

**Full Board Meeting  
Lawrence Horowitz, Chair  
October 2, 2001**

First Vice Chair Melanie Wymore called the meeting to order and began with a moment of silence for the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Session**

Joann Janhell, St. Agnes Library, announced upcoming book sale.

Dean Smith, Bloomingdale Library, announced that the library has been involved in the aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup> and emphasized on tolerance.

Nakia Howell, Talbot Perkins, reported on the need to find families for foster care.

Phyllis Gunther remembered her husband and former Board Member Edwin Gunther.

Roni Watman reported that 22 students and staff from School District #3 lost family members on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Experts in trauma have been brought into the school district. Scores continue to rise.

Martha Tucker, Ryan Center, said crisis response teams are available in aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup>. For further information contact (212) 769-7200.

Ron Kapon, reported that crime in the 20<sup>th</sup> Precinct is down 11%.

Brad Usher, State Senator Duane's Office, extended thanks to all New Yorkers.

Aaron Lowenstein, Councilmember Reed's Office, commented on the re-election of the Councilmember.

Doug Griebel, Columbus Avenue BID, announced the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Merchant Fair.

Dwight Jordan, West Side YMCA, announced the creation of a brochure to help parents speak with children regarding the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. For more information call (212) 875-4100.

David Harris commented on the Board's visit to the local Fire Houses to show support.

**Legislators' Reports**

Assemblyman Scott Stringer thanked the community and the Board for their support.

**Business Session**

**Land Use Committee**

**Co-Chair: Richard Asche**

1. Resolution to approve the application to the Board of Standards and Appeals, BSA 289-86 BZ, by The Abraham Joshua Heschel School, 20 West End Avenue, to amend the previously approved special permit to allow the expansion of a high school in a M1-6 zone. The School bought the McBurney School Building and seeks to renovate the building and add approximately 17,280 sq. ft. by the addition of one floor to the building was adopted: 34-0-0-0.

**Housing Committee**

**Co-Chairs: Beth Berns and Tom Vitullo-Martin**

**Joint with Land Use Committee**

**Co-Chair: Richard Asche**

2. Resolution to approve the application by the Department of Housing, Preservation and Development to the Department of City Planning:

A) To designate 55-57 West 109<sup>th</sup> Street, 215-17 Manhattan Avenue and 352 Cathedral Parkway as an Urban Development Action Area, and to designate an Urban Development Action Area Project for such area; and

B) To facilitate construction of a 9- and 13-story building, tentatively known as Cathedral Gardens, with approximately 112 units of housing, dormitory units and other community facility space, with amendments, was adopted: 35-2-2-0.

## **Housing Committee**

**Co-Chairs: Beth Berns and Tom Vitullo-Martin**

3. Resolution to approve Platform statement of Housing First! was adopted: 33-4-2-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

*Present:* Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Janet Alvarez, Richard Ashce, Annette Averette, Peter Bailey, Beth Berns, Gale Brewer, Steve Carbo, Dan Cohen, Hope Cohen, Georgette Gittens, Guillermo Gonzalez, Jean Green-Dorsey, Doug Griebel, Phyllis Gunther, David Harris, John D. Howell, Betty Katz, Barbara Keleman, Marc Landis, William Meyers, Eric Nelson, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Oscar Rios, Barry Rosenberg, Ethel Sheffer, Elizabeth Starkey, Patricia Stevens, Evelyn Tamarin, Barbara Van Buren, Melanie Wymore, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Robert Zuckerman, Daniel Zweig.

*Absent:* Sheldon Fine, Robert Herrmann, Larry Horowitz, Joyce Johnson, William Meyers, George Price, Melanie Radley, Helen Rosenthal, Hector Santana, Erana Stennett, Tom Vitullo-Martin, D. Maria Watson.

**Parks, Cultural Affairs and Libraries Committee**  
**Co-Chairs: Barbara Adler and Bob Herrmann**  
**October 11, 2001**

Called to order by Co-Chair Robert Herrmann at 7:15PM.

Members Attending: Betty Katz, Klari Neuwelt, Barry Rosenberg, and Doug Griebel.

