

COMMUNITY BOARD 7/MANHATTAN
FULL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, July 7, 2020 6:30 PM

Community Board 7/Manhattan's Full Board met on Tuesday, July 7, 2020, via Zoom. Chair Mark Diller called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm after the Secretary confirmed the existence of a quorum.

We will do the business session first as we have the past few months. Ask that people only speak once per resolution and keep time to a reasonable amount.

Business Session

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

Resolution Re:

1. **50 West 72nd Street** (Columbus Avenue.) New application #2064-2020-ASWC to the Department of Consumer Affairs by CPW Rest Corp., d/b/a Lilly's Cocktail & Wine Bar, for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 8 tables and 16 seats. Longtime owner, so not really a new application even though it looks like that.

The resolution to approve was adopted. VOTE: 44-0-0-0

The vote was taken using the virtual "raise hand" feature of the Zoom platform. In addition, the following votes were duly recorded by those whom the Zoom platform did not offer the "raise hand" feature.

30 hands

Polly Spain

Mark Diller

Michele Parker

Audrey Isaacs

Doug Kleiman

Page Cowley

Peter Samton

Shelly Fine

Christian Cordova

Richard Ashe

Louisa Craddock

Andrew Rigie

Robert Espier

Paul Fisher

BCI Committee announced that there have been outrageous things happening with the curbside seating. Visits from multiple agencies DOB, DEP, DOT, etc. The barriers have to be 36" high and 18" wide, which was not the case when they originally rolled out the program and they're only giving the restaurants 24 hours to fix this. (Only on roads with more than two traffic lanes.) Tomorrow night at BCI we're going to discuss this and write a

letter to DOT saying that what they're doing is punitive and you're hurting the restaurants when they need your help the most.

Robert: This is a good thing and we don't want to hurt restaurants. But the restaurants are throwing their tables out to the curb and the bike lanes create a buffer between the tables on the curb and traffic and it looks nice. Outdoor dining is an inadvertent beautification program.

Christian: They put their tables in the parking lane which is next to traffic.

Youth, Education and Libraries Committee, Blanche Lawton and Steven Brown, Co-Chairpersons

Resolution Re:

2. Continuing support for essential youth programming.

Steven Brown: Background to resolution: Since the pandemic hit, YEL has been hyper-focused on youth, which is one of our most vulnerable groups. Focused on overall health and wellbeing. Educational needs include after school programs, supports this summer, going into next year. There has been a lot of community engagement. Tremendous work out into the community: sent a letter from CB7 talking about SYEP program; resolution last month; new resolution we're looking at tonight; letter last week before the budget. Good news is that some funding has come through - SYEP and some after school programs look like they'll be funded. Daycares will be open. This resolution builds on that work. Everything we do has an equity base. Last part of it calls on the Mayor and Council to restore and preserve funding, etc.

Blanche: DYCD didn't get all the funds it asked for - they're still negotiating for an increase. Director of DYCD will be at YEL at our September meeting. SYEP was a concern of the entire board. Some of these programs are school-based, so there may be issues depending on the state of schools in September.

Erana: Offered a friendly amendment: In the paragraph "Leaving our most vulnerable children" at the end add "and susceptible to gun violence". Friendly amendment is accepted.

Klari: We all care a lot about these programs. But, there's a tension in our procedures between singling out these programs with special resolutions asking for money in the NYC budget and our budget priority process where we list and evaluate and ultimately rank both capital and expense priorities.

Steve: This will be part of our DNS and the work we're going to be doing around our budget needs.

Mark: The programs that this resolution seeks to preserve funding for are also the subject of budget priorities that we voted on last year. At the time that we voted on them last year, we didn't know that COVID would come and that there would be budget cuts. We were advocating for these things to increase modestly or stay the same, whereas here we're advocating to save them entirely.

Blanche: The programs mentioned in the resolution are examples of programs. There are others that will be included in the DNS.

Klari: I still believe there's a tension here. Many of our previous budget requests are suffering after COVID.

Ethel: There was commendable work by this committee. Klari's point may be governing us, but it's necessary in this situation to single out important programs. We will work it out if and when we are doing our DNS. Now is the time to advocate and make things happen and say what is needed.

Amy: We have received these restored funds and they are asking for full capacity at half the amount of money. Running a hybrid program actually costs more. Agencies are scrambling because the reality is that taking this could put them at more deficit. Some agencies are considering leaving the money on the table.

Mark: This could be part of a cover letter. Amy and the Chairs agree with this.

Cindy: While I appreciate the dedication to following the procedure for the budget requests, that's for 2022. So the timing of this is different.

The resolution to approve was adopted. VOTE: 47-0-0

The vote was taken using the virtual "raise hand" feature of the Zoom platform. In addition, the following votes were duly recorded by those whom the Zoom platform did not offer the "raise hand" feature.

Howard
Richard Ashe
Erana
Ethel
Mark
Christian
Robert Espier
Shelly Fine
Doug Kleiman
Andrew Rigie
Peter Samton
Audrey Isaacs
Doug McGowan
Louisa Craddock
Jeannette
Paul Fisher
Blanche

**Preservation Committee, K Karpen and Michele Parker, Co-Chairpersons
Resolution Re:**

3. **New York Historical Society, Central Park West and West 77th Street.** Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commissions for a window master plan.

Directed by the City Charter mandate that Community Boards review matters prior to consideration by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Preservation Committee reviews the “appropriateness” of proposed changes to individually designated landmarks as well as to properties listed within the Upper West Side’s Historic Districts.

Existing windows were deteriorating and causing some severe problems. Some of the windows were already replaced. The proposal is to keep the structure of the windows. The replacement is proposed to be aluminum rather than the original bronze. The replacement windows will match the original fabric and will be appropriate to the historic character. There were also energy considerations that were brought up.

Michele: Master Plan: the opportunity to incrementally perform work (in this case replace windows that need to be replaced). That’s what the applicant told us they are going to do - this will be done in parts. We believe that they came to us with the best of intentions.

Scott Duenow (architect): This building is subject to different energy requirements. This building is subject to Local Law 97 which has to do with the energy performance of the building because it is not a city-owned building. Fines that need to be paid based on the energy performance of the building.

Blanche: The proposal is for the north-facing side of the museum. Some years ago the main entrance was changed from CPW to 77th street. How do these proposed windows compare to the windows facing CPW.

Duenow: It’s the upper windows on the north side, on CPW it’s the first floor and upper windows.

Robert: Could the architect outline briefly the difference between the private and municipal standard. Which one is better?

Duenow: If it’s a city-owned building, it would be exempt from the requirements.

Louisa: LPC - do they have any problem with substituting aluminum for bronze? Are there any benefits to using aluminum?

Duenow: It’s a difference in cost and performance. Aluminum windows are best performing in terms of heat loss. LPC does have window guidelines and they do allow for a change of materials

Erana: Is the choice for aluminum primarily financial? How many windows will continue to have bronze?

Duenow: It’s both cost and performance. Bronze will be first floor windows on 77th street and upper central windows on CPW.

Sara: City should hold themselves to the same high standard as they hold private buildings to.

Barbara: It's a travesty to put aluminum windows in a building like this.

Page: Public apology to the Steering Committee: I've calmed down and got my facts in order. But I'm still troubled by this application. This is a triple landmark: Individually designated and in two historic districts. One of the earliest designations. Very important building - built in 1908 and designed to hold city's most important documents and our collective memory. Larger master plan in 2007 and it took four years to find the funds to be able to do the windows and repairs in bronze. It's not true that city buildings are exempt - there's a threshold where buildings over a certain capital improvement value are subject to the energy codes and private buildings can get an exemption from NYS because of historic status of the building. Aluminum won't last as long and will look different. All the windows of this building should be bronze. North and east are most important because they are the public face of the building.

Peter: Agree with Page. I voted for this in Committee, but I agree that keeping the Bronze despite the cost is important. We should demand that the original bronze be kept.

Ira: Agree with Peter and Page more or less. Need to treat the two primary facades as special. Then maybe they could get the costs down.

Melissa: Can't vote for cause because my firm represents the Historical Society. I understand the concerns being raised, but I think a \$6 million difference for a material that will not be visible from the street is an extreme demand on a nonprofit during the global financial crisis.

Ethel: Do agree with architects. Question of permanence and last quality between aluminum and bronze is quite significant. Aluminum has a life of only 25-30 years.

Klari: When the 2007 application came in I was chair of the committee, and I learned a lot about this building. Individual landmarks have heightened scrutiny. With that, I can't support the idea of aluminum replacement windows.

Michele: In 2007, CB7 denied the application and LPC voted in favor of the changes.

Richard Asche: Has anyone compared the aluminum and bronze side by side?

K: There was a side-by-side slide.

Mark: In the absence of a physical in-person meeting we can't hold it in our hands.

Margi Hofer, Museum Director: Duenow has represented well our plan. I just want to provide some background and color about Historical Society and its place in the community. Been part of UWS community since 1908. Work hard to connect with local residents, serve students, special programs for families, etc. Need to maintain a sealed building envelope in order to maintain temperature and humidity in our galleries - artwork and historical artifacts on display are being threatened. We see this window replacement as critical. We believe this proposal is the best option. The cost differential is significant and the \$11 million cost would be prohibitive.

Susan Nial: Vice Chair of Landmark West. The issue here is condensation on walls and the building. This problem has existed for quite awhile, and it's unlikely that it's just the issues. This is an important landmark and we need more evidence that the windows are the key problem. There are a lot of things in the building that need to be changed. Our landmarks are being murdered. The issue of appropriateness is not just what the owner says is appropriate, but what is appropriate to the building. Require them to use the appropriate material which is bronze.

