



Full Board Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2016

Community Board 7/Manhattan's Full Board met on Tuesday, June 7, 2016, in Lowenstein Hall at Fordham University's Lincoln Center Campus, Columbus Avenue at West 60th Street, in the District. Chair Elizabeth R. Caputo called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm after the Secretary confirmed the existence of a quorum.

The following matters were discussed and actions taken.

Minutes from the May 3, 2016, full Board meeting were **approved**.

VOTE: 25-0-0-0.

Chair's Report: Elizabeth R. Caputo

- The unveiling of the secondary street renaming of West 103rd Street in honor of Norman Rockwell will take place Thursday, June 9th at 140 West 103rd Street, between 2:30-5:00 pm. The renaming was a project of students at nearby Reynolds/West Side High School, who researched the artist and the procedure for street renaming, testified at CB7 and City Council, and secured the active support of the director of the Norman Rockwell Museum in Massachusetts.
- Proposal to change direction of certain streets between West 60th-67th Streets West of Columbus Avenue will be discussed at the Transportation committee on Tuesday, June 14th at 7:00 pm.
- Concerns regarding the implementation of the Amsterdam Avenue street redesign will also be heard at the Transportation Committee on Tuesday, June 14th.
- The leaders of the task forces on the Bloomingdale Playground (Catherine DeLazzero) and on Public Housing (Madelyn Innocent and Genora Johnson) will be available to answer questions.

Community Session

Dr. Cary Goodman:

- Renewing criticism that for the 6th consecutive month, CB7's agenda does not include the proposed AMNH building addition.
- The proposed AMNH addition will be the same size as the new Whitney Downtown museum.
- Estimated need of 93 trillion BTUs to heat/cool the new building.
- Concern that attracting another 800,000 visitors to AMNH will not benefit the community.
- Concern that blasting required to construct the building will release toxins and be disruptive.

William Raudenbush:

- Calling on the community and CB7 members not to be silent about the proposed AMNH project.
- Community should have had input long before money was spent on lobbyists or funding secured.



Richard Barr:

- Concern that the Mayor's text amendments entitled Zoning for Quality and Affordability and Mandatory Inclusionary Housing were adopted by the City Council with only slight modifications to the proposals that were rejected by virtually every Community Board.
- Community Boards whose opposition was ignored should push back.
- Concern for the disappearance of mom and pop stores – Ruth Messinger and Ronnie Eldridge carried bills for commercial rent control – never came to the floor – should revisit these ideas.

Penelope Maguffin:

- Construction crane and vehicles are blocking the bus stop at West End Avenue and West 61st.
- Bus passengers are being re-routed and exposed to traffic dangers.
- Construction workers not sympathetic.
- MTA voicemail menu did not offer an option to lodge a complaint or concern.

Jennifer Zarre, St. Agnes branch NYPL:

- NY Philharmonic will perform with Ling Ling Tuesday 6/14.
- Funding for all NYC public libraries is still far below FY2008 levels. Maintaining current staffing requires a year-to-year Council budget restoration.
 - rational planning requires that funding be baselined so as to avoid the vagaries of year-to-year restorations.
 - restoring full service is still not possible unless funding is restored to pre-2008 levels.

Felipe Luciano, Department of Consumer Affairs:

- Commuter benefits law – Many employees can save up to \$400 per year on commuting costs.
- Paid sick leave – DCA provides help in claiming benefits.

Manhattan Borough President's Report, Diana Howard:

- BP Brewer testified to support increased budget for CBs above current levels and to baseline the increases.
- Seniors eligible for fresh fruit and vegetables from local sources via BP program through the Harlem office.
- Please join the Borough President in marching in the Puerto Rican Day Parade.

Reports by Elected Officials:

Helen Rosenthal, New York City Council Member (6th District):

- Murder rates significantly lower at the same time that stop-and-frisk also greatly reduced.
- Community policing has been successful.
- In the 20 and 24 precincts, the most frequent crime is grand larceny from theft of iPhones and credit cards (generally while they are unattended).
- Trying to give NYPD a category between larceny and grand larceny to allow more discretion in crime charging and reporting, and to more accurately reflect the level of safety in our District.



- Recent West Side Rag reports about a supposed recent spate of stabbings on the Upper West Side were not supported by crime statistics – errors in reporting categories.
- Commissioner Bratton is deploying new officers funded by the Council to high violent crime areas.

Reports by Representatives of Elected Officials:

Sean Fitzpatrick, Office of Council Members Helen Rosenthal (6th District):

- Housing clinic completed for the Spring – will return in the Fall.
- Small business clinic on 7/18. Opportunity for local small businesses to get advice from lawyers.
- Low/no cost bags of healthy food for seniors available in July from local farms.

Cherica DuBois, Office of Council Member Corey Johnson (4th District):

- Housing clinic at the District Office 6/14.
- LGBT Pride event 6/8 at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers.
- Adding new solar-powered "big belly" trash bins throughout the District.
- C-Ms Johnson, Rosenthal and Kallos spoke out against Intro 775's requirement of a moratorium on renewal of applications for designation of properties removed from LPC's calendar for failure to be designated within prescribed timing.

Stephanie Bello, Office of Council Member Mark Levine (7th District):

- Congratulations to the UWS on the BSA's rejection of the variance application re the former First Church of Christ Scientist at CPW and West 96th Street.
- Health Fair at Riverbank State Park.
- Free reusable bag event a success – preparing for implementation of bag bill on October 1st.

Gus Ipsen, Office of Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal (67th District):

- Actively seeking enforcement of illegal hotel law against proprietors of the Imperial Court.
- Goal is to preserve units as long-term affordable housing.
- A-M testified decrying lack of new school seats in our District in the SCA capital budget.
- A-M's bill banning tax on feminine hygiene products adopted and ready for Governor's signature.

Amanda Roberts, Office of Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell (69th District):

- Report available re the Clinton prison break in 2015.
- Affordable housing panel discussion relating to HFDC co-ops at CB9.
- Art exhibition for formerly incarcerated women.

Office of Assembly Member Richard Gottfried (75th District):

- Health care reform legislation ready for committee action.

Tara Klein, Office of State Senator Brad Hoylman (27th District):

- Sponsoring the Child Victim's Act to reform statutes of limitations for child victims of sexual harassment. Attempt to force a vote failed on party lines 30-29.



- Sponsoring the NYS Supplier Diversity Act – would support LGBT, Veteran and Disability-owned businesses by affording them a chance to bid on City procurement needs.

David Baily, Office of State Senator Adriano Espaillat (31st District):

- Supporting the Farmworkers’ bill of rights; upstate farm labor lacks many basic protections.
- Poll sites being relocated – causing havoc among voters, especially for elderly who can’t easily walk to new site.

Farhana Hassan, Office of State Senator Jose Serrano (29th District):

- LGBT Pride month – community sessions for constituents will focus on health and other benefits for LGBT constituents.

David Bocarsky, Congressman Jerrold Nadler’s Office (10th District):

- Carrying bill to ensure compensation for copyright holders
- President signed Congressman’s bill to protect trade secrets.
- Holding government agencies accountable re obligations under the USA Freedom Act.
- Mt. Sinai Hospital merger – working to preserve service during loss of beds at Beth Israel Hospital.

Adam Chen, Public Advocate Letitia James’ Office:

- Hosting screening of “Making a Living” Monday 6/27 at 6 pm at John Jay -- film profiles the total societal cost of gun availability.

Business Session

Land Use Committee

Richard Asche and Page Cowley, Co-Chairpersons

Resolution Re:

1. **555 West 59th Street, EVF Performance and Row House** (West End Avenue- Amsterdam Avenue.) Application #2016-4172-BZ to the Board and Standards Appeals by EVF Performance and Row House for the operation of a physical culture establishment in a partial sub cellar and partial first floor.

- No exceptional concerns regarding the configuration of the club.
- While the club offers cross-fit style training, no complaints about noise or vibration to date.
- Club started operation before the application was made – certain committee members objected to the sequence of the application.

*After deliberation, the resolution to **approve** was adopted.*

VOTE: 35-0-1-0.

- Land Use will meet at Booker T. Washington Middle School on 6/15 at 6:30 pm re response to proposed demolition of West 108th Street parking garages and creation of affordable housing.

Parks & Environment Committee

**Klari Neuwelt, Chairperson****Resolutions Re:**

2. Department of Parks & Recreation's proposed design for the Riverside Skate Park, 108th Street between the Promenade and the HHP.

Presentation by Ken Coughlin:

- Current skate park equipment is considered outdated and in disrepair.
- New design was intended to offer something to skaters of all ages and abilities.
- Intention to draw skaters away from abuse of Frederick Douglass and Columbus Circles.
- Parks held two scoping sessions; heard from 50 community participants.
- The entire current facility is fenced-in and open only when an attendant is present.
- 2/3 of new design's footprint will be safe enough for use without fencing and an attendant; remaining 1/3 will still require fencing and an attendant.
- New design is expected to be cheaper to maintain.
- Major funding provided by C-M Mark Levine (even though not located in his District) - \$1.1MM, plus \$350K from BP Brewer and C-M Rosenthal. Funding allowed a complete redesign.

Group presentation – Ian Clarke – Riverside Skate Park Coalition

- Acknowledged the many skaters in attendance.
- Existing Skate Park was built by Andy Kessler in 1996.
- "Awful design" – universally rejected by Coalition members.
- Was advised that input on the design was not welcome from skaters who are not local residents.
- Skaters in 2012 spent their own time, money and effort to restore the existing park.
- Concern that the design is not "balanced." Majority of the proposed design offers "street plaza" style of skating and excludes "transition" elements with deep bowls or tall half-pipes.
- Andy Kessler built a 3-tier design with low, medium and high walls and obstacle to meet needs of skaters at a variety of levels of expertise. Failing to include deep bowls/tall half pipes excludes a significant portion of the skating community.
- Should start from scratch with real skater input - Members present were eager to help with a design.
- New design should incorporate the original, balanced 3-tier skate park.
- Chelsea Piers' skate park is a model of diversity – ages from 5 to 55, of all socio-economic levels.
- Tony Hawk Foundation letter: Skate Parks do a wonderful job of attracting of people from all walks of life into a place where they can form social connections and become a part of the community. Difficult to find this "merging" anywhere else – it requires diverse terrain.
- Parks should start over and build something that will be worthy of the money and the community.

