

COMMUNITY BOARD 7/MANHATTAN JUNE 2001 RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION

Date: June 5, 2001

Committee of Origin: West 59th Street Recreation Center Task Force

Re: Final Report and recommended alternative for the redevelopment of the Department of Parks and Recreation's West 59th Street Recreation Center.

Full Board Vote: 44 In Favor 0 Against 2 Abstentions 1 Present

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan adopts the Final Report and Recommendations of the West 59th Street Recreation Center Task Force.

West 59th Street Recreation Center Task Force Executive Summary

Initial investigations of the Task Force indicate that the community surrounding the 59th Street Recreation Center site is in great need of a public recreation facility that can serve local schools, youth, seniors, and adults residing in the area. This need is reinforced by several factors:

- At least four public schools lack facilities to carry out physical education requirements;**
- The growing senior population requires a destination for fitness and social programs;**
- Several developments will increase area density and the need for public recreation sites;**
- Long-standing local residents lack adequate recreational and swimming opportunities;**
- No alternative public facility exists within the service area.**

Preliminary findings also indicate that, in its current configuration, the 59th Street Recreation Center does not adequately meet the needs of its community. Usage has declined sharply since 1990 along with facility conditions. While the facility is in extreme disrepair and does not comply with City regulations (access to disabled people, asbestos, HVAC ventilation, or fire safety), it also suffers from a poor internal layout that inhibits

effective maintenance and use of available space. Immediate steps should be taken to:

- Reconfigure Center Interior and Access-ways;
- Reconfigure building to enable access to program areas without entering locker rooms;
- Provide dressing areas to accommodate families with young children;
- Perform Cosmetic Overhaul - Repair plumbing, paint, refinish floors, repair ceilings;
- Ensure NYC and ADA Code Compliance (with separate funds).

Additionally, substantial feedback from organizations and individuals within the service area indicates a strong need for a public recreation outlet that offers two critical features:

- 1) A full-court gymnasium to accommodate sports and physical education programs;
- 2) An official-size pool to accommodate public swimming in addition to water safety instruction.

The Task Force sought to identify feasible alternatives to serve various needs of the community. Four alternatives were considered, ranging from simple reconfiguration of the existing facility and modest expansion of the lobby area to complete demolition of the existing facility and construction of an urban center with residential housing.

The Task Force recommends pursuit of a “hybrid” option, that is, upgrading and expanding the facility to include a new full-court gymnasium as well as a second competition-size pool. This alternative is estimated to cost \$20 - \$25 Million.

Finally, the Task Force recommends that the Department of City Planning allocate the \$2.65 Million currently tagged for the 59th Street Recreation Center as follows:

1) Commission an architect (\$75K) to accomplish the following tasks by 15 December 2001:

- a. Develop a detailed architectural specification for the "hybrid" option, including presentation materials;
- b. Develop an accurate cost estimate for the "hybrid" option;
- c. Develop a phased implementation plan for the "hybrid" option, including recommendations for immediate deployment of available funds.

2) Commission a fund development consultant (\$25K) to create a fund-raising plan for the "hybrid" option by 15 December 2001.

3) Hold remaining funds (\$2.55 Million) in escrow until 15 December 2001, pending consultant/task force recommendations.

The Task Force recognizes a need to utilize currently available funds for immediate improvements to the center. Several short-term projects could be considered in the context of a phased architectural plan for the "hybrid" option. These projects include:

- Purchase of new fitness equipment;
- Cosmetic improvement to existing locker rooms and showers;
- Restructuring of interior layout to improve traffic flow.

It should be noted that the Task Force does not support use of currently tagged funds to address issues of building code conformance (access to disabled people, asbestos, HVAC, and fire safety), building maintenance, or program planning. These issues should be addressed by the Department of Parks and Recreation as part of normal operations, not out of monies obtained by the community explicitly for the enhancement of a public facility.

RESOLUTION

Date: June 5, 2001

Committee of Origin: Landmarks

Re: 302 West 91st Street.