Jay Adolf: Much of what Page said, I agree with. Some of these applications have nuances that make it difficult to decide. While the Museum presented to us the financial considerations in their decision-making, this was not the first time that people have come before the preservation committee and presented to us financial considerations. Every member of the committee has been dedicated to preserving the historic character of this district with no other agenda. Financial considerations have not been part of our evaluation. I accepted that the Museum had consulted with experts, had done evaluations, and had determined that the damage was related to the condition of the existing windows, thus requiring that the window replacement had to be done now. That's a legitimate thing for the Board to consider. This is minimally appropriate. The appearance will be aesthetically acceptable if not totally the same as the bronze.

Jeanette: I think that makes sense Jay. At EDC we spent a lot of time renovating buildings that had cheap repairs made over the years. I'm wondering if we're just patching it up and in 20 years will we be spending many more millions because the property wasn't properly maintained? Is there any public funding going to these windows?

Shelly: A relatively minor thing about something that can barely be seen or touched but is durable and quality should not be a factor in spending five and a half times the cost. Past ten years or so they've really improved their programming and displays. We should support them.

Mark: I agree with Jay. I believe the role of the CB is to take all of the context that was offered and factor it in. I believe this is minimally appropriate and therefore I will support it.

The resolution to approve was adopted. VOTE: 27-15-4-1

The vote was taken by roll call.

**Transportation Committee, Meg Schmitt and Howard Yaruss, Co-Chairpersons
Resolutions Re:**

4. Facilitating the Environmental Impact Statement Process for Congestion Pricing.
5. Additional revenue source for MTA and other infrastructure improvements.

Importance of the MTA for getting New York back to business. January of 2021 was supposed to have been the start of Congestion Pricing, but the US Department of Transportation has not given us the answer on what kind of environmental impact statement will be needed to move forward.

Revenue has gone down because of fewer fares, etc and expenses have gone up for additional cleaning, etc. Future is ominous unless we get more funding. This resolution raises the idea of \$.02/gallon gas tax dedicated to MTA capital needs with a portion dedicated to upstate roads and bridges.

Jeannette: With the EIS, it might be better if we bring this to the Borough Board and get a strong letter from the BP or from the City. The thing about raising the gas price is that you want to do it once - it should be a package as part of the transportation six year bill. We haven't raised the tax on the gas in six years at least, but it really should be done all at once.

Andrew Albert: No opposition to first resolution going to the Borough Board. On second resolution: MTA has huge needs. This is a New York state proposal, not federal.

The resolutions were bundled and both were adopted. VOTE: 42-3-0-0

The vote was taken using the virtual "raise hand" feature of the Zoom platform. In addition, the following votes were duly recorded by those whom the Zoom platform did not offer the "raise hand" feature.

Raise Hand: 28

Howard
Mark
Robert
shelly
Jeanette
Robert
Doug
paul
Louisa
Audrey
Andrew
Christian
Blanche

Parks & Environment Committee, Elizabeth Caputo and Klari Neuwelt, Co-Chairpersons

Resolution Re:

6. Enforcement of dog leash laws in Central Park.

Elizabeth: We have prioritized public health in our resolutions. We also have a responsibility to hear from members of the community when they have issues related to the neighborhood. Last month we did a joint resolution with the Transportation Committee about parks enforcement. This is similar.

Klari: Asking for a reasonable amount of enforcement of leash laws in Central Park. Not asking for more police or PEP staff, not asking for them to drop everything and only do this. But it should get some attention and enforcement.

Susan: Resolution was approved almost unanimously at the Committee level. Asks for enforcement of existing laws. There are signs, but they are increasingly ignored. 42 million users and only 14% are first-time visitors. People know the rules but aren't complying. Chris Cooper.

Klari: Dog runs have reopened or will reopen soon. Central Park doesn't have any dog runs. This is an issue in Central Park that preceded the pandemic.

Julian: Main concern is that it's asking for armed police officers to enforce laws. If enforcement is to be pursued it should not be pursued by armed officers who can escalate situations, especially in ways that can be discriminatory. What path are we going down as a board. I'm not sure if the best way to address this is to pass a resolution calling for more enforcement. Perhaps we could speak directly with police officers and relay our concerns and they can use their data-driven approach.

Klari: We had a PEP representative at the meeting and he said that it's the PEP officers - who are unarmed - who would enforce.

Linda: Agree with Klari. Very few PEP officers in the park and more and more people are not paying attention to the rules.

Ken: I can't be the only one on the Board who sees the irony in calling for what Amy Cooper was calling for: calling the cops into the park. This should be PEP officers. Propose a friendly amendment that we remove the reference to NYPD in the resolution.

Klari: I don't think that's a friendly amendment. Resolution calls for the three agencies to work together on this.

Elizabeth: Agreed that this isn't a friendly amendment.

Ken: Then this is an unfriendly amendment. All over the nation people are calling for the police to not be called to enforce petty crimes.

Elizabeth: Ask that we don't bring up national conversation; people in our community brought this up.

Rich: Second the motion.

Mark: We will continue the discussion and then vote on the proposed amendment after the discussion.

Melissa: See the reasoning for the resolution and I have noticed a huge number of people with dogs in the park, but I think it's partly because the dog runs are closed. I think this resolution is premature and we should wait to see how things settle down. I agree with Ken that inviting more police into our parks is not something that we should be doing. It's important for us to have a larger social context as we do our work.

Klari: It's not more police, it's the same people who are there already.

Rich Robbins: Just where the city needs to dedicate resources in the middle of a pandemic... We shouldn't vote by online comment, but it is something to be aware of. We deal with life or death issues, livelihoods, the wellbeing of the community. Quality of Life issues. Last would be personal pet peeves. I have my own personal pet peeves. I always check myself before bringing an issue to the Board. It's not just a matter of asking people to follow the laws. There are hundreds or thousands of laws that we do not call for enforcement. If dogs off leash is a quality of life issue, then perhaps we should address it. But monetarily, it doesn't make sense either. Only 1-5% of police time is used to fight violent crime. We as a society are asking the police to do many things other than fighting violent crime. If we do pass any resolution, it should be extremely narrow. Members are expected to vote on issues in accordance with their best understanding of the community's best interest.

Courtney: I have concerns about calling on NYPD to use resources for this. As a parent who has had a child chased by an unleashed dog, it's scary and is a safety issue. And it was definitely happening before COVID.

Erana: Senior citizens are also vulnerable to dogs off leash. Why do we have a dedicated police precinct in Central Park - probably the only park in NYC that has a dedicated police precinct. There are only four PEP officers for the entire park. If we don't want police to be in Central Park, maybe we should be calling for disbanding the Central Park police and expanding PEP.

Klari: Any proposal to eliminate the Central Park Precinct is beyond the scope of tonight's resolution. There are two pairs of PEP officers in the day shift and evening shift.

Mark: Do not view this as a pet peeve - this is a legitimate concern. What should our response to that problem be? I agree that armed police officers should have no part in enforcing this regulation. Every enforcement action is a discretionary decision - it has to be. I don't think it's our job to tell the police or the PEP how to make those decisions about what laws to enforce. We've just asked the NYPD to do more with less. Endorse Ken's amendment and otherwise disapprove the resolution.

Louisa: Agree with Erana. However, we can't pick a fight with the police. What we want to do is do something now because this is a problem. What if we just ask for more PEP officers who could patrol and we don't have police walking around with guns giving citations to dog owners.

Natasha: It's not up to us to decide what is worth an officer's time. If it's the law, it's not just a pet peeve. It's not up to us to say that one thing is not as important as another thing. We were not asking for any additional police officers.

Doug Kleiman: This is a quality of life issue that's been going on for years. Very sensitive to what's going on with the police. All police officers are armed. Removing all police from Central Park is insanity. I know we have problems, but we can't get rid of the police in Central Park.

Robert: Obscene to call for expansion of any NYPD services when we're proposing to cut funds back. This is not a police matter. This is an education matter. The CB has the

capacity to wage intensive education campaigns. Bring in the veterinarians, etc. We need to change behavior.

Christian: Nobody is advocating for the police to do more than they're supposed to and they will decide what they need to do. This is something that the police in CP do as a routine part of their work and we have seen increase of problem of dogs being off leash and it is a danger.

Howard: I agree this is a major problem, but this is not the right solution. I cannot vote for this. There has to be a better way to solve this problem. Support Ken's amendment to have this enforced by non-armed officers.

Barbara: Support this resolution

Chris Cooper: Thank you for your hard work. Came to you before the incident that got so much attention in CP. The situation with dogs off the leash in CP is out of control and has been for over 30 years. This is not something new that has happened because of COVID. We're not talking about adding more cops. Not talking about keeping cops from addressing actual crime. The problem with Amy Cooper is not that she called the police, it's that she called the police and made a false accusation. I've been a member of BLM for years. The point of BLM is not that we should stop enforcing the law, it's that the law should be enforced equally and everyone should be treated by the police with respect. Police can enforce the law by ticketing. If you can get a little bit of ticketing then the word gets out and people start to use the leashes. Four PEP officers is not enough. Vast majority of off-leash dog walkers are white people.

Molly Adams, NYC Audubon

We work to protect bird species. We're deeply outraged by the encounter that Chris had in Central Park because of leash laws not being followed. Calling for the enforcement of rules that already exist. Lack of respect of the rules by some is putting park visitors at risk. This is a safety issue.

Ken Chaya

President of Linean Society, UWS Neighborhood Naturalist Group. We have a very serious problem that is growing. Why has enforcement been so bad?

Susan: I was assaulted by a dog walker in the ramble because

Tessa Sladkus: I'm confused why adding more police would be good when the problem with Amy was that she called the police. When I take my dog to the dog runs she gets sick and I know many other people's dogs do too.

Klari: There are some areas of the park where dogs must always be on leash. It's been my observation that there are a number of issues where the police simply are not going to do enforcement. We shouldn't fool ourselves that NYPD is going to suddenly start enforcing this. There are many laws where there is no enforcement. There's a certain population where reminders and education isn't going to change behavior. People need to know that there is some risk that they will face a penalty.