CB7 Questions:

- Q: Did the skating community have an opportunity to speak with the NYC Parks Department about the design?
- A: Skaters met with NYC Parks Department and the architect in May of 2015, but design did not conform.
- Q: Design is more akin to the skate park features in Tribeca – more plaza tricks than half-pipe. -- concern that the proposal is not balanced as it does not engage most advanced skaters.



- A: Would attract a broader spectrum of users with a design that includes street plaza and taller transition elements – proposes 1/3 street/plaza elements and 2/3 transitional bowls.
- Q: Why didn't the skaters attend the Parks & Environment Committee meeting and help work through these issues? Better venue for detailed input is at committee, not full Board.
- A: Not posted – not aware of the meeting.
- Q: How long would it take to re-design with the skaters' input?
- A: Would materially impair the on-going approval process.

CB7 Concerns:

- Should increase the height of transitional elements to make the new space “inclusionary.”
- Concern that without sufficient challenges in terrain, will not draw away skaters from Frederick Douglass Circle (skaters maintain that Frederick Douglass Circle is a “legit” spot for skating).
- Concern that skaters/users were not incorporated into the design process.
- Concerns over funding for attendant for fenced-in area are an expense, not capital budget issue.
- Delighted when new people come to our meetings.
- Not appropriate to attempt to re-design the proposal during a full Board meeting

Presentation by Margaret Bracken, Riverside Park Landscape Architect –

- Key goal of new design is to create an attractive and safe space that can equally serve the families and children in the local neighborhoods as well as the broader skating community.
- Ian Clarke was actually present for both scoping meetings, and chose not to speak at the most recent committee meeting.
- Heard from 50 attendees at the scope meeting, and listened carefully to observations and goals.
- Employed an expert design consultant (California Skate Parks) based on community feedback.
- The current park has an 11-foot half-pipe that is not well used.
- Scope meeting comments included that the current skate park, which is fenced-in and requires an attendant, is not open enough hours even after private funding and volunteer efforts to renovate it.
- Must ensure that the design serves local children and families.
- Constraints of space and budgets create a trade-off between advanced and beginner users.
- Current design was approved internally at the NYC Parks Department all the way to the Commissioner – ready to go.

A motion to return the resolution to committee (duly seconded) was adopted.

VOTE: 35-2-3-0

3. Resolution to support the installation of sculptural works created by students of the Arts Students League's in Riverside Park South.

Presentation by Meisha Hunter (chaired the committee meeting at which the issue was discussed):

- "Model to Monuments" public art display involves the display in Riverside Park South of sculptures commissioned for specific sites.
- Several site-specific installations planned beginning Summer 2016 for approximately one year.



- Artist Aaron Bell was forced to revise his design without an opportunity to be heard to defend his original design, which included an element that evoked a noose with a line through in place of the form of a human's head.
- The committee's resolution seeks to
 - supports the use of the sites selected within Riverside Park South for the display of the commissioned works (text of the printed resolution changed "Conservancy" to Parks Department)
 - oppose the imperative to Mr. Bell to change his sculpture without the opportunity to be heard to defend it
 - require the NYC Parks Department specify applicable guidelines.
- The resolution is intended to highlight that the committee was shocked by the censorship of Mr. Bell sculpture without an opportunity for him to defend the commissioned work.
- CB7 is only being asked to approve the use of park space – not to support (or withhold support) for the specific design or images included in any commissioned work.

CB7 Comments:

- Mr. Bell's sculpture "Stand Tall Stand Loud" included a rope noose at the top of human figures that symbolized opposition to lynching.
- Theme for this year's display was a "public square" – opposition to lynching seems an appropriate way to evoke and learn from the history of using of public squares for such practices.
- Shock at NYC Parks Department's approach to this censorship.
- Supports the Committee's work to bring this issue to light.
- The image with the noose as wholly inappropriate.
- Use of a noose with a line through it is intended to evoke opposition to lynching.
- Artist is a prominent black artist who has created a protest piece.
- CB7 should not be approving specifics of any design.
- Resolution should be clarified to make clear that CB7 is not approving or disapproving the sculptures themselves, just the use of space in the Park for display.

Revision to the Resolution: delete the word "the" before "placing site-specific . . ." – accepted as a friendly amendment.

*After deliberation, the resolution to **approve** as amended was adopted.*

VOTE: 34-1-2-0.

Transportation Committee

Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig, Co-Chairpersons

Resolution Re:

4. A request to the NYC Department of Transportation to restrict north-bound left turns from Central Park West onto West 93rd Street, from 7am to 9am, Monday through Friday, as a mitigation to traffic congestion around Columbia Grammar & Prep School.

Presentation by Dan Zweig:



- Traffic congestion on West 93rd Street continues to be problematic, with students being dropped off by car at Columbia Grammar School.
- DoT's proposal is to avoid traffic back-up on northbound Central Park West as well as on West 93rd Street by prohibiting a left turn onto West 93rd from 7:00 am to 9:00 (Monday through Friday).
- While prohibiting such turns only on school days would be less restrictive, an outright restriction avoids confusion as to what is/is not a school day.

CB7 Questions:

- Q: where would the traffic go if blocked on West 93rd Street.
- A: Could move up or down CPW and circle.

CB7 Comments:

- The logic of the resolution assumes that cars dropping-off students are coming westbound through Central Park. Restriction would require a series of more efficient right-hand turns instead.
- Left-hand turns are more dangerous to pedestrians, so favoring right-turns makes sense.
- DoT should address the concern that cars will drop-off on CPW without making the turn, and will block the bike lane.
- Resolution amended to request DoT installs a "no parking in the bike lane" sign.
- Resolution amended to change "communicate with parents about the need to reduce congestion" to "communicate with parents to explore alternatives."
- Should consult with Joan of Arc Complex (public) schools one block west to ensure buses are not adversely impacted.
- Concern that DoT signs are not clear – Committee should be involved in ensuring signage is clear.

*After deliberation, the resolution as amended to **approve** DoT's proposal was adopted.*

VOTE: 35-0-0-0.

Preservation Committee

Jay Adolf and Gabrielle Palitz, Co-Chairpersons

Resolutions Re:

5. **7 West 87th Street** (Columbus Avenue – Central Park West.) Application #17-2990 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to alter the basement level entrance.

Presentation by Gabby Palitz:

- The committee heard this application months ago; at which time the applicant agreed to revise the proposal and return to committee.
- The applicant never came back.
- Resolution is to record a protective disapproval in case the applicant revives the application without returning the Committee.



*After deliberation, the resolution to **disapprove** was adopted.*

VOTE: 33-0-0-0

6. **466-468 Columbus Avenue** (West 82nd – 83rd Streets.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to demolish the existing 3-story commercial building and replace with an 8-story plus penthouse new mixed use (retail and residential) building.

Presentation by Gabby Palitz:

- While there is a threshold issue of whether the existing structure should be permitted to be demolished, the committee recommends taking no position on the merits of demolition.

After deliberation, the resolution to neither approve nor disapprove of the demolition was adopted.

VOTE: 25-1-6-0

Resolution concerning the proposed substitute building (assuming demolition were approved):

- Proposed new building features a 7-story street wall with a set back and a partial penthouse.
- The Endicott apartment building 1 block to the south is 7 stories tall.
- Many buildings in the area are underbuilt and shorter than what current zoning would permit.
- The articulation of the design and façade elements is sympathetic to the surrounding built fabric.
- The front façade includes a terra cotta rain screen (series of long, thin horizontal terra cotta elements that create a sense of punched windows despite use of much broader glass expanses behind).
- The proposed 8th floor is set back from the street wall cornice line. The design attempts to make a heroic cornice at the top of the setback using a metal finish with a swooping design.
- The extension of the neighboring building's flue should be more modest.
- Rear façade fenestration does not reflect attempts on the front façade to have fenestration be more sympathetic to the surrounding buildings. Committee recommended that the rear fenestration be reimagined.

Community Comments:

Christine Petty – neighbor:

- Concerned about the height – the structure will block light and air to the interior courtyard on the north side of the building immediately to the south.

Marina Sherriff – neighbor

- Concerned about the height of the proposed building - scale is an element of appropriateness.
- Proposed building is excessively tall for its context.
- Extra height in the middle of the block is unusual.
- The 8th floor does not read as a set-back, exacerbating the excessive scale that is out of character with the neighborhood, is too prominent, and is therefore inappropriate.



- Resolution should include a “strong recommendation” to reduce the height, not just a recommendation.

CB7 Comments:

- The scale of this proposed building recalls sliver building concerns.
- The proposed building is not in keeping with the context of the surrounding buildings, both as to height and the façade design.
- Should follow example of new buildings using similar brick work to blend in to adjoining structures.
- Usually pro-development, but this does not fit in.
- The whole approach is so wrong and is inappropriate.
- The intriguing terra cotta façade drew attention away from the height, which is much too tall.
- The balance of this block is uniformly lower in height. Comparison to other blocks is inapposite.
- Thrusting an 8-story building in the middle of this low-density block is inappropriate.
- Charm of several blocks of Columbus is the small scale – this sets a bad precedent.

Motion to offer a substitute resolution to disapprove unless (a) the height of the proposed replacement building were reduced by 2 stories, and (b) the fenestration is changed to be contextual punched windows in keeping with neighboring buildings (duly seconded).

CB7 discussion on the substitute resolution:

- Other design elements should hold sway.
- Questioning whether CB7 can disapprove of the height if it is as-of-right from a zoning perspective.
- Modern structures in Historic Districts are not required to match the historic fabric.
- From a design perspective, it is generally considered a positive to distinguish the modern from the historic fabric.
- Concern that insistence on matching the neighboring fenestration would lead LPC to ignore our opinion altogether.
- LPC Staff support of this proposed design leads to the conclusion that this building will be built at this height.