**1. Presentation by the NYC Department of Parks- Rob Redmond of the Department and Claire Durdley a Landscape Architect for the Department- on P.S. 199 reconstruction of Playground 70, West 70<sup>th</sup> as a "Playground for all Children".**

Emphasis on making playground accessible/useable by all children including those with special needs/disabilities and their parents/caregivers by such things as ramped play units, adjustable basketball backboards and wider doors at the comfort station. A popular below grade shower/spray will also be added as well as expanded gardening/green space to go along with the color-plated asphalt Garry Retells, a parent as well as Jo Dilenbeck-health coordinator for school district #3 spoke strongly in favor of the plan. Mr. Retells mentioned that approximately \$150,000 of the \$1M budget was privately raise with file balance coming from Manhattan Bor. Pres. Fields' and Councilwoman Eldridge's offices respectfully. Timetable: Drawings by the end of 2001, contractor bids by March/April 2002, and majority of the work, particularly the surface areas to be done between June and August 2002 as it would not be closed during the school year.

Ms. Neuwelt made a motion to support, seconded by Ms. Katz and the motion passed 5-0-0, 0-0-0, and with the public 1-0-0.

**2. Riverside Park- Soldiers and Sailors Monument scope of work for its restoration-** presentation by Mr. Charles McKinney- discussion of the project and expression from the committee for its need. Comfort station would remain closed at this time. City Hall style benches to be used here. Designer is David Dew Bruner who was privately funded. Budget is approximately 1.2M of which \$500,000 comes from the Riverside Park Fund.

Ms. Neuwelt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Katz to support the presentation. Motion carried 5-0-0, 0-0-0, and the public 1-0-0.

**3. Riverside Drive- Restoration Riverside Drive from 79<sup>th</sup> to 87<sup>th</sup> Streets.** Continuation of project begun at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street Expression of great need for this work from the committee. This area would have a bench from its era – not the City Hall bench as above.

Motion by Ms. Neuwelt seconded by Mr. Griebel to support passed 5-0-0-, 0-0-0, and with the public 1-0-0.

4. The Committee, speaking for all members, wanted to strongly express their appreciation to Mr. Charles McKinney for his outstanding and dedicated 15<sup>th</sup> year career working with Community Board 7 as this was his last meeting. Mr. McKenney starts a new position with the Doris Duke Foundation managing their 2,700-acre park in New Jersey. Members expressed their congratulations and good wishes.

The meeting adjourned at 8 15 PM. Minutes submitted by Doug Griebel.

**Land Use Committee**  
**Co-Chairs: Richard Asche, Hope Cohen**  
**October 17, 2001**

**1. 519 Columbus Avenue**

Turgut Balikci, owner, presented the renewal application for an unenclosed sidewalk café.

The Committee adopted the following resolution:

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the renewal application DCA# 0928022 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 519 Columbus Restaurant Corp. d/b/a La Bicyclette Restaurant at 519 Columbus Avenue (West 84<sup>th</sup>–85<sup>th</sup> Streets), for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 11 tables and 22 seats.*

Committee Member vote: 2-0-0-0

**2. 513 Columbus Avenue**

Luis Zayas, representative, presented the renewal application for an unenclosed sidewalk café.

The Committee adopted the following resolution:

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the renewal application DCA# 1007182 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Wilson and Raul Restaurant Corp. d/b/a Café Rocchetta at 513 Columbus Avenue (West 84<sup>th</sup>–85<sup>th</sup> Streets), for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 18 tables and 38 seats.*

Committee Member vote: 2-0-0-0

**3. 267 Columbus Avenue**

Emile Akleh, owner, presented the renewal application for an unenclosed sidewalk café. Hope Cohen noted that the café has been operating without waiter service. The applicant acknowledged this and reported that the establishment had been temporarily without waiter service, but that it had been restored. The Committee decided to observe for itself whether the café now has waiter service and if so, to caucus before the meeting of the full Board and endorse a resolution of approval at that time.

**4. 2161 Broadway**

Sheridan Kern, manager, presented the renewal application for an unenclosed sidewalk café.