Elizabeth: The Board has been focused on COVID crisis, but we have an obligation as a Board to respond when community members have legitimate concerns about enforcement.

Vote on Ken's Amendment by roll call:

VOTE: 16-24-0-0

Vote on the Resolution by roll call:

VOTE: 25-10-6-0

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

Resolution Re:

7. Support for Youth Services and Healthy Youth Engagement.

Vote on the Resolution:

VOTE: 33-0-0-0

Raise Hand: 27

Louisa

Shelly

Mark

Richard Asche

Christian

Doug

Steering Committee, Mark N. Diller, Chairperson

Resolution Re:

8. Support for A7635/S5615 in the State Legislature concerning revised standards for exposure to lead.

New Business

Vote on the Resolution:

VOTE:34-0-0-0

Raise Hand: 27

Robert

Mark

Louisa

Christian

Andrew Rigie

Shelly

Doug

New Business

Request for leave of absence for Meg Schmitt through September.

Jay: I support that and we should grant it. I will abstain because I think it's ridiculous that a Full Board has to vote on this because we do respect people's privacy and have no information on which to base a vote. We should at some point lobby for a change in the rule to let the Chair or a small committee review and rule on these applications without the Full Board having to vote.

Vote: 31-0-1-0

Approval of minutes from the June full board meeting

Unanimous voice vote yes.

Chair's Report

Mark N. Diller

Community Session

We welcome all members of our community (residents, businesses, CBOs) who would like to speak on issues of interest to them. Members of the community are granted two minutes for remarks, and we will also accept a written copy for the record.

Ashley Gonzalez, NYPL

Good Evening! My name is Ashley Gonzalez and I'm a Librarian at the St. Agnes Branch. Starting Monday, July 13, 3 branches in Manhattan will be open for grab and go service. You will be able to pick up hold! In the meantime we are still open 24/7 at nypl.org <https://www.facebook.com/StAgnesLibraryNYPL/>

Reports by Elected Officials**Senator Brad Hoylman**

Gov signed into law the Tenant Safe Harbor Act - prevent tenants that have been hit hard due to COVID19 from being evicted. Important step, but not the last step. Let attorneys who have passed their exams to start practicing law without passing Bar exam. Can't administer an in-person exam between now and September.

Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal

Passed a COVID passage, extension of Child Victims Act. Supposed to go back into session in the next week or two. If Governor makes cuts to the budget, we have an opportunity to go back and change those cuts within 10 days. We thought he would wait until Congress meets to see if we get what we need. Statement of Principal: way to get out of this mess is not to cut services and programs, it's to tax the wealthy. Governor has said that he's not interested in that kind of taxation. Many, many people are unemployed and many claims have not been paid yet. Landlords can still take tenants to court and be rewarded a monetary settlement. But people who are unemployed actually can't pay rent. We're concerned about the small landlords, because then they can't pay their taxes, utilities, etc. It's not sustainable to evict tenants. There are more overdoses throughout the state. We need money and attention to this issue. New bill on telehealth to ensure visits are compensated properly.

Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell

Repealing 50A is something that I worked on for five years. People are saying that bail reform is causing rise in crime, but that's not factually accurate. What causes increase in crime is when you cut support services. Lead standards - thank you for your support on this.

Assemblymember Dick Gottfried

We desperately need to be taxing high wealth in New York, which we're not doing. Even before COVID, we needed more money. We can't expect this money to come from the

federal government. Ultra-high-wealth individuals are being let off easy and not paying enough taxes.

Borough President Gale Brewer

Near Foley Square we did the BLM Mural and putting up a sign on Thursday morning at 9:30. Three young black artists did it and then Hawk Newsome will be there. Hopefully DOT will have it open for a few more weeks.

Huge number of shootings in Northern Manhattan. Today we were in East Harlem with in-person meetings with the youth groups. Lack of jobs, lack of youth programs, etc.

Thank Goddard Riverside about their direct relief programs, working with homeless, etc.

Need more affordable housing. On the UWS we still have \$14 million in the bank for affordable housing. Some will be used on 79th Street. Trying to get HPD to release that is frustrating.

Schools are still a challenge - thank to JCC for programming/tutors. Anything we can do to help families is important.

Excited about outdoor dining. One issue has been the safety of the structures - make sure that DOT has signed off on these structures.

One of the cuts was all the money that the BPs get to support senior programs - hoping to get that restored.

Councilmember Mark Levine

Every tenant needs to have an attorney as we face oncoming avalanche of evictions.

Pushing through legislation to immediately take Right to Counsel citywide.

Passed a budget last week - probably toughest budget since 1970s. Had to address in a long-overdue fashion systemic racism in policing, preserve social services, fund fight against COVID. There was a risk that the Financial Control Board would take over if we didn't pass the budget. Were able to save over 100,000 summer youth slot, CUNY ASAP, money for food banks, avoided layoffs in schools, etc.

Policing: headcount of NYPD reduced by 1160 through cancellation of next cadet class, NYPD taken out of homeless response, school safety agents, crossing guards, etc.

COVID: Averaging over 300 new cases per day in the five boroughs; increasingly it's hitting young people. r-naught is above one again in New York City for the first time since May.

Constant stream of flights coming in from some heavily impacted states. We cannot let our guard down. The state of testing in NYC is problematic. Sometimes up to 7 days to get results. Epic national failure to organize production of reagents and other key components of testing.

Reports by Elected Officials' Representatives (One-minute remarks)

Hope Kay, Senator Robert Jackson

There's a virtual town hall this Friday, July 10th from 3-6 pm on Zoom. Please go to siyc.senatorjackson.com.

Mike Stinson, Comptroller Scott Stringer

The Comptroller released a blueprint on safely reopening schools in the Fall. Along with non-profit New York we released an impact statement on non-profit organizations in New York.

Public Comments

Peter Arndsten, Columbus-Amsterdam BID

Meeting anticipated to happen virtually on Thursday, July 23rd at 5:00 pm. All are invited.

Zach Campbell, American Museum of Natural History

Construction resumed in June with COVID-19 safety measures in place. Additional information on amnh.org.

Eduardo Zevallos, 32BJ

A worker from Chipotle was going to give a testimony to the Board. I'll read her statement. Chipotle did not warn me or my fellow crew members about new workers who had been exposed to COVID-19 working at our store. Chipotle did not take appropriate action and notify workers following my and my co-workers reports.

BUSINESS & CONSUMER ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons

July 8, 2020 at 6:30pm

Business & Consumer Issues Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met via the Videoconferencing application Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Co-Chairperson Christian Cordova.

Present: Linda Alexander, Christian Cordova, Barbara Adler, Joshua Cohen, Paul Fischer, Madelyn Innocent, Doug Kleiman, Seema Reddy, Andrew Rigi. **Non-committee Board**

Members: Mark Diller, William Ortiz, Michele Parker, Roberta Seemer and Susan Schwartz.

The following matters were discussed:

New application to the SLA for a Two Year Liquor License:

1. **120 Riverside Blvd** (West 66th Street) Blue Real Estate Café LLC, d/b/a Blu Café
Presenting for the Applicant:

- Owners David Tovon (David@blunyc.com) and Alon Chadad (AC@blunyc.com) ; Matthew Leone, Esq. (MLeoneEsq@aol.com)

CB7 Comments:

- Barbara Adler asked whether there were other restaurants on the block. Applicants confirmed there is one other establishment.
- Doug Kleiman asked for an additional description of the restaurant, including menu, since the hours are 7 AM to 9 PM, seven days a week. Applicants responded that it is very much a neighborhood café, which they started as an adjunct to their real estate brokerage business, which has offices next door. They have been serving breakfast pastries, coffee/tea and light fare since it opened two years ago. The menu will be expanded to include sandwiches, pizza and additional lunch and dinner entrées. There is no kitchen on premise and they said the building already approved their plan.

*After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted*

Committee VOTE: 8-0-0-0. Non-Committee VOTE: 4-0-0-0.

2. Planning for the MWBE webinar.

- Committee was enthusiastic about the subject, which focuses on how to help minority- and women-owned businesses establish stronger relationships with banks and other community lenders. Mark Diller suggested the event would additionally provide CB7 with more information about minority- and women-owned businesses in our area, including retail, restaurants and general business. The original date, July 15, will be moved to Wednesday, July 22, from Noon to 1 PM.

3. New business.

- Letter to D.O.T. A discussion ensued about the efficacy of expressing the committee's displeasure at the haphazard roll-out of the temporary outdoor

restaurant seating in Phase 2. Josh Cohen suggested the various revisions, although frustrating at first, reflected important safety measures. Andrew Rigie said restaurants have been asked to comply but none have received fines, to date. Linda Alexander maintained D.O.T. could have made the agency's existing traffic barriers and similar equipment accessible to restaurants for a small rental fee or without cost, rather requiring owners to spend much needed funds on labor and materials. A city fund was suggested to cover the cost of materials for restaurants extremely compromised, but the consensus was there was too little time for one to be established. The discussion was redirected to property owners being more flexible about rents with restaurant and retail tenants. Doug Kleiman pointed out that in many cases, reducing rents is not be feasible due to such factors as lenders' payment requirements, existing mortgages and escalating city taxes and water bills. Linda Alexander suggested one option is for the city to offer subsidies or tax advantages to property owners who provide tenants with work-outs and/or rent reductions.

- It was determined that BCI would prepare a letter acknowledging D.O.T. for its quick response to the Phase 2 opening of sidewalk and outdoor cafés, and offer suggestions for the program that may help them work more cohesively with the city's 25,000 restaurants.

The meeting ended at 7:30 pm.

Business & Consumer Issues Committee Minutes

Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons
Wednesday, **August 12, 2020**

Business & Consumer Issues Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met via the Videoconferencing application Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Co-Chairperson Christian Cordova.