*After deliberation the **substitute motion** was not adopted.*

VOTE: 10-19-1-0 substitute motion fails.

Continued discussion on the original resolution:

- CB7 should not be inserting itself into the design specifics of a modern replacement building.



- The proposed replacement is not a sliver building, and is smaller than what is typical on avenues.
- Height is inappropriate in this place given its context, even if it might be appropriate in another location.
- Other design elements, such as the rain screen, are potentially successful and not inappropriate.
- Building a new building in an historic district is difficult.
- Must look at bulk and context to determine appropriateness.
- Can't put a modern building in an historic context – this is jarring.

*After deliberation, the resolution to **approve** failed.*

VOTE: 11-16-3-0.

Resolution to disapprove solely due to the height as inappropriate.

*After deliberation, the resolution to **disapprove** was adopted.*

VOTE: 16-13-1-0

7. **327 Central Park West #15D&E** (West 93rd Street.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a new window.

Presentation by Gabby Palitz:

- Small window only visible from a hill within Central Park.
- The building has a master plan for the primary facades, but this window is located on a secondary façade not covered by the master plan.

*After deliberation, the resolution to **approve** was adopted.*

VOTE: 28-1-1-0

Business & Consumer Issues Committee

Michele Parker and George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Co-Chairpersons

Resolutions Re:

8. **Applications to the SLA for two-year liquor licenses:** Resolution to approve granting the requested licenses.

- **153-155 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 67th Street) 153 Amsterdam Rest., Inc., d/b/a To be Determined.
- **464 Columbus Avenue** (West 82nd Street.) Da Luce Ristorante & Bar Corporation, d/b/a To be Determined.

*After deliberation, the resolution to **approve** the applications as presented was adopted.*

VOTE: 27-1-1-0

Community Comment – concerning 464 Columbus Avenue:

Christine Perry:

- Concern that the owner of the restaurant has failed to pay maintenance.



- Co-op representatives came to CB7's April 5th Full Board meeting to express concerns about outstanding issues relating to the application, but the matter was withdrawn from the agenda.
- Co-op has a lien against the owner of the space.
- Owner does not have insurance for the space, despite a requirement it secure coverage.
- The applicant has not adequately addressed concerns as to whether the stress of the operation of a restaurant on the mechanical systems of the building can be sustainably supported from a construction/engineering perspective.

CB7 Comment:

- The applicant came to the May BCI meeting and assured the committee that the issues with the Co-op were being resolved.
- Would have been useful for this issue to have been raised at the committee meeting in May.
- Outrage that applicant made false representations to the Committee.

Motion (duly seconded) to

- (a) rescind the vote taken on the 464 Columbus Avenue portion of item 8 on the agenda; and
- (b) disapprove the application for an SLA license based on the 3 issues identified (the lien held by the Co-op, the failure to procure insurance, and the mechanical/engineering issues); and
- (c) return the resolution and application to the July meeting of the BCI committee, with the requirement that the owner be present (and not simply the owner's representatives); and
- (d) leave undisturbed the approval vote for item 8 with respect to 153 Amsterdam Avenue.

*After deliberation, the **above-referenced motion** was adopted.*

VOTE: 30-0-0-0.

9. Unenclosed Sidewalk Café Renewals: Resolution to approve the requested unenclosed sidewalk café renewals.

- **193 Columbus Avenue** (West 69th Street.) Renewal application #1216111- DCA to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Yunhua on Columbus, Inc., d/b/a Empire Columbus, for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 12 seats.
- **2170 Broadway** (West 76th – 77th Streets.) Renewal application #2010321-DCA to the Department of Consumer Affairs by RF Broadway, d/b/a Red Farm, for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 11 tables and 22 seats
- **349 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 77th Street.) Renewal application #2009831-DCA to the Department of Consumer Affairs by BT Restaurant Enterprises LLC, d/b/a Tessa, for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 8 tables and 16 seats.
- **519 Columbus Avenue** (West 85th Street.) Renewal application #1395448-DCA to the Department of Consumer Affairs by De La Fontaine, LLC, d/b/a Tratoria Machiavelli for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 21 tables and 42 seats.

*After deliberation, the resolution to **approve** was adopted.*

VOTE: 28-1-0-0



10. **New Unenclosed Sidewalk Cafés:** Resolution to approve the requested new unenclosed sidewalk café applications.

- **440 Amsterdam Avenue (West 81st – 82nd Streets.)** New application DCA# 3912-2016-ASWC to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Benva Bakery, LLC, d/b/a Orwasher's Bakery, for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 11 tables and 25 seats.
- **450 Amsterdam Avenue (West 82nd Street).** New application DCA# 4285-2016-ASWC to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Gumbull, LLC, d/b/a The Dead Poet, for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 5 tables and 11 seats.
- **982 Amsterdam Avenue (West 108th – 109th Streets.)** New application DCA# 3474-2016-ASWC to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Amity Hall Uptown, Inc., d/b/a Amity Hall, for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 12 tables and 24 seats.

*After deliberation, the resolution to **approve** was adopted.*

VOTE: 28-1-0-0

11. **949 Columbus Avenue (West 107th – 106th Streets.)** New application DCA# 4628-2016-ASWC to the Department of Consumer Affairs by P&N Development, d/b/a The Fat Monk, for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 12 seats.

- Applicant failed to appear at Committee and pre-meeting.
- Disapprove without prejudice.

*After deliberation, the resolution to **disapprove without prejudice** was adopted.*

VOTE: 28-0-1-0

Youth, Education & Libraries Committee

Blanche Lawton and Eric Shuffler, Co-Chairpersons

Resolution Re:

12. Testing protocols for the presence of lead in drinking water in public schools.

Presentation by Eric Shuffler:

- Chancellor Farina publicly promised to be more available to Community Boards – CB7 took the Chancellor up on this offer.
- DoE representative who responded to CB7 YEL's invitation to a discussion on lead in public school water systems was well-informed and collaborative.
- There is no current testing protocol – lead testing is done on an ad hoc, complaint-driven basis.
- In response to Newark and Flint, DoE tested appx 1,800 schools' water fountains, sinks etc.
- Even for schools that tested positive for lead, there is no follow-up testing protocol.
- Committee and DoE staff arrived at a recommendation that schools be tested every 3 years, except that schools that previously tested positive would be tested every year.

CB7 Comments:

- Viability of testing and availability of experts to interpret confirmed by DoE representative.
- DoE helped arrive at 3-year protocol.



*After deliberation, the resolution to **approve** was adopted.*

VOTE: 38-0-0-0.

Adjourn: 10:20 pm

Present: Elizabeth Caputo, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche.Isaac, Booker, Tina Branham, Steven Brown, Manuel Casanova, Christian Cordova, Kenneth Coughlin, Louisa Craddock, Catherine DeLazzero, Mark N. Diller, Robert Espier, Sheldon J. Fine, Paul Fischer, Sonia Garcia, Rita Genn, Sarina Gupta, Benjamin Howard-Cooper, Meisha Hunter Burkett, Audrey Isaacs, Brian Jenks, Blanche E. Lawton, Lillian Moore, Klari Neuwelt, Gabrielle Palitz, Michele Parker, Jeannette Rausch, Richard Robbins, Suzanne Robotti, Madge Rosenberg, Peter Samton, Roberta Semer, Ethel Sheffer, Eric Shuffler, Polly Spain, Mel Wymore, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero and Dan Zweig. **Absent:** Page Cowley, Miki Fiegel, Marc Glazer, Madelyn Innocent, Genora Johnson, Nick Prigo, Andrew Rigie, Susan Schwartz and Howard Yaruss.



Business & Consumer Issues Committee Meeting Minutes

Michele Parker and George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Co-Chairpersons

June 8, 2016

BCI Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met at the District Office, 250 West 87th Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Present: Michele Parker, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Linda Alexander, Christian Cordova, Paul Fischer and Marc Glazer.

1. **366 Columbus Avenue** (West 77th Street.) Shake Shack 366 Columbus, LLC, d/b/a Shake Shack – quarterly follow up regarding approval of enclosed sidewalk café.

Justin Dysktra, Manager

- Showed plans for new door installation on enclosed sidewalk café. The door is to ease the flow of customers and to ease the waiting line of customers outside the restaurant.
- Will post a sign indicating where the customers can wait on line around an existing tree and to move them away from the glass area.
- The proposed AMNH expansion will have no effect on the seating for Shake Shack.
- The 6 to 8 Big Belly trash cans are managing the amount of trash.
- They are managing the park area with a museum employee.

2. New business.

Marcell Rosenblatt, 212-799-7703, MarcellRosenblatt@gmail.com

- UWS is losing its 3rd and last public laundromat located in the Ansonia building.
- Laundromat is being replaced with a staircase.
- Can some business person provide a Laundromat in the UWS?
- 200 petitions were signed in favor of keeping the laundromat opened at the Ansonia.
- Can CB7 help in finding a location for a laundromat or intervening to keep the laundromat at the Ansonia building?
- Problem is that price of leases have gone up and it is difficult to keep a laundromat business going.
- Idea: talk with local condo about installing a laundromat on one of the condo buildings.
- Idea: Schedule a brainstorming session with members of the committee.

Applications to the SLA for a two-year liquor licenses:

3. **620 Amsterdam Avenue. B Café West**

Skel Islamaj, owner and Doug Kleiman, business representative

- Liquor licensed approved by committee was disapproved at the full board level
- Disapproval was based on a misunderstanding.
- The committee requested the applicant to repost notice of application for the vote on SLA application to be taken at the next full board meeting on July 5th, 2016.



*After deliberation the resolution for a liquor license application was **approved**: 6-0-0-0*

4. **307 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 75th Street) Aidi JC LLC, d/b/a A.N.Y. Grand Sichuan.

