

FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2022 at 6:30pm via ZOOM

Steven Brown, Chairperson

Present: *Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Daniela Alvarado, Richard Asche, Kristen Berger, Steven Brown, Elizabeth Caputo, Courtney Clark Metakis, Joshua Cohen, Christian Cordova, Ken Coughlin, Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Catherine DeLazero, Mark Diller, Beverly Donohue, Robert Espier, Sheldon Fine, Paul Fischer, Miranda Goodwin-Raab, Madelyn Innocent, Audrey Isaacs, K Karpen, Natasha Kazmi, Doug Kleiman, Sara Lind, Ira Mitchneck, Klari Neuwelt, William Ortiz, Seema Reddy, Andrew Rigie, Richard Robbins, Madge Rosenberg, Melissa Rosenberg Peter Samton, Susan Schwartz, Roberta Semer, Ethel Sheffer, Polly Spain, Erana Stennett, Anthony Thomas, Kristina Villarini, Benjamin Wu, and Howard Yaruss.* **Absent:** *Rosa Arenas, Blanche Lawton, Michele Parker, and Jeannette Rausch.*

The full Board of Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, on the Zoom online platform. Chair Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm after the Secretary confirmed a quorum was present. The following discussions were had, and actions taken

Chair's Welcome

Steve Brown provided an update on ways for the public to participate in the meeting. A sign-in link to speak is available on the CB7 website. Since the Q&A function is not available on Zoom this evening, please raise your hand if you wish to speak.

Steve acknowledged that it is a somber time in Russia and Ukraine. He will try to move the agenda along so those who wish can see the presidential address this evening.

Public Safety Session

Battalion Chief Steven Spall, FDNY noted there had been another fire fatality in the district in February. Many of the recent deaths have been avoidable. At 2:30AM, at 80 Amsterdam Avenue in the Amsterdam Houses, there was at first a report of a water leak in the F line. There followed a report of a smoke condition. A gentleman in apartment 5F was overcome. The apartment was crowded with belongings. Both fires (in Oct and February in the same building) were in apartments that did not have a smoke detector. On the floor above, where a working alarm would likely have sounded, no smoke alarms went off. He has reached out to 11th Battalion to participate in these meetings going forward.

Polly Spain noted that NYCHA has sent out notices offering to maintain smoke alarms. She noted that no one reported a smoke alarm problem. NYCHA will inspect and maintain alarms annually, entering apartments to do so if no one is home. Shelly Fine stated that there was a fire safety presentation a few months ago at the Health and Human Services Committee. It is great to hear that the FDNY will provide alarms but the Red Cross will install them. Rich Robbins suggested that CB7 and the FDNY do more to publicize the free programs offered by the Red Cross and FDNY. It is painful to hear that people lose their lives when these free programs are available. Steve Brown noted that the Public Safety Task Force could consider this suggestion at tomorrow's meeting.

Deputy Inspector Naoki Yaguchi, Commanding Officer of the 24th Precinct announced that the NYPD has opened applications for the police officer examination for another class of recruits and he requested that CB7 spread the word. The application is available at www.NYPDrecruit.com.

Crime statistics are up a bit. For the 28-day period, there were 12 robberies of which 4 were shoplifting robberies (involving some kind of threat), 4 street robberies (arrests were made for 2 of them), and 4 in housing (of which 2 were domestic violence related). Two of those in housing have had arrests made. .

Catalytic converter thefts have increased; it is a City-wide and worldwide trend. In a recent week, in the 24th precinct, there were 6 thefts. It takes 30-60 seconds for a group of people to saw off a catalytic converter, making it difficult to catch these guys. They will double park, jack up the car and go underneath. A crime prevention tip is to install a catalytic converter cover. Honda is the most common model hit. In our district, most thefts are on Riverside Drive and West End Avenue, but we are seeing it all over the command. We are asking everyone to call the police.

Grand larcenies are up a little. We are seeing a lot of ConEd scams, callers threatening to cut off electricity. ConEd does not make such calls. If you receive any such call asking for money, you should just hang up. One potential victim got a call that his daughter had been kidnapped. The NYPD was able to confirm that his daughter was at school and was fine.

Steve Brown asked whether there were any available traffic statistics. D.I. Yaguchi responded that for the year, pedestrian collisions are down to 6 versus 9. The last 4 weeks are up 3 versus 2, They usually occur during the daylight hours when pedestrians are out and about. In terms of vehicle collisions, we are up (44 versus 31) for the last four weeks, 7-8 on the Henry Hudson Parkway, 7 or 8 on Broadway, 7-8 on Columbus and 3 on Central Park West, so split among the major corridors. As the weather warms, they are already getting complaints about dirt bikes and motorcycles driving erratically.

Joy Hecht asked about package thefts. Her building had a number of thefts from a robber entering the building. She was told that the building cannot report the theft and the individuals who lost merchandise are just going to Amazon to replace the items. Can the NYPD accept building level complaints? D.I. Yaguchi responded that they are seeing package thefts all over the command as well, up and down West End Avenue, Riverside Drive and a cluster around 108th and 109th and Amsterdam. They do have some "frequent flyers" they have arrested multiple times. The first question the DA's office will ask in these cases is "Who is the victim?", so to draw up a case the individual who lost the package needs to be involved. However, that does not mean that the police cannot initiate an investigation based on a building's complaint. When they do arrest an individual multiple times, the DA's office will work with them to set bail.

Peter Arndsen asked about Build-a-Block meetings for section C, which is the section of the precinct north of 100th Street. This is an opportunity to meet with officers who have often done work about package thefts and other issues. D.I. Yaguchi responded that the next meeting was March 10 at 7:00 PM covering the area from 100-110th streets, Central Park West to Broadway. They may try to do the meeting in-person.

Reed Perron asked whether there have been many accidents with e-bikes recently. D.I. Yaguchi responded that the official report is 2 for the last 4 weeks, but they are likely underreported. The numbers year-to-date are down from last year.

Susan Schwartz recounted that she had received a scam call purportedly from ConEd demanding \$800. It was annoying and she hung up on them, D.I. Yaguchi responded that a number of people are losing money to these scams, and it is important to get the word out about them.

Ken Coughlan cited an article in the *West Side Rag* about the reduction in enforcement of moving violations and failure-to-yield violations, He asked D.I. Yaguchi to explain why enforcement is down. He responded that Captain Lazarus oversees traffic safety. They now have traffic safety meetings, similar to CompStat meetings. The staffing of the dedicated traffic safety team is down from 4 officers to 2, and they are having some difficulties in building that team back up. They got 38 new officers last year, but they do not want to throw novice officers onto this team, as it requires experience to approach drivers. In the meantime, regular patrol officers are writing summonses when they see violations. The numbers in the article used for comparison are pre-pandemic numbers from 2019. There is a need to improve the focus on traffic violations, but the goal is not to issue more summonses, but make the streets safer.

Rich Robbins stated that he was troubled by the same article and to hear that there were 9 fatalities between the 20 and 24 precincts last year and already 33 injuries this year. Hard to hear that only 2 officers trained on traffic and that some officers were switched to focus on gun violence. D.I. Yaguchi responded that traffic officers do not need special training. When they put cops into teams, they need to ensure that the officers are ready to handle difficult interactions with the public. When numbers of summonses were the focus, everyone was concerned about over-enforcement. Now that the numbers aren't the focus, people refer to the numbers. They are noting where collisions are happening and trying to focus in on those areas.

Steve Brown thanked D.I. Yaguchi for answering all the questions and recognized that he had difficult decisions to make. He expressed his personal support for the job the NYPD was doing.

Business Session

Steve Brown noted that there were late minor changes made to the 2nd resolution this afternoon. However, the changes were to a whereas clause only. As there was no change to any therefore clause, the vote on the resolution could go forward.

Transportation Committee, Andrew Albert and Howard Yaruss, Co-Chairpersons

Resolution Re:

1. 141-145 West 108th Street, WSFSSH (Amsterdam - Columbus Avenues.) Request to the Department of Transportation for a “No Standing Anytime” sign in front of the WSFSSH main residential entrance.

Howard Yaruss introduced the resolution to place a “No Standing Anytime” sign in front of the West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing residence on W108th Street to accommodate the need for drop-off and pick-up by Access-A-Ride vehicles serving the elderly residents. Jay Adolf stated he would abstain because 2 parking spaces would be impacted and a hydrant in proximity to the front of the building provides a 30-foot buffer for Access-A-Ride to use. Also, he stated that WSFSSH had not posted notices to the community regarding the change. Shelly Fine responded that there would be no removal of parking spaces because the curb space previously belonged to parking garages. He noted that many of the residents would be mobility impaired.

The Resolution passed 42-0-1-0

2. Street Sweeping Enforcement and Fines.

Howard Yaruss explained that during Covid, the city cut back on street cleaning from twice a week to once a week, resulting in dirtier streets. Alternate side parking rules were changed accordingly to require cars to move only once a week. If a car has not moved during the designated time, the street does not get even that limited amount of cleaning. The resolution calls on the City to increase enforcement of failure to adhere to alternate side parking rules and against idling. Many cars park on the opposite side with the motor running while waiting for the street sweeper to come through. It also calls for increasing the penalty for violating those rules and preventing the cleaning of the streets. He displayed the updated version of the resolution on the screen, noting that the “whereas clause” wording had been edited slightly but the “resolved clause” was the same as originally posted.

Barbara Adler noted that the CB7 budget requests had asked for the restoration of twice-a-week sweeping. Her request to include this restoration in the resolution did not receive support from Howard Yaruss.

Roberta Semer reminded the Board of the format and language preferred for resolutions.

Klari Neuwelt noted that there is a belief among many car owners that, if you are running a motor while double parked and awaiting a street sweeper, you would not be ticketed. Steve Brown clarified that this belief is not accurate. Klari then asked for the inclusion in the resolution of a broader anti-idling clause to include enforcement for all idling vehicles, not only those moved for alternate side parking rules. Howard Yaruss accepted Klari’s suggestion as a friendly amendment. Ken Coughlin and Richard Asche both stated that they opposed requesting restoration of twice weekly cleaning. Ken noted that air pollution has decreased with once-a-week street cleaning because there has been a decrease in vehicles idling. He supported asking for traffic enforcement agents to increase anti-idling enforcement. Rich Robbins added that one cleaning per week is enough for side streets subject to alternate side parking rules.

Jay Adolf stated that almost all the “whereas” clauses in the resolution are anecdotal and lacking in data. It would be useful to know the views of the Department of Sanitation as they were not invited to the committee. The real cleaning problem is on the commercial streets while side streets look about the same as always. He noted the loss of thousands of parking spaces in our district and the loss of garages on 108th St. Alternate side parking rules require people to sit in cars for 1 hour or more. Approximately 25% of district residents own automobiles, mostly out of necessity. It is vague to say fines should be significant and punitive to people who are just trying to find parking. The resolution is an assault on auto ownership.

Dan Zweig approved the call for increased enforcement to move cars out. Sweepers are coming less frequently compared to their schedule. He suggested adding two whereas clauses to the resolution:

WHEREAS, beginning June 29, street sweepers began to arrive only a third of time, a reduction from the 50% frequency with which they used to meet their schedule; and

WHEREAS many streets remain unswept one day a week because the street sweepers simply fail to arrive;

Howard Yaruss accepted both changes as friendly amendments to the resolution. Dan Zweig also recommended adding one therefore clause, calling on DOS to see that sweepers arrive weekly. Howard Yaruss did not accept this amendment and suggested that Dan Zweig attend the next Transportation Committee meeting which will focus on the Sanitation issues.

Peter Arndsen noted that the Sanitation Department is stressed and the discussion in committee had been thoughtful.

Susan Schwartz stated that this resolution is not where our enforcement focus should be right now and announced she would vote against it.

The resolution, as amended, passed 33-5-1-0.

