is prepared with antidotes and auto-injectors. Regular personnel are also equipped with gas masks with a 20-minute oxygen supply and are prepared to be the first response in case of a chemical spill or attack

Although fire department personnel has undergone additional training since 9-11 and equipment changes have been made, including the change to Motorola analog radios, no plans are in place to provide direct communications between police and fire radios.

His budget priorities for the district would be an additional engine to accommodate the more than 12,000 people who will ultimately live in the Riverside South Complex. He believes Manhattan could use its own Hazardous Materials Unit.

2. Follow Up on Last Month's Meeting with Inspector James Dean, Commander, 24th Precinct.

Hector Santana will write a letter from the committee restating its concerns and the Inspector's promises. In the District Needs Statement the committee will include a request for more Latino speaking personnel to respond to phone calls to the precinct.

3. Committee operations.

The committee agreed to share the responsibility for taking minutes and the following assignments were made: Shelly – May; Ulma – June; Willy – July; John –September; Hector – October; Melanie - April

Committee Members Present: Melanie Radley, Hector Santana, John Howell, Sheldon Fine, Guillermo Gonzalez, Ulma Jones. **Committee Members Absent:** Georgette Gittens, Bobbie Katzander, Marc Landis, Oscar Rios.

Transportation Committee
Co-Chairs: Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig
April 8, 2003

1. Requests for secondary street namings to honor the following, who died on September 11, 2001 in the WTC:

- a. W.83rd St between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues for Fire Fighter Ruben Correa of Engine Company 74, 124 W.83rd St. – Presented by Barbara Kassal who noted that this was also the 100th Anniversary of the firehouse.
- b. W.73rd St. at Amsterdam Avenue for Fire Fighter Kevin Bracken of Engine Company 40, 131 Amsterdam Avenue. Mr. Bracken lived on W.73rd St for over 10 years. Presented by Jennifer Liang, Mr. Bracken's widow, requesting that the designation be for the corner of W.73rd St and Amsterdam Avenue.
- c. The west side of West End Avenue from W.85th to W.86th St in honor of Sareve Dukat, who lived at this location for 20 years. Presented by Joel Shapiro, Ms. Dukat's widower.

It was discussed by the committee that the city provides a single sign in each case. Funds can be raised privately for additional signage if desired. The following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, secondary street renaming at the request of family is city policy for the recognition of persons who perished in the Sept. 11, 2001 event, and

Whereas, the facts that these are secondary street namings which retain the original well known names of the streets being designated, and

Whereas this is for a uniquely special situation and is appropriate for a special response, and

Whereas, most important of all, that all the above individuals are distinctly worthy of this honor,

Be it resolved that Community Board 7 approves the above street renamings.

A resolution to approve these applications was passed by the committee by a vote of
Committee: 6-0-1-0 Public Members: 0-2-0-0.

2. Request to reinstate the secondary name of Thelonius Monk on W.63rd St., east of West End Avenue.

A resolution in favor of this reinstatement and restoration was adopted:

Whereas, this secondary renaming is merely asking for the restoration of a previously approved and installed naming, and

Whereas, this location is particularly appropriate since the short block ends at Thelonius Monk Circle,

Be it resolved that Community Board 7 approves the restoration of the secondary naming of W.63rd St. from West End Avenue east to Thelonius Monk Circle in the name of Thelonius Monk.

The resolution to approve this request was passed by the committee by a vote of
Committee: 7-0-0-0 Public Members: 1-1-0-0.

3. 921 Columbus Avenue, New Superior Radio Group.

Renewal application for a For Hire Base Station license by New Superior Radio Group Corp. (between W.105th – 106th St) – applicant was not present and the matter was not discussed. (The item is on the May 2003 committee agenda.)

4. 971 Columbus Avenue, New Special Inc.

Renewal application for a For Hire Base Station license by New Special Inc. (between W.107th - 108th St) – The applicant asserted that there was no connection between New Special Inc. and New Superior Radio Group Corp. although such a relationship had been mistakenly made in the past.

Be it resolved that Community Board 7 approves the application #B01768 to NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission by New Special Inc. for renewal of their For Hire Base Station license at 971 Columbus Avenue.

The committee passed the resolution approving this application by a vote of Committee: 7-0-0-0. Public Members: 3-0-0-0.

5. Discussion of the Manhattan Borough President's Traffic Study of the West 96th Street Corridor.

In review of the MBP's Traffic Study by Sam Schwartz Company, the committee decided to take action on 4 items immediately and to continue to hear other items at subsequent Transportation meetings. The four items needing immediate attention which the committee felt could be implemented quickly and at low cost were:

- a. Implementation of an advance left turn arrow signal from both north and south traffic on Broadway at W.96th St.
- b. Installation of 'Stop - Wait for Green' signs in the mall area on Broadway at 95th, 96th, and 97th St.
- c. Signage suggesting that traffic turn left on Columbus as the best route to the Henry Hudson Parkway. Suggested text was 'Use Columbus Avenue and 96th St. for Henry Hudson Parkway.
- d. Signage on Henry Hudson Parkway northbound before 95th—96th St exit saying 'Best Route to the Eastside – Use 96th St.'

The above four items were passed as a resolution by a vote of Committee: 9-0-0-0 Public Members: 2-1-0-0.

Additionally the committee intends to discuss the rerouting of the westbound 96th St. crosstown bus to turn from 96th St at West End Avenue and go to Riverside Drive returning to 96th St via W.95th St. and West End Avenue at the next Transportation meeting.

Another item related to the traffic problems on 97th St. was the playstreet and the thought that perhaps this street closure could be done for shorter hours. The school would be contacted and this item would be heard at a subsequent meeting.

Also proposed and discussed was the possibility that parking on W.97th St. might be eliminated on one side of the street between Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway to alleviate chronic traffic problems. This, too, will be discussed again at a subsequent meeting.

Next month – the committee intends to address other short term, low cost remedies that seem worthwhile as stated in the MBP sponsored traffic report.

The meeting was adjourned.

Committee Members Present: Andrew Albert, Dan Zweig, Joyce Johnson, Bobbie Katzander, Barbara Keleman, Marc Landis, Klari Neuwelt, Oscar Rios, Barbara Van Buren. *Committee Members Absent:* Elizabeth Starkey, Tom Vitullo-Martin.

Sidewalk Task Force
Chair: Hope Cohen
Joint with Land Use Committee
Co-Chairs: Richard Asche and Hope Cohen
April 15, 2003

Single agenda item: Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise

Hope Cohen reminded those present that in November 2002, Community Board 7/Manhattan (CB7) unanimously (25-0-0) passed a resolution voicing a number of concerns about the proposed Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise. Several months later, having seen the proposed text for an authorizing resolution by the City Council and having met with representatives of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Consumer Affairs, CB7 can endorse the authorizing resolution and the proposed Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise. All present agreed that now that we understand that the Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise is not the grand remaking of the streetscape we had previously thought, but rather essentially 'in-kind' replacement of newsstands and bus-stop shelters with "nicer stuff" and associated higher advertising revenues, CB7 is largely satisfied with the plan. The most important information gained in the past several months is that CB7 will retain its current role in site approval for franchise structures.