Marek Sachwedt, Expediter and Aidi Xu, Owner

- Committee requested that motorized bike not be used for deliveries and to have a dedicated site for delivery bicycles.
- Bicycles are currently stored in the basement.
- Recommended the applicant to apply DOT for a bicycle rack to be installed.
- Only background music will be used.
- The applicant was reminded to properly label delivery bikes personnel vests and to send pictures to the committee when available.

*After deliberation the resolution for a liquor license application was **approved**: 6-0-0-0*

New Unenclosed Sidewalk Cafés:

5. **403 Amsterdam Avenue (West 79th Street.)** New application DCA# 6182-2016-ASWC to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Moshgab, Corp., d/b/a Saba's Pizza, for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 5 tables and 10 seats.

Robert Callahan, Expediter and Gabrielle Werser, Owner

- Will use 8 feet for the café leaving 12 feet for pedestrian use.
- Hours of operation Sun – Wed 10am -11pm, Thu – Sat 10am – 2am
- The applicant was asked to darken the label the name of the delivery personnel on the vests.

Betty Lerner, Community Resident

- Urged the committee not to approve the application because the area is crowded with people taking the bus, students from nearby schools and patrons from a local bar. In addition they chain their bikes in inconvenient locations, e.g., the nearby scaffolding, mailbox and near the bus stop.
- She recommended the owners to install a bike rack, a suggestion that was ignored.
- Ms. Lerner showed pictures of the area and where the bicycles obstruct the area.
- She requested the applicant be limited to 2 or 3 tables instead of 5.
- The business had installed and unauthorized tables and chairs on the sidewalk which were removed recently.
 - Mr. Callahan responded that a previous expediter led the business to understand that they could install the tables and chairs and that he would get authorization. Sadly that previous expediter never filed any paperwork and it was Mr. Callahan who advised them to remove them.
 - Mr. Zeppenfeldt-Cestero explained that having an unenclosed sidewalk café would not affect the bus stop area.
 - The owner agreed to move his delivery bicycles to an unobtrusive location. It was commented that other adjoining businesses are placing their bicycles in illegal bike racks.

*After deliberation the New Unenclosed Sidewalk Café application was **approved**: 6-0-0-0*



6. **2758 Broadway (West 106th Streets.)** New application DCA# 5417-2016-ASWC to the Department of Consumer Affairs by DSMI Rest, LLC, d/b/a Macchina, for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 35 tables and 70 seats.

Daddo Bogich, Owner; Andres Balbuena, Manager; Seny Taveras, Expediter

- Wraparound café.
- Plans showed that café would extend to 9 feet 9 inches. Expediter explained that revised plans will be submitted to comply with the 9 feet limitation.

*After deliberation the New Unenclosed Sidewalk Café application was **approved with the stipulation that we receive amended certified plans to reflect that they will keep to the 9 feet restriction by July 1, 2016:** 6-0-0-0*

7. **949 Columbus Avenue (West 107th – 106th Streets.)** New application DCA# 4628-2016-ASWC to the Department of Consumer Affairs by P&N Development, d/b/a The Fat Monk, for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 12 seats.

David Ackerman, Co-owner and Rob McCue Co-owner

- The committee asked the owners not to have a credit card minimum.
- This is a new restaurant not opened yet.
- Hours of operation will be Sun – Wed until 2am; Thu – Sat until 4am.

*After deliberation the New Unenclosed Sidewalk Café application was **approved:** 6-0-0-0*

8. Update on the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law Working Group Recommendations.
- Discussion of recommendations made by the working group.
 - Doug Kleiman talked to us about a *Serving Alcohol Responsibly* class for businesses.
 - Board member Marc Glazer talked to us about installing a kiosk in the AMNH that will indicate the locations of local restaurants to museum visitors and allowed them to make reservations. He recommended that local elected officials provide funding for this project and asked for the committee to support the idea.

The meeting ended at 8:58 pm.



Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes

Jay Adolf, and Gabrielle Palitz, Co-Chairs
June 9th, 2016

Present: Jay Adolf, Gabrielle Palitz, Co-Chairs, Louisa Craddock, Mark Diller, Meisha Hunter Bartlett, Peter Samton.

1. 32 West 75th Street, (A Townhouse between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West on the south side of 75th Street.)

Note: Meisha mentioned that her office was involved with this project, and therefore would abstain from voting. The architect of record is Alexander Gorlin. Quincie Williams AIA made the presentation.

This is a Romanesque revival style building...one of ten similar rowhouses on West 75th Street. The windows have been altered over the years. (Note that 30 West 75th St. is the only building with in-tact windows) The proposal restores the windows to the earlier condition, with the exception of the Basement window, which will be slightly larger in width than the original to align with the width of the Parlor floor window above. The rusticated base to have sandstone matching the original, similar to no. 30. A new stoop is proposed similar to the original, as shown in historic photos. The existing three story partial width rear yard addition will be removed and the existing rear façade to be demolished up to the 4th floor, replaced by a new four story full width rear yard addition, with the addition of a new penthouse. New floor to ceiling windows to be 4 feet wide through the 3rd floor. A mock-up of the penthouse appears not to be visible from the street.

The overall scope of work includes:

Front facade work:

- The rowhouse is part of a grouping of ten, constructed in 1889-1890, designed in the Romanesque Revival style with rusticated sandstone bases, smooth finish sandstone upper stories.
- The original stoop was removed by 1936, as was the rusticated sandstone base detail on the lower two stories.
- The front facade will be restored, with new rusticated sandstone blocks installed at the lower two floors, smooth finish sandstone facing on the upper floors. The rustication pattern will be modelled on other structures within the grouping
- The stoop will be recreated, modelled on the original and on others still existing within the row. Stoop cheek walls will be rusticated, with new cast stone risers and treads.
- The original Parlor floor entry will be restored, with a new wood and glass door pair and a curved transom above.
- At the Basement level, the existing window opening will be enlarged to align with the existing Parlor floor window above, slightly larger than the original opening width.
- New double-hung one-over-one wood windows modelled on the original ones will replace the existing aluminum windows.
- The existing slate roof and gable-end dormer roof will be repaired.



- Rear façade and rear yard work:
- The existing partial width three story dog-leg addition will be replaced by a full-width, four story rear yard addition, projecting 4 feet beyond the wall plane of the main rear façade. It will be faced in red brick to match existing.
- The rear façade at the top floor will be restored within its original plane, with new brick to match existing. The original corbelled brick cornice will be recreated
- At the top floor, two new double-hung wood windows and a glazed wooden door in an extended opening will replace the existing fenestration within the three existing lintel-capped openings.
- Three pairs of new wood French doors will be installed at each level of the addition, grouped together at the Garden level, installed in separate openings at the three upper floors, between brick piers.
- No lintels are proposed for the new door openings, and all new door units are single large panes of glass within the wooden door frame.
- New bronze metal railings with square posts will be installed at new Juliet balconies on the parlor and second floors and at the fourth and fifth floor roof terraces.
- The rear yard will have planted areas and used permeable paving materials.
- The Cellar will be excavated two feet, held two feet off the side party walls to prevent damaging the party wall foundation.

Rooftop addition work:

- On both sides, the existing adjacent structures have rooftop additions.
- The proposed rooftop addition will align with these two structures in height, front and back setbacks.
- It will not be visible from the public way.
- The rooftop addition will have wood doors similar in style to the wood doors proposed for the new rear yard addition below. The structure will be clad in red brick to match the rest of the new and restored rear façade, with a standing seam zinc parapet.

(A neighbor, Linda Minck at 30 west 75th, asked for a copy of the drawings.)

Discussion:

Mr. Samton criticized the windows in the rear as creating too much of a vertical look, with too little visible masonry. Gabrielle Palitz agreed and suggested inclusion of visible lintels similar to the existing fourth floor. On the parlour floor, the tall narrow glass doors could be improved upon with the introduction of transom glass. Louisa Craddock praised the new design, particularly bringing back the stoop. Mark Diller agreed with all the previous comments as did Jay Adolf. Everyone liked the addition of the new stoop.

(Meisha Hunter Bartlett).

While in general, the Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/ Manhattan believes that the proposed front facade and stoop restoration work, enlarged basement window, the design of the rooftop addition and the design of the rear yard addition are all reasonably appropriate to the historic



character of the building and of the Historic District, they made the following two design modification requests:

1. Within the new proposed door openings, cast stone lintels be added, to reduce the height of the doors, and to relate to the lintels present on the top floor and typical on other facades throughout the rear yard.
2. Transoms should be added above the Parlor floor doors, thereby reducing the extreme verticality of these taller door openings and making these doors the same height as the other new doors throughout the new rear façade.

The applicant agreed to these two design modifications.

Resolution to approve the façade and stoop restoration work, enlarged Basement window, rooftop addition and rear yard addition as modified

Preservation Committee: 5-0-0-1.

2. Exterior Window, Door and Canopy Renovation, 252 West 76th Street

Steven Kratchman, Architect presented

Applicant is returning with some modifications.....Mr. Kratchman introduced a new ramp, instead of a lift which he had before.

The proposal is to put a new ramp where there was a stair to the basement, to the west of the entrance.. The stair is metal and was moved to the eastern side of the entrance. The new ramp intersects landing atop the entrance stairs. New granite steps, treads and slab to replace existing concrete steps at the center.

This application was presented to the Preservation Committee in April 2016 and approved with several design modifications to the front doors.

Subsequently, the applicant needed to revise the method of providing ADA access to the building, as follows:

- In lieu of an "Inclinor" (a motorized chair lift running along the exterior staircase down to the Basement entry), which is no longer permitted by DOB, the applicant has proposed a new metal ramp up to the street level entrance, and a new metal exterior egress staircase down to the basement entry..
- The new ramp slopes up 16" from the west, then ramps up an additional 5" within the building entry vestibule.
- The new metal egress stair down to the Basement will be located at the eastern end of the front areaway.
- The existing stoop steps and landing will be rebuilt, modified slightly to permit wheelchair access from the ramp. They will be constructed of granite.
- The ramp up and stairs down will be steel, painted black, with diamond grated surfaces. Simple black metal railings will be installed along the building facade side of both stairs and ramp.