Business & Consumer Issues Committee, Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons

Resolution Re:

3. New applications to the SLA for two-year liquor licenses:

- **200 West 60th Street (Amsterdam Avenue), Heledona, Inc. d/b/a Olympic Flame**
- **226 West 79th Street (Broadway – Amsterdam Avenue), Staub Hospitality Group, LLC d/b/a Haven UWS**
- **175 West 90th Street (Amsterdam Avenue), HDMS Food, LLC d/b/a Hummus Kitchen**

4. 660 Amsterdam Avenue (West 92nd Street.) Temporary Retail Permit to the SLA for two-year liquor licenses by Izzy's BBQ Manhattan, LLC d/b/a Izzy's BBQ Manhattan.

Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova introduced all the BCI applications as routine and without issues. Linda Alexander commended the new owner at Olympic Flame for giving food away during the Pandemic to medical personnel at Mount Sinai and for charging first responders only 50% of their food bills. A single vote was taken for all four applications.

The vote passed 37-0-0-0

Preservation Committee, K Karpen and Michele Parker, Co-Chairpersons

Resolution Re:

5. 117 West 81st Street (Amsterdam Avenue - Broadway). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the use of smooth stone facing on the front basement facade in place of the rusticated stone called for under a previously issued Certificate of No Effect.

K Karpen stated that this is essentially a legalization of a mess-up a decade ago. The Committee would have approved smooth stone facing if it had been originally proposed. The Committee recommends approval.

The resolution was approved 34-0-2-0

6. 121 West 88th Street (Amsterdam – Columbus Avenues.) Review of revised plans concerning application #LPC-21-06920 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a full-floor rooftop addition, relocation of the main entrance, and expanded fenestration and new balconies on the rear facade.

K Karpen explained that, while the Board previously disapproved this application, the owner has now made changes to incorporate all the Committee's recommendations. The Committee voted to approve the revised application.

The resolution was approved 36-0-4-1

7. 325 Riverside Drive (West 105th Street). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for permission to engrave the adopted name of the building ("Sherwood") on the limestone lintel over the main entrance facing Riverside Drive, in honor of longtime tenant advocate and Co-op president James Sherwood.

K Karpen announced that the building wants to add the name Sherwood to the lintel to honor the memory of their tenant advocate and long-time board president. Various members of CB7 supported the application as fitting and well-deserved and noted that Mr. Sherwood's wife attended the meeting. Shauna Vey, a building resident, noted that there is already a plaque honoring him in the lobby.

The resolution was approved 40-0-0-0

Jay Adolf raised a point of order. We have been using the phrase “for cause” in our voting. However, the correct term is “ineligible to vote”. When board members are ineligible to vote, according to the by-laws, they should state the reason why.

Health & Human Services Committee, Catherine DeLazero and Sheldon Fine, Co-Chairpersons

Resolution Re:

8. Initiatives Supporting the Mental Health and Wellness of Our Community.

Shelly Fine introduced the resolution, noting the increase in mental health issues in the last several years. The HHS Committee has unanimously endorsed eight initiatives that Councilmember Erik Boettcher has proposed to address the mental health crisis. The Councilmember attended the HHS Committee meeting to elaborate and illuminate his proposals. Shelly then read into the record explanations of the eight initiatives covered in the resolution.

1. Reverse the closure of inpatient psychiatric beds. According to the Nurses Association of New York (NYSNA), the number of certified inpatient psychiatric beds statewide dropped 12% between 2000 and 2018. At the same time as the population and the need have grown. New York City alone accounts for 72% of that decline. This loss of clinical space hasn't been replaced by community-based services as promised. Instead, patients have been funneled into the carceral system — our jails and prisons — and homeless shelters.

New York State needs to reverse the decertification of inpatient psychiatric beds. Any closures of beds must be accompanied by an increase in quality services elsewhere that can serve this vulnerable population.

Additionally, there must be an infusion of funding for comprehensive hospital discharge planning, which is currently inadequate.

2. Expand mobile mental health crisis response teams. Last year, Mayor de Blasio initiated a pilot program in Northern Manhattan in which crisis response teams with social workers and psychiatric professionals, instead of just NYPD officers, are dispatched to respond to mental health crises. We do not have time to wait for a lengthy pilot program to be completed before expanding this program. It must grow quickly to reach neighborhoods throughout the five boroughs. People experiencing mental health emergencies need to be stabilized and connected to appropriate wrap-around services.

3. Increase crisis stabilization centers. When unhoused New Yorkers experiencing mental health crises are brought to the hospital, they are typically released after they are medically stabilized. Frequently, while they may not be sick enough to stay in the hospital, they are too sick — meaning psychologically sick — to return to shelter or the streets. Crisis stabilization centers, also known as medical respite beds, can fill this critical need, giving people time and space to recuperate.

The four crisis centers in all of New York City serve only a fraction of the demand.

4. Build more supportive housing with mental health services. Supportive housing is the best way for people with mental health challenges to lead full lives outside of hospital settings, the shelter system, or the criminal justice system.

Unfortunately, the city has only constructed a fraction of the supportive housing that is needed. We must create quality supportive housing across the city. It's not cheap, but it's essential. New York City currently has more than 32,000 units and advocates have said we need nearly double that number to meet the need.

5. Embrace and expand the “clubhouse model” of rehabilitation. Clubhouses, like Fountain House in Hell's Kitchen, are community centers where people with mental illness can find opportunities for friendship, employment, housing, education, and access to medical and psychiatric services in a caring and safe environment. These are great resources that are proven to help get people back on the right track. New York City should immediately begin facilitating the creation of at least 10 more such locations, distributed across the five boroughs.

6. Revamp discharge planning for formerly incarcerated New Yorkers. Upon release from prison or jail, people are frequently cut loose without adequate planning and support services. Those without homes to go to are often released directly into the shelter system, with inadequate case management and few prospects for housing, employment, substance use treatment and mental health care.

We need a quality statewide program that connects the formerly incarcerated, especially those with mental illness, with the housing and services they need to re-enter society.

7. Increase school-based behavioral health. Serious mental illness often begins to take shape in adolescence. Schools must have more nurses, counselors and social workers on site who are trained to identify warning signs of behavioral health issues and make referrals to behavioral health professionals.

8. Redirect ThriveNYC funds to address serious mental illness. As of 2019, only 10% of ThriveNYC's \$250 million annual budget was spent on serving those with serious mental illness. This was a big, missed opportunity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan urges our Mayor, Manhattan Borough President, Council Members and other City and State elected officials, to advocate for these initiatives and to support legislation and other means of securing the funding and resources needed to implement these initiatives.

Linda Alexander thanked Shelly for the “miracle” of the resolution and recounted that she had worked in psychiatric centers as a music therapist and saw how critically important it is to provide care. The Centers had much to criticize, but they provided shelter and three-square meals a day. You now have people sleeping in the streets and subways without care. She said the resolution was insightful and she would vote for it.

Courtney Clark Metakis asked whether the Committee had discussed Kendra’s Law. Shelly Fine responded that the Committee was looking for initiatives that can be implemented quickly by State and City.

Jay Adolf asked whether any of these initiatives had been translated into specific legislation? Shelly responded that Erik Boettscher and Linda Rosenthal will be carrying the required legislation. If CB7 votes in support, we will have the ability to advocate for them going forward.

Reed Perron suggested that we recommend appointment of a mental health Czar. Shelly responded that the Mayor has created a position, but that advocacy must come from the grass roots.

Mark Diller noted that the spirit of the resolution is that there are items that are short term and can be moved immediately. The question of czar was part of a longer-term effort and could be considered as part of the district needs process.

Steve Brown stated his opinion that there is a direct correlation between the reduction in beds and the increase in mental health issues. He was extremely supportive of the resolution and opined that there was no accountability for the \$250 million in Thrive expenditures. He complimented the Committee on a wonderful, extremely specific effort and suggested that the resolution be shared with other community boards and get Manhattan-level approval at the Borough Board.

Roberta Semer recounted that her Father was involved in the founding of the National Institute of Mental Health along with Karl Menninger. In 1952, in testimony before Congress, Bill Menninger stated that 51% of hospital beds were for the mentally ill. This statistic was subsequently quoted in Time Magazine. We defunded the psychiatric hospitals and did not fund other services. Councilmember Boettcher was very brave in talking about his mental health history and how hospitalization saved his life.

Shelly Fine stated that the committee would continue to have meetings dealing with mental health, as the subject must be out in public. With Pastor Jay Payne, Shelly has attended mental health first aid training and will arrange for anyone in the community who wants it to have that training. It helps to understand that people close to you have had mental health problems. There is no embarrassment to it; it is part of life. Mental health is still stigmatized. Fortunately, some celebrities and sports figures have come out and told their stories making it more in the public discourse.

The resolution was approved 41-0-0-0.

Youth, Education and Libraries Committee, Blanche Lawton and Courtney Clark Metakis, Co-Chairpersons
Resolution Re:

9. Call for pay equity and enhanced data collection with respect to UPK and 3K special education services.

Courtney Clark Metakis noted that the YEL Committee had a great meeting with Advocates For Children on their report presenting the first-ever data released on access to services for Pre-K students with special needs, learning disabilities and learning differences. The report found a considerable amount of inequity in kids getting access to the services to which they are legally entitled. For example, children speaking a different language at home and Black and Asian children are underrepresented in receiving services in the pre-K population compared with what we see in the later years. The critical nature of early years support for these students cannot be overstated. The resolution calls for three things:

1. Pay parity. The City has committed to pay parity for Pre-K teachers employed by CBO’s with DOE Pre-K teachers. However, Pre-K special education teachers and providers were excluded from that commitment.

2. There is a need for a data system. There is a data system for PreK special education services in the planning stages, but it is not up and running. It is important to have an accurate picture of where we are. The resolution calls for a Workaround Data system to meet the immediate need.
3. We are not identifying the kids who are most in need. The resolution calls for the DOE to hire, train and deploy sufficient staff to address Inadequate access to evaluation.

The resolution was approved 34-0-0-0.

Elected Officials Report

Borough President Mark Levine: I appreciate the way CB7 has continued to lead on mental health issues. It is hard to think of a more pressing issue than the mental health crisis. I have been outspoken on the loss of in-patient psychiatric beds in Manhattan. Pre-Pandemic, we had already lost over 400 beds in Manhattan alone and we lost even more during the Pandemic because those beds were converted to Covid use. Oversight was loose so that we do not have a full accounting of that. It is too hard to get access to a psychiatric bed in Manhattan, but we also need to ramp up intermediate facilities so there are options to going to the ER for those experiencing a mental health crisis. There are really good models for crisis intervention. One of the best is the Living Room Model—a place where people in crisis can go where they get peer intervention, medical therapy services. They tend to be much more successful than ER's but there are only 3 sites in New York City and only one in Manhattan – Fountain House.

All of us are heartbroken by events in Ukraine. New York City has a role in this fight. We are home to the largest community of Ukrainian-Americans in the Country including Little Ukraine on the Lower East Side. New York has also been one of the most favored destinations for oligarchs close to Putin as a safe harbor for their assets, especially ultra-luxury real estate. I am calling on the federal government to add the names of oligarchs to the sanctions list so their assets can be seized.

On Covid, it has been a week of head-spinning developments as many of the protective measures are being rolled back. I celebrate the progress we have made against the Pandemic since the horrible highs of early January. We are set up for a real awakening this spring, but we still have work to do to protect vulnerable people. Children under 5 cannot be vaccinated yet and less than half of children from 5-11 have been vaccinated. We still need to take precautions when 800-900 people are testing positive in the city daily. Mask mandates remain in place in many venues including mass transit and airports and many private venues have chosen to keep mask mandates in place, including museums and Broadway theaters.