Committee Members Present: Linda Alexander, Christian Cordova, Barbara Adler, Joshua Cohen, Madelyn Innocent, Doug Kleiman and Paul Fischer

Non-Committee Members Present: Mark Diller, Natasha Kazmi, Susan Schwartz, Sheldon Fine, William Ortiz, Robert Espier, Madge Rosenberg, Doug McGowan, Steven Brown and Michele Parker

Committee Members Absent: Seema Reddy and Andrew Rigie

The following matters were discussed:

New application to the SLA for a Two Year Liquor License:

4. **483 Columbus Avenue** (West 83rd – 84th Streets) Bonito Restaurant LLC, d/b/a Bonito.

Presenting for the Applicant: Joshua Kessler, owner, JMKessler@gmail.com; Robert S. Bookman, Pesetsky and Bookman P.C., RBookman@pblaw.com

- Josh Kessler applicant. It is an existing application for Josh to take over. He owns a place on 46th Barnea Bistro. Small plates will be served. There will be background music.

CB7 Comments:

- No issues

*After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted*

Committee VOTE: 6-0-0-0

Non-Committee VOTE: 10-0-0-0

5. New business.

- **Discussion of reintroduction of Lien Law by Assembly Member Rosenthal and co-sponsors.** The BCI Committee members and non-members attending unanimously agreed there would be unintended consequences if the legislation becomes law, primarily affecting small business owners of restaurants and retail establishments. It was determined a letter would be drafted, addressed to AM Rosenthal and her co-sponsors, expressing the concerns of the BCI Committee. In it, we will request the formation of a task force that would include BCI members, local retailers and local restaurateurs. Linda Alexander offered to prepare the first draft, which would be vetted and edited by all BCI members before sending.
- **Discussion of the impact on local restaurants by the 686 shelter residents temporarily residing in the Belleclaire, Lucerne and Belnord Hotel.** The topic elicited a heated discussion regarding the increase of panhandlers at curbside restaurants. It was pointed out that the panhandlers could not be unequivocally identified as the temporary residents in the hotels. It was agreed that there was little if no notice given to the community. Mark Diller reported that a working group was being formed and that there will be a CB7 meeting on this topic on Monday August 2, 2020.
- Peter Arndsten talked about open streets on Amsterdam Avenue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Parks & Environment (“P&E”) Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, 07/20/2020 @ 6:30pm, by Zoom

Committee Members present: Klari Neuwelt (“KN”) – co-chair; Elizabeth Caputo (“EC”) – co-chair; Ken Coughlin (“KC”); Natasha Kazmi (“NK”); Susan Schwartz (“SS”); Doug McGowan (“DM”); Cindy Cardinal (“CC”)

Non-Committee Members Present: Mark Diller (“MD”); Doug Kleiman (“DK”); Shelley Fine (“SF”), Barbara Adler (“BA”); Paul Fischer (partial).

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Peter Arnsteden, Columbus-Amsterdam BID: Trees are very stressed. Some watering and weeding has been done but we’re trying to get mulch and help from tree stewards.

info@columbusamsterdambid.com Thursday 7/30 annual meeting, public is invited.

Item # 1: Eliminating exceptions to prohibition on smoking in NYC parks.

Klari Neuwelt: This resolution is being sponsored by KN. A community member, Janice Horowitz (“JH”), discussed the issue with KN, which precipitated putting it on the agenda and KN drafted a resolution that was emailed to the committee.

The law currently prohibits smoking, including e-cigarettes, inside parks. However, the law exempts sidewalks, parks perimeter, parking lots, and theatrical productions. However, there is currently no enforcement of this law. The Parks Department website clearly states that citizens are responsible for self-enforcement.

KN: Issue stems from increasing consciousness of smoking concerns as well as increased usage of our parks (including their perimeters) since the pandemic started. Since 2011, when smoking was prohibited in NYC parks, but with exceptions, parks usage has continued to increase, with an increase in public marijuana usage as well. KN has talked with Dan Garodnick, President and CEO of Riverside Park Conservancy, who said that the Conservancy generally supports eliminating the perimeter exception.

Janice Horowitz: In order to smoke, people remove their masks so seniors, young mothers, etc. cannot enjoy their parks outing, and the very act of visiting these parks becomes a risky activity. Second-hand smoke also has an adverse impact on Covid treatment and outcomes. Along with the fact that smokers aren’t wearing their masks for long periods, this becomes a double-whammy for non-smokers around. In hoping that the exception can go away, JH has the support of West 80s Neighborhood Association, Livable New York, the church on 86th street. Re enforcement: The 20th precinct’s NCOs were eager, and some parks people were also helpful. Also, inside Riverside Park it is not common to see people smoking.

Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (“GB”): The Smoke Free Air Act was GB’s bill in 2011. Bloomberg was supportive but smokers were against it, obviously. Looking for ways to satisfy the smokers that GB was fighting, the exception was proposed, covering any medians, malls, areas near the parks. The issue, according to GB, is no enforcer: The Parks Department and the DOT have said they would not take the responsibility of enforcement. This issue falls among Central Park Conservancy (for CP), the Parks Department, DoT, NYFD (?), but NOT NYPD.

Community Q&A:

Ellen Kessler, West 80s Neighborhood Association: Totally supports this resolution. Has been working with JH on this effort.

Ken Chaya: Smoking interferes with staying healthy. Wasn't aware it was legal to smoke in the perimeters. Smoking should be the problem of the smoker not the non-smoker. Would like to see a resolution favoring more enforcement

Karen DeMoss, 170 WEA: Rah Rah, fully supportive.

Jan Alexander, UWS Resident: Supports the resolution as she depends on going outside for health reasons.

Ken Coughlin, CB7: Very supportive of closing the loophole re tobacco, but questioned why marijuana is lumped in this. No science to support adverse effects of second-hand smoke from marijuana. Also marijuana is already illegal, so we would be adding illegality upon illegality.

Shelley Fine, CB7: Supportive of the resolution, especially because of secondary smoke. At least some type of penalty /fine should be implemented to give enforcement some teeth. Also asking for signage.

KN / EC: Penalty already exists. Accept friendly amendment asking for signage to inform the public that smoking isn't allowed.

Doug McGowan, CB7: Thankful to GB for her work on this matter. Supportive but doesn't agree with including marijuana in the law. Marijuana is prescribed legally for PTSD, which is important especially in times of Covid. People aren't allowed to smoke indoors, so where would they go? Would not support the resolution with the language re marijuana in there. Asked for a friendly amendment to take out marijuana from the language of the resolution. KN, EC: That is not a friendly amendment.

Natasha Kazmi, CB7: Supportive of the resolution. Marijuana will likely become legal in NY State imminently so it's a good idea to add that in.

Barbara Adler, CB7: Completely agrees with the resolution. Enforcement is the only question. NYPD should be used. All smoking is done without a mask, whether tobacco or marijuana. BA is currently in a town where all public benches are marked for 'mask wearers only' – something like that should be considered for NYC as well.

JH: Tobacco is also legal. Once marijuana becomes legal it will be on the same playing field. Council Member Peter Koo in Queens has proposed very extreme legislation. There is no clear research about the long-term effects of marijuana on health.

KN: This resolution is not about marijuana usage in any other form than smoking or in any other location: it is only about smoking in the parks. The resolution just makes marijuana equal to tobacco for the safety of our park users.

Matt Genrich, District Park Manager for District 7 and 9, NYC Parks: No smoking allowed of any substance in any form - vaping, hookah, marijuana, tobacco – in the parks.

KN: We need clarification on definition of smoking in the existing law - does it include any substance?

Cindy Cardinal: On NYC Parks website: As of 2014 vaping was banned.

Doug Kleiman: Supportive of proposal as presented. Children smoking marijuana.

Ken Coughlin: Should not be making a law based on what is offensive to people.

Elizabeth Caputo: Reminded everyone that the resolution today is only about the act of smoking and only in the parks.

Karen Demass: Marijuana not part of the legislation because it isn't legal yet.

VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION:

Vote: Without the two paragraphs mentioning marijuana: 7-0-0-0 / 5-0-0-0

Vote: Adding back the two paragraphs mentioning marijuana, with amendments to the language along the lines suggested by EC modifying the language discussing marijuana to make it more general:

Vote: 5-2-0-0 / 4-0-1-0

KN / Mark Diller, CB7: Next Full Board meeting is in September. Can't bring this resolution to Steering Committee. KN: Julien Della Porta (Helen Rosenthal's office)/Erik Cuello (Mark Levine's office) will take this discussion back to their bosses and if they support it they may start working on legislation without waiting for September's CB7 Full Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

MD: The 85th street playground is being used late in the evening very loudly/raucously.

Matt Genrich, DPR, said he would look into it. There have been complaints and warnings given, but the activity has continued.

Lisa Orman, Streetopia.com: Film and reports on the website. Would love to hear CB7's feedback.

NK: Any opportunities to volunteer in the parks, specifically for clean-up? As usage has increased, and resources have remained the same or declined, all parks have become much dirtier.

Matt Genrich, DPR, recommended Partnership for Parks, CP Conservancy. Seasonal employees who help with cleaning are not available this year due to budget cuts.

Doug McGowan: Enforcement of recent parks resolutions (bikes, dog leash laws)?

MD: Wrote letters to various agencies and city officials. CP precinct commanding officer, and borough Commissioner for the Parks Department, along with some folks on the CP Conservancy, and city and state elected officials. Only the CP precinct head has responded to CB7.

BA: Can we see these letters please? MD: Will distribute them.

KN: Steve Simon, Manhattan Chief of Staff for DPR, said earlier in the evening that the 108th street skate park in Riverside Park will have a soft opening (excl big bowl) at some point soon. Also, since basketball hoops and dog runs have reopened recently, there has been heavy usage, and that indicates how much more demand there is for these facilities.