- The design of the front entry doors has been revised to be wood, painted black to match the new replacement windows. The proportions of the bottom wood panel and the upper glazed unit have been adjusted per the Committee's recommendations in April. The hardware has been modified to be oil-rubbed bronze finish, with a simple lever design.
- The design of the basement doors has been revised to be a new pair of wood and glass doors, instead of a single metal door.
- The historically-based design of the new black metal fence on top of the new granite curb has been modified from the original proposal. It now increases in height slightly on either side of the rebuilt stone stoop to emphasize the entrance.

Linda Rosenthal's office rep. expressed concern re: rent regulated tenants.

Peter Samton asked whether the new railing could be simpler, glass or just horizontals? Gabby discussed prior approvals.

Resolution to approve the new exterior stair and new exterior ramp.

Preservation Committee: 5-1-0-0.

3. 347 West End Ave. between 76th and 77th Street

Valerie Campbell of Kramer, Levin made the initial presentation. Matthew Bremer, Architect presented the design.

The project is mid-block on West End Avenue in a row of elegant townhouses, a rarity on West End Avenue. The project is extending the rear of the townhouse into the donut, with a new penthouse. The height will match its twin to the north on the roof, but the new rear yard addition will be taller and extend further out into the rear yard. There is a new elevator and a new stair bulkhead. The stair bulkhead will be visible from the street. A mock up was built showing the height and extension into the yard.

The overall scope of work includes:

- This row house is one of a central pair in a unique, U-shaped rowhouse grouping that runs the length of the block on West End Avenue and extends several houses down on both sides streets. The design is an eclectic mix of Renaissance Revival, with rich visual and textural details, and animated skyline.

Regarding the rooftop addition, the proposal includes a new stair bulkhead that is partially visible from the public way.

- The new rooftop addition will align in height and in setbacks with the existing rooftop addition of its mate to the north (349 WEA), including a similar extension up and back of the sloping terracotta-clad roof. HOWEVER, the proposed stair bulkhead is taller, situated closer to the front of the addition. It will be visible from the street.
- The proposed stair bulkhead is 10 feet tall, clad in a light-toned stucco to match the tone of the front façade, with a flat glass skylight roof.

The Committee felt strongly that street visibility of the stair bulkhead needed to be fully eliminated, or at least substantially reduced. They suggested that the overall height be reduced, and that a portion of



the skylight roof be sloped away from the street. In addition, a cladding material should be selected which is more in keeping with the quality and character of the original structures in the grouping.

Scope of work for the rear yard addition:

- 347 and 349 West End Avenue are mirror images, both in their street facades, and in their plans at the rear.
- Each currently has a partial-width, three story rear yard addition with a single champhered corner, with crenellated brick details along the champhered edges.
- The rear facades of the entire grouping are brick clad (some still exposed red brick, some now painted), with varying punched masonry openings of different sizes and placements, continuing the whimsical nature of the front facades in a more relaxed manner.
- Replacing the three-story partial width rear yard addition, a new four story full width rear yard addition is proposed for 347 WEA. The new addition will project approximately 3'-4" beyond the existing rear yard addition.
- At the lowest two floors, the new rear yard addition is rectangular in plan, clad in mahogany wood panels painted a dark green, with large scale central glazing comprised of doors and windows.
- The upper two stories of the new rear yard addition will have champhered corners. These upper stories will be clad in brick to match the red brick cladding of the fifth floor and of the adjacent rear facades. The champhered corners will have crenellated brick corners. Centralized glazing elements are proposed, with varying fenestration designs. All doors and windows to be wood, painted the same dark green to match the two story base of the new addition.
- New Juliet balconies and railings of varying designs are proposed.
- The rear façade of the setback rooftop addition will also be wood clad, painted green, with large glazing elements and railings related to portions of the rear yard addition below.

The Committee had a number of serious concerns with the proposed design.

Regarding the front façade of the rooftop addition and the stair bulkhead's visibility from the front:

- The visibility of the stair bulkhead from the street will have a **significant negative visual impact** on the view of one of this grouping's most distinctive architectural elements – its gable-end dormer profile.

Regarding the rear yard and rooftop additions:

- The creation of a two-story wood clad base has no precedent in this context.
 - The overall design is overscaled, monumental, more suited for a front façade than for the interior gardens of the "donut."
 - There are too many disparate design elements (primarily fenestration, but also brick detailing, railing designs, etc.) which are not internally related within the proposed design. Furthermore, they have no relationship with the existing context of the rear facades.
 - Overall, the Committee felt the rear yard addition was overscaled, too large, with too many competing design elements and features.
- Gabby Palitz said the design is typical of an intrusion into a rear yard. Meisha was grateful that there is little change to the front façade....on the other hand, this is a highly unusual



- and valuable group of buildings on West End Avenue, but she was concerned about the extension of the clay tiled roof. There will be a lot of symmetry that will be transformed by the rear extension. She is not convinced by the design...that the interior program drives the exterior approach.
- Peter Samton agreed with Meisha that the plan pushed too far into the rear donut obstructing the corner buildings. He asked why there was no plan showing the entire block, particularly the donut.
 - Louisa Craddock criticized the rear elevation...she didn't like the new windows...too strong an element.
 - Mark Diller agreed with Meisha about the rear, and was troubled both about the extension as well as the new railings, which looked like they really didn't belong. He didn't like the arched windows on top of the french casements on the 3rd floor. He also thought the new penthouse material was inappropriate.
 - Gabby was troubled by the rear façade with its enormous windows. She agreed that the roof top addition and railings don't quite fit in. She didn't like the material of the rear addition...making it look quite foreign to the neighboring buildings. She could not support the rear design.
 - Jay Adolf also was concerned about the painted wood material on the rear façade addition...feeling it was inappropriate. He felt the the roof obstructions could be lowered.
 - Meisha said the rear addition does not really consider its location or its neighbors.
 - So much was objectionable, that Mark Diller proposed to disapprove.

The Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/ Manhattan believes that the proposed rooftop addition, in being visible from the street, and the design of the rear yard addition, in being massive and imposing, and unrelated to its context are inappropriate to the historic character of the building, of this unique grouping of row houses, and of the Historic District.

Resolution to disapprove the proposed rooftop and rear yard additions.

Preservation Committee: 6-0-0-0

The meeting was called to conclusion, with some ensuing discussion about presentations to the full board.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Samton.



Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig, Co-Chairpersons

June 14, 2016

Present: Andrew Albert,

Dan Zweig, Isaac Booker, Ken Coughlin, Marc Glazer, Richard Robbins, Suzanne Robotti and Roberta Semer. **Board Members:** Mark Diller and Meisha Hunter Burkett.

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

1.2642 Broadway (West 100th Street) – Renewal Application #B00256 to NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission by Fast Operating Corp, d/b/a Carmel Car & Limo Service for renewal of their For Hire Base Station License. The applicant was not present at any time during the meeting to participate and answer any questions. A resolution to **disapprove** this application was voted and approved as follows:

Committee: 6-0-0-0 Non-committee Board members: 1-0-0-0

2.The Waterline Mr. Andrew Burdick and Ms. Rebecca Hill, as well as Meisha Hunter-Burkett, were present to present information on The Waterline, a plan to reclaiming NYC's Old Croton Aqueduct as a civic asset. Beginning in Westchester County, the aqueduct brought water to the city. In CD7, the aqueduct ran primarily down Amsterdam Avenue and then across near W85 St and into Central Park. There is interest in preserving some buildings along the route as well as an identified civic historical memory of the aqueduct's path.

3.Proposal by DOT for changes in street direction of vehicular travel for W 60th, W 62nd, and W 64th Streets

Ed Pincar, Deputy Manhattan Borough Commissioner for DOT presented. DOT had conducted a Lincoln Square Safety Improvement Study and studied this area. The proposed changes are intended to make safety improvements as well as help traffic flow throughout the area.

In the proposal:

A: W 62nd Street between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues would be restored to two way vehicular travel as soon as the end of construction there permits.

B: W 64th Street between Amsterdam and West End Avenues would be reversed to westbound travel.

C: W 60th Street between Columbus/Broadway and West End Ave would be reversed to westbound travel.

Questions were asked about the effect on school drop-offs and many concerns about how vehicle speeding would be prevented since some blocks with schools and parks on them would now have downhill rather than uphill vehicular travel.

DOT answered some concerns and will look into others presented.

PASSCO Coalition had several members present to raise concerns for how limited sight individuals would be able to understand and navigate the new changes. Particular concern



where Barnes Dance proposals might be made since limited sight people depend on the sounds of the traffic to determine which direction is safe to cross. Jewish Guild for the Blind is moving to W 63rd Street.

Concerns for 64th St reversal included: parking, truck turning Amsterdam onto 64th, moving bike station, sign needed to identify playground presence for drivers, downhill blocks need speed bumps and/or other speed control.

Concerns for 60th St reversal included: high volumes of traffic on a reversed 60th St between Amsterdam and West End Ave, downhill blocks need speed bumps and/or other speed control, look at split signal and audible signal at 62nd and Broadway in order to treat the new head on condition being created at West End Ave, concerns whether all proposed curb extensions at Broadway and Amsterdam are necessary and whether some may cause problems.

Other area traffic issues raised not necessarily directly related to this project included: need to narrow travel lanes on W 66th St like was done on W 70th St to reduce speeding, can M7 bus continue down Columbus instead of turning onto Broadway at W 64th St., with the coming Riverside South developments coming on line, can DOT consider traffic impacts.

DOT stated they would like to implement this project in by the end of 2016.