I have been speaking out on a technology that would protect subway riders – screen doors on subway platforms. They have been in use for years in other parts of the world and in New York at JFK Airport's Air Train, and they prevent people falling or being pushed onto the tracks. After intense pressure, the MTA has announced a pilot program at 3 stations to install screen doors. Two are in Manhattan – Times Square and Third Avenue on the L. I would like them to go bigger. They have identified dozens of stations where this is feasible. One is in CB7 – the 96th St station on the B&C lines. This is a technology that should be City-wide.

With the 4 other borough presidents, I launched a call for 1,000,000 more trees for New York City. for climate control and for equity. Lower income areas tend to have fewer street trees. We want to plant trees in natural areas, on streets, on rooftops and in NYCHA campuses and even on private property. We have a huge coalition of activists involved. I would love for CB7 to start thinking about where we need more trees, to look for empty tree pits, places that need more tree pits, or more creative sites I mentioned. It would be great to have your input.

Finally, once again, Community Board 7 has by far the most applications for new members.

Madelyn Innocent commented that she likes trees for public housing and low-income areas. However, so much more is needed than trees – our lives are at stake. We need no mold, elevators that are working, that should be the focus as well as trees. Breathing, living, existing, quality of life, protection, a better education for our kids – we need help and that is where she thinks the money should go. That is a bigger need than trees in low-income areas. Mark Levine responded that Madelyn is absolutely right. He is all-in on these fights – to abate mold, lead paint, address lack of heat and hot water and air conditioning in the summer. He hears from many NYCHA residents that it is unfair that they are not benefiting from the emerging green infrastructure for cleaner air to address elevated rates of asthma, prevent flooding, and beautify the campuses by providing community gardens. We need an all-of-the-above approach.

Elizabeth Caputo asked how to follow up with Mark Levine's office. He responded that the contact for CB7 was Eric Cuello who can be reached at ecuello@manhattanbp.nyc.gov.

Councilmember Gale Brewer: I know there are a lot of Russian families in this community, and we intend to meet with them. They need our support because there is a lot of discrimination going on. We will have a support mechanism that will be announced. At 160 W82nd Street is Saint Volodymyr's (Ukrainian Orthodox) Church. They too need our love and support. There are 2 communities in the CB7 area that need help right now.

We are working endlessly on the "dark stores. Most egregious is the Jokr on 88th and Broadway. The garbage is outside, with plastic bags in the window, and it is challenging as a landscape in our commercial district. We will have a map shortly with 50-100 of these dark stores Citywide. They do not make sense in our commercial areas. I want to thank Max who has answered a lot of questions on this topic. We will hold a press conference tomorrow at the 88th Street and Broadway location.

The City Council starts the budget session tomorrow. We will look at all your budget requests. We will have to see what the 3% PEG means in cuts to agencies. We certainly want to ensure the 1% for parks that the Mayor promised. The Department of Sanitation is probably number one in terms of needing more money. CB7 did see a restoration of composting and we want others to have that same opportunity. I got an unprecedented call from Sanitation asking for a list of the streets that are not being cleaned on a regular basis. To the credit of the block associations, they sent that out as a call. The Sanitation Department seems to be very responsive. They also have replaced baskets.

I want to thank you for your public hearing on the Fortune Society site on 97th Street. There was a good response from the community and Joanne Page, the director, and her team were able to answer every question. I wish other non-profits would have that level of transparency. If there are other hotel conversions, we have to be sure they are going to equally good non-profits. Project Find is doing one on 79th Street.

I do know from the papers that Gary Barnett has bought what was ABC and then the Silverstein site. Landmarks West, with support from CB7, is trying to include the site in the Lincoln Square special district. There are timing issues here that must be tight.

The Fire Department is very challenging. There is a daycare center that needs to get an inspection and it seems like they don't have any staff. They have to hire inspectors. People are waiting 2 months for a fire inspection.

We are also working on NYCHA problems at the brownstones, Douglass Houses and Wise Towers. The public-private/PACT/RAD problems are endless and every single day.

Thanks to Max for working with us on the 71st Street corner, the sanitation pick-up issues and noise issues at 175 W87th Street. It is a great partnership to continue to work on issues with him.

The restaurant issue is ongoing. The text amendment passed but the real issue is what the restaurants will look like. I am on the committee that will look at what the community boards suggest and what the restaurants suggest.

Steve Brown commented on the dark stores and their promise of delivery in 15 minutes. Encouraging that type of speed is too dangerous.

Senator Brad Hoylman: In the newly defined 30th District we have little Ukraine in the East Village. I visited there the day after the Russians attacked. It was very moving. I have introduced a couple of bills a propos of the conversation tonight. I reintroduced legislation that I have carried for a number of years regarding LLCs. It cannot be said to target Russian oligarchs, but it does serve a dual purpose. Ownership of LLC's is very murky. To open one, you need to give less information than if you want to get a library card. I introduced S8439 that would require LLCs to disclose the names and addresses of their beneficial owners to the Department of State and would allow the names to be aggregated on a database so you could see how they are interconnected. It would help to uncover the real estate assets of foreign owners,

but it would also help tenants who send monthly checks to LLCs. This could be helpful to law enforcement to track down criminals, assist enforcement of tax payments and ensure that landlords are held accountable for any misdeeds.

I have also introduced S8422 which would direct New York State to apply for a Medicaid waiver so NY can start reimbursing long term stays in larger mental health institutions. The man who pushed Michelle Go to her death was in and out of mental hospitals. The lack of Medicaid reimbursement has made larger institutions shy away from serving the mentally ill. In the 1970's, this federal constraint was put in place by a smaller residential health institution consortium capping the Medicaid reimbursement at a maximum of 15 beds per institution. There is a federal waiver available, but New York has not applied for it.

I recently did a walking tour with Breaking Ground in Times Square. We have launched a plan for the Penn Station neighborhood, which Governor Hochul has said she wants to carry forward. I voted against her predecessor's plan every step of the way because it was a general project plan rather than a ULURP which would involve community boards and local officials. I want to be sure that the State considers supported housing for unhoused New Yorkers, social services for folks dealing with mental illness in that neighborhood, which has reached crisis proportions. We have a meeting with social service providers and the State economic development arm.

We are in the process of negotiating our Senate one-house bill for the \$216 billion State budget, the largest we have ever had. We have a \$1.6 billion surplus thanks to all the federal money that has come since the Pandemic began. We need to ensure that small businesses, arts programs, social services including NYCHA and other housing efforts and other priorities get a piece of that.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February full board meeting were approved unanimously.

Chair's Report

Our District Manager Michelle Booker has informed us that she is going to be leaving and moving on. We want to thank her very much for the time she has been here and wish her all the best.

We are also losing April Adams, who has been the point person to CB7 for the Manhattan Borough President. She is moving to a private sector job. Eric Cuello will now be the temporary point person, and perhaps will be permanent.

Elizabeth Caputo, Chair of the Remote and In-Person Task Force will be leading a public hearing on March 7. They are looking for feedback from the public and from board members on what Board meetings will look like going forward. We will most likely be moving back to in-person meetings, but over the next year we will be reshaping how that works. The meeting announcement will be posted on our website.

The Public Safety Task Force is holding its first meeting March 2nd. That is also noticed on the website. The first agenda item is a conversation about what public safety is to CB7.

There was an extension of 30 days for the suspension of the Open Meeting Law, which permitted us to do a Zoom meeting today. That suspension expires on March 15th and it is unlikely to be renewed. I am pretty confident that our next Full Board Meeting will be in person. Starting in the second half of March, the committee meetings as well as the Full Board will be moved to live meetings. We will work diligently to make sure that is safe. We believe we have identified a space for the full board meeting that will maximize safety.

In response to a question from Ken Coughlin, Steve clarified that we will be legally obligated to meet in person unless the legislature acts, which is unlikely in the near term.

Public Session

Grant Dennis representing Senator Robert Jackson - Senator Jackson is working on 2 bills – the Class Size Matters Act so students have more one-on-one attention from their teachers (S6296) and the Mental Health in Schools Act for the funding of school mental health professionals (S1969). The senator was named one of the top Labor Power 100 for the state. This week he is having a gun buy-back program. The last such event took 70 guns off the street.

Anthony Gray representing Senator Cordell Cleare. Senator Cleare has 7 bills before committees. One is a right to representation and counsel in any proceeding where an incarcerated individual is under consideration for release on parole and where such an incarcerated individual is financially unable to obtain counsel. Another requires exterior cages for air conditioners in any public dwelling. Also, tomorrow in Albany, she is honoring the families of the fallen officers from the 32nd precinct – Jason Rivera and Wilbert Mora. If you have any issues with heat or hot water, she can be instrumental in reaching out to the correct agencies. Their phone number is 212-222-7315. Keeping in step with Covid 19 protocols, the office is still giving out free PPE and Covid 19 test kits by appointment only.

Joy Hecht: On the Issue of live meetings, Is there an opportunity to work with Elizabeth Caputo working out a way to have meetings that are both virtual and live? Steve Brown responded that the Zoom hearing on March 7 was a venue for the public to share their thoughts. The link for the meeting will be on the website.

Erica Overton representing Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal: As I mentioned last month, the Assemblymember wrote to Sanitation Commissioner Grayson asking to go on a walkthrough of the district. She will be touring the district with him on 3/16 and has already identified a number of hot spots identified by constituents. She just sent out another survey to identify more locations for the tour.

There are a lot more complaints about the traffic situation on Freedom Place. Freedom Place is still privately owned by Silverstein because it has not obtained its permanent certificate of occupancy. The Assemblymember is working with the relevant agencies to try to get the permanent c of o so work with DOT can begin on the traffic issues. On 42nd Street and 12th Avenue, right before the Lincoln Tunnel, the Assemblymember organized a walkthrough of that area with CB4 and proposed solutions. DOT has now agreed to redesign part of the intersection hopefully alleviating some of the congestion.

Legislation-wise, the Assemblymember fought to include the district in the pilot organics program at DSNY. She is introducing legislation that would require a composting site for every 5,000 residents. She is now in the throes of budget negotiations. She is the Chair of the social services committee in the Assembly, so in addition to fighting for more funding for supportive housing and run-away and homeless youth, and raising the wages for home-care workers, she also recently introduced legislation that would end taxpayer subsidies for horse racing in New York State and would take all those subsidies and put them back into public education.

Peter Arndtsen representing the Columbus/Amsterdam BID: Open streets on Amsterdam Avenue will resume on March 13th from 10:00 to 7:00. After that, it will be open on Saturdays and Sundays unless there is bad weather. The Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group will have a presentation on stained glass in the neighborhood on Wednesday, March 16 at 6:30. Julie Sloan will make the presentation. Flyers have been sent to Max. Jim Mackin has resumed his tours of the neighborhood and the next one is scheduled for March 6 at 2:00 leaving from Strauss Park.

Hannah Weinerman for Congressman Charles Rangel: The Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act which came out of Congressman Nadler's Judiciary Committee has just passed the House and Senate. The legislation will ensure that survivors of sexual harassment will be able to hold their harassers accountable in federal court as opposed to being forced into a secret system of arbitration that is often stacked against them. We expect President Biden will sign the legislation in the coming weeks. The House passed the Emmett Till Intervention Act yesterday, long overdue legislation making lynching a crime under federal law. The district office has been holding hearings on a variety of issues such as the rise of violence against minority institutions. The Congressman's Newsletter has information about new changes to the tax laws and free tax filing resources.

Emmitt Sklar for Councilmember Shaun Abreu: I want to touch on the sanitation and the rodent problem in our district. We have met with the DSNY chairman and spoken a lot with the public about it. On the constituent service side, we now have a form you can fill out if there are any sanitation or graffiti issues in your neighborhood. We work with an organization called ACE to do supplementary support to get those areas cleaned up as soon as possible. In the first week of this program there are 3 or 4 parts of the district that have gotten cleaned up. As the open restaurants bill gets debated, we are talking about how to make sure trash is compartmentalized and how to keep rodents out of our streets and public spaces.