WHEREAS Community Board 7/Manhattan has come to understand that the purpose of the proposed Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise is essentially to replace newsstands and bus-stop shelters 'in kind', but at a higher level of quality of materials, manufacture, and maintenance, yielding increased advertising revenues for the City of New York as well as a more attractive streetscape; and

WHEREAS Community Board 7/Manhattan has come to understand that the siting criteria and process for a franchise structure (i.e. each newsstand, bus-stop shelter, and automatic public toilet) will be unchanged from current rule and practice (i.e. that the Community Board will have the same role of recommendation, review, and approval/disapproval for siting such structures as is currently the case); and

WHEREAS Community Board 7/Manhattan has come to understand that contracts and franchise agreements currently in place preclude the inclusion of public pay telephones (PPTs) in this proposed Franchise at this time, but that the Request for Proposals (RFP) has been written to encourage proposers to consolidate functionality in franchise structures (e.g. allowing for PPTs to be built into bus-stop shelters); and

WHEREAS Community Board 7/Manhattan has come to understand that possible sites for automatic public toilets (APT) will include smaller public spaces such as squares and triangles (e.g. Columbus Circle) as well as recognizable parks; and

WHEREAS Community Board 7/Manhattan has a record of opposing advertising in public parks; and

WHEREAS Community Board 7/Manhattan has long been concerned about the low license fees paid by sidewalk newsstand operators in return for use of valuable sidewalk real estate, frequently involving display and sale of items other than publications protected by the First Amendment;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 7/Manhattan **endorses** the proposed Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise, and **encourages the City Council to pass** the resolution authorizing the Department of Transportation to grant nonexclusive franchises for the installation, operation, and maintenance of coordinated franchise structures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 7/Manhattan looks forward to **continuing to fulfill its important role of recommending, reviewing, and approving/disapproving sites** for franchise structures in its district; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 7/Manhattan **strongly urges the administration to consult with Community Boards** during the development of: plans for special designs for franchise structures in landmark districts; designs to ensure that newsstands display only appropriate newsstand merchandise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 7/Manhattan endorses advertising inside APTs and **opposes advertising on the outside** of APT structures (i.e. to be situated on public park land); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 7/Manhattan finds that the RFP for the Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise should encourage the provision of trash baskets of uniform design that also meet functional needs better than the current wire baskets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 7/Manhattan recommends that the City revisit the license fees for newsstands, the financial responsibilities of whose operators (i.e. for construction, installation, and maintenance of newsstand structures) would be diminished by the Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise.

Joint Committee: 6-0-0-0

Sidewalk Task Force Members Present: Barbara Adler, Janet Alvarez, Hope Cohen, Doug Griebel, Marlene Guy. **Sidewalk Task Force Members Absent:** Betty Katz, Klari Neuwelt, Elizabeth Starkey, Maria Watson. **Land Use Committee Members Present:** Janet Alvarez, Linda Alexander, Richard Ashe, Hope Cohen, Doug Griebel. **Land Use Committee Members Absent:** Betty Katz, Lenore Norman, Melanie Radley, Ethel Sheffer, Maria Watson.

Parks Committee
Co-Chairs: Barbara Adler and Bob Herrmann
April 10, 2003

First item joint with Transportation Committee: Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig, Co-Chairs.

1. Presentation by NY Water Taxi on proposal to install a water taxi service, on a temporary basis, at Pier I and/or at the 79th Street Boat Basin in Riverside Park.

Tom Fox, President & CEO of New York Water Taxi, gave a presentation on his plans for a water taxi service to the 70th Street Pier "I" in Riverside South Park. The New York Water Taxi began service in 2002, connecting parks & points of interest in the New York City area. Current routes go from West 43rd Street south to the Chelsea Piers, continuing south to the World Financial Center, Pier "A" at Battery Park, and around to Pier 11 by the South Street Seaport, and on to Fulton Landing in Brooklyn. A new East River service is anticipated in 2003 to Greenpoint and East 23rd Street areas. Water Taxis, unlike ferries, can land anywhere, provided the "landlord" of the landing agrees. A floating landing barge is all that is needed. When the gantry is renovated, near 69th Street, it is anticipated the Water Taxi would land there. Studies have shown that the Pier I location is more marketable than Pier A at the 79th Street Boat Basin. Nevertheless, Mr. Fox expressed a desire to serve that location too in the future. The present request is for the very end of the new pier (Pier I), with a gate matching the existing railing to provide access to the boats. Service would be approximately every ½ hour or so. These are shallow draft boats, holding a maximum of 59 passengers each, and do not put up much of a wake - a key point if a new salt marsh is to flourish in the area. Mr. Fox emphasized the environmentally friendly nature of his boats, as well as the low noise level - approximately 85 decibels, or the loudness of a medium-sized radio. After several questions & answers, the joint committee came up with the following resolution:

Whereas the Water Taxi would provide Westsiders with alternative transportation to & from midtown & downtown areas, and

Whereas the Water Taxi is more environmentally friendly than regular ferries and puts up far less of a wake, and

Whereas the Water Taxi is trying to serve many more areas of Manhattan giving Manhattanites many new travel options,

Therefore, Be it Resolved that Community Board 7 approves New York Water Taxi's application for a service to & from Pier I at 70th Street, with the understanding that this service will move to the new, restored gantry at 69th Street when it is completed.

Joint Committee vote: 5-0-1-0. Public vote:-2-0-0-0.

2. Discussion with William Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, Dept. of Parks & Recreation. Commissioner Castro gave the committee an update on the Manhattan Parks. Some of the highlights he discussed included the following: Budget cuts will be affecting the seasonal budget, particularly affecting playground associates and the overtime budget, though the Parks Dept. still expects to adequately protect the parks and the people who use them. Comfort stations are being upgraded, with new lighting, ventilation, stainless steel mirrors, and new plantings around the perimeters. Playgrounds are locked at night, and handheld computers are used to record the time of locking. Metal halide security spotlights are being installed. The greenmarket is proposed for Tucker Park and possibly Verdi Square as well. Playground 70 is nearing completion, and the playground at Riverside Drive at 110th St. is being redone. There are five PEP patrol officers in Riverside South. The Volunteer House at 108th Street will be ready to open next month.

3. Presentation by Assistant Commissioner Ed Lewis, Community Relations, Dept. of Parks & Recreation, on Intro 160. Intro 160, soon to come before the City Council for a vote, is a clarification of the administrative code pertaining to general vending laws to protect the parks against an intrusion of vendors. This bill seeks to regulate vendors and artists by use of a lottery system with a nominal fee attached, and does not rule on content and, according to Assistant Commissioner Ed Lewis, does not violate first amendment rights.

Whereas, Intro 160 is a clarification of the general vending law, and seeks to protect public parks from unregulated commercial intrusion, and

Whereas, Intro 160 does not threaten the first Amendment rights of artists and other vendors of written material, and is not anti-artist or anti-art, and

Whereas, this bill seeks to regulate vendors and artists in parks by use of a lottery system with a nominal fee attached, and would simply subject vending to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, as many First Amendment activities already are,

Be it Resolved that Community Board 7/Manhattan approves Intro 160, thus allowing the Parks Department to better manage commerce in the parks.

Committee vote: 5-0-1-0. Public vote: 1-1-0-0.

4. Presentation by the Central Park Conservancy on the preliminary design for the reconstruction of Heckscher Playground and adjacent landscape in Central Park.

Gary Dearborn and Ed Benson, Central Park Conservancy, presented plans for the reconstruction of the historic playground landscape in the southwest region of the Park between the West and Center Park Drives, south of the 65th Street transverse road. This area of the Park has a diverse range of natural and man-made features, including passive and active recreation opportunities. The facilities include the Heckscher ball fields, the Heckscher playground and the children's carousel.

The initial phase of the project is the restoration of the playground, the first playground in the Park. The scope of work includes renovating the playgrounds, reconstructing the ball fields, installation of a multi-use, artificial turf field, constructing new drainage and irrigation infrastructure, a picnic area to the north and a landscaped play area to the south.