The Committee adopted the following resolution:

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the renewal application DCA# 0917301 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Broadway 76 Ltd., d/b/a Niko's Mediterranean Grill & Bistro at 2161 Broadway (West 76<sup>th</sup> Street), for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 12 seats.*

Committee Member vote: 4-0-0-0

**5. 2161 Broadway**

Sheridan Kern, manager, presented the renewal application for an enclosed sidewalk café.

The Committee adopted the following resolution:

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the renewal application DCA# 0917302 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Broadway 76 Ltd., d/b/a Niko's Mediterranean Grill & Bistro at 2161 Broadway (West 76<sup>th</sup> Street), for a five-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 15 tables and 30 seats.*

Committee Member vote: 3-1-0-0

## 6. 269 Columbus Avenue

The applicant did not appear.

The Committee adopted the following resolution:

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the renewal application DCA# 695954 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 269 Columbus Restaurant Corp. d/b/a The City Grill at 269 Columbus Avenue (West 72<sup>nd</sup>-73<sup>rd</sup> Streets), for a five-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 16 tables and 34 seats.*

Committee Member vote: 4-0-1-0 Board Member vote: 1-0-1-0 Public Member vote: 1-0-0-0

## 7. 168-170 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street, aka 165-167 West 78<sup>th</sup> Street

Sybil Pollet presented the application being made to the Board of Standards & Appeals (BSA) for a special permit by Congregation Rodeph Sholom to allow expansion of its school facility on West 79<sup>th</sup> Street. (The West 79<sup>th</sup> Street facility is connected to school facilities on West 78<sup>th</sup> Street, but the application is to enlarge and reconfigure the West 79<sup>th</sup> Street building only.)

The proposal is to add 3600 ft<sup>2</sup> to the facility to allow the school to expand to include students in Grade 7 and Grade 8. The school would add two stories (each 36' wide and 27' deep) to the existing one-story encroachment in the rear yard; this would create 2400 ft<sup>2</sup>. The existing 45' rear yard predates zoning requirements for a 60' rear yard. The school also proposes to split the height of the existing gymnasium, creating an additional floor of 1200 ft<sup>2</sup>. Moreover, the very fact of the enlargement itself requires a special permit.

Approximately 15 members of the community attended the meeting. Several voiced complaints about the noise generated by the school's current air conditioning system and were very concerned about the installation of a new, bigger system. Representatives of the school agreed to change the hours of air-conditioning operations from 6am-11pm to 7am-9pm. Richard Asche noted that the school would have to fix the current noise problem before Community Board 7 could consider more air conditioning equipment for the facility.

Having no time pressure from BSA, the Committee urged the applicant to continue to reach out to its neighbors and to return to the Committee with further information on plans for mechanical equipment that would be installed on the roof of the school.

## 8. Sidewalk café 'spot checks'

In response to a suggestion by Board Member Daniel Zweig, the Committee will develop a form letter to inform sidewalk café operators of results of Board 'spot checks' of café compliance with regulations. Hope Cohen will draft the form letter and distribute it at the November meeting of the Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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**Land Use Committee Members Present:** Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Hope Cohen, Betty Katz, Lenore Norman. **Land Use Committee Members Absent:** Doug Griebel, Ethel Sheffer, Maria Watson. **Board Members Present:** Beth Berns, Evelyn Tamarin.

**Landmarks Committee**  
**Co-Chairs: Lenore Norman and Erana Stennett**  
**October 18, 2001**

**Present:** Lenore Norman, Dan Cohen, Bill Meyers, Ulma Jones, Patricia Stevens.

**Absent:** Erana Stennett.

The first two agenda items did not appear so the committee entertained new business first and discussed the following: Parvati Devi, a resident of 90<sup>th</sup> St., in a landmark building. Concerns that they Landlord is warehousing apartments. This is not in our purview and it was recommended that she contact HPD.

Dan Cohen, liaison to LPC/Manhattan Avenue Historic District project reported that LPC is interested in seeing the proposed designs go forward. A letter had been sent to neighborhood residents to survey interest. Six neighbors signed on. Another letter will be sent to community. Dan Cohen will continue to act as liaison to the Manhattan Avenue Community.

Re: P.S. 65- The Principal supports proposed designation of the school building. Dan Cohen will contact LPC to ascertain their interest.