We are also focusing on how to give mental health support and keep the subways safe. We hope that the MTA pilot to install barriers in three stations will begin to make the subways safer. It will also help to speed up the subways because

the track fires caused by debris thrown onto the tracks will hopefully decrease. We are also talking about increasing psychiatric beds and increasing resources for mental health.

Councilmember Abreu was just appointed to be Chair of the Council's State and Federal committee. So, we are making sure to work across different levels of government

Gabriel Lewenstein for Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell: Dana, your previous representative from Danny's office, has just moved to D.C. to work for the U.S. armed forces press team. On Thursday, we will be having a Rat Academy. Danny has sent a number of letters to the previous mayor and Mayor Adams imploring urgent action on the rodent problem. The Academy will be from 5:00 to 7:00 this coming Thursday.

Assemblyman O'Donnell joined with a lot of advocates and elected officials to write a letter to Mayor Adams asking him to reconsider several homophobic appointments to his administration. It is important that his administration is accessible to everybody. Today he debated a bill on the Assembly floor to amend the Gender Recognition Act that makes it easier for transgender New Yorkers to have their identities accurately reflected on their government ID's like drivers' licenses.

Danny is the Chair of the Arts Committee and working on arts related matters in the budget negotiations. I could talk about employment issues and efforts around ConEd rate increases, but it is late. Please reach out to the office with any issues at odonnell@nyassembly.gov.

Steve Brown announced the completion of business. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28P.M.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Andrew Albert and Howard Yaruss, Co-Chairpersons

March 8, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

Live-streamed on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_n3st90mFiSeRVUI4m8ySQCommittee

Present: Andrew Albert and Howard Yaruss, Co-Chairpersons; Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Elizabeth Caputo, Ken Coughlin, Doug Kleiman and Erana Stennett. **Absent:** Sara Lind and William Ortiz. **Chair:** Steven Brown. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Mark Diller, Rich Robbins, Susan Schwartz and Roberta Semer.

Andrew Albert began the meeting at 6:32PM, which was simultaneously live streamed on YouTube. A full recording of the meeting is available on the link noted above.

1. **72 West 109th Street (Columbus Avenue):** Renewal Application #B02228 to NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission by Special Radio Dispatcher, Corp, for a renewal of their For Hire Base Station License. The Applicant failed to appear before the committee, and therefore, this application was deferred to next month.

2. **Update on Subway Safety/New Fair Initiatives- Andrew Albert:** Andrew, who sits on the MTA board, gave a very interesting and information-chocked presentation of new initiatives coming from the MTA. These include an additional \$775M in Covid relief funds, very good news; indeed, safety initiatives undertaken by 30 interactive agency teams, along with the mayor and governor's support, which will help to alleviate the homeless living on the transit system, and get needed help to those in need; innovative fare options, more accessible stations, etc. Those present asked numerous questions, all of which he answered.

3. **Raising Crosswalks to Make Intersections Safer:** Rich Robbins began the discussion by saying that most accidents occur in the crosswalks, due to failure to yield. By elevating the crosswalks, it forces cars to slow down and makes the pedestrian more visible. The article he got his information from said that you cannot employ raised crosswalks in major intersections because buses use these thoroughfares, but "cat-eyes" can be used instead. These are small bumps that notify drivers that the area is potentially dangerous. As this item was not publicly noticed on our website (required three days in advance), a resolution cannot be voted on tonight. However, the item will be taken up next month. Colleen Chattergoon (DOT) suggested the committee recommend its top five intersections, and they will take a look at them.

4. **Discussion of DOT's Responses to Past Resolutions:** Howard Yaruss led this discussion about resolutions that passed the board and were submitted to DOT without responses being received. The topics range from loading zones (they will eventually look at these, but asked the committee for specific locations), daylighting specific intersections (Colleen will send a list of these early next week), reconfiguring 72nd Street from river to river with a bike lane, (can be achieved from Hudson River to Central Park West, but may be very challenging through the east side. Eventually they will come to the board to give a presentation. She added that numerous stakeholders and elected officials must be advised and onboard). Other resolutions were discussed as well, such as safety initiatives, and Colleen said they will address all. Steven Brown complimented Colleen Chattergoon, saying she is one of the very best reps, attends all the transportation meetings, and takes her job very seriously. She was applauded by several board members.

5. **New Business:** Doug Kleiman re DOT reducing some fines, such as double parking: Item will be put on the agenda for next month. Ken Coughlin: Read that the city is considering giving Spectrum the right to idle without being fined for it. If this comes to pass, it will be looked into.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Adler on March 9, 2022*

SENIOR TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2022 at 10am via ZOOM

Roberta Semer, Chair

Present: Roberta Semer, chair; Ed Amador, Ellen Amstutz, Daniella Breton, Cindy Cardinal, Conner Callahan, Louisa Craddock, Lisa Miller, Shula Pudar, Aaron Rooney, Paula Seefeldt, Robin Strashun and Margaret Walters. **CB7 Staff:** Max Vandervliet.

Meeting called to order at 10 am.

1. Planning for the proposed Senior Forums, Roberta Semer presented for Mark Jennings who was unable to attend. The plan is for 3 sessions of approximately 60 to 90 minutes each. **Session I** Obtaining Housing - types of affordable housing, tips on how to get on lists, what documents are needed, income requirements, how the lottery works, **Session II** Maintaining Housings, information about HomeBase, SCRIE and DRIE, accommodations and how to get Landlord to make them (ie grab bars in bathrooms, ramps, etc), housing court and evictions. **Session III** Thriving local CBOs present info on resources and technology, programs, with a resource guide
2. Ellen Amstutz said that DOROT has started to offer in-home visits with volunteers, travel companions, mask requirements are in place, University at home, some programs in the auditorium and on-line
3. Robin Strashun - said that for Search and Care an important program they offer is “money matters” helping with financial management, and they have a loaning library of electronic devices.
4. Daniella Breton of WSFSSH that they have begun scheduling activities at the Senior Centers
5. Paula Seefeldt of LILY said that they have volunteers from Barnard who are helping seniors with technology. Their programing is hybrid, The walking group is in person, other groups are on zoom
6. Aaron Rooney of Goddard is also a mixture, lunch is in person or grab and go. Some programs are in person, some on zoom.
7. Maggie Walters announced the opening of the Lighthouse Guild Technology Center. They do assessments of individual needs then help the individual set life style goals and train them on how to use appropriate technologies.
8. Shula Pudar, CM Brewer’s Chief of Staff said they are looking into new COVID policies and offered to help prepare our resource guide.

Next Senior Task Force Meeting: April 14 at 10 am

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

K Karpen and Michele Parker, Co-Chairpersons

March 10, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

The Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Thursday, March 10, 2022, via the Zoom online platform. The meeting was called to order promptly at 6:30 pm by Preservation Co-Chairs Michele Parker and K Karpen. Preservation Committee members Josh Cohen, Page Cowley, Klari Neuwelt, Peter Samton, Susan Schwartz and Mark Diller participated. The following discussions were had and actions taken.

1. **51 West 70th Street** (Columbus Avenue – Central Park West). **Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness regarding: (a) modifying the basement and parlor floor front façade and fenestration; (b) modifying the fenestration on the existing rear yard extension and façade; and (c) expanding the penthouse.**

The subject building is a four story plus basement brownstone townhouse in the Renaissance Revival and Romanesque Revival styles designed by Gilbert A. Schellinger and completed ca. 1890-91. It is one of a group of five townhouses in an ABABA pattern. It is included in the Upper West Side – Central Park West Historic District.

Presentation by Jennifer McKenzie, architect.

Front Façade

- The existing condition on the ground and parlor floors of the front façade includes the remnants of the pre-1940s removal of the front stoop. The portion of the ground floor façade surrounding the new main entrance is denuded of all detail and consists of flat panels of stucco-like material.
- The window created when the former front door was converted to a window retains the decorated pilasters and detailed framing of the opening. The former doorway window is larger in width than the two parlor floor windows to the west, and retains the transom above the former doorway.
- The proposal is to:
 - Replace the transom and window in the former doorway into a 1:1 double-hung wood window to match the existing parlor floor windows to the west;
 - Infill the former doorway with brownstone material to narrow the opening so that the matching window has the same dimensions as the adjacent windows;
 - Extend the detail surrounding the former main entrance to the ground floor façade surrounding the new main entrance, including pilasters and a stone panel above the new entrance to emulate a transom;
 - Convert the existing west-most entry door into a window to match the central ground floor window within the existing arched framing, with replacement window to match;
 - Convert the existing secondary access door on the east side of the ground floor façade into a new main entrance within the extended detail and pilasters and surround to continue the pattern from above, with a pair of wood entry doors, each tall and thin with a single central glass panel, with one a wide door and the flank narrow, both of which are operable.

Rooftop Addition

- The proposal includes removing the existing penthouse and replace with a wider structure.
- Per the applicant, the proposed changes to the rooftop addition are to be subject to Staff level review and potential approval and are removed from the public hearing and Community Board examination.

Rear Yard Fenestration Changes

- The existing condition of the rear façade includes a previously modified main façade and an “L” extension on the east side of the main façade. The L extends from the ground, parlor and second floors, with its roof forming a terrace at the third floor. The existing windows on the L and on the main rear façade are punched openings with 1:1 double-hung windows with one opening on the third floor converted to a doorway to the terrace. The existing openings include stone lintels above the windows.
- The proposal retains the current footprint of the L extension.

- The proposed new fenestration on the ground floor consists of a tall, thin pair of metal picture windows on the north face of the L with muntins emulating a hopper window, a single access door to the rear yard on the east face of the L, and a pair of tall, thin metal windows on the main façade, also with muntins emulating hopper windows, separated by an operable glass door with the same muntins.
- The proposed new fenestration on the north face of the L and on the main façade of the parlor floor consist of tall, thin metal framing similar to the ground floor, but with muntins to emulate transom windows rather than hopper windows. The east face of the L continues the metal framing system on the main façade as it turns the corner to the L, with the same muntin configuration, and with a total of four panels, the center two of which are operable doors.
- The proposal also calls for the construction of a terrace at the parlor level infilling the L, accessible through the doors on the L extension.

Committee Questions and Comments:

Klari:

- Q: Will the façade depth into the rear yard be changed?
- A: The footprint remains the same.
- Q: What surface will be installed on the rear yard?
- A: The proposal is to lower an existing raised brick planter at the rear of the yard to ground level, and to replace the existing moldy and cracked concrete infill with bluestone pavers or slate.
- Encouraging use of semi-permeable pavers.

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- Should infill open cinderblock caps at the top of the wall separating the yard from its donut neighbors to avoid critters taking up residence.
- Recommend relocating or burying the existing telephone cable entering the building in the middle of the rear façade.
- Unusual that the expansion of the rooftop addition would be removed from public hearing and Community Board review.

Michele:

- The use of smooth stone is not out of context and is appropriate.

K:

- Based on the overall impression, the use of smooth stone is appropriate.

Community Comments and Questions:

Jay Francis:

- Concern about the volume of the proposed new rooftop addition. Particularly about the structural integrity of the building with the additional load, as well as its visibility.
A: The concerns about structure and visibility will inform the Staff Level review.

Joan Cohen (neighbor at 41 West 70th Street):

- The proposed wood door for the front entrance should include pairs of glass vestibule doors.
A: the main entrance leads into a living room, not a vestibule, so there is no place for a pair of vestibule doors.
- Q: Will the applicant excavate the property?
- A: No.

Gary Pelton:

- The applicant should face a penalty if the construction project runs longer than estimated.