Whereas, the Heckscher Playground and adjacent landscape in Central Park is in need of restoration, and

Whereas, there is private funding available for the restoration, and

Whereas, the proposed design takes into consideration the multiple uses of the playground and adjacent landscape,

Be it Resolved that Community Board 7/Manhattan approves the preliminary design for the reconstruction of Heckscher Playground and adjacent landscape in Central Park.

Committee vote: 6-0-0-0. Public vote: 1-0-0-0.

5. Report by the Riverside Clay Tennis Association on plans for reconstruction the parking lot at West 95th Street in Riverside Park.

Mark McIntyre, Riverside Clay Tennis Association, made a presentation regarding the proposed work by the RCTA to renovate the south parking lot at 94th Street. Funding for this project has been provided by Assemblyman Scott Stringer. The plans include repaving the parking lot and installation of more secure gates at the entrance and exit, and associated landscaping. The RCTA also requested support for its children's clinics and asked the Board to write a letter of support, which the RCTA could use in seeking funding. The committee was in agreement with that request.

Committee Members Present: Barbara Adler, Bob Herrmann, Dan Cohen, Phyllis Gunther, D. Maria Watson.

Committee Members Absent: Linda Alexander, Betty Katz, Klari Neuwelt.

**Full Board Meeting
Lawrence Horowitz, Chair
April 1, 2003**

Chair Larry Horowitz called the meeting to order.

Chair's Report

Announced the new committee co-chairs: Joyce Johnson, Youth Committee; John Howell, Uniformed Services/Environment Committee, for Homeland Security; Tom Vitullo-Martin, Housing Committee. He also announced Dan Cohen will be Chair of Membership Committee.

District Manager's Report

Penny Ryan announced that Deputy Inspector Michael Shea of the 20th Precinct was promoted and has been replaced by Captain James Murtagh. 311 is up and running and can be used for all complaints and requests for service. Residents are asked to continue to use the board office to submit and track complaints.

Public Session

Ed Benson, Central Park Conservancy, announced upcoming events in Central Park to celebrate the 150th anniversary.

Ed Gordon spoke on noise complaints at 965 Amsterdam Avenue.

Judy Levenson, City at Peace, spoke on future performances.

David Carpio, Columbia University, announced a graduate employee union rally.

Winfred Armstrong, Park West Village Neighborhood History Group, announced upcoming community history events.

Eytan Apter, Manhattan Day School, spoke on national history day.

Amelia Schwartz, NY Public Library, spoke on budget reductions.

Ron Kapon, 20th Precinct Council, asked that the board continue to address the Moonlighting situation and spoke on the issues surrounding the calling for the resignation of the Precinct Council President.

Alan Flacks, spoke in favor of five-year lease for outdoor cafes and spoke against renaming streets to honor victims of the WTC.

Mary Sherman Parson, Lotus Gardens, thanked the board for their efforts.

Joshua Bocian, Councilmember Gale Brewer's office, announced that their office is moving and the Councilmember is now part of the Finance Committee.

Aaron Lowenstein, Councilmember Philip Reed's office, announced that NYC has not received any funding from the federal government for AIDS and is facing a \$14 million dollar cut.

Chris Cullen, Senator David Paterson's office, announced an upcoming home ownership program.

Jason Haber, Assemblyman Scott Stringer's office, announced that Assemblyman would hold hearings around the state.

Alyson Spindell, Senator Eric Schneiderman's office, announced the Senator is currently the Deputy Minority Leader and that she is leaving his office.

George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, NAB7, announced the community survey.

K. Karen, West Side Center for Community Life, introduced the capital plan for their organization, which provides Meals on Wheels and the food pantry in St. Paul and St. Andrew United Methodist Church.

Business Session

Landmarks Committee

Co-Chairs: Lenore Norman and Patricia Stevens

1. Resolution to approve application #032330 to the Landmark Preservation Commission for a rooftop addition at 150 Riverside Drive, Kateri Nursing Home (West 87th-88th Street.) was adopted: 29-0-1-0.

2. Resolution to approve application #033886 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to replace broken cement entrance well floor of building with brick pavers at 134 West 88th Street (Columbus-Amsterdam Avenue) was adopted: 29-0-1-0.
3. Resolution to approve application #033162 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to construct a rear-yard addition at 12 West 71st Street (Central Park West-Columbus Avenue) was adopted: 29-0-1-0.

Transportation Committee

Co-Chairs: Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig

4. Resolution to approve the request to the Mayor's Office of Street Activity Permits by Council on the Environment to operate a GreenMarket on the sidewalk along West 97th Street, Columbus-Amsterdam Avenue, from April 3 - December 26, 2003 was adopted: 31-0-0-0.
5. Resolution to approve application #1129553 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Jayesh Patel to construct and operate a newsstand adjacent to the subway entrance on the west side of Broadway between West 93rd-94th Street was adopted: 21-5-4-0.
6. Resolution to approve application by the Jewish Community Center of Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Avenue, to the Department of Transportation to install planters and a bike rack on the west side of Amsterdam Avenue in front of their building was adopted: 22-1-6-0.
7. Resolution to approve the proposed construction of a 2nd Avenue subway was adopted: 27-0-0-0.

Transportation Committee

Joint with

Parks, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee

Co-Chairs: Barbara Adler and Robert Herrmann

The following community resident spoke against the proposal: Greg Sabater, Lee Caron, Janet Crawford, Tom Sahagar, Elena Roberts, Amy Clen, Michelle McDonald, Shauna Vey, Ephram Dunsky, Edward Fortier, Anne Simmons, Joan Boyle, Marshall Kaufman, Karen Bogardus, Susan Cannon, Ida Cohen, and John Blesso. The following community resident spoke in support of the proposal: Steve Strauss.

8. Resolution to approve the reconstruction of Frederick Douglass Circle at Central Park West and Cathedral Parkway was sent back to the committee for further discussion.

Health and Human Services Committee

Co-Chairs: David Harris and Barbara Van Buren

9. Resolution to approve the request to the NYS Department of Health by the Citywide Harm Reduction Coalition for implementation of syringe exchange program in the Royal Park Hotel, Broadway Studios, and Malibu Hotel was adopted: 19-0-0-0.

Present: Larry Horowitz, Chair, Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Janet Alvarez, Richard Asche, Annette Averette, Peter Bailey, Dan Cohen, Hope Cohen, Sheldon Fine, Georgette Gittens, Jean Green-Dorsey, Doug Griebel, David Harris, John Howell, Joyce Johnson, Marc Landis, William Meyers, Eric Nelson, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Melanie Radley, Oscar Rios, Ethel Sheffer, Elizabeth Starkey, Patricia Stevens, Barbara Van Buren, D. Maria Watson, Melanie Wymore, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Dan Zweig.

Absent: Guillermo Gonzalez, Phyllis Gunther, Robert Herrmann, Ulma Jones, Betty Katz, Barbara Keleman, Barry Rosenberg, Helen Rosenthal, Hector Santana Jr., Evelyn Tamarin, Tom Vitullo-Martin.

YOUTH COMMITTEE
Co-Chair Sharon Parker-Frazier
March 18, 2003

1. Budget Priorities Update

Committee reviewed budget requests and responses from city agencies. To give feedback to the agencies which were the following:

Afterschool- CSD 3 provides a Project Read program that is vital to students in grades 1st-5th and several other enriched programs that are of no cost to parents. Having these funds increased and maintain are crucial for student achievement. Based on the new federal law, No Child Left Behind, mandates that eligible children are mandated to receive educational support systems which take place afterschool. These funds must come from the district office.