A resolution to **approve** this proposal as shown with various suggested additional safety additions and to resolve for the longer term to ask DOT to investigate and propose additional traffic calming and safety measures in this area which could include possible places for a bicycle lane was voted upon by the committee:

Resolved that CB7 approves the NYC Department of Transportation's proposal to change the direction of several streets in the West 60's to equalize traffic flow & improve safety. This would restore West 62nd Street between Columbus & Amsterdam Avenues to two-way, change the direction of West 64th Street to westbound between Columbus Ave & West End Avenue, and change West 60th Street to westbound from Columbus Circle to West End Avenue. CB7 approves these changes, with the following provisions:

1. Install signs at the Columbus Ave end of West 64th Street indicating "Watch for Children", as well as installing speed bumps to slow down traffic.
2. Install speed bumps if possible on West 60th Street on the downgrade to West End Avenue if possible, or other measures to slow down traffic.
- c. Consider installing a split signal/audible signals at West 62nd & Broadway.

Be it further resolved that in the longer term following the initial installation, DOT should consider the need for further traffic improvement and safety measures, which could include additional traffic and street controls, narrowing of travel lanes, further shortening of pedestrian crossings, or even installation of a bicycle path.

Committee: 8-0-0-0 Non-committee Board members: 1-0-0-0



4. **Fresh Direct** – presentation by Ian Moran, Mark Lefcovich, and Amanda Vogel – Ian Moran is responsible for customer delivery operations.

4 items they are always looking to control: Safety, Congestion, Emissions, Noise.

3 depots on West Side – 108th and Amsterdam, 87th and Broadway, 60th and Broadway. These three main (approximate) locations use 24 foot trucks which unload to local runners all day long. One truck unloading will be replaced at these locations by another full one during the course of the day as needed.

Citywide there are 25 depots – 24 of them in Manhattan – serving the dense population.

Trucks do not idle – refrigerator can make noise – they are developing ways to quiet this noise using electric operation. Frozen foods are kept in refrigerated trucks with dry ice to keep them frozen.

Fresh Direct tries not to double park – but sometimes has to do so.

Marty Hoffman – Co-op at 89th and Amsterdam said there is a lane lost on Amsterdam on Sundays when Fresh Direct of double parked all day.

The committee was shown some pictures of goods being unloaded in a traffic lane or a bike lane.

Fresh Direct asks that anyone observing idling, or goods being unloaded in a way they should not be, to contact them and they will correct the situation. They meet with the crews every day.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.



Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Elizabeth Caputo, Chair

Tuesday June 21, 2016

Steering Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met at the District Office, 250 West 87th Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Chair Elizabeth Caputo.

Committee Members Attending: Elizabeth Caputo, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Page Cowley, Christian Cordova, Mark Diller, Brian Jenks, Blanche E. Lawton, Michele Parker, Suzanne Robotti, Madge Rosenberg, Polly Spain, Mel Wymore.

Non-Committee Members Attending: Manuel Casanova, Kenneth Coughlin, Sonia Garcia, Madelyn Innocent, Susan Schwartz, Roberta Semer.

The following matters were discussed:

1. Update from the June 7 Full Board Meeting about Skate Park

Elizabeth Caputo:

- Chair recommended members read West Side Rag article about the installation of sculptural works in Riverside Park South.
- Skate Park resolution was returned to committee at the June Full Board meeting.
- Poor presentation from both sides of the issue at the May Parks & Environment Committee meeting led to the reversal at the FB meeting.
- CB7 needs to think carefully to avoid further reversals of resolutions in the future.
- A small group from both sides of the issue will meet tomorrow, Wednesday June 22, to work on their differences.
- The group will be present at the Parks & Environment Committee meeting on June 27 to discuss the Skate Park design again.
- CB7 members should attend the June 27 meeting to avoid repeating a reversal at the July FB meeting.
- NYC Parks Department asserts they have a constituency supporting their current plan as is.

CB7 Comments:

- Members of the public that attended the June FB meeting were mostly from outside the district; and they want a world class facility that the NYC Parks Department may not be able to provide.
- The Parks & Environment Committee did due diligence at their May meeting and felt blindsided by the skaters group at the June FB meeting.
- The higher challenging part of the skate park is more often closed than it is opened.
- Margaret Bracken, the Riverside Park Landscape Architect, felt that her presentation at the June FB meeting was poor.



- Ian Clarke, from the Riverside Skate Park Coalition, voiced the idea that it is improper to draw the skaters away from using the Frederick Douglas Memorial and other monuments as skating locations.
- We are providing a space for special use that should cater to everyone.
- Communications Committee should help publicize the June 27 Parks & Environment Committee meeting to try to reach everyone.
- Penny Ryan – all groups have been invited to attend tomorrow’s meeting.

2. Albany Updates - FAR, SLA issues

Elizabeth Caputo:

- Contacted A-M Keith Wright office about the proposed changes to the FAR regulations that were taken out of NYS Assembly agenda, and did not received a response.

Michele Parker:

- Community Boards are upset about the recent changes to the SLA regulations.
- It was suggested that the SLA communicate with the Borough Presidents’ offices.
- The regulatory change allows liquor to be served on Sundays after 10:00 am.
- Changes to the 500 feet rule were dismissed.

3. Communications Committee Presentation

Presentation by Linda Alexander on how to deal with the media:

- Local reporters pointed out that CB7 has been unresponsive to their inquiries and that has led to negative press for CB7.
- When asked by a reporter, CB7 needs to respond; you can either make a comment or say “No comment”.
- If a reporter asks about something that happened at a committee meeting, refer him/her to the passed resolution or to a member of the Communications Committee (Sue Robotti or Linda Alexander).
- In order to enhance CB7’s relationships with the press let Sue or Linda know if there is a news item that can be pitch to the media.
- We want to establish an environment where CB7 responds to media in a timely fashion that will allow them not to miss a dateline.
- Let the Communications Committee know if you are approached by a reporter.
- Get permission from CB7’s Chair before talking with reporters.
- Only provide factual information.
- You can tell a reporter that you cannot comment and then refer him/her to CB7’s Chair or the district manager.
- “Off the record” means that you cannot be quoted but they can use the information for background.
- When commenting be supportive of CB7 official actions.
- Less is more; better to say that you cannot talk about it.
- Never talk negatively about another CB7 member.



CB7 Comments:

- The blurb “For media inquiries please contact...” should be added to the CB7 website to allow members to refer media to it.
- DNA Info is currently only using freelance reporters to cover CB7. This may lead to more questions of CB7 members.
- Use your judgement when speaking to the media on your personal behalf; it may still be construed as a CB7 official comment.
- You should be able to speak to the media in your area of expertise on behalf of another agency.
- Ask the proper committee Chair if it is proper for you to talk to the media in your area of expertise.
- We want to avoid being misquoted by media.
- We should always refer the media to the Chair as the only authority to speak in behalf of CB7.
- No response is better than a bad response.
- “Deep background” does not always work, you may still be quoted.
- To achieve a consistent communication policy, a one page guideline on how to communicate with the media should be distributed to all CB7 members.
- Brian – publish a one page guidelines of media for all to know; consistent communication policy.
- It should be possible for a member to speak for himself making it clear that he/she is not speaking on CB7’s behalf.
- Q: Can an app be built for CB7?
- A: CB7 has been approached to build an app, but we could not figure out who will use it and how it would be managed.

Elizabeth Caputo:

- There were two purposes to this presentation:
 - ✓ Communicate to CB7 members that there are rules on how to communicate with the media; and
 - ✓ Create a push to keep CB7 in the media to bring more people to our meetings.

4. Planning for DNS and budget priorities for FY18

Mel Wymore:

- The District Needs Statement is due on August.
- Now there is an online form to file DNS.
- A pre-populated with last year info DNS document will be distributed tomorrow, Wednesday June 22, to all committees.
- Please fill your section and submit back to Mel by Friday July 8.
- DNS is due at NYC City Planning Commission by August 5.
- Track your changes.
- After we review budget priorities we can update DNS in October. At that time the budget requests will be also submitted, please make sure they align with DNS.
- Return the budget priorities after your July committee meeting.
- Housing Task Force will coordinate with the Housing Committee.



- Playground Task force will coordinate with the Parks & Environment Committee.
- We want to discuss budget priorities at the July Steering Committee meeting.
- Mel Wymore volunteered to be the Borough Coordinator for budget consultation meetings.

5. Report on LPC regulations and website

Jay Adolf:

- Fact: Community board recommendations are not binding, and the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission may disagree with CBs recommendations.
- The LPC included a statement in their website to the effect of “DO NOT make changes to a proposal based on the advice of a community board”.
- This statement limits the purview of CB7 LPC application review.
- The following example illustrates why the statement should not be in the LPC website:
 - ✓ One time an applicant agreed with the changes recommended by the Preservation Committee.
 - ✓ Jay was informed in confidence by the applicant that the LPC staff stated that the applicant did not need to make the changes.
 - ✓ The applicant felt that the Preservation Committee recommendations enhanced the project and implemented them despite the LPC staff advice to the contrary.

CB7 Comments:

- This statement goes against the City Charter requirement of community input and will have the effect of suppressing public opinion.
- CB7 should write a letter to LPC asking them to retract the statement from their website with a CC to all elected officials and the media.
- Jay Adolf and Gabrielle Palitz will ask LPC to retract the statement on their meeting with the LPC staff next Monday June 27. If LPC refuses to retract the statement, we should proceed with the letter.
- The letter should be positive, highlighting the work of the Preservation Committee.
- This is an issue for the borough board; we should ask the Borough President to intercede.

6. New Members – Committee assignments

Elizabeth Caputo:

- Manuel Casanova – Youth, Education, & Libraries Committee and Strategy & Budget Committee
- Susan Schwartz – Housing Committee and Parks & Environment Committee.
- Sarina Gupta – Parks & Environment Committee plus one other TBD.
- Andrew Rigie will not remain a member of CB7 because he is moving outside NYC boundaries.
- We hope to have a new appointee by the time of the July FB meeting.

7. AMNH intra-CB7 organization

Elizabeth Caputo:



- When time comes for CB7 to vote on the Landmark portion of the proposed expansion by the American Museum for Natural History, it should be voted on at the Steering Committee meeting.
- CB7 expects to review the proposal this fall.