Committee Discussion:

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- Concerned that many project details are still to be determined.
- Building is in poor condition and needs these upgrades, so we should not slow this project unnecessarily.
- LPC has not yet adopted a comprehensive approach to environmental factors such as the use of hardscape in rear yards – CB7 should opine and encourage that type of review and policy.

Klari:

- Ready to vote based on existing presentation.
- Concerned about the proposed new terrace on the rear façade.
- Also concerned about the replacement of one form of rear yard hardscape with another.

Susan:

- Uncomfortable with the overall proposal.

Resolution: To approve the application as “reasonably appropriate” to the character of the Historic District, noting that the rear windows are within the scope frequently deemed appropriate by CB7, also noting that the applicant is retaining the traditional L extension in the rear rather than proposing a full-width extension, and recommending that the rear yard be clad in a permeable surface or semi-permeable pavers. The resolution is to highlight that no opinion is expressed as to the rooftop addition based on the removal of that aspect of the project from public review, which is unusual in this context.

After deliberation, the resolution to **approve** with a recommendation was adopted.

VOTE: *Preservation Committee: 7-0-1-0*

Application is calendared for a public hearing at LPC on April 12, 2022.

2. 42 West70th Street (Central Park West - Columbus Avenue). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness regarding (a) restoration of the front façade by eliminating through-the-wall air conditioner grilles; (b) addition of a rooftop stair bulkhead and elevator overrun; and (c) replacement of a curved bay window on the rear façade with a unified fenestration system.

The subject building is a 4-story plus basement townhouse constructed ca. 1891-92 from designs by architects Thom & Wilson Neo-Grec and Renaissance Revival style. The primary façade is composed stone at the ground and parlor floors and brick with stone details at the upper floors on the front façade. The front façade includes a restored L-shaped stoop with areaway below.

Presentation by Jackie Peu-Duvallon, preservation consultant, and Tim Li, architect and Jonathan Chen, project manager.

- Subsequent to scheduling the appearance before the Community Board, the restoration work on the front façade, consisting of infilling through-the-wall air conditioner grilles/openings and other minor work, has been changed from consideration at public hearing to an anticipated approval at LPC Staff level.
- The presentation focuses on the rooftop and rear yard changes.

Rear Façade

- The principal change at the rear façade concerns the removal of an existing semi-circular bay window at the parlor floor, consisting of four tall thin windows with transoms.
- The bay window is supported below by a pillar/column at its apex.
- The bay window is attached to the main rear façade.
- The bay window unit is currently enclosed within aluminum siding and is in terrible condition.
- Access to the rear yard is through a door and metal grille underneath the bay window.

- An existing L-extension from the ground, parlor and second floors to the west runs very deep into the rear yard, leaving only about 10 feet to the rear lot line.
- The existing condition of the rear façade, composed of common brick, includes small, punched windows with stone lintels on the L extension and on the main façade. One of the punched windows on the third floor has been enlarged to create a doorway to a terrace above the L extension.
- The proposal is to remove the bay window and widen the windows on the south face of the L extension and the main façade at the ground, parlor and second floors. The new windows would be composed of black steel with true divided light.
- The units on the L extension would be three tall thin panels of four divided light panes each with lintels above to emulate the main façade.
- The new window units on the main façade would consist of four taller thin panels of six divided light panes each, also with a stone lintel above.
- LPC Staff has advised that but for the removal of the bay window, the new fenestration would be eligible for approval at Staff Level.
- The proposed new window units would include masonry courses between the floors, with the exception of a metal spandrel between the ground and parlor floors on the main façade.
- The proposal for the third floor includes widening the small window next to the door to the L terrace to create a three-panel window unit with the west-most being the door to the terrace.
- The proposal for the upper floors otherwise retains the punched openings with lintels above but replaces 1:1 double-hung windows with operable casement windows.

Rooftop Changes

- Partial-width stair bulkhead and elevator over-run.

Committee Question and Comments:

Klari:

- Q: Why does the project propose to expand the rear punched windows into larger window systems?
- A: The larger window openings are preferred by the Client and are within the configurations routinely approved by LPC.
- Q: Why change the upper floor rear windows to casements?
- A: Preferred by the Client.
- Concerned with three different window configurations proposed for the rear façade – creates rather than resolves a hodge-podge effect.

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- The larger windows are not appropriate to the Historic District as they will create very bright conditions in the rear donut in the evenings.

Mark:

- Appropriate to lose the bay window, especially given it is not original and in terrible condition.
- No concern about the stair and elevator
- Concerned about use of casement windows on the upper floors.

Community Comment:

[none]

Resolution:

- a) To take no position on the front façade since it has been removed from CB7's review;
- b) To approve the creation of a stair bulkhead and elevator overrun on the roof, and to approve in principle the removal of the bay window, as both are appropriate to the character of the Historic District; and
- c) To disapprove the proposed new rear façade fenestration with inconsistent configurations and widened openings, as inappropriate to the character of the Historic District.

After deliberation, the resolution was adopted.

VOTE: *Preservation Committee: 8-0-0-0.*

The application is tentatively calendared at LPC for a public hearing on April 12th.

3. 323 West 87th Street (West End Avenue – Riverside Drive). **Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness regarding (a) stonework restoration and replacement of the existing transom and French doors within an arched window on the front façade at the top floor; (b) a rooftop addition with a stair bulkhead and skylight; and (c) replacement of fenestration on the rear façade and L extension at the ground and parlor floors.**

The subject building is a 3-story plus basement townhouse constructed in the Roman Revival style by architect Francis A. Minuth ca. 1897. It is included in the Riverside – West End Historic District.

The front façade is composed of limestone on the lower floors and brick above.

Presentation by: Caroline Lovisolo and Carl Pucci, architects.

Front Façade

- The front façade retains its stoop to a main entrance at the parlor floor.
- The ground, parlor and second floors to the west of the stoop are in a three-flat-panel bay configuration, with the top of the bay forming a small terrace at the third floor. The main façade behind the terrace consists of pairs of French doors within a stone archway with a transom that follows the curve of the arch.
- Per the historic tax photos, it appears that the curved transom window at one time had a floral design. At a time, pre-designation, the floral transom window was replaced with two rows of divided light with true muntin's.
- The French doors below the transom include two columns each of divided light with four panes in each column.

- The proposal for the front façade consists of replacing the curved transom window in kind, which will be operable for ventilation, and installing a pair of window guards outside the French doors to comply with Code as the room will be accessible to young children.
- The window guards will be simple metal rods.
- The LPC staff has advised that the proposed front façade work is eligible for Staff-Level approval and will not be heard at a public hearing.

Rear Façade

- The rear yard includes a full-width extension at the ground floor with an L extension on the west side at the parlor floor.
- The existing condition at the ground and parlor floors consists of metal casement doors with divided light and lintels above.
- The ground floor casement doors are a pair of window units, each with paired French doors with two columns of 5 panes of divided light, with masonry separating the two units.
- The parlor floor unit is on the main rear façade, and is narrower than below, consisting of pairs of French doors leading to a terrace above the one-story infill addition. It includes pairs of French doors with two columns of four

panes of divided light each, with a transom and lintel above. The window on the north face of the L extension at the parlor floor is a simple punched opening with a lintel above.

- The proposal is to replace the casement French doors on the ground and parlor floors with wider casement doors, eliminating the masonry between the units on the ground floor, and without divided light
- The proposal also includes changing the parlor floor terrace into a landing with a stair directly to the rear yard, modifying the existing simple railing to accommodate the new configuration.

Rooftop Addition

- There is no current rooftop addition. The existing front façade includes a mansard roof and cornice.
- The proposal is to infill directly behind the mansard and cornice and extending to the rear leaving an approximately 42" setback terrace to the rear façade.
- The proposal includes raising parapets and chimneys to conform to Code.
- The rear cladding of the addition will be a standing-seam kynar painted metallic grey. There will be no front façade of the rooftop addition since it is hard behind the mansard.
- The roof plan will include a skylight and mechanicals on the roof of the proposed addition.

Committee Questions and Comments

Klari:

- Q: What is the surface of the rear yard?
- A: Currently concrete – plan is to install loose brick pavers with a planting area at the perimeter.

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- Q: Why does the design for the door systems at the ground floor not call for the units to align with the windows above?
- A: Will review and adjust if possible.

Mark:

- Applaud using kynar instead of stucco for rooftop cladding.
- Regret the choice to lose the divided light on the rear façade, but the entire existing system is not original, and the loss of divided light does not render the treatment inappropriate.

Community Questions and Comments

[none]

Resolution: To approve the rooftop addition and rear yard fenestration as presented as reasonably appropriate to the character of the Historic District, and to express no opinion on the front façade work removed from public hearing and public review.

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

Vote: *Preservation Committee: 8-0-0-0.*

The application is calendared for public hearing at LPC on April 12th or 19th.

Committee Update

Michele:

- Will inquire of LPC Staff because certain aspects of the projects presented were removed from public review and public hearing.
- LPC heard for the second time the application of 315 Central Park West – the Montessori school seeking two blade-like flags/banners to denote its side-street entrance.

- The Commissioners took no action at the first hearing and returned the project for further refinement.
- At the most recent hearing, the LPC approved a single flag/banner to be placed in an area of the façade that had no decorative features.

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- Regarding the proposed rooftop addition at 6-16 West 77th Street, the source of much controversy, the project has been heard twice by the LPC, once at a public hearing and later at a public meeting, with no action taken.
- Gale Brewer, working closely with Landmark West! has written a letter objecting to the proposal, which will be considered in connection with any further review of the project by LPC.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mark Diller

HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Louisa Craddock, Chair

March 14, 2022 at 6:30pm via ZOOM

Present: Louisa Craddock, Chair; Kristen Berger, Robert Espier, Miranda Goodwin-Raab, Madelyn Innocent, Ira Mitchneck, Rich Robbins, Susan Schwartz, Ethel Sheffer, Polly Spain and Kristina Villarini. **Non-committee Board members:** Mark Diller, Shelly Fine and Roberta Semer. **Absent:** Melissa Rosenberg

Meeting called to order by Co-Chairperson Louisa Craddock at 6:30P.

1. Report on the CB7 Senior Task Housing Forum

Roberta Semer, Chair of the Senior Task Force, gave an update on planning for three forums (dates still to be determined) sponsored by the Senior Task Force:

- How to apply for affordable housing
- How to remain in affordable housing
- How to stay safe at home

2. Presentation by Project Find on senior housing they are developing at 117 West 79th Street. Project Find is an UWS non-profit organization that provides senior housing and support services.

Project Find gave a presentation about Park 79, a building with permanently affordable senior housing at 117 W. 79th Street. This fully ADA accessible building will have 77 apartments, with 24 reserved for those formerly homeless and will open summer 2022. Social services will be offered to residents, all of whom must be 62 years of age or older. This is part of HPD's SARA (Senior Affordable Rental Apartments) program.

3. NYCHA discussion led by Madelyn Innocent

Madelyn Innocent gave an overview of the accomplishments of the NYCHA Taskforce, followed by a discussion about ways to engage the new city administration in supporting NYCHA.

4. New business

There was no new business.

The meeting was called to conclusion at 8:15P.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES

March 15, 2021, at 6:30pm

Steven Brown, Chair

Present: Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Steven Brown, Elizabeth Caputo, Courtney Clark Metakis, Joshua Cohen, Christian Cordova, Ken Coughlin, Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Catherine DeLazero, Mark Diller, Beverly Donohue, Robert Espier, Sheldon Fine, Madelyn Innocent, Audrey Isaacs, Natasha Kazmi, Doug Kleiman, Blanche Lawton, Ira Mitchneck, Klari Neuwelt, William Ortiz, Michele Parker, Seema Reddy, Andrew Rigie, Richard Robbins, Madge Rosenberg, Melissa Rosenberg, Peter Samton, Susan Schwartz, Roberta Semer, Ethel Sheffer, Polly Spain, Erana Stennett, Kristina Villarini and Howard Yaruss. **Absent:** K Karpen and Jeannette Rausch.