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The Joint Planning Committee held the meeting with Commission Jeanne B. Mullgrav and CB member from all over the city. An update was given about the Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention (YDDP) Request for Proposal. It was explained that focus groups, hearings and surveys were used in the process of forming/creating the RFPS'. A presentation about a new web site for the DYCD was demonstrated and will be ready by the fall.

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Starting a new program with the Dept. Of Education called New Direction in which students from Park West HS will be busses to the Y to take classes in Leadership. On March 5 the Y and many of their students went to Albany to visit and lobby elected representatives.

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March 11, 2003

1. 97th St Greenmarket between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues - Application for Street Activity Permit to operate on Fridays between April 3 to December 26, 2003. No opposition, general feeling of approval of this market were expressed. A resolution to approve this application was passed by the committee by a vote of Committee: 6-0-0-0 Public Members: 0-0-0-1.

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5. 2nd Ave subway - With the Long Island Railroad eastside access to Grand Central Terminal scheduled to open in 2012, depositing many more passengers on the Lexington Ave subway line, the committee recognizes the need to plan and build for future transportation needs on the east side of Manhattan and passed a resolution supporting the building of the 2nd Ave subway by a vote of Committee: 5-0-0-0 Non-Committee Board: 0-0-0-1 Public Members: 3-0-0-0.

Committee Members Present: Andrew Albert, Dan Zweig, Bobbie Katzander, Klari Neuwelt, Oscar Rios. **Committee Members Absent:** Barbara Keleman, Marc Landis, Elizabeth Starkey, Tom Vitullo-Martin, Barbara Van Buren. **Board Members Present:** Hope Cohen, Joyce Johnson.

Steering Committee
Lawrence Horowitz, Chair
March 26, 2003

Chair's Report.

Larry Horowitz announced co-chair appointments. John Howell will join Uniformed Services as the co-chair for homeland security; Joyce Johnson will join the Youth Committee; and Tom Vitullo-Martin will join the Housing Committee. He reported on his meeting with the Manhattan Borough President's staff on board appointments and on a recent meeting of the MBP on emergency preparedness. He spoke about Byron Burnett, a former board member, who died unexpectedly on Monday.

Discussion of welcome and orientation for new board members.

Mr. Horowitz suggested that this year's welcome needed to include greetings, assignments of mentors, and a presentation on land use and upcoming projects. Dan Cohen, Melanie Radley, and Barbara Adler will plan a new member event and report to Steering in April.

Report on District Historian and website page.

Penny Ryan reported on the proposal to add a history page to CB7's website and develop it in cooperation with Barbara Earnest and Win Armstrong, who are active in history projects in the Park West area.

The committee endorsed the proposal. Events that are free and open to the public will be included on the website.

Barbara Adler mentioned the Columbus Avenue BID's free historic tours on May 17 and 18 and asked that an announcement be included on the page.

Committee and task force reports.

Co-chairs review last month's agenda items and the full board agenda.

Lenore Norman announced a site visit to the 455 Central Park West, The Towers site.

Mr. Horowitz introduced the Health and Human Services Committee draft resolution on the City-Wide Harm Reduction Coalition's needle exchange program. The committee had no objections or changes. The resolution will be present to the full board on April 1.

Sheldon Fine announced that he would be prepared to discuss revisions to the By-Laws and recommendations on parliamentary procedures at the April Steering meeting.

George Zeppenfeldt reported on Neighborhood Advisory Board. At its March 24 public hearing individuals and CBOs spoke about young people's and seniors' needs for services and about affordable housing. He reviewed a survey on community needs, which informs grants, that the NAB would like to include CB7's mailing. The committee agreed to include the survey in the mailing and to place it on the website and distribute it at upcoming meetings. Sheldon Fine encouraged lobbying in support of reauthorization of the federal community development block grants.

Dan Cohen as liaison to MCB9 reported that they expressed gratitude for CB7's work on the Columbia University faculty school's admissions policies and for the cooperation between the two boards. As representative to the 24 Precinct Council, he reported that theft of unattended property, which becomes grand larceny if a credit card is taken, is a concern.

The April 1 full board agenda was accepted.

New business.

Dan Cohen reported that he and District Manager Penny Ryan had attended a very informative meeting about the Bloomingdale Head Start program.

Doug Griebel reported that the Department of Consumer Affairs came to an agreement to reduce sidewalk café fees in the new regulations. He was a negotiator of this agreement as president of the NYC Restaurant Association.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Committee Members Present: Lawrence Horowitz, Barbara Adler, Sheldon Fine, Doug Griebel, Robert Herrmann, Bobbie Katzander, Eric Nelson, Melanie Radley, Patricia Stevens, George Zeppendfeld-Cestero, Dan Zweig. **Committee Members Absent:** Andrew Albert, Richard Asche, Beth Berns, Dan Cohen, Hope Cohen, David Harris, John Howell, Lenore Norman, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Helen Rosenthal, Hector Santana, Barbara Van Buren.

Parks, Cultural Affairs and Libraries Committee
Co-Chairs: Barbara Adler and Bob Herrmann
March 13, 2003

1. Presentation by KC Sahl, Administrator, Riverside Park.

Mr. Sahl presented photographs and diagrams of the adult equipment at 105th Street in Riverside Park. The equipment, which is being paid for by a private donor, Dorlene Kaplan, comprises “travel rings,” which are comparable to those used in a park in Santa Monica, CA. The equipment in the California park was originally installed in the 1930’s and has since been upgraded. In addition, Mr. Sahl announced there would be a new concession operator for Hudson Beach Café.

2. Presentation of “The Gates of Central Park” by artists Christo and Jeanne- Claude

Presentation included photographs, diagrams and discussion of funding by the artists, as well as materials being used, research regarding environmental impact and length of time for exhibit.

The exhibit is scheduled to run for 16 days in February 2005. The artwork is being fabricated in 12-foot by 8-foot wide orange panels made up of strong nylon material. The exhibit, which will span the stone walls and gates of Central Park, will stand 16-feet high, affixed seven feet above the ground with poles made up of five-inch vinyl used in horse corrals that are able to withstand heavy winds and inclement weather. The artists’ engineer, Vince Davenport, attested to the minimal environmental impact of the design, citing the findings of an ornithologist hired by the artists.

The New York City Department of Parks and Central Park Conservancy have approved the project and there was no vote, nor resolution regarding same.

Rebuttals by members of the Sierra Club were made during the public session and included comments by Charles Lyman, Edgar Freud, Margaret Young and Diane Buybaum. Sierra Club member Olive Freud’s complaint concerned her dislike of the design and disagreement with the aesthetic validity of the artwork.

As with previous projects, the artists are raising money through the sales of their initial sketches, but will not receive funds through the commercial or retail sales of collateral materials.

3. Specialty Carts, West 72nd Street and West 87th Street Dog Runs

The Department of Parks put out an RFP to prospective vendors at various sites, three of which are in the CB7 district. No vendors responded to proposals for 72nd Street and 87th Street adjacent to the respective dog runs. There is no word as yet on the cart at Tucker Park.

Committee Members Present: Barbara Adler, Bob Herrmann, Linda Alexander, Dan Cohen, Phyllis Gunther, Joyce Johnson, Betty Katz, Klari Neuwelt. **Committee Members Absent:** Douglas Griebel.

**Full Board Meeting
Lawrence Horowitz, Chair
March 4, 2003**

Chair Larry Horowitz called the meeting to order.