Full Board Vote: 38 In Favor 0 Against 0 Abstention 0 Present

WHEREAS, the architects are moving forward on the commendable goal of making the Greek Orthodox Church on West 91st Street accessible to the physically disabled; and

WHEREAS, the alterations are impacting the West 91st Street side of the church, and not the main facade, preserving the cultural integrity of the religious landmark; and

WHEREAS, the architects have made an effort to soften the impact of the design by facing the ramp with a synthetic material that will copy the color and texture of the church stone façade; and

WHEREAS, the architects for the project have agreed to alter the design of the metal pickets of the ramp so that they are installed at regular and equal intervals, lining up with the vertical stonework of the church façade to increase the symmetry, even if it requires lengthening the midpoint ramp landing;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan approves application #0152382 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to construct a barrier-free access ramp.

Committee: 3-0-0-0.

RESOLUTION

Date: June 5, 2001

Committee of Origin: Landmarks

Re: 189 Columbus Avenue.

Full Board Vote: In Favor Against Abstentions Present

See Substitute resolution below.

WHEREAS, the Upper West Side is inundated with too much "street furniture" which renders sidewalks nearly impassible; and

WHEREAS, an excess of pay telephones is a significant part of this problem on the Upper West Side; and

WHEREAS, there are no less than 5 public phones on the same block; and

WHEREAS, the phones have been installed at the building line and are heavily used, and WHEREAS, this application would relocate them to the curb side where they will be legally compliant; and

WHEREAS, the design for the phones are NOT of the "spaceship" prototype, which is especially ugly; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan approves application #995062 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to legalize the installation of two pay phones at the curb.

Committee: 3-1-0-0.

RESOLUTION

Date: June 5, 2001

Committee of Origin: Landmarks

Re: 189 Columbus Avenue.

Full Board Vote: 29 In Favor 4 Against 5 Abstentions 0 Present

WHEREAS, the practical effect of moving the two phones without advertising from in front of 189 Columbus to the curb is to increase public pay phone advertising in the Upper West Side Historic District;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan disapproves application #995062 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for the installation of two pay phones at the curb.

RESOLUTION

Date: June 5, 2001

Committee of Origin: Land Use

Re: Diwan's Curry House, 302 Columbus Avenue.

Full Board Vote: 31 In Favor 1 Against 1 Abstention 0 Present

WHEREAS, the applicant has agreed to keep the cafe's width at 9 feet;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan approves the new application DCA# 1077541 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Janine's Place Inc., d/b/a Diwan's Curry House at 302 Columbus Avenue,

for a one-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 13 seats.

Committee: 5-0-0-0.

RESOLUTION

Date: June 5, 2001

Committee of Origin: Land Use

Re: Silver Moon Bakery, 2740 Broadway.

Full Board Vote: Return to Committee.

WHEREAS, the Silver Moon Bakery was established as a bakery and retail store set up to bake and sell a variety of baked goods to its clients and has provided only three small tables inside as a convenience to its clients to eat "take-out" pastry on the premises; and

WHEREAS, the interiors premises is too small and too busy to add more tables or to permit waiter service; and

WHEREAS, the owner/operator has no experience in providing either waiter service or accommodating customers with the requisite china and glassware for outdoor service although the owners/operators have guaranteed and will provide written assurance that they will provide both a staff person to function as a waiter and another as a dishwasher; and

WHEREAS, the application would permit the owner to in effect operate a wrap around restaurant on the exterior of the premises while reserving the interior for primarily production and retail functions which would be a precedent for a CB7 outdoor cafe permit, which assumes the primary business of the owner is the restaurant business;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan disapproves the new application

DCA#1073294 to the Department Consumer Affairs by Silver Moon Bakery, Inc. d/b/a Silver Moon Bakery at 2740 Broadway, for a one-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 9 tables and 36 seats.

Committee: 2-2-1-0. Board Members: 0-1-0-0.

RESOLUTION

Date: June 5, 2001

Committee of Origin: Land Use

Re: La Cocina Mexica, 217 West 85th Street.

Full Board Vote: Return to Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan approves the renewal application DCA#914984 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by La Cocina Mexican Inc., d/b/a La Cocina Mexica at 217 West 85th Street, for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 5 tables and 13 seats, conditional on receipt of a letter outlining the owner's agreement to police his delivery people and provide a bike rack.

Committee: 4-1-0-1.

RESOLUTION

Date: June 5, 2001

Committee of Origin: Land Use

Re: Manhattan Diner, 2180 Broadway.