Committee members received a letter of complaint from a neighbor of Rodeph Shalom asserting that the community had not been given enough notice about the addition to the school. Minutes from past meetings indicate that CB7 had been assured that ample notice was given.

The possibility of rescheduling the landmarks committee meeting was raised. Depending upon availability of meeting space and schedules of committee members; this is under consideration.

Bill Meyers agreed to represent the Landmarks Committee on CB7's budget committee.

**455 Central Park West (Towers)**

Peter Bafitis, Architect, Joan Berkowitz, Architectural Conservator, Jay Siegel, attorney presented the proposed changes in the application for the Towers Nursing Home.

There are five items being considered presently:

1. Proposed use of artificial slate for the roof.

Original plan submitted called for real slate but cost is a factor. Real slate would cost approximately \$200,000 more. The artificial materials is mineral fiber content and, according to architects, looks closest to original- in terms of thickness and crenelated edges. Old slate has character and color. New slate looks flat and resembles tarpaper.

Community comments as follows:

Tom Jaeger: Builder is obligated to restore building and money should not be a factor. Concerns that new materials will wear as well? The architect indicated that the product has a 50 year warranty.

Ira Marks: The difference between the two slates is glaring. Builder agreed to restore the building in order to build the high rise. Teddy Pearlman, Ben Jenera and Inga Wagner: all seconded their neighbor's remarks.

## 2. Windows

New Plan calls for double hung windows that are a combination of metal and wood. The old wood would be replicated and the metal framework/sash would be painted the same color as the wood. The dimensions would be historically correct. Each window is 6.5 x 9.5.  
Ira Marks concerned again was how well the metal wear?

## 3. Railings

Parapet railings are required by landmarking code to be installed on all flat areas of the roof, which are for egress and not recreation. The architect has been encouraged by LPC to make the railings as transparent as possible. They will be 45 inches high and of painted black metal and mesh.

Landmarks West: They believe the proposed railing is over-designed--prefer a picket-type.  
Peter: Original was picket but LPC wants railings similar to Delmonico's railings.

## 4. Dormer Window

Currently window is hidden behind chapel wing- and is a "dead window". Builder proposes to move the window 10 feet to the east for light and air. This window will look like the dormer windows in the courtyard and is not as ornate as other windows on this side of the building.  
Landmark West believes it is unnecessary to move the dormer. The window has been obscured for 100 years, it is part of the original fabric.

## 5. Infill

Proposal is to fill in the arched openings with glass to create living space in what is now a basement. Glass will be set back in arches as far as possible. Most arches are below grade.

Landmarks West: Thinks this is non-controversial but other proposals are not. Since the builder was given permission to build the high rise, this building should be restored and the contractor's financial problems are not our concern.

The committee voted on each item separately.

Roof Slate: Committee, 0-5-0-0; Public: 1-1-0-0

Windows: Committee, 5-0-0-0; Public 2-0-0-0

Parapet Railings: Committee, 5-0-0-0; Public: 2-0-0-0

Dormer Window: Committee: 4-1-0-0 Public: 1-1-0-0

Infill: Committee: 5-0-0-0; Public: 2-0-0-0

The last order of business was a discussion of letter sent to the committee regarding an eruv that was put up on RSD from 72nd to 79th Street, without permission.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Stevens

**Health Committee**  
**Co-Chairs: David Harris and Barbara Van Buren**  
**October 23, 2001**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) made a presentation to discuss Federal resources available to community residents in response to the September 11<sup>th</sup> event. Anyone in need of assistance was urged to apply for help at 800-462-9029. FEMA also mentioned that they would be present at the November full board meeting.

Carmen Perez from the Commission on the Public's Health System shared a report, "Sinking to the Bottom Line," showing that HHC has been hard hit by a variety of forces over last decade. She informed the committee on what they were doing to assist the uninsured and training of the community organization to assist. She also discussed the proposed charter revision on the November 6<sup>th</sup> ballot regarding the merging of DOH and DMHMRAS.

Discussion of agenda items for year moving forward. Suggestions included:

Mental health - access, fallout from 9/11

Outreach to the community

Domestic violence

Elderly - NORCs and transportation issues

Domestic violence

Health/sex ed./teens

Child Health Plus/Family Health Plus

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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