Chair's Report

Mr. Horowitz announced that there are four openings on the board and asked any interested community resident to submit an application to the Manhattan Borough President's office. He announced that Ethel Sheffer and he would serve on Columbia University's advisory committee for the new Master Plan.

David Harris reported that by September 2003 unaffiliated Columbia University children will be enrolled in the new faculty school.

Shelly Fine reported on the Manhattan Borough Board presentation by HPD on the City's housing shortage, affordability gap, and available land.

Helen Rosenthal provided budget update. NYC Council preliminary hearings for fiscal year 2004 are scheduled. She asked board members to attend.

Barbara Van Buren announced in April the Full Board would consider a resolution approving state funded program for needle exchange in 3 commercial SRO's in CD7.

Legislators' Reports

Councilmember Gale Brewer announced that budget hearings began. She is working with AOL Time Warner to provide jobs for westsiders. She mentioned the on-going Gristede's/Fairway problem on West 74th Street.

Public Session

Barbara Earnest, Park West Village Community History Group, announced they are working on historical information for West 97th-110th Street, joint with CB7 and the Manhattan Borough President's office.

Winifred Armstrong, Park West Village Community History Group, announced History Day is March 7th.

Michael Oliva, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, announced the passing of Local Law 47, which prohibits smoking in the workplace. Thanked Councilmember Brewer for support.

Ron Kapon, 20th Precinct Council, reported burglaries are up. Raised concerns regarding Moonlighting and the SLA.

Mildred Ortega, Royal Park Hotel, expressed concern about drug dealers and users in the building and asked for CB7 help.

Aaron Lowenstein, Councilmember Phil Reed's Office, announced that cell phone law that prohibits its use in movie theaters, plays, and other public places is in effect.

Jason Haber, Assemblyman Scott Stringer's Office, announced that stem cell research campaign has kicked off and the Assemblyman has written the SLA regarding Moonlighting.

Dan Golub, Assemblyman Richard Gottfried's Office, announced that the Assemblyman is introducing a law for SLA regarding stipulations for getting a liquor license.

Bradford Sussman, Manhattan Borough President's Office, discussed emergency provisions for Borough President's Office.

Business Session**Transportation Committee****Co-Chairs: Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig**

1. Resolution to disapprove the proposed closing of token booths in stations in CD7 (96th and 110th Street IND and 79th, 86th, and 110th Street IRT) was adopted: 27-2-0-1.
2. Resolution to approve application to the Department of Transportation by 4 Uptown Properties, LLC at 245 West 76th Street for a revocable consent to enlarge the existing areaway was adopted: 16-5-4-0.
3. Resolution to approve application by 2700 Broadway LLC to the Department of Transportation for a revocable consent to construct and maintain a vault under the sidewalk was adopted: 25-0-3-0.

Land Use Committee**Co-Chairs: Richard Asche and Hope Cohen**

4. Resolution to disapprove application #315-02-BZ by Touro College to the Board of Standards and Appeals for bulk variances to allow the construction of a mixed-use building at 223-227 West 60th Street (West End-Amsterdam Avenues.) was adopted: 29-2-3-0.
Howard Weiss, Attorney; Akiva Kobre, Vice President of Touro College; and Peter Samton, Architect spoke in support of the application. Batya Lewton, CLW spoke in support of the Board resolution.
5. Resolution to approve the renewal application DCA#1082469 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Chung Cheung Corp., d/b/a Neo Japanese Restaurant at 2298 Broadway, for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 24 tables and 48 seats was adopted: 29-1-0-0.
6. Resolution to approve the new application DCA#1130054 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Miyako Sushi Corp. d/b/a Miyako Sushi at 642 Amsterdam Avenue, for a one-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 11 tables and 24 seats was adopted: 31-1-0-0.
7. Resolution to approve the renewal application DCA#0953744 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 442 Amsterdam Avenue Corp. d/b/a Gin Mill at 442 Amsterdam Avenue, for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 8 tables and 14 seats was adopted: 31-1-0-0.

Landmarks Committee**Co-Chairs: Lenore Norman and Patricia Stevens**

8. Resolution to approve application #033445 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to legalize the installation of an awning, signage, lighting, and a flagpole and banner, and to modify storefront infill without LPC permits at 442 Amsterdam Avenue, d/b/a the Gin Mill (West 80th-81st Streets) was adopted: 29-0-1-0.
9. Resolution to approve application #032769 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to reconstruct the stoop at 34 West 89th Street (Central Park West-Columbus Avenue) was adopted: 29-0-1-0.

Parks, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee

Co-Chairs: Barbara Adler and Bob Herrmann

10. Resolution to approve the proposal by the Department of Parks and Recreation to install a permanent dog run in Riverside Park at 72nd Street was adopted: 21-5-1-0.

The following community residents spoke in support proposal: Marilyn Briskin, Nicole Yadav, Kanoka Ohara, Richard Klugman, Janet Beller, Richard Gordon, Robin Klein, John Sloman, Gordan Clark.

The following spoke against the proposal: Laura Stard, Richard Bass, Richard Sender, Randy Vaughan, John Hart, Olive Freud.

Present: Larry Horowitz, Chair, Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Janet Alvarez, Richard Ashce, Annette Averette, Dan Cohen, Hope Cohen, Sheldon Fine, Georgette Gittens, Guillermo Gonzalez, Doug Griebel, Phyllis Gunther, David Harris, Robert Herrmann, Betty Katz, Barbara Keleman, Marc Landis, William Meyers, Eric Nelson, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Melanie Radley, Oscar Rios, Barry Rosenberg, Helen Rosenthal, Hector Santana, Jr., Ethel Sheffer, Patricia Stevens, Evelyn Tamarin, Barbara Van Buren, D. Maria Watson, Melanie Wymore, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Dan Zweig.

Absent: Peter Bailey, Beth Berns, Jean Green-Dorsey, Marlene Guy, John Howell, Joyce Johnson, Elizabeth Starkey, Thomas Vitullo-Martin.

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Co-Chair Sharon Parker-Frazier
March 18, 2003

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Dan Cohen reported that he and District Manager Penny Ryan had attended a very informative meeting about the Bloomingdale Head Start program.

Doug Griebel reported that the Department of Consumer Affairs came to an agreement to reduce sidewalk café fees in the new regulations. He was a negotiator of this agreement as president of the NYC Restaurant Association.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Committee Members Present: Lawrence Horowitz, Barbara Adler, Sheldon Fine, Doug Griebel, Robert Herrmann, Bobbie Katzander, Eric Nelson, Melanie Radley, Patricia Stevens, George Zeppendfeld-Cestero, Dan Zweig. **Committee Members Absent:** Andrew Albert, Richard Asche, Beth Berns, Dan Cohen, Hope Cohen, David Harris, John Howell, Lenore Norman, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Helen Rosenthal, Hector Santana, Barbara Van Buren.

Parks, Cultural Affairs and Libraries Committee
Co-Chairs: Barbara Adler and Bob Herrmann
March 13, 2003

1. Presentation by KC Sahl, Administrator, Riverside Park.

Mr. Sahl presented photographs and diagrams of the adult equipment at 105th Street in Riverside Park. The equipment, which is being paid for by a private donor, Dorlene Kaplan, comprises “travel rings,” which are comparable to those used in a park in Santa Monica, CA. The equipment in the California park was originally installed in the 1930’s and has since been upgraded. In addition, Mr. Sahl announced there would be a new concession operator for Hudson Beach Café.

2. Presentation of “The Gates of Central Park” by artists Christo and Jeanne- Claude

Presentation included photographs, diagrams and discussion of funding by the artists, as well as materials being used, research regarding environmental impact and length of time for exhibit.