CB7 comments:

- Application goes to LPC before it goes into draft EIS.
- It will be presented at a FB meeting for the public to review.
- Q: Will LPC schedule their hearing before the FB meeting?
- A: LPC has agreed to defer to the FB meeting for major projects like the one for AMNH and demolitions.

8. September Street Fair

Elizabeth Caputo:

- We need a plan as to how CB7 will take advantage of its participation at the Columbus Avenue Street Fair on September 18th.

CB7 comments:

- We can ask kids groups to participate; like the ones that offered testimony on environmental issues at the April FB meeting.
- We should promote CB7 at the table to increase public awareness of our function.
- The Housing Task Force brochure outlining CBs functions can be made available at the CB7 table.
- Business & Consumer Issues Committee members can be available to answer questions about street fairs.
- The Chair asked member Susan Schwartz to help organize the event and to report back at the July Steering Committee meeting.

9. Reports by Committee Chairs and Task Forces

- Housing Task Force is doing outreach to the public and Tenants Associations.

10. Review of the July 5 Full Board agenda

- Andrew Albert – item #2 on the agenda, a proposal by the NYC Department of Transportation may have a big public turnout.
- Michele Parker – item #7 on the agenda, application to SLA for a two-year liquor license by 620 Amsterdam Avenue (B-Café West), CB7 will vote to rescind the disapproval of SLA application from the May FB meeting.
- Brian Jenks – will complain to reporting NYS public officials at the July FB meeting as to why they did not pass ethics reform this past legislative session.

11. Additional Comments on the joint Land Use, Housing, Transportation and Health and Human Services Committees meeting on June 15th about the proposed West 108th Street Development by West Side Senior and Supportive Housing (WSFSH):



Page Cowley:

- 179 people attended.
- 93 people submitted slips with comments or questions.
- She thanked CB7 members Roberta Semer and Christian Cordova for their help at the meeting.
- We made sure that everyone signed in.
- We need another public meeting about this issue.
- The public was angry coming out of the meeting and remained outside for an hour after the meeting.
- The public was upset that they were not able to read their own submitted comments/questions.
- We should provide an additional opportunity for the public to comment before the ULURP meetings.

Elizabeth Caputo:

- The public was not inform that they would not be able to speak at the meeting
- Too many CB7 members spoke at the meeting instead of members of the public.
- We need to write guidelines on how to manage big meetings like this one.
- Brian Jenks and Mel Wymore volunteered to help Elizabeth write the guidelines.

The meeting ended at 8:26 pm.



Health & Human Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Catherine DeLazzero and Madge Rosenberg, Co-Chairpersons

June 23, 2016

Present: Catherine DeLazzero, Madge Rosenberg, Christian Cordova, Robert Espier, Sheldon J. Fine, Sonia Garcia, Audrey Isaacs and Genora Johnson.

Susan Erlich, Reserve Inc., Dementia Care Coach Program

- The Dementia Care Coach Program idea, is the brainchild of [ReServe](#). It started in 2014, with 10 coaches. Coaches complete a 30-hour training program focusing on person-centered care adding another level of support, with the skills and talents of experienced professionals 55 and over.
- It is funded by the Altman Foundation, because Dementia and Alzheimer's are identified as a growth area.
- The program is moderately affordable (\$18 per hour), non-reimbursable. If program is successful it will probably branch throughout the country.

Questions/ Suggestions from Committee:

- What is the cost?
- How are people finding out about this program?
- Have any institutions, within the New York or Manhattan Area bought into program?
- Suggesting that Meals On Wheels, could be utilized in some way.
- Reaching out to the Jewish Home, which is very established in Alzheimer's Care.
- Long Term Care Insurance could be a means of clients being able to pay for services.

DISCUSSION OF HHS MONTHLY PAST PANELS OF INVITED SPEAKERS & HOW TO MOVE FORWARD

- Since September 2015 we invited speakers from city agencies and CBOs. as panelist who presented their knowledge and approach to specific issues to the committee and public.
- Discussion of recent HHS survey, and the results. Work on fewer panels with a goal of investigating concrete problems, to support the work of panelist. Catherine has drawn up a proposal for Community Planning Fellow for 2016-2017.
- **What we most value:**
 - finding out about work groups
 - awareness and variety of services
 - accessibility
 - community
 - thematic thread/format-framework
 - public -learn/ information knowledge
 - interaction
 - sum of the panels was greater than its parts: good will and exchange of information

PLAN FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2016

- In July we will identify the issue from past panels.
- In October Community Planning Fellow will conduct background research on the issue. Fellow will present findings at HHS meeting. We will discuss potential panelists and draft questions for panelists related to gaps in knowledge and strategy.



- In November relevant panelists are invited to attend meeting and we distribute a pre-survey to solicit additional questions from CB7. Questions will be related to our gap in knowledge and a CB step or strategy.
- In December fellow collects any additional data necessary, we take an actionable step and add to district needs and budget priorities.
- At December meeting identify next issue or need. Begin same cycle with new issue.

MARKETING

- address more livestream (making sure everyone is comfortable with this) getting the message out more to public.

The meeting ended at 8:36 pm.

**CB7 Parks & Environment Committee, Klari Neuwelt, Chair**

Monday, June 27, 7:00PM

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Present: Klari Neuwelt, Ken Coughlin, Susan Schwartz, Steven Brown and Meisha Hunter Burkett. Non-Committee Board Members Marc Diller, Chair Elizabeth Caputo, Salina Gupta (latter part of the meeting) and Rich Robbins (part of meeting) were also present.

1. Phase 6 Riverside Park South update.

Presentation by: Thomas Balsley (Thomas Balsley Associates) and Ricardo Hinkle (DPR, Senior Manhattan Designer), Christina Draghi (Sage and Coombe, architects for structures), Margaret Bracken (DPR/RSD Park Landscape Architect). Scope: elements needing further development since previous presentation to P+E Committee: bikeway and vehicle routes at south end of park,, tot lot, sustainability of new maintenance building, undeveloped land outside park boundary for park like use, and financial cost updates.

a. Land under "garden trellis": aka "tot lot"; in shadow; other uses? Dog run? Planted? Selected idea was to develop two triangular planted areas and an adult fitness area. Low fence around perimeter of adult fitness area.

i. Committee questions: Klari – did you consider other possibilities than adult fitness area? A: Tom – make use of space for park users that are pretty silent. Ken – reorient space towards basketball courts? A: Tom – yes. Ken – equipment with moving parts? Maintenance? A: Tom – no to low maintenance.

b. Vehicle rout to parking lot and bikeway: will widen bike path to 16' (from 12'); carve into land form and replant; maintenance vehicle route will be separate; long term plan to widen bike and walkways; pedestrian path;

i. Committee questions: clarify Blvd extensions and crosswalk location; Ken – reroute cars/trucks and bike routes; A: Tom – can't reroute;

ii. Community Questions: Stewart Desser – maintenance vehicle route crossing with pedestrians walking on bikeway; A: Tom – not eliminated; there are options for pedestrians exiting park; Desser – cleaner sight line and maintain path width, split bike lanes? A: Tom – can't do this, don't carve away from land form; Ira Gershenhorn- pedestrians with dogs and bikes can be dangerous; A: Tom – pedestrians will meet park maintenance vehicle road

c. Maintenance and Operations Facility: sustainable strategies; 2 public restrooms at north portion; above FEMA flood elevation; south portion not accessible to public – DPR use only; design of building intended to resemble 2 train cars passing; location under highway will reduce cooling load and extend life of exterior paneling; investigated geothermal closed loop system; can't do this and must do open loop system; high efficiency boiler; radiant heating in floors; 25% more efficient than conventional heating; natural light fixtures with light sensors; low flow; aerated concrete for exterior bearing walls reduces energy than CMU block; rigid insulation;

i. Committee questions: Klari – not providing enough public restrooms to meet need for users of adjacent large field, bikers passing, etc.; Mark – glad geothermal was investigated; office space is modest, hope to have more DPR, reconsider space? A: John Herrold, Administrator for RSD: not intended as a place for DPR staff to spend the entire day



- ii. Community Members: David Fell: drinking fountains year round? A: Christina – yes; Larry Dugan: function of Maintenance Building? A: John Herrold: park Administrator: programming staff, not administrative offices, field office only; RSD has a manager position – John wants this person in the park
- d. Undeveloped Land outside park area where Riverside Boulevard ends for Park Use?: presentation by Michael Bradley DPR; triangle labeled as dog run; under elevated highway; left over mapped street; Matthews Nielsen Landscape Architect proposed dog run; DOT property; DOT reluctant to say yes to non-DOT use; DPR recommends that adjacent private developer appear at CB7 to discuss dog run proposal; would require drainage, water service, lighting and fencing; large space 14,000 SF; Developer open to exploring concept, developing and maintaining the design
- i. Committee Questions: Ken – access? A: Michael – would need to approach from 59th Street; Steven – dog run seems small; lots of programming in small space;
- ii. Community Questions: Marisa Maack, Chief of Staff for Council Member Rosenthal – use for buses for AMNH? Parking, entering and exiting; A: Michael – DOT and others could think of other possible parking uses, but parked vehicles with their pollution would not be park-like use.
- e. Financial issue for Phase 6: Klari: diverting all or nearly all of \$16M obtained by CB7 and others for DPR in ULURP for Riverside Center (intended for future RSD use) to build Phase 6, which was always required to be built but not with this money; A: Ricardo Hinkel – cost constraints have not changed since last meeting; Michael Bradley – next steps will be completing design and looking for other funding sources; not DPR decision; some federal funding may be involved; Klari: CB7 will send letter to express concern that money is being diverted to construction rather than future new needs and maintenance; CB7 will want to work with DPR
2. New Riverside Park Master Plan
Presentation by Charles McKinney, DPR (former Riverside Park Administrator)
- a. Goals: Need to have a mission/vision; most important park of its type in the country; combination of highway and Hudson River shoreline; need to know what to ask from our elected officials; need our work to be cumulative; noted work by Riverside Park Conservancy; DPR originally designed, received approvals and built the park in 4 years
- b. Assets: Boulevard; mature elm trees; Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Monument; Rotunda and marina; Riverside Park South; Eleanor Roosevelt sculpture; Cherry Walk; bridges;
- c. Problems: bike route conflicts with children and dogs; trip hazards; ADA accessibility; shortage of playgrounds in middle section of Park; Rotunda doesn’t look as pristine as it used to; DOT marked \$70M to address structural work at Rotunda; need \$20M for DPR portion; marina needs to be dredged; northern park sections developed later and to a lower standard; flooding issues; climate change and sea level rise; steps need maintenance; granite cladding collapsed at RSD retaining walls; no \$ for daily maintenance;
- d. Approach: workshops; identify community priorities; main areas of emphasis – Rotunda/marina area, play zone, and northern portion; separate bike and pedestrians without conflict; restore Riverside Drive area; identify flooding areas;



e. Conceptual Plan: bike and pedestrian circulation to be redesigned at bottlenecks and conflict zones; Cherry Walk to be widened and illuminated, with planted strip between pedestrian and bike users; better circulation and illuminating space under tunnels; Rotunda to be restored and recognized as a space of civic hospitality and celebration; Marina; Mid Park Play Zone; green infrastructure;

f. Scheduling/Next Steps: need to flesh out cost of each project; find funding sources; would like resolution to support and engage in effort to “pat this into shape”