The EXECUTIVE Session of Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Tuesday, March 15, 2021, on the Zoom online platform. Chair Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm after the Secretary confirmed a quorum was present. The following discussions were had, and actions taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Objective is to talk about personnel during this meeting. Steven Brown and Beverly Donohue are in the office. A resolution has been sent out to promote Max V to DM from ADM.

- First, from a process perspective, this was a decision that came out of conversations with the MBPO, Executive Team, Personnel Committee, etc. Our options were to conduct a new DM search or to promote from within and then conduct a search for the ADM position. We looked at what was the best candidate to serve our community and us as board members. We wanted the new DM to have the skill set; someone who brings energy and enthusiasm to the position; who has a great deal of potential; and some level of continuity given how much turnover the office has seen recently, some level of familiarity with our specific office. A consensus developed that we wanted to promote Max and then conduct an ADM search. Steven also received 6 or so unsolicited messages from board members suggesting Max for the DM position.
- Max has a career in service and government. By training, his experience is in urban planning in the private and public sector. We are recommending today through our resolution to promote Max.
- Shelley Fine: Max has risen to the occasion recently. His energy and responsiveness have been noticed among the board members, elected and neighborhood stakeholders. Works beautifully with Jessie which is important. This gives an opening to be strategic with the ADM position.
- Susan – Call the question. Max is great.
- Erana Stennett – We are in a great position to have an ADM who can assume the role of DM. I tend to like an open search process. My recommendation is to have him serve as acting, open up the process for other potential candidates. If he proves to be the most qualified of the candidates, then promote him. I am reticent to have him go into the role without opening up the process for other potential candidates to apply for this important role. It's possible we will come out of the process with him as DM.
- Linda – I love the efficiency and expediency of promoting max. His enthusiasm, knowledge and follow-through has been amazing. I absolutely support the resolution. He is enthusiastic! I also want you to consider Jessie who has grown so much to be for ADM.
- Ethel – I support what Linda just said about Jessie. She has been an excellent staff person. Her experience is noteworthy, excellent, and has kept up with the changing needs of the office/community. Also, potentially a reward for her extraordinary work. I support Max, and his training in urban planning is valuable. He stepped in during very awkward circumstances. His tact and competence will benefit the community. I have serious reservations and questions about the process and decisions made by the Personnel Committee. It was not a good process on many fronts. The result was negative on almost every front. I am overjoyed and back Max. I would think that as we move forward with choosing another person. We bring in others into the process. We should reconsider the functioning of the previous committee.
- Christian – I want to point out that even if Max had not led to the blossoming of Jessie, I would still support his promotion!
- Doug – I support Max. My interactions with him have been very positive. He was efficient and responsive. Enthusiastic, responsible, ambitious, trial by fire and he stepped up. I am pleased about the positive relationship with Jessie. The sum of the parts is greater than the whole.
- Rich – I agree with Erana that a new search would be good. But given what Max has shown, I support his promotion. I wonder what the lessons learned are from the previous DM process. Max is so fabulous that I will support him. But I'm concerned about the search process for the new ADM.
- Page – I like Max because of his planning/architecture bootcamp. It means he can speak well, work together with people, he's very courteous, been helpful in looking up some data. To have a young person here is great. To show

- people that we are diverse in ability and people, but also in age is great. He will soar. I think we shouldn't look any further. I will vote for him.
- Louisa –
- Robert – I endorse Max. He's bright, responsive. His work in CT and NY only helps his dynamic. His planning school experience is good. Page is correct that the bootcamp is valuable. I wouldn't look any further, don't waste time. This is a talented man and worthy of a board of this caliber. I will vote for Max. I want to see a little more of Jessie. She has to show interest in applying. I would push for it.
- Elizabeth – I share everyone's support of Max for this position. I would like to know what management experience Max has – management is a big portion of this job. But I will vote for him.
 - Max has some minor management experience in CT and CB8. But no candidate is perfect. And I think he will grow into being a manager. He's got the instincts, maturity, and will grow into it as well hopefully. He has the full endorsement of Jessie, and they have a wonderful relationship. That speaks volumes.
- Klari – I support Max. Under the circumstances, I agree with appointing him DM and not Acting DM. But, given his ambition, has anyone talked to him about a commitment to stay in the job.
 - Seema - He has agreed to stay for 3years as DM, at the least.
- Andrew – It's a pleasure to deal with Max. I also support what people have said about Jessie. She is extremely competent and has really blossomed in recent years.
 - Steven – If Jessie is interested in ADM, then we will work through that process with her in the running as well. We still have yet to begin thinking about the ADM search process.
- Roberta – Max has really risen to the challenge of making the office function better. He is a pleasure to work with. It would be great to vote for him unanimously. It would be a positive message going forward. He stepped up in Jan and Feb and has been doing two full-time jobs for 3 months, and very effectively. Our office has not run this effectively for some time.
- Beverly – I think for us to do anything other than get a permanent position in place for DM would be a mistake. We need stability going forward, and a lot of work to put in place that has been on hold for years. Max is primed to move those issues forward. He has the capacity and skills to do so. Putting him in as the DM, gives him the confidence to move those issues forward.

Vote: 35-0-1-0

Executive Session adjourned at 7:08pm.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Steven Brown, Chair

March 15, 2021, at 6:30pm via ZOOM

The Meeting can be viewed in its entirety on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9JLKp9-cks&t=3305s>

Present: Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Steven Brown, Elizabeth Caputo, Courtney Clark Metakis, Joshua Cohen, Christian Cordova, Ken Coughlin, Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Catherine DeLazero, Mark Diller, Beverly Donohue, Robert Espier, Sheldon Fine, Madelyn Innocent, Audrey Isaacs, Natasha Kazmi, Doug Kleiman, Blanche Lawton, Ira Mitchneck, Klari Neuwelt, William Ortiz, Michele Parker, Seema Reddy, Andrew Rigie, Richard Robbins, Madge Rosenberg, Melissa Rosenberg, Peter Samton, Susan Schwartz, Roberta Semer, Ethel Sheffer, Polly Spain, Erana Stennett, Kristina Villarini, Howard Yaruss.

Steering Committee Members Absent: K Karpen, Jeannette Rausch

The Steering Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Tuesday, March 15, 2021, on the Zoom online platform. Chair Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm after the Secretary confirmed a quorum was present. The following discussions were had, and actions taken.

Committee Chair Reports

Elizabeth Caputo, Future Meetings Task Force

We have done two zoom sessions, and a feedback portal on the website. We have divided up decisions about Full Board and Committee, in long and short term, and between board members and the public. We are working on compiling all of the testimony. I look forward to an update tonight on the current status as regards the Open Meetings Law. We plan to have another public meeting in the next few weeks once we hear about what the government decides to do.

- Seema Reddy – Can we still submit testimony? And if so, how?
 - Elizabeth - You can submit on the CB7 website or email Elizabeth/the office.
- Rich Robbins – As of tomorrow, the temporary change to OML expires. Our ability as members to be on zoom goes away. But being on zoom gives the public far greater access than before. I feel strongly that even if the members have to be in person that we continue to give access to the public to observe and participate remotely. We should make it a practice to record and post our meetings. Are we allowed to have committee meetings remotely?
 - Steven – the answer is that Committee meetings must adhere to OML, and the same in person issues apply. Your ideas about what we should do in the future should go to Elizabeth’s task force. That is the best place for that.

Roberta Semer, Seniors Task Force

We have a great group including board members, community members, and representative of many of the neighborhood organizations. We have been meeting monthly for the last 6 months to talk about the common problems that the organizations have to share knowledge. Elected reps often attend and are helpful. We are planning a series of 3 workshops that will be helpful to seniors: 1. How to get into affordable housing? How to get in? 2. How to stay in your apartment once you are in the apartment. Making sure your income is right, you get the services you need, etc. 3. Showcase some of the agencies and organizations to help seniors know what is available to them to help them thrive. We did a successful showcase with Lighthouse Guild last year.

Chair Update

Steven Brown, Chair

- First, I want to welcome Max as our new DM!
 - Max – thank you everyone. I appreciate it. It’s been enjoyable so far, and it seems like a good fit on my end. I am happy to be here. Thank you.
- Update on chairs/opportunities.
 - Sadly, Melissa Rosenberg has stepped down as Chair of the Housing Task Force. I thank her for her hard work and service.
 - There are 2 open chairs: Land Use (Jeanette has stepped down and will not apply for reappointment to the CB7.) and Housing Task Force. We will be having conversations about that. I look forward to hearing from you all.
- OML issues will be revisited later in the meeting.

Public Safety Task Force, Polly Spain

At our first meeting, we had a robust discussion about breaking down areas we want to explore. We put together questions for the 24 Precinct, by 3 board members. I commit to get information about the police unit for the public housing complexes in our district. We are working on a tentative date for the next meeting – maybe March 30 and April 30. William is working on the scheduling.

- William Ortiz – we will pick a day that has no meetings – either beginning or end of the month. We asked Committee members to share which area of public safety they want to focus on: guns, pedestrian safety, etc.

Susan Schwartz, By-Laws Task Force

Our next meeting will be on Thursday. If anyone has comments on the template, we would love to hear from you.

Roberta Semer, Strategy & Budget Committee

We are meeting tomorrow. Preliminary budget hearings on ongoing at City Council. You can see them after the fact if you cannot log in during the meeting. We have a preliminary response from OMB regarding our committee's budget requests. We will update again at tomorrow's meeting. I am hoping people are continuing to meet with their stakeholders. If you have any questions, please contact our committee members.

- Catherine – I want to thank Elizabeth about the task force. And agree with Rich's comment about meeting transcripts and videos online. I agree that having meetings online can improve accessibility, but it does restrict accessibility for people who don't have internet access.

Andrew Alpert, Transportation Committee

I brought the committee up to date on MTA issues. Colleen gave us an update on all of the past resolutions that haven't seen action from DOT. That is an ongoing discussion. Many items are still being worked on and weighed. The midblock crossing on W106 will be under construction this spring/summer. No resolutions.

Max Vandervliet, Housing Committee

Project Find came to the meeting and gave good info on their proposal. They are proposing a development for individuals who were formerly homeless seniors. Madeline gave good info on NYCHA. It was a good meeting.

- Shelley – There are 77 apartments but only 24 will be set aside for homeless seniors. HPD is a partner in this – it is a project-based Section 8. Everyone in the building will have Section 8 living there. There is no bottom income. Each will be an apartment not an SRO. They will have everything they need contained in the apartment along with social services provided when necessary. All choices here are going to be through the lottery system. There will be no community preference. But they will try to the extent that they can to encourage people to apply locally. Project Find has many decades of wonderful reputation. They run the Hargrave and Hamilton which have been wonderful institutions in our community. This is a great provider.

Michele Parker, Preservation Committee

We look forward to working with Max and Jessie. We had 3 applications and resolutions this month. We are seeing a lot of brownstones being converted from multi-family to single family. Two applicants have staff-level approvals rather than LPC (Landmarks Preservation Commission) level.

Barbara Adler, Parks & Environment Committee

I am delighted about Max's promotion. Congratulations! We will have a short meeting next week. The Harlem Meer got pushed off until April. So, we have Steve Simon (Chief of Staff of Park), and the head of Riverside Park and reconstruction of the Cherry Walk Pavement. Maybe we will have an opportunity to ask questions of them?

- Christian – all the lampposts at 100 and CPW are on 24hrs a day. This seems unnecessary.
 - Barbara – Perhaps you can call in the complaint to 311. But send me a note and I will work on it.
 - Ken – It's a connection/circuitry issue. If one section of lights need to be on for work, then the whole section needs to be on. It is a periodic problem at Riverside Park also.