NK / Matt Genrich: Teddy Roosevelt Park green areas are not open to public but are being used very heavily. MG is aware of the issue. The dog run in the area is almost near completion after several

months' delay due to Covid.

Riverside Park South: KN: Three areas of construction. One area not yet started but will start soon (between 68th and 72ⁿ streets), has been contracted out in a way that will not need the closure of the park. The two phases that are brand new (phase 5 – approximately 64th till 68th) have resumed construction, should be opening shortly. Will have a bicycle ramp at 66th and Riverside Boulevard, playground, lawns, etc. However, comfort stations and concession stands were never bid out as they were too expensive. Phase 6 (approximately 64^h to 59th streets, last part of the park to be developed), the last we heard has not been contracted out by the Developer, which is responsible for this construction.

Paul Fischer, CB7: Lasker Pool status?

MD: Existing Concession has to run out first before construction can start.

KN:

1. **Rotunda project (79th street):** We have been told not likely to start until 2021 (originally 2020). \$150MM contract, our information as of now is very vague, we have no details available on the status.
2. **"Rosenthal Bypass":** 2 year 'look-back' per CB7's resolution approving the design will likely happen, as the bypass will not be shut down until the delayed construction of the Rotunda starts. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

K Karpen and Michele Parker, Co-Chairpersons

July 9, 2020 and 6:30 PM

1. 60 West 76th Street (Columbus Avenue.) Application #LPC-20-10575 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to modify the entrance landing and areaway and install a ramp.

Presented by John Gordon, Architect; Mary Deirickx, Preservation consultant

The building was built in 1892-94. Currently there is one step from the sidewalk, a concrete "platform" then another step up to the doorway. There are two concrete piers flanking the first step which are likely not original. There are black cast iron railings on either side of the piers fronting areaways below. There are concrete platforms flanking the entrance below existing fire escapes.

The building entrance, fences, etc. have been previously modified.

The proposal is to install a ramp on the left side (facing the entrance) and to reduce the depth of the left pier to widen the ramp egress as required.

Comments:

- Jay: Right hand pier should be "shaved" as well to be symmetrical w/ left pier.
- Mark: Agrees and also suggests eliminating platform on right side for same reason. Also, proposed alternative to replace piers with suitable "urns".

Committee:

- Piers should be finished in "brownstone" to match existing building material.

Applicant indicated agreement with suggestions subject to LPC approval.

Resolution was to approve application conditioned on either making the piers symmetrical and finishing in appropriate brownstone material or replacing with an alternative appropriate structure.

Resolution to **approve**: *Committee: 5-0-0-0. Non-committee: 1-0-0-0.*

2. 262 Central Park West (West 86th – 87th Streets.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Window Master Plan.

Presented by: Ward Dennis, Preservation consultant; Kevin Daly, Architect; Samantha Johnson; Sarah Sher; Mark Picard; and Steven Skoler for co-op.

Building is 15 stories located between 86-87th Streets, built in 1928. There are 796 windows on the primary façade.

Proposal was for master plan requiring replacement w/ one-over-one double hung all aluminum Skyline (also one alternative manufacturer with aluminum clad wood) windows. The single molding setbacks and brick surrounds will match the historical originals.

The original windows were 6-over-6, none of which remain. There are currently 70% 1-over-1 and 30% single pane tilt and turn windows in place.

At the time of designation there were 60% 6-over-one, 15% 1-over-1 and 20% single pane windows.

Since 2000, there have been several applications for individual apartment window replacements with 1-over-1 which have been approved by CB7 and by LPC.

Committee:

- Susan: Sad that history is gone but "good" that there will be master plan.

Non-committee:

- Mark: Would prefer returning to 6-over-6 but would accept 6-over-1.

Resolution to **approve** as presented: *Committee: 4-0-1 (Susan)-0. Non-committee: 0-0-1-0*

Present: Michele Parker, Doug McGowan, Madge Rosenberg, Susan Schwartz and Jay Adolf. **Board Chair:** Mark Diller.

Preservation Committee-CB7-Manhattan Minutes of August 13, 2020

The Preservation Committee met on Thursday, April 13, 2020 via the ZOOM platform. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by CB7 Chair Mark Diller and co-chairs K Karpen and Michele Parker. The committee explained the format of the meeting and reminded Committee, Board, the applicants, and any public attendees that the Community Board is an advisory board and that the Preservation Committee reviews the “appropriateness” of proposed changes to individually designated landmarks as well as to properties listed within the Upper West Side’s Historic Districts.

Committee members in attendance at this meeting were Jay Adolph, Madge Rosenberg, K. Karpen, Michele Parker, Doug McGowan, and Peter Samton. Non-committee CB7 Board members in attendance were CB7 Chair Mark Diller, CB7 Vice Chair Doug Kleinman and Board member Paul Fisher.

Also in attendance were Thomas Barry (of OPerA Studio Architecture), Michele Moody and Steven Spandel of Steven W. Spandle Architect, Alyce and Sumita Sanyal of Tuller McNealus Feld.

The following discussions were had and actions taken as follows:

305 West End Avenue (74th-75th streets). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission **to (a) replace the canopy on West End Avenue, and (b) to install an equipment screen on the second floor and legalize the air conditioning units.**

Sumita Sanya of Tuller McNealus Feld, presented for the applicant. This building is a 14 story brick, stone, and terra cotta colonial revival building, designed by Schwartz & Gross, built between 1919-1920, a residential apartment hotel that serves as a luxury senior assisted living residence with 191 units.

The resolution is premised on the following:

Pursuant to their submission to LPC, Docket #LPC-20-04558, the applicant is seeking approval for:

- (a) *the Canopy Restoration on West End Avenue***

Canopy restoration includes the removal of the following: drop in ceiling framing and fluorescent strip lighting on underside of existing canopy. After removal, the intent is to paint the existing coffer under the canopy and highlight the detail through accent lighting. Accent lighting is to be hidden above three dark bronze aluminum ceiling panels within the three existing sections at underside of the canopy. Downlights to be installed within new aluminum ceiling panels as well as recessed exterior heaters at center panel in front of existing entrance door for comfort. Existing aluminum fascia to be replaced with new aluminum break metal to match ceiling panels. Existing roofing above canopy to be removed and replaced with new. Existing awning framing to be removed and replaced and fabric awning to be reinstalled (filed and approved under separate LPC filing); and

(b) 2nd Floor Screen Installation to separate the mechanical equipment (air conditioning units) from the residential terrace area

At the 2nd Floor setback there is mechanical equipment that requires maintenance and will require a fall protection handrail as the existing parapet is too low. There is limited visibility to this area as it is within a narrow areaway from 75th street. The intent is to combine the DOB required handrail with a mechanical screen to shield a view of the equipment from 75th street. The screen will consist of a 4'-0" high brick wall (brick to match the visible façade) with concrete coping (to match the existing coping at the low parapet) and a wrought iron rail above (to match the existing wrought iron fence on 75th street).

The applicant also wishes us to legalize the air conditioning units (mechanical equipment) that were added before this application was presented to the Committee.

Discussion for (a): Committee member Jay Adolph asked about the front signage and we were told that LPC already approved the signage. The applicant told us that the original architecture will not be disturbed. CB7 Chair Mark Diller asked about the choice of color for the marquee and Ms. Sanyal responded that the chosen color reflects that of the windows. However, Mr. Diller finds this choice a missed opportunity to bring it back to the original.

Discussion for (b): the new equipment (i.e., air conditioners) were installed in Spring 2019 for the safety and comfort of the residents, but installed without a permit. It was noted by Committee member Jay Adolph that if the applicant came to us in 2019 for approval of only the air conditioners installation(a), we might have then required a wall to be built to separate the area of the air conditioners from that part of this second floor setback used by the residents. Chairperson Diller asked what material is being used for the wall and was told brick that will match the building façade, and a wrought iron railing that matches the fence on West 75th street to comply with OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration).

There was no Community comment to this application.

NOW, Therefore, the Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan resolves **to approve (a) as presented to the Committee**

Committee vote: 6-0-0-0

Non-committee vote: 1-0-1-0

And **(b)** including the legalization of the air conditioning units (with the understanding that if the air conditioning units came to us as a separate application, alone, it may not have been approved) as appropriate to the historical character of the Historic District.

Committee Vote: 5-0-0-0

Non-Committee Vote: 2-0-0-0

One Committee member left the meeting before the vote on (b).

2. **55 West 86th Street (Columbus- CPW) 2 West 72nd Street, Apt 27B, 28B & 29B** (Central Park West – Columbus Avenue.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to **create a retail space on the ground floor with a storefront similar to the original 1928 façade to be constructed of painted steel with a recessed door and base bulkhead. The remainder of the commercial façade will be re-clad in limestone panels to reflect the materiality of the existing Queen Anne townhouse above as well as the adjacent building to the west. The windows within the large arched opening at the second floor will be replaced with recessed steel and glass divided lite casement windows, reminiscent of the 1928 alterations. Cleaning and restoration of the original townhouse façade as well as window replacement in the existing openings with new wood windows will also be part of the project.**

Thomas Berry of OPerA Studio Architecture presented for the applicant.

This Queen Anne Rowhouse, built in 1888-89 and designed by architect John G. Prague was originally a four story townhouse with a raised first floor above a basement and a stoop. In 1928 the first floor was raised and the basement level moved to the ground level with the first two floors converted to commercial space. A two story extension was added to the front with a new commercial storefront and the façade had brick facing and a metal and glass storefront. In 1988, the two-story commercial façade was altered to add a large arched window at the second floor, and the storefront removed to create four individual arched doorways at the ground level; two stores were clad in polished granite. The upper three stories have remained intact with the original Queen Anne detailing and limestone rim.

The resolution is based upon the following facts:

The owner's proposal is to restore the storefront using steel and glass for a combined retail/restaurant space similar to the original 1928 façade, to use limestone panels to reflect the existing Queen Anne townhouse above the retail/restaurant space, the second story arched windows will be replaced with recessed steel and glass casement windows reminiscent of the 1928 windows, to use limestone for the signage, and to clean and restore the original townhouse façade with new wood windows.