Full Board Vote: 36 In Favor 4 Against 1 Abstention 0 Present

WHEREAS, the owner has agreed to prohibit his employees from parking delivery bicycles on the sidewalks adjacent to the restaurant; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 7/Manhattan wants to monitor this agreement for one year;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan approves renewal application DCA# 1021206 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 2180 Broadway Restaurant Inc. d/b/a Manhattan Diner at 2180 Broadway, for a one-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 18 tables and 38 seats.

Committee: 5-0-0-0. Board members: 1-0-0-0.

RESOLUTION

Date: June 5, 2001

Committee of Origin: Parks, Cultural Affairs and Libraries

Re: Proposed location for the Alfred Nobel Monument in Theodore Roosevelt Park.

Full Board Vote: 23 In Favor 15 Against 1 Abstention 0 Present

WHEREAS, after considering several sites for the Alfred Nobel Monument, the design of which Community Board 7 approved over a year ago; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Recreation has thoroughly explored all possible placement locations within Theodore Roosevelt Park, and has asked to place the monument on the Columbus Avenue side of the park; and

WHEREAS, the location is between West 79th and West 80th Streets, at the convergence of three paths ringed by benches, in an appropriately open and paved area near the stairs leading to the Arthur Ross terrace; and

WHEREAS, since considering the monument for this specific site, its width has been reduced by a foot to a 4' diameter, and its size has been lowered by two feet, making it 17' tall; and

WHEREAS, the new location will make the monument readily accessible to both adult and children museum-goers, as well as others, and is well-suited here for several reasons including that the American Museum of Natural History is a world-renowned scientific institution appropriate to such a monument; Theodore Roosevelt, for whom the park is named, was the first recipient of the Nobel Prize (and Margaret Mead was a recipient as well); and the monument itself celebrates all the American Nobel Prize laureates and intellectual, scientific, and literary achievements befitting the placement near this Museum; and

WHEREAS, the gift of this monument by the Merck Foundation through the Swedish government includes all costs associated with installation and upkeep;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan approves the proposed location to install the Alfred Nobel monument inside Theodore Roosevelt Park on the Columbus Avenue side of the park, between West 79th and West 80th Streets, adjacent to the stairway leading to the Arthur Ross Terrace.

Committee: 4-2-0-0. Board Members: 0-2-0-0. Public Members: 0-3-3-0.

RESOLUTION

Date: June 5, 2001

Committee of Origin: Parks, Cultural Affairs and Libraries

Re: Proposed installation of Voss Finn's dragonfly dome sculpture from June to October 2001 at the end of Pier I in Riverside Park South.

Full Board Vote: 0 In Favor 29 Against 1 Abstention 0 Present

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Recreation has been offered the opportunity by the sculptor Voss Finn to have his dragonfly dome sculpture in Riverside Park South on the new pier from June through October 2001;

WHEREAS, the sculpture would go towards the end of the pier in a niche which is suitable for sculpture;

WHEREAS, the sculptor in accordance with the Department of Parks and Recreation's rules and regulations will be required to maintain the appropriate insurance and provide any maintenance of the sculpture;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan approves the design and location of the sculpture.

Committee: 3-2-0-0.

THE RESOLUTION WAS NOT ADOPTED. THE PARKS DEPARTMENT STATED IT WOULD FIND ANOTHER LOCATION, AND A SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION WAS NOT PRESENTED.

RESOLUTION

Date: June 5, 2001

Committee of Origin: Transportation

Re: Livery cab drivers.

Full Board Vote: 30 In Favor 0 Against 1 Abstention 1 Present

WHEREAS, the majority of city residents do not have access to yellow cab service, and

WHEREAS, livery cabs are now prevented by law from picking up hails on the streets, and

WHEREAS, the livery cab industry has agreed to make many improvements in return for the right to pick up hails in selected parts of the city, but specifically excluding Manhattan south of 96th Street, downtown Brooklyn, Astoria, Staten Island, and the airports;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan supports the bill proposed by Councilmembers Ronnie Eldridge and Guillermo Linares allowing livery cabs to accept street hails.

Transportation Committee: 6-0-0-0. Board members: 4-0-0-0. Public Members: 1-0-0-0.

Steering Committee: 6-0-0-0.