Committee Questions:

Klari – will coordinate detailed questions with Charles off line; congratulate Charles for significant effort; very broad document with many specific design goals included; ; concern about passing resolution now when most people haven’t read this document; can’t endorse specifics on any particular component; expect to have usual process of user groups and CB participation for specific projects; questions for now focus on lighting at Cherry Walk and free kayaking program at 72nd Street – need to add section to Master Plan about institutionalizing the kayak dock as a DPR expense and maintenance responsibility; praise for Manhattan Community Boathouse free kayaking program at 72nd Street; dock infrastructure died this year; dock needs to be rebuilt and maintained by DPR; not able to have free kayaking this year due to loss of dock. Also, draft Master Plan suggests adding lighting directed at Cherry Walk on existing highway poles – that is a great idea to explore– if feasible, it could be done relatively quickly, circumventing other major issues with Cherry Walk reconstruction.

Mark Diller – focus on goals and priorities, not specific components of master plan.

Community member Larry Duggan complained that tree pits in Riverside Park are a “disaster.” He applauds plan to close 95th St. entrance.

While approving many aspects of the plan, Ken expressed his concern that the proposed bike route diversions between 71st and 82nd and between 92nd and 95th are addressing peak-time user conflicts, which mainly occur on fair weekend days during the summer. The absence of conflicts at other times does not justify forcing cyclists to divert to a suboptimal hilly, winding and potentially unsafe route. Cyclists will always opt for the straightest, flattest, safest and most attractive route. In fact, runners, walkers and cyclists seek out each other’s company when the paths are desolate. He expressed doubts about DPR’s ability to keep the paths clear of fallen branches and ice and snow during winter. He suggested that the path needs to meet the test that it “feels safe to a woman riding home from work by herself at night in December.”

Meisha: hasn’t had a chance to digest plan. Agrees with Mark Diller’s suggestion that we endorse it in general terms. Was almost struck by a bike yesterday. Applauds efforts to reduce conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists.

Elizabeth Caputo: We need a general resolution in support but that does not endorse any specifics of the plan.

Rich Robbins: focus should be safety.

Resolution to approve the Master Plan in general terms:

Committee members: 5-0

Non-committee board members: 4-0



Charles McKinney said the plan will be posted on CB7's website with an email address for comments.

Item 3: Riverside Skate Park.

Riverside Park landscape architect Margaret Bracken presented recent changes to the design for the Riverside Skate Park. First, Klari gave some background. The new modifications came out of last Wednesday's meeting with members of the skating community, who were seeking a transition bowl with higher walls, and representative of W Architecture and California Skate Parks, designers of the proposed new skateboarding facility.

Bracken said that the design was intended to be for the local community. The site is restrictive in terms of how high the transition bowls can be, and the bowls need a drain in bottom. It is challenging to build up the walls. Following Wednesday's meeting, Tyler Silvestro of W Architecture and California Skate Parks came up with a proposed solution to the desires of the transition-oriented skaters. The two original transition bowls – one for intermediate users and one for intermediate-advanced users – will be replaced by a single larger transition bowl, which will have an advanced end with an 11-foot wall, and an intermediate end with a lower 6-foot wall. In addition, a smaller transition element will be added to the southern, unfenced section of the new facility. This will be a beginner-level transition element. Previously, the entire southern section was for plaza-style skateboarding. Otherwise, the southern section will stay the same. ADA access to the top of the new bowl will be preserved, and seating will be added to the western side. Bracken stressed that the design is still in the preliminary stages and they are still working through how to make it work in the site. They believe that the new design will be more challenging and interesting for experienced skaters.

Klari: emphasized that this is a DPR facility and that it is not CB7's intention to dictate its design. Wants to make sure that this is DPR's new proposal.

Bracken: Yes. We think this appeals to broader swath of users.

Steven: Applauds DPR's ability to make these changes but wants to defer questions/comments until we hear from the skateboarders at the meeting.

Comments from community:

Dan Matsis, resident of UWS for 35 years. Goal is to get the kids off the roadways, monuments, etc. However, says children will injure themselves in the big bowl.

Bracken: The design will serve local teens. Most of the site emulates conditions where kids are currently skateboarding. There's a social aspect to skate parks; kids like to hang out with their buddies.

Matsis: But kids will see adults practicing for big-money competitions and will try to do it themselves.

Bracken: we have had an 11-foot element in the current park for 20 years.

Max, 11 years old, lives on RSD: The bowl or ramp is fine.

Kate Schmitz, mother of skater: We love the 11-foot ramp. Something like it can't be found anywhere else. Her son is 9 years old. The new idea is great. She just wishes there were a way to preserve the current 11-foot ramp. This is something that's really needed in the city.



Nico, lives in Astoria but learned to skate at 108th St.: A big transition element is better (responding to Matsis comments).

Aaron Aniton: There are a lot of facilities that are streetscape focused. As skateboarders we want to be challenged. I like the new bowl, but feel there's some part of the design that doesn't hold true to the original park. There are a lot of street elements. Would like to see more transition elements incorporated into the street section.

Jessie Prince, from Brooklyn but skates at the skate park often: Got hurt skating plazas and stairs. I really, really like the new bowl. It will provide a sense of challenge for skaters. The new park will be a magnet for skaters. If the bowl has vert in the 11-foot section, would love to see that – it's safer. You can fall on your knees. Prefers full coping around the bowl.

Tim Barth, Sunnyside, Queens: New design is an improvement, but would be better if changed proportions.

Bracken: We are limited by the trees, etc.

Barth: Bigger stuff [like the proposed bowl] is not more dangerous.

Max Monahan, Brooklyn; helped Andy Kessler build the original park: Thanks Margaret and Tyler for really listening to us. It's now a park more evenly distributed between different elements. Kids will have mentors; it's a cultural stew. Kids will become better skaters and more respectful. This is much, much better.

Ian Clarke, Harlem resident. This is a great design. The 11-foot number is critical and it will be really great for NYC and will attract a lot more skaters. Plus the 1.5 feet of vert, included in the 11 feet.

Ira Gershenhorn, UWS resident: Concerned that hours when facility is open are only seasonal and are too short.

Bracken: Open 12-7, Thurs-Monday, May-Oct or Nov, depending on attendant availability. Some days get no people at skate park, which is not a good use of our limited resources. But we know that when this is built it will be popular and we will look at extending the hours then.

Klari: points out that the lower section will be open all the time.

Ira: Put signage on current street skateboarding meccas directing people to the park?

Bracken: they have no trouble communicating with each other.

David Cortez: W. 23rd St.: There is a tightly knit family of skaters in NYC. We're very excited about this.

Chris Zimmerman: Applauds the deeper bowl. You should see the smile on a child's face when they successfully ride something like that.

Young Max asked how tall half pipe will be (on left side of park): Bracken says it will be 3 feet
Max's dad: I need bigger things, which are easier on my knees. Good work, but would ask for more hours.

John Grigley, Astoria: Thanks Margaret. Great compromise. Love the new design. Is there a way to rename it the "Andy Kessler Memorial Park"?

Meisha: We asked for interpretive signage commemorating Kessler in our original resolution.

Bracken: We will acknowledge him in some way, although naming is very political.



Steve Simon (DPR Manhattan Chief of Staff): it's not a strictly political decision, but it's a decision the Parks Commissioner would have to make, and we'll know more as we get closer to completion.

Klari: Asks Margaret whether she can move ahead with this now.

Bracken: Yes.

Susan Schwartz (new committee member): How is the Parks Dept.'s liability protected?

Simon: With a fence and with the signed waiver.

Meisha: Praises Margaret on being so responsive to comments. Appreciate the process.

Ken: We should all join hands and sing Kumbaya. Amazed we got a design everyone seems to be happy with, and I'm delighted.

Steven: agrees, praises community process.

Klari: Concerned that the change to a single bowl is putting a lot of faith in a design that is not very adaptable for the future. However, having heard the presentation tonight and the positive response to it, it seems appropriate to endorse this single-bowl aspect and to the subtle changes to the street-side section.

Serina Gupta (new board member): Can a minor sign a waiver?

John Herrold: A child's parents need to sign it once.

Steve Simon: Was a strong supporter of the two bowls, but the resolution should reflect that California Skate Parks are nationally recognized company, and if they say it can work, their opinion has to be respected.

Community member: any chance of salvaging the existing 11-foot ramp and moving it somewhere else?

Bracken: Not opposed to the idea. We'll keep discussing that.

Resolution to approve the new design:

Committee members: 5-0

Non-committee board members: 3-0