Catherine DeLazzerro, Health & Human Services Committee (HHS)

We are going to have a meeting on suicide and self-harm prevention. We will have reps from Mount Sinai who will join us. We also hope to learn about best practices for hospital and providers. Safe Horizons will also come to present on the topic. And also, we will be talking about trauma-informed counseling. We plan a resolution.

Christian Cordova, Business & Consumer Issues Committee

Cancelled meeting. But hopefully there will be a future meeting regarding cannabis.

Richard Asche, Land Use Committee

Cancelled this month's meeting.

Youth, Education, & Libraries (YEL)

Cancelled this month's meeting.

Old Business

Steven Brown: Regarding OML, I received a note today that we will get an extension for 30 days. As of now, we don't have confirmation. But this should be confirmed in the morning. We will revisit this then. If it doesn't go through, the Task Force meeting should be scheduled in the next two weeks before the next full board. Secondly, there are some basic things that drive what our future will look like. In order to be considered a meeting, there must be a quorum of board members in person for the formal meeting. You can only vote in person at a formal meeting. If you do not have a quorum, you can perhaps continue the meeting but cannot vote on matters. It is frowned upon to continue the meeting, but you can continue. Two things: have to have a quorum and must allow the public to come in. That is the makings of a hybrid meeting. If for some reason we do not hear tomorrow, we will put out some other direction.

- Doug Kleiman – According to Roberts' Rules, we must start with a quorum. But if we lose quorum, we can continue the meeting unless someone brings up loss of quorum.
- Elizabeth Caputo – Is there any way to notify the board members and the public asap once any news comes out about this?
- Barbara Adler – Regarding presenters, how do we see a presentation clearly? Presenters are not required to be present at the meeting to present. Max will help with facilitation the remote presentations, as needed.
- Christian – I thought the last extension was for 30 days. So, perhaps we have a few more days authorized?
- Ken Coughlin – I'm relieved that we potentially have a month's reprieve. I'm sure you recognize board members have a variety of risks as relates to Covid. I'm sure we want to advocate for the safety of all of our board members, not just for the healthy ones or the ones who feel comfortable coming in. Cases are still at 1,600/day. That is more than 3x where they were last summer. My question is what are we doing to advocate for all the board members and their safety? If we are forced to go back, what will you do to make the office safer for our meetings?
 - Steven Brown – We have advocated for the safety of everyone from the beginning of the pandemic and will continue to do so. We as a board need to take a position. I as the chair don't make the decision. We are all in this together. If someone doesn't feel comfortable, I would advise that you don't come, and I will try to see that the absence doesn't count against you. The task force is charged with putting together the position of the board. The office does have new HEPA filters, a thorough cleaning, etc. The task force is the place to advocate. We will make the office as safe as possible. Then individuals will have to make their own assessments.
- Mark Diller – Governor Hochul hasn't yet signed the extension or posted it online. The previous extension was through 3/16/22.
- Madelyn Innocent – If we come in person, by the time we leave the meeting, it is late and crime has increased in the city. We should consider this as big a priority as covid!
- Rich Robbins – If a quorum is required, can other board members attend remotely? I think not. It's a matter of making the meeting accessible to everyone. We should as a board take a position on this so that we can advocate for it. It is past time for us to take a position. My personal viewpoint is that this provision of the OML is an anachronism that needs to be updated. We need better technology in the office also to make hybrid meetings better.
 - Steven Brown – A committee person who joins via zoom cannot vote. They are joining as a citizen/community member and don't need to post their address. Only people in person can vote. This was specifically addressed with the legal team of the MBPO.
- Ken Coughlin – I agree with Rich that it is time we took a position as a board. The notice question is not an issue because we can notice it at full board. I would like to proposal a resolution that we support any bills in th legislature that would amend the OML to take modern technology into account and allow for remote and hybrid meetings.
 - Steven Brown – I am uncomfortable with making a resolution here without noticing the public in advance. We have a task force. We can provide notice for that meeting and that is where the resolution should be done. We need to give the public 3-days' notice before voting on a resolution.
 - Elizabeth – perhaps we can agree on a date for that meeting? It will likely be the week of 3/28/22.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

STRATEGY & BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2022

Roberta Semer, Chair

Present: Roberta Semer, Chair; Mark Diller, Beverly Donohue and Benjamim Wu. **Absent:** Anthony Thomas.

CB7/M Staff: Max Vandervliet. **Public:** Edie Amador and Leo Bullaro, CM Brewer's office.

1. Roberta, Beverly and Mark reported on their visits to the Standing Committees in February and March. Roberta explained that both Committees members and members of the public are looking forward to participating in the process.
2. There will be visits to the Standing Committees in May to explain how to write the supporting materials for both District Needs and Budget Priorities. Beverly and Roberta will develop a protocol.
3. Leo Bullaro explained that CM Brewer will conduct Participatory Budget elections from April 2nd to the 10th. Mark and Roberta offered to come up with a list of possible locations for Leo by later today.
4. Leo will forward information about the City Council hearings, which Roberta will forward to committee members.
5. Max and Roberta are working on the replies for OMB on the initial responses from the City Agencies on the CB7 Budget Requests for the FY 2022 Budget.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 13th at 11 am.

BYLAWS TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

Susan Schwartz, Chair

March 17, 2022 at 10:00am via ZOOM

Present: Susan Schwartz, Chair; Barbara Adler and Jay Adolf. **Non-Task Force Board Members:** Robert Espier and Richard Robbins. **Absent:** Natasha Kazmi.

Meeting on Zoom was called to order at 10A and adjourned at 11:20A.

We concluded our revisions of the MBPO Bylaws template, covering pages 15 - 18, including discussion about:

1. Vice Chairpersons
 - Continued discussion about whether the duties of Vice Chairs should be delineated, as are all other elected positions on the Board. Susan shared feedback on this from prior CB7 Chairpersons.
2. Elected treasurer
 - Discussion about responsibilities and duties
3. Executive session

Next Steps

1. Our next meeting will be on Friday, April 8, 2022, from 10-11:30AM on Zoom. All interested members are encouraged to attend.

PARKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Barbara Adler and Natasha Kazmi, Co-Chairpersons

March 21, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

Present: Barbara Adler & Natasha Kazmi, co-chairs; Daniela Alvarado, Elizabeth Caputo, Ken Coughlin, Susan Schwartz, Polly Spain. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Louisa Craddock, Mark Diller and Doug Kleiman. **Absent:** William Ortiz

This meeting appears in its entirety on YouTube (see link below):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIDYszcDJbg&t=613s>

1. A brief presentation was made by Roberta Semer from the Budget and Strategy Committee to help prepare us for the FY 2024 District Needs Statement. It was suggested that we contact various shareholders and elected officials to help us determine our needs, and possibly to reach out to certain groups to write letters of support.
2. Dan Sullivan, landscape architect, gave a presentation on the reconstruction of the pavement of Cherry Walk in Riverside Park (W99th St. to St. Clair Place at W125th), being undertaken by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Steve Simon, chief of staff for the Manhattan Parks Commissioner and Margaret Bracken, Chief of Design and Construction for the Riverside Park Conservancy were both there as well to answer questions from the committee and others. The project is in-kind, with the goal of reconstructing the pavement to a state of good repair. All greenway striping will be redone, and the pedestrian path eliminated. Many concerns were raised about the safety of this, as pedestrians are encouraged to also use the path and accidents could easily occur. However, it was thought that the roadway is too narrow to successfully add back the pedestrian path, and Margaret Bracken made the point that runners and walkers almost always carve their own path just outside the pavement. The project is a landmark designation, cost \$1,800,000, and is expected to take 3-4 months possibly beginning this fall, and stretches for 2.1 acres.
3. **New Business:** Barbara asked the committee for help in reaching out to stakeholders regarding our District Needs for FY2024, which must be submitted in time for our June Full Board meeting. The budget director for Council Member Brewer's office will be asked to attend our next meeting. Elizabeth offered to reach out to a few PTA parents who might write a letter on behalf of Sol Bloom or Frederick Douglass playgrounds, and Mark offered his assistance as well.

Steve Simon and Margaret Bracken spoke briefly about the new, all-purpose courts that are being built over existing pavers in Riverside Park at 105th Street. These four courts will be for junior tennis, volleyball or pickleball, and will be for use by all.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32PM

DISTRICT SERVICE CABINET MEETING MINUTES

Maxwell Vandervliet, District Manager

March 23, 2022 at 10:30 AM via ZOOM

The District Service Cabinet of Community Board 7/Manhattan met via the Videoconferencing application Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am by the District Manager Maxwell Vandervliet (MV).

INTRODUCTIONS

All agencies and participants are welcomed and thanked for their participation.

- **Maxwell Vandervliet, District Manager**
 - CB7/M Staff Updates, Michelle Booker is pursuing new opportunities, her final day was March 18th. Effective Monday, March 21st I have been promoted to District Manager.
 - April 13th BCI Committee will have a presentation from the Office of Cannabis Management.

AGENCY UPDATES/ REPORTS

- **Colleen Chattergoon, Department of Transportation**
 - Milling and pavement schedules- If you have any streets in mind that require a street assessment, please bring them to my attention, and I will forward this information along to the Roadway division. Therefore, we can fit it into either this year's or next year's schedule.
 - Phantom of the Opera- Monica brought to our attention promotional stickers placed on the sidewalk which isn't permissible. What we have done in the past is issued a "Cease and Desist Order" to organizations/business that are putting these promotional items up, therefore I will reach out to the legal division so they can issue a notice accordingly. We have been successful in the past in getting them removed. I will keep you posted.

Q: MV- West 79th and RSD, Special left turn green light was requested and they were informed the work was approved. I will forward the summary I am in receipt as well.

A: Colleen – I'll contact the Signals Division for more information. Gales has also spoken with the Manhattan Borough Commissioner Ed Pincar of DOT.

Comments:

AMAZON and Fresh Direct Issues:

- Monica- We've been having problems with Amazon south of the bus stop on Columbus Avenue. They've closed off an entire area for loading and unloading, and the NYPD isn't doing much to help. We've received 311 complaints so far. I wouldn't mind allocating two parking spaces for unloading for a limited period of time. That, I feel, is a reasonable solution. All three BIDs can collaborate.
 - Colleen- I think going out to the Government and Community Relations contact could be helpful in resolving this issue, as they are fantastic at informing their drivers about community best practices.
 - Luke- Amazon's Victor Bonnet, links us with the proper individuals.
 - Peter- On Columbus, we have a problem with Amazon blocking a bike lane and leaving waste behind. They have agreed to allow bikes through after conversing with them, however the rubbish situation around West 105th and Amsterdam Ave has not improved. Fresh Direct is a problem at the NYCHA building on West 103rd Street- Causing traffic congestion (2nd lane) and safety concerns.
 - Nicole- If we decide to start collecting data, I have places as well.
 - Monica- Fresh Direct's VP of Public Affairs, Larry Blackman, has been tremendously helpful.
- **Sandra Sanchez, Fire Department of NY**
 - Make sure your carbon monoxide and fire alarms are working properly. We've teamed up with the Red Cross for the "Sound the Alarm" initiative, and we can set up as many alarms as you need. Call (877)733-2767 to sign up for installation.
 - As the weather begins to warm up, please contact us to request "Fire Safety" and "Mobile CPR" presentations.