The exhibit is scheduled to run for 16 days in February 2005. The artwork is being fabricated in 12-foot by 8-foot wide orange panels made up of strong nylon material. The exhibit, which will span the stone walls and gates of Central Park, will stand 16-feet high, affixed seven feet above the ground with poles made up of five-inch vinyl used in horse corrals that are able to withstand heavy winds and inclement weather. The artists’ engineer, Vince Davenport, attested to the minimal environmental impact of the design, citing the findings of an ornithologist hired by the artists.

The New York City Department of Parks and Central Park Conservancy have approved the project and there was no vote, nor resolution regarding same.

Rebuttals by members of the Sierra Club were made during the public session and included comments by Charles Lyman, Edgar Freud, Margaret Young and Diane Buybaum. Sierra Club member Olive Freud’s complaint concerned her dislike of the design and disagreement with the aesthetic validity of the artwork.

As with previous projects, the artists are raising money through the sales of their initial sketches, but will not receive funds through the commercial or retail sales of collateral materials.

3. Specialty Carts, West 72nd Street and West 87th Street Dog Runs

The Department of Parks put out an RFP to prospective vendors at various sites, three of which are in the CB7 district. No vendors responded to proposals for 72nd Street and 87th Street adjacent to the respective dog runs. There is no word as yet on the cart at Tucker Park.

Committee Members Present: Barbara Adler, Bob Herrmann, Linda Alexander, Dan Cohen, Phyllis Gunther, Joyce Johnson, Betty Katz, Klari Neuwelt. **Committee Members Absent:** Douglas Griebel.

Landmarks Committee
Co-Chairs: Lenore Norman and Patricia Stevens
March 20, 2003

1. 150 Riverside Drive, Kateri Nursing Home.

Application for rooftop addition. Adam Rothberg, Attorney.

Kateri has approval from CB7's Land Use Committee and BSA for variances. Has approval from NYS DoH. Seeking approval from LPC and have had a public hearing. They were asked to build a mock up and it is still up. Plans are to enclose an open terrace with a glass and metal structure to accommodate elderly residents. Both water and mechanical towers are higher than addition, which is screened by other rooftops and is virtually invisible from RSD.

Whereas, the new addition will only be visible from a very small part of River Side Drive, the committee approves the rooftop addition. 5-0-0-0.

2. 134 West 88th Street.

Application is to replace broken cement entrance well of brownstone with brick pavers. Steve Lakenan, president-elect building committee, presented.

The stoop was removed and the entrance well is cracked concrete and unsightly. Applicants want to replace with 4x8 brick pavers in a basket weave pattern, within the property line.

Whereas, the alteration will be an improvement and will be in keeping with many other entrance wells on the block, the committee approves the plan, as presented. 5-0-0-0.

3. 12 West 71st Street.

Application is to construct a rear yard extension.

Paul Gregory presented.

The plan is to tear down 4-story and 2-story rear extensions and build a full 5-story extension. It will be 30' feet from the lot line and will return 5' to the doughnut. The new bricks will match existing. There will be large windows with multiple panes, some with faux balconies. The rear of the house will be modeled after the front. Plans include a penthouse set back 23' that will not be visible from the street. Facade of the building will not be touched. The total height of the building will be 60', adding 5'. Lenore Norman went on record as objecting to the multiple windowpanes.

Whereas, the addition will improve the building esthetically, and

Whereas; it will not be visible from the street, the committee approves the addition. 4-0-1-0.

4. New Business

1. A tour of the Towers to view the old building has been arranged.
2. West Park Presbyterian Church. Councilmember Gale Brewer continues to work with the community on this.
3. Nothing new to report on the proposed designation of Manhattan Valley district.

Committee Members Present: Lenore Norman, Patricia Stevens, Ulma Jones, Marlene Guy, Bill Meyers.

Health and Human Services Committee
Co-Chairs: David Harris and Barbara Van Buren
March 25, 2003

1. Presentation by Institute for Community Living.

Tony Tucker, Director of Community Relations, discussed various programs and services for adults with disabilities. ICL came to CB7 to ask for help in linking with other CBOs, whereby people who are participating in ICL programs can better be intergraded into the community. Areas of interest are employment, job support, education, and psychological support.

Mya Linn, Columbia nursing intern spoke about the 2643 Broadway site (100th Street) with 72 beds. She discussed their efforts to create supportive networks for adults with mental problems and history of homelessness. They are doing extensive outreach.

Manford White, on site coordinator for program, said facility is not considered transitional, but permanent housing.

The committee suggested that group look to the faith-based organizations that are used to providing this kind of support. Broadway program is flagship of the agency. Shared specific contacts and invited them to attend monthly full board meeting.

2. Discussion of Citywide Harm Reduction Coalition's request to NYS Department of Health for authorization of needle exchange programs in three CD7 SROs.

The resolution will be prepared and ready for Full Board meeting. The committee supported the syringe resolution: 6-0-0. Public: 1-0-0.

3. SRO Issues.

David Harris and Penny Ryan met with the Department of Homeless Services to discuss SRO concerns. Families and children's needs should be accommodated in a more humane fashion. Mr. Harris reported that threshold has been lowered and more families have come into the system. The economy is also contributing to extreme rise in the number of people who have to be accommodated. DHS claims that court ordered housing on demand is a major control in terms of what is being done.

Royal Park is still a problem. Some residents are throwing things into the Lotus Garden. Mildred Ortega spoke on behalf of HIV/AIDS people in the hotel.

4. New Business

David Harris spoke on "Talking with children about war." Parent and teacher guides are available.

Committee Members Present: David Harris, Annette Averette, Jean Green-Dorsey, Georgette Gittens, Phyllis Gunther, Elizabeth Starkey. **Committee Members Absent:** Barbara Van Buren, Barbara Keleman, Marc Landis.

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Committee Members Present: David Harris, Annette Averette, Jean Green-Dorsey, Georgette Gittens, Phyllis Gunther, Elizabeth Starkey. **Committee Members Absent:** Barbara Van Buren, Barbara Keleman, Marc Landis.

Land Use Committee
Co-Chairs: Richard Asche and Hope Cohen
April 15, 2003

1. **718 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 95th Street.). Renewal application DCA#1099811 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Iano Corp. d/b/a Aqua at 718 Amsterdam Avenue, for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 12 tables and 40 seats.

Presenter: Sebastiano Cappitta

Discussion: Straightforward renewal

Resolution/Outcome:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee **approves** the renewal application DCA#1099811 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Iano Corp. d/b/a Acqua at 718 Amsterdam Avenue for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 12 tables and 40 seats.

Committee: 5-0-0-0.

2. **654 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 91st-92nd Street.) New application DCA#1131538 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Yak 1 Inc, d/b/a Pizzabolla at 654 Amsterdam Avenue, for a one-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 8 tables and 16 seats.

Presenter: James Yacyshyn, principal and David Saphier, principal

Discussion: Discussion concerning positioning of waiter aisle in the middle of tables on Amsterdam Ave., the depth of the Amsterdam Ave. portion of the proposed café (9 feet, 10 inches), and issues associated with the tables proposed for West 92nd St. Applicant agreed to amend plans to reflect reconfigured waiter aisle and reduced depth on Amsterdam Ave. and elimination of tables on West 92nd St., for a grand total of 4 tables and 12 seats.