The Committee found the changes attractive and appropriate to the character of the building that has undergone several previous unattractive alterations.

There was no public comment to this application.

NOW, Therefore, Therefore, the Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan resolves **to approve the application as submitted** as appropriate to the character of the Historic District.

Committee Vote: 5-0-0-0

Non-committee Vote: 3-0-0-0

3. **320 Riverside Drive, penthouse A (104th street). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness LPC Docket # 20-03372 to replace an exterior door assembly in the proposed Master Bedroom that was previously approved by LPC staff with a bay window to include two fixed sidelights and a new door assembly.**

Steven Spandel and Michelle Moody of Steven W. Spandle, Architect, presented for the applicant.

The resolution is based upon the following facts:

No change has been made in the fenestration of the new door assembly and the original lite pattern remains. The new bay will project 2'-2" from the exterior wall face and add an additional 18.8 sf to the plan originally submitted. The roof of the bay will be low slope and the material flat seam metal roofing, color will be Freedom Grey. All materials, lite patterns, colors and finishes that have been previously approved will remain the same.

Portions of the work previously approved by LPC are visible from public thoroughfares.

There was no public comment on this application.

NOW, Therefore, the Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan resolves **to approve the application as submitted** as appropriate to the character of the Historic District.

Committee Vote: 5-0-0-0

Non-committee Vote: 3-0-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

YOUTH, EDUCATION & LIBRARIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Blanche Lawton and Steven Brown, Co-Chairpersons

July 16, 2020, 6:30 PM

The Youth, Education and Library Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met via the Videoconferencing application Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Co-Chairperson Brown

1. Presentation by the DOE Office of Safety and Youth Development (OSYD) about Restorative Justice (RJ) practices and how they can be implemented in schools. Speakers included:

- a'Chelle Gaillard and Emilie Mittiga, Directors of Restorative Practices for Affinity Schools (NYCDOE-Office of Safety and Youth Development)
- Tyler Brewster, Co-Founder of Peer Connect, Education Consultant and RJ Practitioner + Trainer
- Student members of Youth Restorative Justice (YRJ)

- Emilie Mittiga: Hope to pick 8-9 people to participate
- Mark Diller: If you click on the little blue button to raise your hand, the first 9.
- Emilie: If you will just number them 1-9, and then you can make us 9 and 10. Adebola can be number 8, and Aduanette can be #9 or whatever the last one is.
- Julian Giordano: Quick introduction: a lot of the issues we've been dealing with and have been at the forefront of the news cycle – one being equity, and the other being ____ . As a freshman, I've been part of a sister organization. Examining... youth restorative justice has been examining... talk about G&T, and these are symptoms of problems within our system, good opportunity to hear from students and adults who are working on this. The students: we're grateful to have Restorative Justice and Addie and AJ and their adult partners who work for restorative practices for Affinity. The other adult partner is Tyler Brewster. I'll let them take the presentation away, but leading us into understanding, a greater personal understanding of how we can make our schools more inclusive, and especially in terms of dismantling... Hopefully pass something as a committee and inhabit space as parents, as teachers, and with that I'll pass it to Addie.
- Adebola: part of RJ, currently I'm a graduate, but I'm also a HS graduate. We are a youth RJ based in Brooklyn comprised of students from all 5 boroughs. Authentic partnership with our facilitators that are here. We take what we've learned from our adult facilitators and facilitate to other people. Implement into our schools and everyday lives, brings a sense of comfort and vulnerability of being able to be your authentic self. Pass off to my co-facilitators and adult facilitators to introduce.
- Aduanette: Before we get into our circle portion of our presentation. Typically if we were to circle up – talking. Also an invitation to listen. Talking piece –

that is your number. If I randomly choose 5, has the option to either pass up to 6-7, or down to 4 so they would have their turn to speak.

- Adebola: Our adult facilitators will not be speaking today. Give a sensibility for other people to say, and where people should be at. Today's check in, can say your name, gender pronouns are optional, and role, if you were to select your mood by starting with first letter of your name. I'm Addie, I'm a restorative justice facilitator. Amazed to see this type of space.
- Christian Cordova: I feel happy.
- Rosa Arenas: My name is Rosa, I work for local 2110 as union rep, and of CB7 and this committee, my mind is racing and running because a lot of things went on
- Courtney Clark Metakis: I work in market research, my mood is curious
- Beverly Donohue: I'm retired from career in govt and education, at DOE, and also new visions for public school. MY mood is a bit bashful, so trying to understand what this will be.
- Kristen: (difficulty un-muting)
- Peter Arndtsen: I run local business improvement district, and feeling perplexed about so much going on and make things happen as fast as I like them to.
- Anduanette: I struggle with the word thing, I guess amused. Thank you for your answer. Before we go into circle: Background on Restorative Justice: in essence, a way of being that gives people a space of being vulnerable, look back holistically, and holds people accountable. Your actions feel welcomed and warm and needed. 3 tiers:
 - i. Tier 1: community building. Without this, other tiers won't work correctly. Without this tier being truly built, people start to have mutual love and respect with each other. Non one is going to care if they hurt their community if don't feel a part of it.
 - ii. Tier 2: Managing difficulties can lean on same practices when harm is occurring
 - iii. Tier 3: Repairing Harm:

Often this work gets painted with a Western filter – that this is a new way of doing things. But this comes from indigenous people, it doesn't come from us. It's not just for school, families, one thing under lots of umbrellas. Looked at as a person, really good place. Pass it to adult partner: Community Norms

- Adebola: Community Norms: allow people to come into space and be their real, complete selves. Even though we try to get down, step on people's toes sometimes. I want to be able to feel comfortable:
 - i. Open mind/open heart – realizing that you're coming into to new ideas
 - ii. Safe Space – not a sanitized space, come as full self
 - iii. Speak YOUR truth
 - iv. Respect – everyone's beliefs, ideologies

Mindful moment: think back to space when you were in school in your youth, consider a time when you were able to be your absolute most vulnerable self. What does that space embody? What were you given? Take a few moments

to reflect on why you were able to be vulnerable? Why were you able to share? 1-3 words that describe what you received from that community/person to be vulnerable. Listen, Non-Judgement, Communication

- Aduanette: Reflective, Understanding, just fun, didn't feel so serious
- Peter: In between place, walking along between train tracks, doing something with them but didn't have to do much and you could talk.
- Beverly: My experience working in HS working on the school paper, where we had common goals, common effort, through deadlines, had to get stuff done, as excellent as we could possibly do it. Comraderie.
- Rosa: HS principal and guidance counselor. encouraging, supportive, loving
- Christian: Encouraging, Accepting, comradie
- Adebola: Teenage self: reflect on a time you were not able to be vulnerable but needed to be, and what got into the way? I'm from a conservative background – anything that's too touchy, LGBT, anything like this. It's taboo, and being in a school building that is more performative. It wasn't until I got to RJ if you don't make these spaces where you can be comfortable, then what's the point?
- Rosa: Single parent home, I'm also an immigrant, all our family is from Panama. Did the best I could, but not much space at home for any vulnerabilities. Not as easy as I would have liked.
- Beverly: Always felt very comfortable at home. Much more difficulty doing that at school. Where the definition of popular was not to be interested in excellence or academics. I don't remember it as a place where I was very comfortable.
- Peter: Moved from Western NY at HS and it was a big culture change. What was comfortable was getting out and walking, and getting outside with people. School wasn't easy, not interested much in sports. There were a lot of things that were not good. It worked out fine.
- Aduanette: Places where people didn't really know me, but where people really had to be persistent. Where administrators placed pressure on me to be a role model. I felt censored because I couldn't say things, teachers were looking to me to be a role model, couldn't be vulnerable. That was quick 35 min circle. Students need to be able to enter their schools and be vulnerable. Not just students, they're human beings. Not have spaces where they can speak up. Spaces are really important, especially when you see places – especially after George Floyd -- see conversations being more helpful than helpful. RJ needs to come into every school to help.
- Steven: Could you talk about, how does this work in schools. Is it in every school? How is it brought to life in a school? Meet on Mondays, etc.
- Anduanette: Students from started as 15 partner schools – 2 kids from each school. Used to meet every 2 weeks on a Friday, what circles are, ways we can implement RJ into their schools. Each would go back and build own school-based RJ team. Not every school has it, but the DOE is starting a process where more schools are involved.

- Emilie: Really intentional selection of 17 schools, work intensely with leaders. About 500 students that are involved in an expansion, in some phase of this work. Some are really... others are in beginning stage, understanding that foundational piece. Looks very different from school to school. Every student/staff member participates in a circle like you just did. Schools where that happens 1-2x/ week, others where it's only 9th graders, others where it's offered over lunch and an opt-in, different models.
- Steven: How is it started at each school?
- Emilie: 500 schools in expansion were identified thru superintendents as being good fits. Goal is to expand to entire city at some point. Some schools were doing this work long before this program started. Sometimes driven by the principal, or teacher, or paraprofessional, or students, get a small group really excited. So there's a million models for how schools get started.
- Steven: How long has it been in school system?
- Tyler: RJ is a variety of dif. Ways: isn't a program. Some schools have been doing this for 15 years because recognizing people's humanity is just part of their ... some schools are already positioned and founding that way. Some schools that are brand new to this and may just been hearing about this may be looking at this as a way to heal school culture.
- Christian: How are schools supported on this? Facilitator that goes from school to school to set them up?
- Emilie: For the schools that are part of this explicit expansion – each assigned a point person, a coordinator. As Tyler said, lots of folks who have been doing this authentically so have found their own resources through partner organizations or through DOE. Schools not part of the expansion, who are looking for support, youth team is built out of it. We'll redirect them to any resources that are available if they're not explicitly part of expansion.
- Erana Stennett: I want to first say how impressed I was with the way in which Adebola and Aduanette and Julian have presented this evening. It's very impressive. Tyler and Emily have answered part of my question: as I was listening to questions, I wondered if there's any mental health clinicians part of this circle, program. Some of these questions will raise – might trigger memories or emotions might surface that they didn't anticipate. When that happens, where can young people take what's coming up for them?
- Adebola: Someone feeling something in the circle not okay with them, feeling ouch, they say oops, explain the situation, then can really delve into what happened. These circles can go really deep. We're not unpacking things within ourselves, so either it's being a teacher, a student, if something was to be brought up that made me feel uncomfortable, talk to adult facilitator to get more resources. Someone else can hear it privately – group doesn't need to hear everything.
- Anduanette: At best, does that safely, however always chance to skip – always have that option. If support needed, I've seen people get pulled out of circle.