- **Marissa Yanni, Department of Sanitation**
 - SAFE Disposal Events (Solvents, Automotive, Flammables, and Electronics) for Manhattan is Sunday, June 5th and you are required to register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/manhattan-safe-disposal-event-registration-262492440957>
- **Q:** Peter- Interested in more organic sign-up in District 7. Also, looking into commercial hauling. We are hoping to get containers especially for commercial food establishments.
- **A:** Marissa- I'll send you an e-mail from my colleague who manages the "Clean Curbs" campaign, and they'll be able to provide you with further information about the commercial waste container and BIDS. I forwarded along your invitation to attend an Open Street event and am awaiting confirmation from a colleague on the "organics" team. However, if more information is required, I can connect you with them.
- **Verna, Department for the Aging**
 - Connect with us at (212) 244-6469 or PublicPrivatePartnerships@aging.nyc.gov.
 - The Age and Connect Department is two years old and has received 114 service requests.
 - March 24th from 2:00 – 3:30pm, Medicare Orientation Session with HIICAP (Health Insurance Information, Counseling, and Assistance Program).
 - Today, at 2:30 p.m., in City Hall, there will be a virtual hearing on the preliminary budget.
 - "Building an Age-inclusive New York City," a two-part seminar.
 - The first session will take place on March 24th, while the second will take place on April 13th.
 - Speakers:
 - Commissioner of DFTA; Peter Kaldes, President and CEO of the American Society on Aging; Commissioner for the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services; and Commissioner of the New York City Commission on Human Rights.
- **Luke Szabados, Department of Buildings**
 - Constadino (Gus) Sirakis is the new acting Commissioner.
 - Melanie LaRocca will serve as the chief efficiency officer of The City of NY.
 - Your liaison is Tirso, and I'm filling in for him today. Please contact me if you have any site-related concerns or visit our DOB New Bulletin for more information.
- **Kimberly Williams, Con Ed**
 - Work notices for the majority of the major projects have been sent out.
 - We encourage constituents to contact our call center at (800) 752-6633 if they have any billing questions. Payment plans and other arrangements are available.
 - Call 911 right away if you smell gas.
 - If someone is shocked by stray voltage, call our call center right away. We'll check in with our emergency response team to secure the area and make sure there's no contact voltage.

Comments:

Monica- The West 64th Street project is finished, and Con Ed went beyond of their way to stay on schedule. Instead of two, we have four catch basins. Michael S. Farnan, PE, Executive Director of Operations of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, was also fantastic.

- **Ed Cen, Department of Consumer and Worker Protection**
 - Vilda Vera Mayuga took over as Commissioner of the DCWP at the start of this month.
 - Our NYC Free Tax Preparation Campaign has begun. In 2021, families with an annual income of less than \$72,000 or individuals with an annual income of less than \$50,000 will be eligible. Visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/file-your-taxes.page> for more details.
 - Phil has been in communication regarding vending enforcement, and we're trying to figure it out on our end as well.
- **Grant Dennis, Senator Jackson**
 - Senator Jackson hosted a "Gun Buyback" program. This is the second initiate we have taken, the first time we achieve to remove 70 guns off the street. This time we achieve to collect 50 guns.
 - NY State Senate

- Bill 7198 “School solution not suspension act”. The goal of this bill is to identify healthy alternatives to children being suspended from class and/or school, which puts them on the street and reduces their productivity.
- Bill S2001A, “Renter’s Insurance bill”. This bill's purpose is to make it more affordable for people to get their first apartment, even if they don't have enough money for a security deposit or the first month's rent.
- **Sergeant Sean Pallone, 20th Precinct**
 - Current increase of catalytic converter thefts, mainly Prius and Hondas. Many car break-ins mainly on the North of the Precinct. Only tip available, although not feasible would be to park in a garage, as well as please do not leave any valuables in the car.
 - Tues, March 29th will be Sector B. Build the Block meeting
 - Thurs, March 24th at 6pm, Housing meeting at 240 West 65th

Q: MV- Will a strategy be implemented to address the anticipated increase in ATV and dirt bike issues as the weather warms up?

A: Sgt Pallone- We aren't allowed to pursue them, so our strategy is to figure out where they are parked or refueling. Please let us know if you spot a significant amount of dirt bikes in a garage or gas station. In the 20th Pct, we don't have that problem.

- **John McDonell, 24th Precinct**
 - Thefts of Honda catalytic converters are on the rise right now. You may purchase a mechanism to secure underneath the vehicle that makes it more difficult to steal available on the internet.
 - Amazon, Due to a complaint received from Gale's office on WEA, I will send some additional locations to Peter to see how we can resolve this matter.
 - NCO's (Neighborhood Coordination Officers) we finished for the quarter and will restart in April
 - **UPDATE:** Build the Block meeting hosted by your NCO's Sector A is scheduled on April 29th at 7:00pm.

Comments:

Peter- Open Streets Program, on Amsterdam 106th – 110th on Saturdays and Sundays from 10am – 7pm. We plan to extend the hours as it lightens up outside.

- **Eric Cuello, Manhattan Borough Presidents Office**
 - April Adams has moved on, and we wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.
 - Working on an extension of the Open Meetings Law, which has now been extended until April 15th. The Manhattan Borough President has been working with the state to see if a hybrid module might be established. We'll keep everyone updated as we learn more.
 - "State Healthy to Stay Open," I'll send the comprehensive plan to Max, containing several bold ideas such as getting the outgoing Touch & Trace Corp folks to call people to obtain the booster shot due to low numbers. Also, share Covid care packages with others.
- **Humberto Galarza, Department of Environmental Protection**
 - Rohit “Rit” Aggarwala is the newly appointed Commissioner and Chief Climate Officer
 - Vincent Sapienza, the former commissioner, will assist with the transition as Chief Operations Officer
 - Homeowners are being notified about the "NYS Income Water Assistant Program," which offers up to \$5,000 to pay down their water bill and is subsidized by the state rather than DEP. You can reach our Customer Service at (718)595-7000 or customerservice@dep.nyc.gov to assist you.
 - DEP offers multiple openings for "Rain garden maintainers" throughout the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn. At the moment, we have 10,000 rain gardens.
 - Complaint Stats:
 - 365 Service Complaints in the month of February
 - 107 After hours construction noise
 - On Tuesday, March 15th, work on the four-catch basin in the N/E/C of West 64th Street and Broadway was completed.

Q: Monica- Noise issue related to a guy by Calabrese Plaza on West 60th street who sells weed and has a rat on his shoulder. He brings a speaker, puts it on top of the news boxes, and blasts the sound extremely loud. I did request

he lower it, and he didn't seem pleased. We have placed complaints, yet the challenge is coordinating when he will be there and getting the inspector out. Once the guy arrives, he stays there several hours. Is there a way to coordinate this more efficiently? Additionally, he doesn't have a permit for amplified sound as the pct no longer hands it out nor be bothered with this.

Phil- He usually shows up after 3 pm every day. We've spoken to a Karen Ellis about this a week or so ago. She mentioned there was some concerns about the Plaza and getting an accurate reading.

A: Humberto- It may be a little difficult if we don't have his operating hours, but we will give it a shot. We will first try yet if he appears to be hostile, we will reach out to the pct to assist us.

Sgt Pallone, we will take the speaker if it's accessible.

Brice, April 20th would be a great day to target him for a noise violation

- **Brice Peyre, AM Gottfried**
 - We are currently working with budget negotiations, one of the major objectives is fair pay for homecare.
- **Pauline Ferrante, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**
 - Ashwin Vasan, MD, PhD is the appointed new Commissioner
 - Childcare programs with children aged 2 to 5 are required to use face masks, and we want to phase out face covering with the decrease in covid infection rates. In addition, to public transit, religious settings, and healthcare facilities. As you are aware, the mandate was lifted for kids in grades K-12.
- **Nicole Paynter, Columbus Amsterdam BID**
 - Need guidance on:
 - Our Streetscape Block is located on Columbus Ave between W 76th and 77th Streets, near the Computer School Schoolyard complex. We keep that area looking nice with plants and benches, but the pathway has become uneven and a tripping hazard. I filed a complaint with "311," and they stated that the school would be responsible for the matter, but I would appreciate recommendations on how to resolve this issue.
 - Max- I'll look into this for you and get back to you.
 - Book vendor in front of Thomas Drugs store on Columbus Ave between 67th and 68th Streets has been there for many years. The issues keep getting worst as books are being left there 24/7 and causing issues with rats which is clearing impacting his business. I have reported it through "311" to DCWP and I believe he's received some violations but would like to elevate this issue to support this business that has been around for 40+ years. Also, smoking in front of the pharmacy make customers feel uneasy.
 - Monica- The law is an 8-foot table, and he now has a second person with whom he smokes his cigar. I doubt DCWP will be able to help much, but I believe enforcement should be handled by the pct. He's now occupying half of the block.
 - Max- Send me the address and I'll look to see what's going on.
 - Sgt Pallone- I'll contact DCA since they are obligated to offer enforcement whether or not they are doing the function. NYPD had it taken away from them.
 - Monica- DCA isn't doing it, and from what I've heard, cops must be involved in enforcement. Currently, the NYPD is collaborating with DCWP.
 - Brice – Please include me in the loop.

CB7 Staff: Maxwell Vandervliet (MV), DM and Yassiel Nieves (YN), CA. **NYPD Precincts:** Sean Pallone, 20th and John McDonnell, 24th. **Agencies:** Erik Cuello, MBPO; Sandra Sanchez, FDNY; Marissa Gianni, DSNY; Colleen Chattergoon, DOT; Luke Szabados, DOB; Humberto Galarza, DEP; Kimberly Williams, ConEd; Pauline Ferrante, DOHMH; Edward Cen, DCWP; and Verna Arthur, Department for the Aging. **BID:** Monica Blum and Phil Gordon, Lincoln Square BID; Peter Arndtsen, Columbus-Amsterdam; and Nicole Paynter, Columbus Avenue. **Elected Officials:** Brice Peyre, AM Gottfried; and Grant Dennis, Senator Jackson.

The meeting was adjourned at 11: 31 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Catherine DeLazero and Sheldon Fine, Co-Chairpersons

March 29, 2022 at 7:00 PM via ZOOM

Present: Catherine DeLazero, Sheldon Fine, Robert Espier, Audrey Isaacs, Sara Lind and Rich Robbins. **Non-Committee Board Member:** Richard Asche, Mark Diller, Paul Fischer, Doug Kleiman and Polly Spain. **Absent:** Rosa Arenas and Kristina Villarini.

This meeting appears in its entirety on YouTube (attach link):

1. A series of presentation on Suicide, Suicide Prevention and Mental Health were delivered by Dr. Jonathan D. Piero, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry Clinical and Research Director of the Center for Stress Resilience and Personal Growth at Mount Sinai, Dr. Anita Iyer, Director of Behavioral Health Population Management at Mount Sinai, Brad Corn, Director of Community Affairs at Mount Sinai, Christina Coleman, Vice President of Child Advocacy and Mental Health Programs at Safe Horizon, and Victoria Dexter, Vice President of Mental Health Treatment at Safe Horizon. Q&A happened during and after. This conversation lasted about 2 hours.
2. At around hour 2, the resolution was proposed to be drafted with 3 focus areas:
 - o Sharing information with citizens,
 - o Support the works of impactful groups, organizations and programs that are working in the suicide prevention and mental health arena, and
 - o Continue to advocate for change and increased resources.

One of the determinations was to also include the focus on when to call police for a mental health episode versus when to think about other resources.

3. The language of the resolution was introduced: "Who so be it resolved that Community Board 7/Manhattan calls on New York City Healthcare and Hospital Systems and the Department of Education to provide expanded screening programs, suicide, ideation and self-injury as well, as associated risk factors.

Be it further resolved that Community Board 7, except in Manhattan/New York City Healthcare and Hospital Systems, invest in infrastructure to help bridge patients to care and have care available for them when in need.

Be it further resolved that Community Board 7/Manhattan calls on New York City to invest in trauma-informed alternatives to 911 for crisis response.

Be it further resolved that Community Board 7/Manhattan calls on the Department of Education to provide information to to provide information to schools on suicide and self-harm risks and signs as well as protective factors."

The resolution passes with 6 Committee Members and 2 non-committee members voting yes, and zero no's. The meeting adjourned at 8:32pm ET.