Resolution/Outcome:

WHEREAS the applicant has agreed to change the configuration of the proposed sidewalk café to eliminate 4 tables and 4 seats (including 2 tables and 4 seats proposed for West 92nd St.) and reduce the depth of the café to 9 feet; and

WHEREAS the applicant has agreed to submit to Community Board 7/Manhattan plans revised to document these changes and stamped by the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the new application DCA# 1131538 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Yak 1 Inc. d/b/a Pizzabolla at 654 Amsterdam Avenue for a one-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 4 tables and 12 seats.

Committee: 5-0-0-0.

3. **2724 Broadway** (West 104th-105th Street.). New application DCA #1132659 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Hot Bread of 104th St Inc. d/b/a Hot Bread at 2724 Broadway, for a one-year consent to operate and unenclosed sidewalk café with 12 tables and 30 seats.

Presenter: Not present

Resolution/Outcome:

WHEREAS, there is no restaurant currently on the plans at said address and applicant failed to appear,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Committee votes to **disapprove** the new application DCA #1132659 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Hot Bread of 104th St Inc. d/b/a Hot Bread at 2724 Broadway, for a one-year consent to operate and unenclosed sidewalk café with 12 tables and 30 seats.

Committee: 5-0-0-0.

4. **2799 Broadway** (West 108th Street.). Renewal application DCA 1102405 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by S&P 66 Inc. d/b/a Lime Leaf at 2799 Broadway, for a five-year consent to operate and unenclosed sidewalk café with 10 tables and 32 seats.

Presenter: Sudhir Bhat, principal

Discussion: Straightforward renewal

Resolution/Outcome:

WHEREAS, the unenclosed sidewalk café has existed unchanged in its current configuration since 1984; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 7/Manhattan has approved renewals of the café in its current configuration several times since 1984; and

WHEREAS, the café is located on an unusually wide 31-foot-wide sidewalk segment;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee **approves** the new application DCA#1102405 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by S&P 66 Inc., d/b/a Lime Leaf at 2799 Broadway for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 10 tables and 32 seats, with the caveat that at least 18 feet of pedestrian space remains outside of the café's boundaries.

Committee: 5-0-0-0.

5. **421 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 80th-81st Street.). Renewal application DCA #0885890 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Café Monaco Corp. d/b/a Café Monaco at 421 Amsterdam Avenue, for a five-year consent to operate and unenclosed sidewalk café with 14 tables and 34 seats.

Presenter: Fernando Rodriguez, general manager

Discussion: Straightforward renewal

Resolution/Outcome:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee **approves** the renewal application DCA #0885890 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Café Monaco Corp. d/b/a Café Monaco at 421 Amsterdam Avenue, for a five-year consent to operate and unenclosed sidewalk café with 14 tables and 34 seats for five-years.

Committee: 5-0-0-0

6. **522 Columbus Avenue** (West 85th-86th Street.). Renewal application DCA #0895505 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Barjer Corp. d/b/a Firehouse at 522 Columbus Avenue, for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 11 tables and 29 seats.

Presenter: Not Present

Discussion: Straightforward renewal

Resolution/Outcome:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee **approves** the renewal application DCA#0895505 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Barjer Corp. d/b/a Firehouse at 522 Columbus Avenue for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 11 tables and 29 seats.

Committee: 5-0-0-0.

7. **429 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 80th-81st Street.). Renewal application DCA #0955642 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Amorluz Corp. d/b/a Luzia's Restaurant at 429 Amsterdam Avenue, for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 7 tables and 14 seats.

Presenter: Not Present

Discussion: Straightforward renewal

Resolution/Outcome:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee **approves** the renewal application DCA #0955642 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Amorluz Corp. d/b/a Luzia's Restaurant at 429 Amsterdam Avenue, for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 7 tables and 14 seats.

Committee: 5-0-0-0.

8. **302 Columbus Avenue** (West 74th-75th Street.). Renewal application DCA #1077541 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Janine's Place Inc. d/b/a Diwan Curry House at 302 Columbus Avenue, for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 14 seats.

Presenter: Steven Rothberg, attorney for Janine's Place d/b/a Diwan's and Sawran Singh, proprietor

Discussion: Straightforward renewal

Resolution/Outcome:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee **approves** the renewal application DCA #1077541 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Janine's Place Inc. d/b/a Diwan Curry House at 302 Columbus Avenue, for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 14 seats.
Committee: 5-0-0-0.

9. **513 Columbus Avenue** (West 85th-86th Street.). New application DCA #1133460 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 513 JJT Corp. d/b/a Martell's Grill at 513 Columbus Avenue, for a one-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 18 tables and 38 seats.

Presenter: Joseph O'Grady

Discussion: Open for business since November. Hope Cohen reviewed plans and said plans looked fine.
Resolution/Outcome:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee **approves** the new application DCA #1133460 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 513 JJT Corp. d/b/a Martell's Grill at 513 Columbus Avenue, for a one-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 18 tables and 38 seats.

Committee: 5-0-0-0.

10. Discussion of resolution in support of reform of community facilities regulations in the NYC Zoning Resolution.

Presenter: Steve Strauss, resident of Board 7 and Andrew Berman, Executive Director, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHIP). Eric Wilson, Department of City Planning, was also present and available for questions.

Discussion: Discussion of bonuses built into the New York City Zoning Resolution (ZR) for 'community facilities'. These bonuses apply to pure 'community facility' structures as well as to certain mixed-use structures that include 'community facility' components institutions' ability to change zoning laws "as of right."

Mr. Berman's organization is working to change the ZR to eliminate or ameliorate the bonus. "As the executive director of a neighborhood preservation committee, it has community facilities issues. Catalyzed by the construction by NYU of a student facility, the group used this glaring example of this glaring flaws to take a serious look at what we feel could be some very helpful reforms." Mr. Berman distributed background information and requests for specific zoning proposals. Hope Cohen noted the abundance of R7-2 zoning in CD7, particularly north of 96th St.; this is one zoning type that yields a particularly high bonus for 'community facilities', so the issue is of great interest to CB7.
Resolution/Outcome: Following a lengthy discussion, Richard Asche remarked that the Committee would like to be helpful to many of the objectives outlined by Mr. Strauss and Mr. Berman and proffered a letter on their behalf. There was no vote. Mr. Asche and Ms. Cohen noted that there would likely be many more discussions of this issue in the future; this was a first attempt to educate ourselves on the issue.

11. **103, 137, and 151 West 108th Street.** Committee discussion of request from Department of Housing Preservation and Development for recommendations on the disposition of city-owned properties at 103, 137, and 151 West 108th Street, which currently have active garages on them.

Presenter: Various.

Discussion: Colleague of an attorney for real estate garage operator at an undetermined address on 108th Street said his colleague's client would like to continue running his garage. Representative of West Side Federation for Senior Housing (WSFSSH), which operates Valley Lodge homeless shelter, is interested in purchasing the neighboring 151 West 108th Street site. **Donna Marie Gibbons**, executive director of Manhattan Valley Development Corporation, says her organization is considering developing moderate housing on top of garages. **Seth Brown**, a resident on 108th Street, feels it is a desolate block. He would like to see a population brought back to the block and works at the Hudson Corporation, which might be interested in the development work; he, too, would like to see affordable housing built. **Israel Blum**, owner of AJO lumber, in the neighborhood for over 40 years. Lost his lease and would like the parking lot utilized as new, larger facility for his establishment in the existing building at 137 and 151 West 108th

Street. Hope Cohen expressed doubt that the zoning of the West 108th St. sites would allow such a commercial enterprise, but said CB7 staff could look into that.

Resolution/Outcome: Co-chairs agreed that we need additional discussion of the issue and will request the appearance of HPD at next Committee meeting to describe its intentions for the process of disposition.

In general, the Committee favors an open process by HPD to elicit a variety of good ideas for usage; this is in alignment with interests expressed by WSFSSH, Ms. Gibbons, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Blum. In addition, Hope Cohen pointed out that we need physical facts about the properties, such as environmental issues for residential use, whether the floors will support additional weight, etc.

No new business. Meeting adjourned.

Committee Members Present: Janet Alvarez, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Hope Cohen, Doug Griebel. **Committee Members Absent:** Betty Katz, Lenore Norman, Melanie Radley, Ethel Sheffer, Maria Watson.

Housing Committee Minutes
Barry Rosenberg and Tom Vitullo-Martin, Co-Chairs
April 27, 2003

Meeting began at 7:00.

Barry Rosenberg and Thomas Vitullo-Martin, co-chairs
Jean Green Dorsey, who had invited our guests, greeted them.
Ann Cunningham, public member

About 25 residents of CB7 present

The special guests for this meeting were HPD Deputy Commissioner for Development William Traylor and two senior members of his staff. Traylor also hold the title Senior Vice President for Public Finance of the Housing Development Corporation, evidence of the rethinking in the Bloomberg administration about how to best leverage private funds for the development of affordable housing. Joining him in the presentation of the administration's new plan was Assistant Commissioner for Neighborhood Planning, Chris Cirillo, and Director of Strategic Planning William Carbine.

William Traylor:

The Administration has allocated \$3 billion in the current budget for expanding of new housing units and the redevelopment of existing units as affordable housing. Of that total, \$500 million in funds has become available by refocusing HUD CDBG funds (Federal Community Development Block Grants to the city) on new and renovated affordable housing and, with those funds, leveraging \$500 million in Housing Development Corp funds. The CDBG funds, in the past, were almost entirely consumed by the city's wasteful and inefficient maintenance of 90,000 mostly scattered units of in rem housing—buildings taken by the city mostly in the 1970s and early 80s for tax arrears. The Giuliani administration made the elimination of this “inventory” a priority of his housing policy, and today the city holds only 6,000 units, and is continuing to divest itself of these. Many of these units were converted into affordable housing owned by tenant co-ops, by not for profit organizations, and by private for profit companies.

The city is handicapped in developing new affordable housing units.

- No large tracks of undeveloped land suitable for housing development remain.
- No large numbers of buildings available for redevelopment has affordable housing.

The city is now looking, therefore, at selective rezoning of private land where that would encourage housing. For example, it is looking at derelict and underutilized manufacturing districts as targets for rezoning. This policy will be controversial.

HPD is also looking at resources under city control, and not just land HPD already owns. It is now talking to other agencies, under the Mayor's direction. For example, it has begun discussions with NYCHA; the Department of Education It is looking for city and state collaborations.

Chris Cirillo:

We are looking at neighborhoods holistically to create affordable housing. We are looking at the for profit and the not-for-profit sectors, to encourage a full range of low and moderate-income development. [In \$ terms, low and moderate equals 80 percent to 250 percent of the median area income, which was \$52,800 in 2002. My office will be involved in encouraging City Planning to rezone undeveloped property, for example.

We need to be more strategic. We are looking at land held by different city and state agencies to be used for affordable housing. We are looking at private vacant land and buildings that could be used for housing if the zoning were changed. We are going to be using these kinds of tools to advance WT's housing development goals.

There are three principal programs involved:

- New home owners programs: we will help people become owners of 1-4 flats. There are grants available for new home ownership, up to \$10,000. People in your community should be applying for these.
- Special needs and supportive housing programs: these are buildings like the very successful Euclid Hall or Capital Hall in your community.
- Programs of support for multi-family rental and co-op housing of 6 units or more.

William Carbine:

My Office of Strategic Planning has the primary responsibility to “get things up and running.” I am charged with laying out how we get to our housing goals in this plan. The Administration plan is to create 65,000 units of affordable housing in the five years beginning in July 1, 2004. Of this total, 27,000 units will be new housing, and 38,000 units will be rehabilitated housing.

Questions from the floor:

We are concerned about losing affordable housing on the West Side. Owners are emptying SRO hotels because of the lucrative incentives from the city programs for the homeless that rent those rooms for up to \$3,000 per month.

Additional question from Barry Rosenberg, co-chair:

We can identify the buildings in our community that are under the gun, that are being targeted, or are likely to be targeted, for this treatment. We can identify owners who specialize in these activities.

Also, we have in our community a large number of Mitchell-Lama programs that are now being phased out. We need some help with this, or these apartments will be lost for affordable housing. We would like to see programs that help these tenants get an equity position.

We have serious problems with the rents under rent control and rent stabilization as well. These rents (as the Committee to Protect Rent Controlled Tenants has pointed out) are now reaching levels of 50 percent or more of a tenant's income. Thus under these programs, rents are no longer affordable. Further, in our community few apartments that turn over remain in the program. Most become market rent apartments, and the market rents are beyond affordable levels.

Finally, we look at NYCHA land, and we see a huge waste of space—large parking lots given to cars instead of housing. Long stretches along our avenues that are simply fenced land when they could become stores with apartments above, or be used for similar projects. So there is a great deal of land in our community that we think should be reprogrammed for housing.

Can you respond to these points?

William Traylor:

We would like to work with you to identify these kinds of opportunities. Some of the items you mention are on our agenda; they fall in the area of Development. Others are outside our area, but things that need to be drawn into our planning process.

The more that we can control agenda outcomes, the more that can happen. For example, with NYCHA, some of the property that seems like it could be put to better use requires that we deal with the Federal government—HUD. It can be done, but we need help from your Senators and Representatives to get some of it done. We are working with NYCHA right now in the South Bronx on a new home ownership project, and that could be done here.

Cecelia:

We are concerned that the city is putting homeless families and individuals into apartment in buildings that have many violations. It is as if the city is partnering with bad landlords.

Thomas Vitullo-Martin:

The community is concerned that the city is not only encouraging the emptying of the SROs with its programs for homeless placement. It is also not enforcing its code violations in building where it is paying owners very high rents.

But even more globally, there are many SROs in our community that were emptied of their long-term tenants, and turned into boutique hotels, with mortgages that paid for the upgrades of the rooms and utilities, etc. Now those hotels are failing, or would have failed, because there are not tourists. We would have wished the city would step in and buy those buildings, which would be for sale under some distress, for affordable housing. Instead of doing that, the city is placing programs in those buildings that actually save the owner, and pay in monthly rent far more than the hotel would have collected on the open market, if that market had remained strong for tourist hotel rooms. Couldn't some of that \$3000 per month per room be used to pay for the capital costs of acquiring the building? Are you doing this kind of opportunistic strategic thinking?

William Traylor:

Those rents are high, but they are also federal funds that are limited both in the duration of use, and how we can use them.

Ann Cunningham:

Conditions in the SROs are very bad. The owners are turning over the apartments quickly. The long-term tenants are being driven out. There are many illegal contractors and illegal construction going on in these buildings. That is the Department of Buildings problem. But there needs to be an overall effort by HPD.

HPD has some responsibility for the long time, rent stabilized tenants. These tenants do not want to live in the middle of a supported housing program, or a special needs building. They need to find housing in new SROs. Does the city have any programs for creating new SROs—given all the ones that it is, in effect, closing?

William Traylor:

In regard to the building code violation part of your question, that of course belongs to the Department of Buildings. The city is creating a new, streamlined building code that should make enforcement much easier, and we are working with the Department of Buildings.

Barry Rosenberg:

How do we get more affordable housing in our community?