- Ken: This so far to me seems very abstract. How one of these circles starts, what prompts it?
- Adebola: When we started, we found out from people that we're trying to implement this work... greeted with pizza and smiles... greeted with a circle, we were learning, but knew we needed this to fix something at our school. Usually starts too late. If there's a fight at the school, trying to sit in a circle with people who are feeling rage. It's what happens in things other than school, carries on to places like prisons homes, if you don't set a boundary. When it comes to disciplining in school, if you don't understand what makes a kid.. can't discipline.
- Anduanette: Started with games, learning names, building relationships, gradually as months, saw circles talking about family deaths, as community builds. What's being restored. At its best, RJ restores community and repairs home. Some call it transformative justice, believe you can't restore something that wasn't really there.
- Ken: So it starts with an incident, cell phone stolen, or a fight.
- Tyler: RJ is for everyone, regardless of demographics. Really about establishing humanity. Emilie and I worked in a school, we realized we needed to start at adult level. RJ is the vehicle: intro conversations to build community, and then when harm does take place, already trust each other to come to table. How can we be accountable? Not using as a euphemism for punitive justice.
- Courtney: Sounds like best practice here is to have it in place, have students in the circle before issues. How do you identify students to be involved? Wonder if the kids who could most benefit might be reluctant?
- Answer: infused
- Beverly: 500 schools expansion: all middle schools? High schools? Has worked into how this might fit in elementary?
- Emily: This past year was first year of expansion – includes middle and high school. Work is happening in elementary, though not included in this expansion. Has been more of a focus of supporting elementary with Sanford Harmony – social emotional system. This is not something that's exclusive to HS or middle – can happen at every grade level, can happen in a community board. Community-based. Current expansion of those 500 schools.
- Beverly: Do you have info on what budget was for this expansion?
- Emilie: I know operating budget was about \$3.5M. but that does not include a staffing budget, so we can get that and send to Julian.
- Doug Kleiman: The communication model of sharing is so fundamental to the human experience, when done right it's some of the most healing experiences of my life. Remembering group experience, broke off into small groups, one person I didn't want to be in my group, thought this person was mean because of her face. Shared their wounds, this person became my favorite person and my heart opened. General fundamental principles of sharing: safety, values. Unfortunately, there's so much abuse in society that I have to imagine that

much will be benign and foster friendship, but have to imagine some people will be triggered. If someone shares something that is concerning about possible abuse – what is the methodology, how is that person cared for. I wish we did have a social worker in every school. Is there a method – how is that reported, cared for, if there are social workers at school, are they by default, facilitators?

- LaChelle: every school is guided by Chancellor's recommendations. There is a protocol that must occur. So what better place to have restorative practices because there is an adult? Every adult is guided by those same recommendations. When something like that occurs, they are to do the handoff to the person in the school who can handle that report. That's best-case scenario: that you're having these circles where there are professionals were there are those protocols in place. Pretty sure every school has a guidance counselor. All those people are in place in the school building.
- Emilie: We also mandate – why the expansion was funded as well as it was – we mandate that folks go through extensive training on how to facilitate before they start this work. One thing that is driven home is you have to start with low stakes community building. The session we did today is a higher stakes session – we would build up all year before we did something like this. One of the reasons we did this – without establishing relationships – kids are asked to do this without creating safe space. Really driven home in the training modules – people go thru 5 days training, and then additional 4 days of training. Drive home, how do you do this safely. Why do you start at surface level of who are you. Then let's go deeper. Deeper. And throughout, remind people of those Chancellor's recommendation. More often than not, people are triggered. Something gets shared, exposed. When the circle is really strong, the circle itself can process that, and hold it for people. But definitely moments where more support is needed, and that's when we rely on protocols to bring in professionals to provide support for people.
- Adebola: We know, if something was shared, some things are –I know you told me that as trusting me, but I really think – someone told me this in confidentiality, but I'm bringing it to my adult facilitator so bringing in concern.
- Doug: How much groundwork and structure is involved, is reassuring.
- Peter: We have 3 middle schools, 1 HS from 96th to 110th. I don't know if you're involved with any of them, certainly room for that. Have lots of people coming from different parts of world. Also have gangs, recently in past few weeks we've had 4 killings, which we haven't had for years. Don't know people are going to be open to discussing, talking in situations where may be gang members. Love to hear your thoughts on dealing with this ... in middle school. Curious to hear your thoughts
- Tyler: building a restorative culture takes time. Recommend that culture exists before starting. Assuming that culture exists, and adult has that relationship; once trust is there, we can have those conversations. I was a school justice at school in Crown Heights -- thinking of schools as mirrors and windows. Dreams, but also symptoms of larger issues in society. People who have needs and have been underserved. Identifying key people in community.

We've had difficult situations in the school – people have lost their lives, and knew who was responsible. Recognizing their capacity. Listening critically to them and recognizing their solutions. Us learning about the questions people... need to build relationships, but wouldn't start there if you don't have that relationship with the person. A great place to start: if you can't identify folks who are trained/have right resources:

- i. Credible messengers. Will have list of resources provide later.
- ii. Those who don't have credentials, but have relationships in the community/neighborhood.

School is sitting in a community, but not looking at that community, and do a community assessment for capacity and people power

- Emilie: Can also share a list of the schools that were included in expansion, and if not, can provide contact information so they can get hooked up with support.
- Lolita: Can you provide statistics on success of program?
- Tyler: Data is a tough conversation because a lot of the work is pretty qualitative. In one year, we saw an increase in feelings of safety. In just one year of implementing circles, increased by 42%. Attendance at school events increase. Teacher turnover decrease. We think of it as planting a seed. We may not see that seed blossom but in 10 years might find us on LinkedIn and tell us how it shaped our lives. Like dieting, might buy a dress... it's a lifestyle changes. Yes, I can fit into this dress in 2 weeks if I do this (eat cayenne water), but this is a lifestyle change. If we look at data points, decrease arrests or detentions, they might spike. Most changes, takes about 3 years, so we recommend 3-5 years for implementation.
- Steven: Last question: can this be used strategically. What if there is conflict between 2 people but not part of circle. Would you not engage them?
- Emilie: That's the question everyone wants from us. A lot of policy makers think that's the entry point. There's a lot of unlearning that needs to happen. That's not going to be particularly effective if you haven't built structures. With that said, there are lots of examples of using these practices to help address harm, even when strong community does not exist. Harlem Youth Court – does an amazing job to be practitioners in this work, and engage with people who have been brought into criminal justice system and have alternative to justice system... see harm has caused, how they can grow from it, how can address those harmed. Can only work when people involved were willing to engage in process in authentic way. What we've seen in schools is as you're growing Tier 1, harm will happen simultaneously, what we often see in schools is there's a dual approach during those years. When there's harm, individuals who are willing to take ownership, invested in trying to repair it, we will support those schools. Then those individuals that aren't ready because foundations aren't there for them, still going to talk to you – hear your perspective why you did what you did – love you and support you through a suspension, talk to you about why a decision was made how it was. It's a delicate balance and people often want to go straight to repairing harm, but can't repair a

community you don't feel invested in. If you think about the people in your life that are meaningful to you, much more invested in repairing that relationship than you are with healing that relationship.

- Rosa: Wondered if mediation/mindfulness + is there a Spanish version of this?
- Addie: Spanish – Mindfulness... helps you get into the space you're in, helps center yourself.
- Anduanette: Circles can be... where we've meditated together for 10 mins. Circles can show up in lots of different ways. Have seen support of bilingual students, people who can speak translate, really trying to listen and learn along the way. Also I've seen teachers who speak both.
- Emilie: We're also fortunate, because in expansion almost all international schools are part of that, so have had the privilege to getting feedback to how can materials be adapted to Spanish-speaking + top 9 languages spoken in NYC public schools. Really intentional effort to adapt training and material that teachers go back into classrooms to use. We've learned a ton from the international schools. Spread that across the other schools, even if there's just one student that speaks Bengali, this is accessible.
- Julian: A lot of the work we do on community board is resolution passing... I think meetings like this are important, one of the reason I like YEL. We're all involved in school communities in some way, or school budget. Really glad can incorporate youth voice in this. 20% of people in our district are under 18, not represented on CB, or come to meetings.

2. New Business

- Steven Brown: Re: the DNS: I know we want to challenge ourselves, may be the year to take a strong look at what we put in.
- Mark Diller: Budget committee prepared memo for steering: 2 themes that will be useful w/r/t DNS
 - i. Make sure we're talking to people beyond just ourselves; reach out to whoever it is in our network with respect to how the budget affects all of us.
 - ii. Want to capture learning that COVID taught us, as it affects the work of each committee. Whether it's the hard choices that had to be made when \$9B disappeared from budget, and also when we talk about issues of equity, and how it affects our community and ourselves. COVID brought some issues of equity into even starker relief. It's important to capture – keeping in mind that the budget we're talking about when we're commenting on district needs is the budget that starts, in effect, a year from now FY2022. It's a long way off but it will be here before you know it.
 - iii. Smart way to do this – by September meeting, have bullet points of items want to cover, hope to include items.
 - iv. At least to have begun reaching out to people beyond our circle to inform whatever we're going to say in the DNS.
- Steven: Timeline: when as a committee do we need to have a final DNS?

- Mark: Timeline: normally ask for that to be done now, but don't always get it. A part of that document is budget priorities – ways in which we call on city budget to reflect. Ex: the narrative that every school needs a social worker because needs are not being met, a few words we can say about those needs. Then as a budget priority, the committee could say we favor prioritizing in budget is the money needed to hire social workers. Capital budgets are big ticket items infrastructure related. Last year's DNS is on the website and on city planning website. You may recall that earlier this year we sent a letter asking SYEP to be reinstated; one of the reasons we could do that it was one of the priorities was that was in the DNS, so didn't need to take another vote, we were positioned to advocate for that right off the bat. Next up, there was a conversation at Transportation...
- Rich Robbins: we saw that Bank St. bookstore is closing, and I've talked to someone who is interested in taking it over. Not sure what the Community Board could do to help, if Bank Street can be saved, would love to see... it moved to 107th a few years ago, so in our district.
- Mark: we want to be careful not to be seen as being favorable to a bidder. This may be decided by September. I would think most we can do is say that bookstores are good, and this is a particularly venerable institution. Would be happy to say that. Let's take this offline.
- Ken Coughlin: At Transportation, we talked about a constant called "School Streets" – proposed by national association of city transportation officials. The idea is to, in response to pandemic, a corollary to Open Streets, to expand traditional boundaries to school, to increase classroom streets, space, recreation opportunities, all outdoors, which is kind of the idea these days. Lisa Orman is on call:
- Lisa Orman: I did include the NACTO guide to this, other guides are emerging. I think as with previous discussion (Restorative Justice presentation) with teens, it shows how much kids need to be together. If we can provide more space, more can be together, which is good for everyone. Just with as with Open Streets for restaurants, can use adjacent streets/sidewalk for handwashing, drop-off, pickup, whatever the school needs. Want to take the temperature of CB7 on this. Something I thought was worth discussing. Gale Brewer is interested as a concept. Not sure how City Council feels about it, or DOE. Sara Lind contacted some parents in D3, Julian may have one statement with this – outdoor concept as well.
- Steven: First thoughts; I'm certainly open to it. It's a challenge, and I particularly know that some schools have space with them.
- Julian Giordano: Will send statement to email, support using streets.
- Steven: If having classes outside helped – if taking that space helps schools.
- Peter Arndtsen: Was hoping it would be expanded to daycares.
- Beverly Donohue: I think it's a fascinating concept. I do worry about what this looks like in January vs. September. For a school to organize outdoor classes in changeable classes. There's a lot of work that would need to be done to make this feasible in NYC, obviously very compelling.

- Rich: What it is, and how it works, because supposed to have plans in place by August. Even if we passed a resolution now, we wouldn't be able to vote on it until September. What actions could we take tonight, just to get things rolling, or might we take some other action as opposed to a resolution that might not get voted on for 2 mos. If something else, what might that be? Just that we support the idea, or want to be more specific.
- Steven: I'm a stickler for process, like to get community feedback. I don't know how to resolve that. Not comfortable making a resolution.
- Seema Reddy: I'm a big fan of this idea, space is clearly the main issue: what might people object to this?
- Ira Mitchneck: One of the problems is you need additional staff, additional security. Have to be able to keep those areas controlled when you have public running through a street that's closed, ability to use it much. Obviously PS 87 had experience where playground was closed. Teachers may not want to be outside. We can offer it as something, but don't be surprised if it doesn't do for most schools what it's expected it to do.
- Steven: To play devil's advocate, my son went to a school... it was a major thoroughway to get to the Lincoln Tunnel. A huge part of the community would have a problem, if closed 9 hours a day, it would be a major.
- Ira: The historic PS9 now Mickey Mantle, for years used 83rd street as a playground, balls would run down the street so had a board to catch the balls. When you sit thru PTA meetings, huge conversation about school security, huge breach. District needs: will have less money. Doesn't bother me for kids coming/going to school, but not sure it really provides more space for the school.
- Kim Watkins: I was on a D3 Green meeting talking about outdoor space learning. I heard Ira talking about some of the historical. Earlier tonight, the Chancellor had a town hall talking about the moving target that we're experiencing. Where D3 sits within the construct of all the moving parts. The experience our children will have in September – with smaller rooms, but many restrictions on their experience on a day to day basis, limited recess, limited time together, won't be lunch, won't be activities, the fun parts of school will be limited, and what that all means in terms of in person blended learning vs. many variables of remote learning, which were not real happy with. So the D3 Green Committee has been working with national groups trying to tease out ideas around structured learning. Idea that we'd do anything outside more than kids running around on playground. Whole pedagogy of using nature as part of the classroom. Gets more into younger grads – elementary, so a lot to still discuss. A lot in D1 where the Assembly member and couple of principals are actively looking at street closures, so do think it's worth having a conversation about what's possible. D1 also has a lot of schools that were built without school yards. D3 has school yards, can reprogram those and still have control of school perimeter. For example, 165 has a limited area. 166, 9, -- simply look at how we can reprogram what we can control.

- Steven: To wrap this up: Ken and Lisa and Rich, I'm somewhat supportive. I don't think a resolution is something we can do. I don't even think we have quorum. Open to idea, but don't think resolution.
- Peter: DOT is in a bit of a flux, they are not functioning on all cylinders, anything that came from you recommending they look into this could be useful.
- Mark: Generally we write advocacy letters based on... general sense that we've already done w/r/t restaurants recommending creativity. Recommend schools be able to request using space. Not 166 ought to be the playground next door. But given our board's general position, fair to say to not overlook any opportunity that school thinks makes sense. We do well as outsiders to support initiatives that come from within a school. Don't want to oppose, but encourage others to ask schools to consider what do you think you could do.
- Ken: Just in terms of process, have to recognize we're in extraordinary times, some process would fall by wayside. I would love, was hoping this committee... I would love to see this committee support a resolution asking city to explore the concept. I don't think that's an endorsement of it. Another option is, failing that, we have a Steering Committee next week. I think a resolution even by a committee carries a fair amount of weight. And certainly would a resolution by Steering.
- Rich: I was going to say most of what Ken said. I do agree with Mark: sending a letter loosely we should do anyway. If we can pass a resolution, gives it that much more weight on the issue. A number of people feel we should weigh in
- Seema: All of these plans are being drafted w/in the next 2-4 weeks. Crucial moment to weigh in, not as critical in September vs. now.
- Doug Kleiman: Today at Borough Board, Ben Kallos was talking taking over vacant storefronts, encompassed none of the resources. It's one thing to talk about the existing school resources and aides, it's another to talk about staffing a new building. In an era in which funding is being cut, I don't know how you do that.
- Kim: With respect to storefronts, and vacant school buildings. The one thing that is curious about rollout really does center on resources, and practicality of districts that have resources to fan out. One thing for a mandate from DOE or mayor saying every school go find an empty building. It's a very real thing for us as a community to tap into resources we do have. Other thing that's very interesting is the long term effect of talking about outdoors for education.
- Steven: Not comfortable doing resolution; would be comfortable having it come through Steering
- Mark: Happy to make agenda item at steering. Will publish. Will look to both YEL and Transportation – this will not be my initiative. Will be either a letter or a resolution or perhaps both, or decide this issue is not ours to handle in an effective way.
- Steven: One of the topics I was hoping to get feedback on: it's my understanding that there's conversation: mandated online teaching – where do we stand with that topic. My son is moving to public from charter.

- Kim: There has been no standard set for the specifics of platforms to be used, or mandated synchronous learning vs. project based learning in the home. For parents, what the DOE is still trying to ascertain is breakdown between parents full time at home learning, those interested in blended learning, 2-3 day a week. That's the science they're using learning so far, how many teachers will be needed.
- Steven: Hypothetically, doesn't have to be any live learning.
- Kim: That's what was correct in the Spring. So much upheaval over the variations on remote learning that took place within the DOE. One will hope – this will be a hot topic next week in meeting – that there will be a standard for individual grades. Some sort of standards.
- Steven: There's mandated live learning in summer school, but not feedback...
- Ira: Actually no (mandated) in summer school except special ed.
- Kim: As soon as we have it, we will get it to you.
- Ira: City Council -- do have Archdiocese schools that are closely contiguous to what we have. Both have been used as schools within last few years. Idea of retail space being turned into schools is – in the quantities that it exists in D3 or CB7, it is a fiction. The DOE has created new schools from scratch in other parts of city in 3-6 months in other parts, big spaces. Goes back to my comment that you have to staff these, doesn't happen so quickly, particularly when don't have money for the ones you've got. Was in another meeting, talking about temporary classrooms. I had to explain the idea of getting seats – isn't space, isn't capacity. Turning Duane Reade into classroom is actually dangerous to students.

Present: Mark Diller, Steven Brown, Julian Giordano, Ira Mitchneck, Natasha Kazmi, Beverly Donahue, Ken Coughlin, Christian Cordova, Rosa Arenas, Seema Reddy, Paul Fischer, Lolita Ferrin, Doug Kleiman, Erana Stennett, Rich Robbins and Catherine DeLazzaro. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Blanche Lawton, Steven Brown, Catherine DeLazzaro, Paul Fischer, Julian Giordano, Amy Hyman, Natasha Kazmi, Ira Mitchneck, **Beverly Donohue, Doug McGowan and Courtney Clark Metakis.** **Absent:** Blanche Lawton, Amy Hyman and **Doug McGowan.** **Public:** Tyler Brewster, La'Chelle Gaillard, Emily Mittiga, Adebola Abbey, Peter Arndtsen, Lisa Orman and Kim Watkins.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM