

FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2020 at 5:15pm

Mark N. Diller, Chairperson

Mark Diller called the meeting to order at 6:31. Sheldon Fine made a motion to approve the minutes of last month's full Board meeting. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Report from NYPD

The first item on the agenda was to hear a report from the NYPD. Richard Asche requested that the NYPD representative address the need for additional overtime funding, one of the proposed expense budget priorities.

D.I. Naoki Yaguchi of the 20th Precinct thanked the Board for the invitation. He began with a discussion of recent crime statistics. He noted an increase in burglaries including a few hits on Columbus Avenue. Police have been assigned to cover potential demonstrations in the aftermath of the election. He did not expect any serious problems. The overtime budget has been cut. Overtime definitely helps when the precinct is experiencing a spike in crime.

Courtney Clark Metakis stated that she had heard that there had been an increase in narcotics arrests.

D.I. Yaguchi responded that he was unaware of any additional operations. Drug arrests are running about the same as last year.

Richard Asche asked how much had been cut and whether D.I. Yaguchi thought that the cuts resulted from a Black Lives Matter policy decision or were the result of an overall City budget shortfall.

D.I. Yaguchi responded that he would have to get the reduction numbers and provide them later. The precinct uses a two week rolling average to allocate overtime funding. All agencies were asked to cut funds to balance the budget. Overtime funding is conditions-based; if circumstances require it, a precinct can exceed their two-week allocation,

Ethel Sheffer asked for more information on why the cut was applied to overtime.

Mark Diller noted that overtime allows an increase in coverage from officers we know. This budget item seemed the most direct way to respond to need.

In response to a question about how frequently police are called to homeless shelters, D.I. Yaguchi stated that shelter calls do take up a lot of resources, but that is just part of the work.

Mark Diller then called on one member of the public who had signed up to speak to the NYPD. Melanie Wesslock thanked the NYPD and supported providing all the funds they needed. She stated that she does not feel safe.

D.I. Yaguchi noted that, at the borough level, the NYPD can deploy additional overtime. Overnight command scans the borough and will assign additional cops if needed.

Budget Priorities

Mark Diller then moved onto the business section of the meeting. The first item was the Capital and Expense priorities of the Community Board for FY2022. He announced that he would read summaries of the items approved during the last Steering Committee meeting, the full text of which is available on the Board's website. He noted that In the budget hearing that preceded this meeting, there were three areas of concern--the proposal for an additional Safe Haven shelter in the district, the proposal for restoring overtime funding to the NYPD budget, and the conditions at NYCHA projects.

Mark called for the HHS committee to make a presentation on the Safe Haven proposal, to be followed by public comments on all the budget priorities, then comments from Board Members, and finally a Board vote on FY2022 priorities. Mark then read brief summaries of the priorities listed on the website.

Andrew Albert asked whether it was possible to include a prologue to agencies to provide context for individual items. Mark Diller responded that OMB parcels the budget items out to agencies but that it should be possible to add comments.

Safe Haven Proposal

Catherine DeLazzero, on behalf of the Health and Human Services Committee, shared the research they had done to arrive at the Safe Haven proposal, using excerpts taken directly from the District Needs Statement (see <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/manhattancb7/about/dns.page>). First, she noted that estimates of those experiencing homelessness in New York City range between 75,000 and 90,000. The majority of people experiencing homelessness in New York City are children and people of color. In NYC, domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness and eviction is the second-leading cause. In 2018, the Upper West Side had approximately 1% of total. The mortality rate due to Covid-19 is 61% higher for the shelter population than the NYC population. The most recent count of those living on the street in Community District 7 was 80 people. The Official HOPE count for New York City totaled 3,857 individuals living outside and in the subways, including 1,283 in Manhattan. The citywide total increased by 7% from 2019 to 2020, and the Manhattan total by 55%.

The most successful treatment model for street homeless is the Safe Haven model, of which there is a City-wide shortage. The Safe Haven model is designed specifically for those who live outside. It has low-barrier admissions policies, provides holistic mental health and other support services, and is considered to be the most effective means by which to persuade those living on the street to accept an offer of shelter. Safe havens are small, serving 20-50 individuals. They are successful in quickly moving clients to permanent housing. In Community District 7, the one existing Safe Haven shelter serves 33 people. Last fiscal year (July 2019 to June 2020), they placed 25 individuals into long-term, permanent housing. A Safe haven is a great strategy for addressing challenges associated with homelessness.

Catherine noted that DHS should report more detailed monthly data [see <https://council.nyc.gov/data/homeless/> for current data.] To provide context, Catherine noted that New York City has a legal mandate to provide shelter for anyone experiencing homelessness, which was established by the Callahan v. Carey litigation in 1979. She provided an overview of fair share since she is aware of concerns. Fair share refers to equitable distribution of facilities that provide public goods (e.g., libraries) and facilities with negative impacts (e.g, waste removal facilities) across the city (not within a borough). Fair share analysis adjusts for district population size (i.e. equity does not refer to identical numbers of facilities for each district but equitable facilities to population ratios). Of concern are districts with the highest concentrations of facilities,

defined as the top 10% of 59 community districts citywide (about 5-6). Community Board 7 is not in the top 10%. In addition, some facilities cannot practically be distributed equally to every neighborhood. Some districts have a greater need for services. Overall, the Mayor should task the Algorithms Management and Policy Officer in the OMB to review fair share criteria, analysis, and reporting processes, which are outdated. The AMPO should pay particular attention to holistic analysis of equitable distribution and impact (i.e. community rankings by asset/benefit and burden); as well as the rights of all New Yorkers to fairness, equity, and justice. The AMPO, in collaboration with city agencies and representatives from every level of city government, should use broad input and evidence-based analysis to evaluate which facilities should or should not be included in an analysis; and if other frameworks might also be useful.

Catherine referenced her personal story to explain that when people are in a vulnerable position, and need help, they can experience a lot of abuse and vitriol, and it's not their fault. When you are in pain and/or need help, you can't not be in pain or not go through what you're going through. People experiencing homelessness who need assistance have nothing to be ashamed of. Everyone's life is equally valuable; everyone who is a part of our community is valuable and important. A safe haven shelter is a great opportunity to provide services and supports for people living outside, who are our neighbors, to transition to permanent housing and develop enough stability to have the opportunity to experience safety and fulfill their potential.

Sheldon Fine thanked Catherine for sharing her personal experience. He was a volunteer for 7 years in working with the homeless. Homeless people need a place to sleep. Goddard Riverside identifies the Safe Haven model as the best to move people to permanent housing. People conflate Safe Haven with shelters. They are unable to distinguish between street homeless and others. People in our meetings discuss encampments that they found frightening. There has been an increase from 25 to 80 encampments in the district. People don't know that the existing Safe Haven is there because it is so well run. Case management, drug abuse treatment are on site. Street homeless aren't going away and supporting this proposal will help address the problem.

Public Comment on Budget Priorities

Mark then thanked everyone for their work on the budget priorities. He proposed 45 minutes for public comment. Speakers were as follows:

Erica Gerson, who lives in the West 80's, has four children in schools in the West 70's. Her mother spoke at the budget hearing earlier and does not feel safe. She stated that people are on the verge of crisis. While everything that is on the budget priorities list is worthy, the budget is shrinking. It is hard to discuss specific items without cost numbers. On the Capital budget list, we need to move #25 (NYCHA security systems) to #4 and eliminate the current #4 (new Safe Haven shelter).

Mark Horowitz spoke as Chief Operating Officer of Urban Pathways, the service provider for the existing Safe Haven in the district. Urban Pathways is data driven and operates Safe Havens because they work. They do not operate congregate shelters. Residents blend into the neighborhood. Safe Havens are a cost-avoidance, keeping street-homeless out of hospitals, and moving them to permanent housing.

Adelia de Almeida recalled speaking 8 years ago to Community Board 7. She spoke against the Safe Haven proposal. An immigrant from Brazil, she lives in a hotel. She came to New York and was awarded four scholarships. For the last six weeks, there has been heavy drug use on her floor. She calls the police everyday and is afraid to leave her apartment to throw out garbage. There are 60 people living in the building

at Broadway and 94th Street. Everyone is denying it is a shelter. She asked for help for the rent stabilized tenants. Mark Diller arranged to set up a phone call with her to find help.

Nicole Metzger, who lives in the West 80's, stated that she appreciated the Board's diligence but asked that the Safe Haven proposal be reconsidered. She does not consider the Department of Homeless Services to be a trustworthy partner. Given restrictions on budget, she does not see the project as an appropriate priority.

Jeffrey Bergman saw the issue as the congregation of emotionally damaged people in one area. He moved to the Upper West Side to experience a residential neighborhood. He saw someone shooting up on Broadway; his wife was spit on. He proposed additional security cameras instead of building a Safe Haven.

Sharie Loeffler said that she spends a lot of time donating to shelters. She deplored that Information has just been thrown around. There is no clear idea of how many homeless are in the district now. DHS is not a good partner and especially now there are not unlimited resources. She has two small children. She believes that the homeless should be treated as a city-wide problem.

Andrea Harris wanted to provide insight. She works in philanthropy and looks regularly at the results charities achieve. Many Non-profits that contract with DHS are not eligible for receiving funds because they are on the list of those not meeting effectiveness measures. She stated that Safe Havens have few restrictions so they don't help the street homeless situation. She was not sure that homeless people from the district would be prioritized.

Melinda Thaler, a 30 years resident of the Upper West Side spoke next. While she valued all the budget priorities, she particularly wanted to advocate for services to combat domestic violence. She cited a 50-100% rise in domestic violence in the Covid period, with a disproportionate impact on families of color. For victims of domestic violence, the police are the first and last refuge. Once the NYPD is called, revenge is expected and separation from the abuser is necessary. A new Safe Haven will use some additional resources but is needed. As an abuse victim, three years of enforced police protection were there for her. Domestic violence is tied to unsafe housing, like NYCHA. She urged addressing the housing needs of NYCHA neighbors.

Candice Braun thanked the Board for keeping us informed. She stated that she supports an additional Safe Haven and sees Urban Pathways as a successful provider. Shelters in hotels in the district are temporary. Safe Haven a separate issue.

Board Comments on Capital Expenses:

Roberta Semer stated that she believes in the value of safe havens, but that the Board did not follow the process of proposing items at a public meeting prior to the steering meeting. She motioned to move the safe haven item back to committee where it will be discussed this month.

Jay Adolf added that the community deserves a separate vote on the safe haven item. If Roberta's motion fails, he would like to move for a separate vote on this item to remove it from the priorities.

Sara Lind said she was glad that NYCHA is our top priority and supported the idea of incorporating #25 into #1. She supports the safe haven. Housing affordability in the district is a huge problem, and we have it as #28 and #11 and she would like to move them up. These are citywide issues that need citywide solutions, which starts here. We should allow non-residents to speak. Other districts such as the Upper East Side and SoHo do need to step it up. As a domestic violence survivor, she has found that police aren't that helpful to domestic violence

victims. Please don't use domestic violence victims as an excuse to fund police. Domestic violence is also a leading cause of homelessness in the city.

Howard Yaruss shared that he is abstaining from the vote. He doesn't think the de Blasio administration is taking the budget crisis seriously, and is protesting by abstaining.

K Karpen stated that he supports the safe havens. He supports a lot of folks in these situations, and thinks this would provide helpful alternatives.

Melissa Rosenberg strongly disagreed with the idea of removing the safe haven from capital priorities. This item has been discussed at length and we have heard the community and there's no reason procedurally this shouldn't be included. This is also a solution to quality of life concerns. She's also fine with lumping certain items together, including NYCHA.

Natasha Kazmi asked if the safe havens are open to anyone in the city or just the district. Do they come with services or are they organized separately?

Catherine DeLazzero responded that safe havens are designed specifically for those who live on the street locally. People tend to not want to leave neighborhoods they reside in. Homeless people are reluctant to enter shelters and want to stay in communities they live in, and safe havens have a strong record of success in moving people to permanent housing. There are a lot of mental health services.

Sheldon Fine added that the supportive services are for the most part on site. If not available, the residents are referred to an agency. The community doesn't even know the current safe haven is there, and it is being run successfully.

Jay Adolf noted that while he has the utmost respect for Catherine and Shelly and no independent knowledge on the effectiveness of safe havens, he will not support the safe havens now under the current circumstances. He stated that the conduct of the city administration and DHS relating to the hotel shelters in our district are greatly concerning. If this were to pass, he would be concerned the city will seize on this as an excuse to create another shelter in our district. If this is still included after the vote on Roberta's motion, he will vote against it.

Susan Schwartz agreed with Jay and will also vote against.

Rich Robbins responded to Howard's point on the city budget and said that this is aspirational, not binding. This is our opportunity to give input into how the city decides its budget. He then asked if Roberta's motion succeeds, would there still be time for this to get back into our budget priorities?

Mark Diller replied that no, it would take the form of a recommendation of another type.

Robert: Espier stated that he vigorously opposes Roberta's motion to remove the safe haven item. The need of the homeless and streetbound population is as much an imperative as people living in shelters and receiving services. The DHS budget also has other sources of funding from nonprofits. There's no reason not to include it as a top priority.

Christian Cordova also opposed Roberta's motion and supported the safe haven shelter idea. With all deference to Catherine and Shelly, he said we should also recognize the HHS committee and Courtney Clark Metakis, who did a lot of work in particular.

Linda shared that she was a pro bono worker at Urban Pathways, which is an amazing group unlike the service providers in hotels. She noted that we don't know if the safe havens we suggest would be managed by Urban Pathways. That said, the co-chairs of HHS brought this up outside of the process without advanced notice. It should be discussed and considered, but not here and not in the budget priority process.

Richard Robbins said that he couldn't think of a better use of city funding than for a safe haven project. The issue before us is whether this is a burden or boon on the community, and it is clearly a boon. It would be nice to have a committee discussion about it but I haven't heard outcry from committee members on this.

Doug Kleiman said that he has been conflicted on this and the various topics brought up. If the safe haven became a separate item perhaps it would carry more weight.

Julian Giordano noted that there are other items on the budget priorities that were also not discussed in committee. He asked if this logic will be applied to those items as well, including the item for NYPD overtime.

Mark Diller stated that he supports the removal of this item at this time, not for Roberta's reason, but because it would be better to have a separate process about it. He would want us to be able to negotiate and discuss with DHS.

Julian Giordano followed up, asking: if it was included in the budget priorities, can we also include it in committee discussion and future resolutions?

Mark Diller replied that if we've already said we want it, that decreases our ability to negotiate it.

Ethel Sheffer asked: what precludes doing both?

Mark Diller said there's nothing that precludes doing both. He thinks it would be more effective doing it the other way.

Catherine DeLazzero stated that she didn't understand the comments about HHS and the process the committee went through. Everybody in the committee participates in research and is informed on the issues. We have a great deal of integrity on how we research and go about the DNS process. There was a motion to take the safe haven off at steering that already failed. This is for 2022, so we have time to think this through. There's no justification to hold this to a different standard when we've approached this with integrity and inclusivity.

Shelly Fine underscored that the DNS and budget priorities represent our values and the concerns of the community. One of the most serious problems expressed by our community is street homelessness, not only for the humane conditions of the homeless population, but the uncomfortability that accompanies it. There should be more support to address this issue.

Vote on Roberta's procedural motion was taken by roll call: 15-24-2-0. The motion failed.

Mark Diller moved NYCHA #25 up to #18 as a friendly amendment.

Vote on Capital Budget Priorities was taken by roll call: 29-4-10-0. Resolution carried.

MCB7 Priorities for the Fiscal Year 2022 NYC Expense Budget

Jeanette Rausch asked for the second item to be tweaked to also include police officers in mental health training.

Sheldon Fine said he was fine with that. He noted that the NYPD Homeless unit has been dissolved. The origin of the second item was more specifically clinical. We could pursue the police issue in another context.

Jeanette Rausch said she was fine with that explanation. She does not trust calling police on a homeless person of color in need of mental health support.

Robert Espier added that the risk that you run in calling the police is frequently greater than confronting the matter.

Mark Diller asked if it would be acceptable if we added a separate item to the bottom on mental health training for police.

Robert Espier replied yes.

Erana Stennett stated that last year we lost a lot of police to suicide, and any support we can give them is timely and important.

Vote on Expense Budget Priorities was taken by roll call: 30-0-11-0. Resolution carried.

3. Request for immediate funding in the 2021 NYC budget for:

- i. Additional devices and wi-fi access for remote learning for students in District 3 who need them**
- ii. Funding for rapid Covid testing to be made more available throughout the District**
- iii. Funding Senior Centers so they can safely re-open, meet appropriate cleaning regimens, and provide meals and services.**

Elizabeth Caputo asked if we could amend to have the devices for students go to those most in need.

Mark Diller accepted as a friendly amendment.

Vote was taken by show of hands: 39-1-0-0. Resolution carried.

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

The Committee will present the resolutions.

4. Re: 1 West 67th Street, PH #901/905/1005, Hotel Des Artiste (Central Park West.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission extension of existing skylight, replacement of a solarium, and modifications to the existing parapet.

Erana Stennett asked: what is Landmark West's opinion?

Michele Parker replied that Landmark West! did not attend the meeting.

Page Cowley shared that she believes Landmark West is in support of it and a positive letter will be adopted that she can then send to the board.

Vote was taken by show of hands: 34-0-0-0. Resolution carried.

5. Re: 320 Columbus Avenue (West 75th Street.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a storefront replacement.

Vote to deny without prejudice [as the applicant did not show up to their meeting] was taken by show of hands: 33-0-1-1.

6. Re: 40 West 84th Street, PH (Columbus Avenue – Central Park West.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for penthouse alteration.

Erana Stennet asked about the height differential.

Michele Parker replied that they are not increasing the height. They are essentially adding a fence around the sides. They do have to build up on the roof of the penthouse though.

Vote to approve was taken by show of hands: 31-0-3-0

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.

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

Resolutions Re:

7. Supporting a bill in the New York State legislature, S07876, which would assign a "pedestrian safety rating" for every motor vehicle model.

Jay Adolf asked if there was any feedback from the state DMV on this and if there are overlapping federal standards.

Ken Coughlin replied that the standards would be statistical in determining the rating system, it's very evidence based.

Paul Fischer asked if this will increase liability insurance on vehicles that don't have these features

Ken Coughlin replied saying no, in fact, it would likely be the inverse.

Vote was taken by show of hands: 31-0-4-0. Resolution carried.

8. “Daylighting” all intersections within a two-block radius of any school or senior center in CB7.

Erana Stennet asked: what is defined as an “impediment”?

Howard Yaruss replied that an “impediment” is anything that would obstruct visibility in an intersection. Daylighting would also help people in the intersection see oncoming cars.

Jay Adolf shared that he lives within half a block of a school. He conducted a quick calculation that showed about 20 parking spaces would be lost from one midblock school. Without some empirical evidence that this helps, he thinks this is another inconvenience.

Michele Parker asked if this has anything to do with lampposts, post box offices, and LinkNYCs.

Howard Yaruss answered that no, this doesn’t impact things that aren’t in the street.

Page Cowley stated that on 88th street, with the retail moving into the street and pedestrian walking spaces, she doesn’t know how this can work. She said we should provide other places for cars to park such as under buildings because cars aren’t going away, they’re just going to get smaller and better.

Howard Yaruss agreed with Page. The perfect should not be the enemy of the good. We’re meeting this Friday with the DOT and our top agenda item is double parking.

Ken Coughlin noted that Jay’s calculation was probably off, because all the corners of a street don’t have to be daylighted if it is one-way. In many cities it is against the law for cars to park up to the curb.

Robert Espier said that this sounds like an ongoing conversation we began a year and a half ago. This is an ongoing collaboration with DOT. What is different in this resolution than we have already done? He didn’t think it was useful to keep spitting out resolutions.

Barbara Adler agreed with Jay and Page. She thought this was absolutely the wrong time and that 2 blocks is excessive. She said she would vote against this.

Steven Brown agreed with Page, Robert, and Jay. He gets frustrated by the false dichotomy of safety vs. cars. We keep taking away parking spots for safety. He’s never seen an agenda item about productive conversations we can have with car owners about their cars. He’s for safety but will not support more loss of parking spaces until we have a look at our community.

Klari Neuwelt asked if the committee considered a one block radius rather than two blocks.

Howard Yaruss replied that the DOT recommended this to preserve safety. In the interest of preserving parking, we limited it to 2 blocks on certain blocks.

Klari Neuwelt requested that a friendly amendment be made to change it to 1 block.

Howard Yaruss accepted the friendly amendment.

Lisa Orman, a member of the public, stated that this is a choice between safety and cars. There have been zero complaints about restaurants using parking spots but there are complaints about. Cooper Stock's mother has been haunted by the question of whether the daylighted intersection would've protected 1,900 crashes killing 17 and injuring 2,300 people. Daylit intersections allow seniors and kids to walk around the neighborhood on their own.

Hunter Daniels, also a member of the public, stated that what happened to Cooper Stock was a tragedy. The answer is not to remove parking spaces. He has spent four hours looking for parking spaces. We have to put the bike racks on the sidewalks, giving back parking spaces. Get rid of loading zones and moving fire hydrants as well.

Vote [as amended to 1 block] was taken by show of hands: 18-15-2-0.

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

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

153 Amsterdam Avenue (West 67th Street.)

286 Columbus Avenue. (West 74th Street.)

480 Amsterdam Avenue (West 83rd Street.)

Vote to approve was taken by show of hands: 29-0-0-0.

Alteration application to add a bar at the cellar level:

10. 509 Amsterdam Avenue (West 85th Street) New York Beer Co LLC d/b/a Jacob's Pickles.

Vote to approve was taken by show of hands: 31-0-0-0.

Health & Human Services Committee, Catherine DeLazzerro and Sheldon Fine, Co-Chairperson

11. Recommendations for addressing food insecurity and improving equity and access.

Vote was taken by show of hands: 30-0-0-0. Resolution carried.

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

Resolution Re:

12. Support for Involving Principals in Education Policies & Pandemic Responses.

Vote was taken by show of hands: 28-0-3-0. Resolution carried.

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 one minute for remarks, and we will also accept a written copy for the record.

Manhattan Borough President's Report:

Talking to NJ on helicopters regarding the traffic coming from their airports. Doing a call on Friday because 500 slots for low income families throughout Manhattan have been cut. There are ~21 agencies deciding how sidewalks are being used, Boston and other cities are using ways to determine hotspots. The DEP has a small

team and lab that with additional support can do this in NYC. CEC 3 has focused on tech requirements for students, which should've been dealt with months ago. She has an affordable housing taskforce with upcoming events on tenant protection. Community Board applications will be released next month. She moderated the Southern and Northern Manhattan Police Reinvention discussions. She had great respect for the police department, but work still needs to be done. It takes a year or longer to work on a safe haven with lots of time for discussion.

Reports by Elected Officials:

State Senator Brad Hoylman, District 27

Introduced legislation called "strategic lawsuits against participation," which are frivolous lawsuits filed to intimidate political opponents and critics. New York has a weak statute in this regard and he's introduced legislation to strengthen it. Introduced a bill called the "pandemic self storage" act that will ensure you won't lose your personal possessions in self storage units if you can't pay the fees. Working on a bill called "save our storefronts" that will provide rent relief to small businesses. A bill he introduced was signed into law on Monday requiring wearing a seatbelt in the backseat of taxis and ride hailing vehicles.

Councilmember Helen Rosenthal, District 6

Her office had a housing clinic on evictions and the moratorium on them tonight. The recording will be posted on her website. She will have a hearing on November 18th about the lack of seats provided by the city to younger kids in the program "Bridges to Learning." The city promised 100,000 seats, then switched to 30,000 and now only has 10,000 online. Flu shot clinic on Monday at Hamilton House, go to the website to register. There were multiple powerful testimonies tonight about domestic violence. She has legislation to support domestic violence and sexual assault survivors, including at the NYPD Special Victims Division.

Reports by Elected Officials' Representatives:

Hannah Weinerman, Congressman Nadler, District 10

The Congressman won his seat. If you have any questions or concerns, we are taking casework requests. Call or email our office. More legislative updates next month.

Erica Overton, Assemblymember Rosenthal, District 67

Introduced bill for BOE to send every eligible voter a ballot with postal return and envelope and join other states in doing this.

Shana Harmongoff, Senator Benjamin, District 30

Thank you for reelection. If you need a mask or hand sanitizer, stop by the office. We will be giving out awards to businesses this month. Let us know if you want to nominate a business.

Mike Stinson, Comptroller Stringer

Wrote a letter to NYCHA regarding ventilation concerns and called for expediting capital projects.

Public Comment:

Zach Campbell, AMNH

Guilder Center Update: The excavation and foundation work will be complete in next couple weeks and the tower crane has been successfully delivered and assembled. Now transitioning into the superstructure phase of work. The overall duration is 5-6 months. Currently planning to work on November 7th.

Jessica Spiegel

Could the open streets be brought up at the next Transportation Committee meeting? In the last couple of months the open streets have been unable to be used due to safety concerns. We've come up with some ideas and conducted a survey.

Susan Peters

Corner pole antennas for 5G signals radiate high frequency radiation 24/7 and cause harm to our community. Thousands of peer review studies have documented negative health effects with exposure to these waves.

Ashley Gonzalez, NYPL

Research libraries will enter phase 2 soon, allowing appointments. Branch libraries move into phase 2 on November 9th, with 15 branches adding computer service and limiting browsing. Roosevelt Island and Battery Park City opening as grab and go branches.

Peter Samton

Ethel Sheffer will be giving a presentation on the history of riverside south this November. Open streets on Amsterdam are continuing through November, but looking at cutting back hours (Friday is no longer offered).

Present: Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Rosa Arenas, Richard Asche, Steven Brown, Courtney Clark Metakis, Elizabeth Caputo, Josh Cohen, Christian Cordova, Ken Coughlin, Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Catherine DeLazzer, Mark Diller, Beverly Donohue, Robert Espier, Lolita Ferrin, Shelly Fine, Paul Fischer, Julian Giordano, Amy Hyman, Madelyn Innocent, Audrey Isaacs, K Karpen, Natasha Kazmi, Doug Kleiman, Blanche Lawton, Sara Lind, Doug McGowan, Ira Mitchneck, Klari Neuwelt, William Ortiz, Michele Parker, Jeannette Rausch, Seema Reddy, Andrew Rigie, Rich Robbins, Madge Rosenberg, Melissa Rosenberg, Peter Samton, Meg Schmitt, Susan Schwartz, Roberta Semer, Ethel Sheffer, Polly Spain, Erana Stennett and Howard Yaruss.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15pm.

BUSINESS & CONSUMER ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons

November 13, 2020 at 5:30pm

Applications to the SLA for On-Premises Liquor Licenses:

1. **240 Columbus Avenue (West 71st Street) Felice 240 LLC**, d/b/a Felice.

Applicant: Jacobo Giustiniani, partner (jg@felicenyc.com)

Legal Rep: Atty. Seth Weinberg, SA Hospitality Group

High-end restaurant & wine bar, Italian cuisine, no cabaret (recorded music). DBA to be determined. Formerly Oxbow Tavern with enclosed café. Hoping for May, 2021 opening.

Committee vote: 7-0-0-0. Non committee vote: 1-0-0-0.

2. **148 West 67th Street** (Amsterdam Avenue) 148 West 67th Street LLC.d/b/a To be Determined.

Applicant: Luis Skybar (lskybar@gmail.com)

Attorney: Charles B. Linn

This will be a modern diner with no outdoor space, to occupy the ground floor and basement. No cabaret, but background music. Was previously a diner that was there for several years.

Hours of operation: 6AM-Midnight, 7 days per week.

Committee vote: 7-0-0-0. Non committee vote: 1-0-0-0.

3. **49 West 64th Street** (Columbus Avenue) 49 West 64th Street LLC d/b/a To be Determined.

Applicant: Alex Teisanu, owner (teisanualex@yahoo.com)

Attorney: Max Bookman (Pesetsky & Bookman)

This was formerly Atlantic Grill, owned by Landry's (BRGuest). The landlord of this property and others instrumental to the operation didn't want to see the restaurant closed, so it is a transfer of the existing business, with everything basically staying the same. Will be headed by Alex Teisanu with background music only, occupying first floor and basement. In such a case the SLA give a 30-day continuation of the existing license for the new application to be approved.

Hours of operations: 10AM Monday -Thursday; 10AM-11PM Friday & Saturday; 11AM-10PM Sunday.

Committee vote: 7-0-0-0. Non committee vote: 1-0-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

The committee had a discussion regarding the new ruling by Cuomo that restaurants must close by 10PM due to Covid; the use of gas heaters (they are not permitted inside temporary street structures; enforcement of structure violations; the Restaurant Bill, which is a straight grant (differs from PPP). Unlikely to get passed with the current administration.

Present: Christian Cordova, Co-chair, Linda Alexander, Co-Chair, Linda Alexander, Barbara Adler, Joshua Cohen, Christian Cordova, Doug Kleiman, Madelyn Innocent and Andrew Rigie. **Chair:** Mark Diller. **Absent:** Paul Fischer, Seema Reddy and Erana Stennet.

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM

PARKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Klari Neuwelt, Chair

November 16, 2020 at 6:30 pm

Before the meeting was officially called to order, Lynette Baiocco (Public) voiced a concern about helicopters in the neighborhood, wanting to know if this was the correct committee to which to take this issue. **KN:** Yes. *The board passed a resolution in January, 2020 supporting Congressman Nadler and noted that KC is our committee's helicopter guru.* **KC:** Baiocco should contact the advocacy group Stop the Chop. **MD:** *There is a huge movement to rid the neighborhood of sightseeing helicopters, but they come under FAA regulations, making local control difficult.* **KN:** *Also, in the past NYC could do some regulation because helicopter sightseeing companies were based in NYC. But they moved to NJ or Westchester County, so that NYC could no longer regulate them.*

Klari Neuwelt introduced herself as Chair of the committee, calling the meeting to order at 6:32PM. She introduced the first speaker.

- 1. Presentation by Matthew Donham, DPR Green Infrastructure Coordinator and Director of Natural Resources Capital Design & Construction Unit, DPR, on Bioswales and Raingardens.** As we followed along with his PowerPoint presentation, Matthew explained about bioswales and rain gardens, and that they are critical to meet a NYC goal set for 2030 to reduce combined sewer-overflows very substantially. There are numerous co-ecological benefits that help improve the ecological health of the natural areas and waterways in NYC. The first Greenstreet (making paved areas into green swaths) was not constructed until 1984, and the first stormwater Greenstreet, which was created by scooping out soil and creating a basin for water to collect was not built until 2008. Since then, DEP got funding for this, and in 2016, with development of the process, expanded the 'Right-of-Way' program to begin building bioswales (sometimes called "swales") on an enormous scale, with construction primarily in Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx. The "Right of Way" bioswales, along the curbside of streets, are difficult to build in Manhattan for a host of reasons. Today, DPR is looking to capture overflow water with a retrofit system, and Matthew said that just today he was out looking for and identifying many areas within NYC parks that could benefit from some water-capture system, finding many. Discussing the differences between bioswales and raingardens, he said that for many the term is used interchangeably, though bioswales convey water and clean it, whereas a raingarden is a conveyance that receives water only. The goal is to reduce overflows of water, supporting vegetative systems with ecological benefits, and to improve the ecological health of the NYC natural areas and waterways. Several visual examples were shown to amplify the presentation, including cross-sections of raingarden or bioswale proposed structures. Margaret Bracken, Riverside Park Landscape Architect and Chief of Design & Construction, discussed the photos concerning Bull Moose Dog Run, located in Theodore Roosevelt Park. She said that the raingarden system was installed to help with a flooding problem and described the permeable surface that had been built there with flat drains approximately 12' apart to help pick up water within the area, connecting to a drainage pipe within the structure, below the substrata under the surface.

Questions followed:

KC: Said the project was a very welcome one. Asked about the timeline for reducing the overflow into the NYC sewage system. **MDonham:** *2030 was goal.* Is there a mandate to include bioswales in projects?

MDonham: *If no impermeable area is created then no, but if that area is increased, it must be mitigated with a bioswale. A general effort is made by designers to direct water to planted areas.*

BA: Said she was still confused about the differences between bioswales and raingardens, as the one they built on Columbus Avenue was very deep and made up of different stones, pebbles, sand, etc. unlike raingardens. **MDonham:** *A raingarden is simpler than a bioswale, but he repeated they are used interchangeably. The City just changed their language from 'bioswales' to 'raingardens'. Matthew said he thought our bioswale was very deep because it's compressed, and to capture a maximum amount of water. In general, they are constructed to be most cost-effective, and where there's less water to capture, the shallower they are built, all site-determined.*

KN called on Barbara to make short presentation of slides of the bioswale on the Columbus Avenue sustainable streetscape street between 76th-77th, which she had prepared.

SS: Thanked Barbara for the presentation

NK: Asked how success of the swales are measured. **MDonham:** *Success depends on the goal. If it is to stop flooding and the swale stops this, then it succeeded. However, if goal is to stop so much waste going down the sewer, a measure of success can be made by comparing waterflow into a comparable sewer nearby without the benefit of a bioswale.*

Daniel Atha, community member: Asked if they used soil from the Clean Soil Bank. **MDonham:** *They are working on it, but it's very challenging within the contract process. Would green infrastructure be considered within a park if a low swampy area existed? MDonham: These areas would likely be mapped as wetlands, and their goal is to protect the natural environment. In this case, they would likely do the opposite, by constructing something nearby to collect water so it doesn't impact on the wetland area, so as not to change its status. Green infrastructure must fit into the larger context.*

KN: When reviewing reconstruction or renovation projects in the parks, we're often told that asphalt is the only affordable material. Must we stick with this? **MBracken:** Often more permeable materials aren't suitable, such as when vehicles or many pedestrians are on them. They are exploring more ways to use more permeable materials.

Matt Genrich, NYC Parks: thanked Margaret and Matthew for the presentation, and stated that as part of the Bloomingdale Playground at 104th, green infrastructure was added to the perimeter plantings and the gardens.

2. Presentation by Margaret Bracken, Riverside Park Landscape Architect and Chief of Design & Construction, on the proposed project at 107th Street stairs in Riverside Park.

A PowerPoint presentation was made by Margaret Bracken describing the project, which involves removing the existing deteriorated asphalt pavement, as well as the existing bluestone risers (to be salvaged) and installing a new reinforced concrete foundation, new thermal bluestone risers and natural bluestone cleft pavers at the landings, as well as an ADA handrail. The asphalt pavement at the top and bottom of stairs will then be replaced, and handrails painted. The project, expected to cost \$750,000, was funded entirely by a Riverside Park Fund donor. The stairway is adjacent to the Volunteer House, and similar in style to the staircase at 108th Street. This stair has been closed for a year, due to its hazardous condition. The three landings are all in poor condition, and some of the risers are loose. This stairway was built in the 1930's, and is not ADA accessible, with lower rails than now required. The project will receive a new reinforced concrete foundation, made entirely ADA compliant, and the asphalt landings will be replaced with an upgrade to natural cleft bluestone. When completed, the project will be similar to the 87th Street stair project, which was completed in 2009.

Questions:

KN: Why was this project chosen over others in our area also in need? **MBracken:** *This donor had no specific request, in that they were happy to use the money for a project in need. This stairway is one of two that were on Parks' capital projects list for essential projects, along with the staircase at 83rd Street. If the funding comes from within RPC, can you avoid the lengthy DPR capital construction process? MBracken: Yes. Still has to go to Parks, LPC, and CB7 for approval though, as well as being bid out. Definitely expedites the process though.*

KC: When does the construction begin? **MBracken:** *March 2021, and expected to take approximately 4 months. This will give time to work on their approvals over the winter.*

SS: Does the project also go before CB7's Preservation Committee? **KN:** *No. With projects such as this one, our P&E Committee is the CB7 committee that reviews.*

Although not essential, the committee voted on a Resolution that Klari will draft, approving the project.
Committee Vote: 6-0-0-0; Non-Committee Board Vote: 3-0-0-0

3. Update on committee discussions:

Klari gave an update on her conversation today with John Herrold, Riverside Park Administrator.

- There has been a construction detour between 59th-61st Streets in the park, due to work being done with FEMA money along the water's edge. This has caused pedestrians to be on a shared path with

bikes, and it's been a very crowded, potentially dangerous situation. As of today, the barriers have been removed, and there is no longer a detour, as the work is now completed.

- There's been a cycle detour between 72nd-76th, on Esplanade, relating to construction at the northern end of Riverside Park South. Cyclists have been diverted off the Rosenthal bypass onto this section of the Esplanade, again sharing with pedestrians. The good news is this piece is likely to finish this week, so bikes will soon be back on the Rosenthal Bypass, though the project itself will go on for approximately another year and a half. Whereas certain areas will be closed off and on, the contractor has committed to keeping inconvenience to users at a minimum to the extent possible.
- The current detour on the Cherry Walk relates to restorative work on the rip rap (stones at the river's edge) that is being paid for by FEMA. Though the work area is just a few blocks, because of the lack of entry/exit locations throughout the length of the Cherry Walk, the detour takes users off of the entire Cherry Walk. The date for ending the detour is not firm, but sometime in December is anticipated.
- Phase 5 of the Riverside South Project included a wide pathway for cyclists descending starting at 68th Street and going down to the river to the Greenway with bike markings on the asphalt. Klari reported that there were more pedestrians and kids using this new wide ramp than cyclists, and that she had asked John about it. He said that the path is not ADA compliant for pedestrians, though there is no ADA requirement for bikes, but they will put up signage that it's a shared path, as it's unlikely pedestrians will refrain from using it, despite measures that might be taken. One can now enter at 68th from Riverside Boulevard onto the ramp to the Greenway, then go either north or south.
- Phase 6, and last phase of the Riverside Park South project, which is being built by the Developer, does not yet have a signed contract, according to John, who is not directly involved with this. During our review of the plans for this section of the park in the past, there were many requests for field lighting of the large multi-use field that is in this phase, and this lighting has been included in the project. However, the bad news is that the combined comfort station/ DPR maintenance unit that was to have been part of this project have been dropped off it, as was the comfort station that was to be included in Phase 5, both essential and part of the original park design from 30 years ago. The Phase 5 comfort station had been designed, but it was never bid. Upon consultation with DPR, CB7 included both of these comfort stations in this year's capital budget priorities, though it shouldn't be CB7's job to find the millions of dollars needed for these structures.
- The committee has been concerned about cyclist accidents on the Rosenthal Bypass, which opened on about Memorial Day, 2019. John said he hasn't seen any information to suggest that the accidents there have increased since before the bypass was put into effect, but that is fairly anecdotal information, as his information comes just from DPR incident reports, which don't include any incident that is not documented by a DPR worker in Riverside Park. There are no routine police, EMS or other reports showing any more specific data.
- The Rotunda reconstruction project, according to John, should start construction in approximately early spring of next year. However, this is a very soft estimate. DPR has continued to take the position with DOT Bridges (the unit that is managing the Rotunda project) that continuous access at 79th Street for park users must be maintained throughout the entirety of the project, though that does that cyclists won't have to dismount at some times.

NK raised an issue related to the Rotunda project, specifically concerning the area at the bottom of the crumbling stairs that must be used if you are a pedestrian entering the park at 79th Street, in particular the derelict conditions at the base of the stairs. She is forced to use this access regularly because she has kids but is asking if it wouldn't be possible to put in place some sort of temporary measure, especially regarding lighting, until the remediation work gets underway this spring. To avoid these stairs, one needs to detour either to 72nd Street or 83rd Street. Margaret Bracken said that these concerns are very valid, confirming that the DPR maintenance equipment had been removed from the garage level and that the garage was closed and left empty in anticipation of the Rotunda reconstruction work. However, that was postponed because of the Covid pandemic. Margaret said that she will discuss the situation with Riverside Park management colleagues to see what can be done right now, as she agrees it is very abandoned, especially since the concession closed, and that there are often unsavory characters hanging around.

Present: Klari Neuwelt (KN), Chair; Ken Coughlin (KC); Natasha Kazmi (NK); Doug McGowan (DM); Susan Schwartz (SS); Barbara Adler (BA); and Elizabeth Caputo (EC). **Chair:** Mark Diller (MD). **Non-Committee Board Members Present:** Rich Robbins (RR); and Doug Kleiman (DK).

NYC Department of Parks & Recreation: Margaret Bracken (MBracken); Matthew Donham (MDonham); and Matt Genrich (MG).

All participants attended on the Zoom platform, and the meeting and presentations can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZEEX6sugDg>

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:34PM.

Re: 1. 2211 Broadway, the Apthorp Building. Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to waterproof the existing enclosed areaways along the north building wall on West 79th Street that have been experiencing significant water infiltration into the boiler room below.

2. 18 West 75th Street (Columbus and CPW). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to:
recreate the stoop in a historically accurate manner.

3. 328 West 108th Street (Broadway and Riverside Drive). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to approve the coasting used to repaint the bricks on the front façade.

The Preservation Committee met on Thursday, November 12, 2020 0 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 members present, the applicants, and the 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 Madge Rosenberg (MR), K. Karpen (KK), Michele Parker (MP), Susan Schwartz (SS), Peter Samton (PS), Jay Adolph (JA), Josh Cohen (JC) and Doug McGowen (DMc) who came after item #1. Non-committee CB7 Board members in attendance were CB7 Chair Mark Diller (MD) and CB7 Vice Chair Doug Kleinman (DK).

Also in attendance for the application at 2211 Broadway were Jay Lombardi (Architect and presenter on the application) and Anthony Vele: for the application at 18 West 75th Street Hilda Cohen (presenter) and Juan Matiz and for the application at 328 West 108th Street, Jeffrey Sherman (Architect) and Sanam Javadi appeared. One Community member, Annabelle Winfred, was present.

The following discussions were had and actions taken as follows:

2211 Broadway, the Apthorp Building. Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to waterproof the existing enclosed areaways along the north building wall on West 79th Street that have been experiencing significant water infiltration into the boiler room below.
The Apthorp Apartments located in the West End-Collegiate Historic District Extension is a limestone masonry load bearing structure with a steel frame superstructure designed in the Italian Renaissance palazzo style by Clinton & Russell and built between 1906-1908. The façade features a three-story rusticated limestone base, limestone string courses at the 3rd and 10th floors, balconettes at each corner of the 5th floor, and limestone ornamentation above the east and west arched entrances and 12th floor windows. The building is capped by a decorative limestone cornice with copper acroteria. There is a large open courtyard that is also clad in limestone. The north and south roofs are topped by one story colonnaded penthouse structures that house the building’s water tanks. There are no external fire escapes present at any street facades of the building.

Jay Lombardi, the architect and presenter, has done prior work to the building and is familiar with its challenges and changes. The subject areaway is on the north side of West 79th Street between Broadway and West End Avenue, from the north east corner at Broadway towards the below grade garage driveway to the west. The vault lights at this location are now covered by a membrane that may be more than 20 years old. There are no vault lights on the other sides of the building. There is leakage from the subject areaway covered vault lights to the boiler room below because the metal of the vault lights has deteriorated and the glass of the

vault lights is either missing or is in poor and unstable shape. The areaway is enclosed by a four foot granite wall and is virtually invisible from the sidewalk; one has to go up to the wall and peer over it to see anything. All that is visible is EPBM (single ply rubberized roofing) membrane when one peers over the granite wall. The applicant wants to replace the membrane with a petroleum based granulated membrane in conjunction with liquid sealant resin waterproofing at all seams and joints. The resin will be either white or grey to lighten the area. The applicant was unsure if the current membrane was approved by LPC. The applicant was unsure the granite wall was approved by LPC. The applicant does not know when the concrete bench was installed but DK remembers sitting there with his mom in the 1970's while they waited for the bus. The applicant will repair the concrete bench and to match the color of the granite wall instead of removing the bench and replacing that space with the granite wall. MR asked about drainage and was told there is currently one drain in the areaway. Drainage would be encouraged by slanting the new materials. JA would elevate grating to solve the problem of people sleeping the area. Architect believes new management company reduced the problem of homeless sleeping in the area and says LPC would likely not approve an elevated grating. DK asked the purpose of the vaults and was told it was for light. DK is in support of repairing the bench instead of eliminating it. MD reminded the Committee that LPC generally does not approve removal of vault lights but is generally in favor of restoring them or replacing them with a diamond shaped embossed metal. The Committee will consider if the removal of the vault lights will compromise the historic character of the area/building. MR asked if the glass be replaced or stored. The architect said the glass can be replaced but will be more expensive. JA believes the vault lights should be replaced as the application is to restore the area to its historical status and that the expense has no part in our resolution.

There was no Community comment to this application.

WHEREAS, The Apthorp Apartments located in the West End-Collegiate Historic District Extension is a limestone masonry load bearing structure with a steel frame superstructure designed in the Italian Renaissance palazzo style by Clinton & Russell and built between 1906-1908. The façade features a three-story rusticated limestone base, limestone string courses at the 3rd and 10th floors, balconettes at each corner of the 5th floor, and limestone ornamentation above the east and west arched entrances and 12th floor windows. The building is capped by a decorative limestone cornice with copper acroteria. There is a large open courtyard that is also clad in limestone. The north and south roofs are topped by one story colonnaded penthouse structures that house the building's water tanks. There are no external fire escapes present at any street facades of the building.

Whereas, the applicant wishes to waterproof the existing enclosed areaways along the north building wall on West 79th Street between Broadway and West End Avenue that have been experiencing significant water infiltration into the boiler room below.

Now therefore, the Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan, in consideration of the facts presented and the discussion held, resolves **to approve** the application to waterproof the area way on the Northeast side of W79 street from the north east corner at Broadway towards the below grade garage driveway to the west, to remove the cast iron vault lights and replace them with a petroleum based membrane sealed by liquid resin and covered by concrete. The Committee finds the repairs will only be visible to the public by approaching the four foot wall and peering over.

And the applicant has agreed and the Committee strongly recommends the bench on West 79th Street be repaired and the color matched to the granite wall as reasonably appropriate to the historical character of the building and the historical district.

Committee Vote: **4-3-0-0**

Non Committee: **2-0-0-0**

18 West 75th Street (Columbus and CPW). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to recreate the stoop in a historically accurate manner.

The following discussions were had and actions taken as follows:

Hilda Cohen presented for the applicant. The application is to reconstruct the historical masonry stoop and masonry wall based upon the 1940s tax photos and to maintain historical elements consistent with those of their neighboring buildings, #22 and #24. The previous owner raised the parlor floor 23 inches. The stoop was completely removed. This building, along with #s 22 and 24, was built in 1889-1890, designed by John Burn and the style is Renaissance Revival with Queen Anne elements. The stoops of buildings at # 22 and # 24 were recreated in the past 10-15 years. A Black railing over the masonry curb surrounds the front of the structure. The applicant wishes to replace the black railing by masonry walls. The property lines will not change. The applicant wishes to replicate the straight masonry stoop and newels and replace the windows with an entrance door at the parlor level. Applicant will replicate the doorway columns. All details by the previous owner on the masonry walls will be used in this reconstruction. The reconstruction will necessitate an additional 3 risers (stairs) to the stoop to meet the raised parlor floor. The applicant wishes to maintain the visual lines of buildings ## 22 and 24. All colors and details will match the other buildings. There will be a metal gate at the basement level. Everything is the same as in the historical photo except for the height of 23 extra inches at the parlor level. Applicant wishes to add small newel posts to match larger stairway newels to the masonry wall that will replace the black rail. Will keep the planters. There will be a double entrance door at top of stoop. Typically, a building has an 8 foot door and 2 ½ foot transom but here so that the top of the door can line up with the windows, and keep the sight lines, the transom was eliminated. PS said the door is higher. Applicant agrees and says that is because the parlor floor was raised. The basement gate will be a glazed metal lattice; a somewhat more modern take on the historical precedent. The finish will be stucco that would match in color and decorative element details. DmG asked if the 23 inch parlor increase was part of our consideration and the applicant told us that LPC considers this increase is an existing condition. SS asked why masonry wall. Applicant prefers to have masonry to match the historical tax photo. MP asked if masonry wall will block sunlight, but told applicant accepts this. Basement entrance will be under the stoop. PS asked if there is enough height under the stoop and the applicant said yes the basement floors are higher than normal. MD asked why the double front door is not (each) single pane, which is more in keeping with the historical precedents. Applicant said the client liked the basement door and wanted to use the style for the front door.

Whereas, the Applicant wishes to recreate the masonry stoop based on elements and details from the 1940's historic tax photo and neighborhood precedents. And to recreate the short masonry wall above the existing front yard curb. And to restore parlor floor entrance, masonry columns and surrounds at the new stoop landing. And, to maintain consistency in façade treatments across the block, notably in buildings #22, and #24, and replace surface detailing to match the existing detailing at the basement level and across the façade. And, to provide a new under stoop gate.

Whereas, the Applicant agrees to install the historic single pane glazing on the entrance front door.

Now therefore, the Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan, in consideration of the facts presented and the discussion held, resolves **to approve** the application **to recreate the stoop in a historically accurate manner** as appropriate to the historical district with the strong recommendation to replace the double front door as one pane of glass on each side.

Committee Vote: 8-0-0-0

Non-committee Vote: 2-0-0-0

Calendared at LPC for December 8, 2020

328 West 108th Street (Broadway and Riverside Drive). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to approve the coating used to repaint the bricks on the front façade.

This single family home is a brick limestone Terra Cotta Renaissance Revival Rowhouse designed by Janes & Leo and built in 1898-1899. The following discussions were had and actions taken as follows:

Jeffrey Sherman, architect, presented the application to approve an elastomeric coating that can not be approved at staff level. The approved renovation is complete. Now, applicant is seeking approval for the coating used to repaint the bricks on the front facade. Landmarks had approved repainting the brick facade. But the painter used a product that turned out to be an elastomeric coating. Landmarks staff cannot approve elastomeric coating. It is a thicker type of paint. It is has a different look than paint and is not generally approved by staff. The alternative, stripping the coating, risks damaging the fire skin of the bricks, which would lead to premature decomposition of the bricks. Leaving the coating in place would cause the least harm to the historic facade. MD asked about the useful life of the paint and was told elastomeric paint lasts twice as long as regular paint. MD is generally not in favor of painted brick. SS asked why this type of paint coating was used and was told the contractor used it because it met the requirements by the architect: to wit a paint suitable for exterior masonry, and that was breathable. DK asked if the application was disapproved by CB7, will it have to be removed but we were told by JA that LPC decides if the application is approved. Both MP and KK saw the venue separately and saw that the job was well done given the detail work on the façade and noted no difference between that paint and other exterior paint.

Whereas, in general the Preservation Committee does not approve of painting a brick surface;

Whereas, elastomeric paint is a coating that is generally thicker than paint and has a useful life that is twice as long as other paint;

Whereas, elastomeric paint can not be approved or disapproved at LPC staff level;

Whereas, the renovation is complete and the building was painted about 5 months ago.

Now, therefore, the Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan, in consideration of the facts presented and the discussion held, resolves **to approve the application to use elastomeric coating on the brick surface of 328 West 108th Street** as appropriate to the historical district.

Committee Vote: 8-0-0-0

Non-committee Vote: 2-0-0-0

Calendared at LPC on December 8, 2020.

The meeting was concluded at about 9:00pm.

Committee members present: Andrew Albert, co-chair; Howard Yaruss, co-chair; Doug Kleiman, Ken Coughlin, Jay Adolf, Julian Giordano, Rich Robbins, Meg Schmitt, Natasha Kazmi, Sara Lind, William Ortiz, Elizabeth Caputo, Paul Fisher, Roberta Semer, Barbara Adler.

Other Board members present: Mark Diller, Chair; Steven Brown, Susan Schwartz, Robert Espier.

1. Conversation Re Traffic Enforcement with Captain Worobey from the NYPD's Transportation Bureau

Howard began the meeting promptly at 6:32PM, thanking Captain Worobey from NYPD's Transportation Bureau for attending the meeting to answer questions. He began by explaining that his bureau examines the issues of traffic safety with a city-wide and state-wide collaboration that includes numerous partners, teaching that when behind the wheel of a heavy piece of equipment, being on the lookout for bicyclists and pedestrians is paramount. Answering committee and community questions, he told us that each precinct gets a safety team of 4-5 officers, determined by data, and that much of what they do is data-driven. These officers are armed, and can stop a vehicle for a traffic violation, such as speeding, or make an arrest if necessary. Note that there are 3,000 traffic *agents* (with light-blue shirts) in all in NYC, not to be confused with this team, who primarily give out parking summonses. Discussing speeding, the Captain reminded us that speeding is the major cause in determining the severity of an accident, and accounts for the most traffic deaths. An accident involving speed of 40 mph or over will result in 90% fatalities, whereas an accident at 25mph speed has a much greater survival outcome. Speed cameras are installed by DOT, though this bureau is in contact with them daily. Their strongly data-driven mission is in achieving Vision Zero, the city's program to eliminate traffic-related accidents and fatalities through more education and enforcement. Doug and Howard were very concerned about rogue bikers (motorcyclists), who roar through the neighborhood, often in groups of dozens at a time, disturbing the peace and terrifying bike riders and others. Captain Worobey admitted that they have had a problem arresting some of these riders who are speeding, as safety comes first and they're sometimes very difficult to apprehend. He did acknowledge that it's a quality of life issue, told us that 43 bikers have lost their lives for speeding, but said that there's no real enforcement against the large numbers of motorcyclists, and although they participate in a motorcycle advisory committee, enforcement for violators is sometimes still elusive. One of their better tools for enforcement is to tow unregistered vehicles to the car pound. In order to retrieve a vehicle, the owner must produce all documents, including a license, registration, and insurance. Doug brought up the delivery bikes and e bikes often going the wrong way in the bike lane, and how dangerous this is. The captain said that accidents involving bikes/e bikes account for just 15% of traffic accidents, compared with 84% involving motor vehicles. Bikes are subject to the vehicle laws, going the right way, obeying the traffic signals, etc. He noted that in two weeks e bikes, currently illegal in NYC will become legal. Again, he said they were "laser-focused" on Vision Zero, and data-driven in their work. In other responses to questions, Captain Worobey said that his bureau needs to do more work concerning people who sit in their cars during alternate side street-cleaning time, but don't vacate them so that the streets can actually be cleaned; In response Steven's ongoing concern regarding wrong-way bikes between outdoor restaurants, which is terribly dangerous, he asked if there are any stats on infractions such as this. It appears there are not. Regarding "placard abuse", where cop cars are illegally parked setting a poor example, he said more needed to be done to set the right example and those parking illegally to get a cup of coffee and the like should be held accountable. Rich asked how CB7 could coordinate their efforts with the NYPD using data they developed, and said he'd love to undertake a pilot program with them. The committee co-chairs thanked Captain Worobey once again for speaking to us at length this evening.

2. Expansion of the City's Open Storefronts Program to Allow Retailers to Use Street Space

Andrew introduced this item, by saying that in a response to Covid-19, the Mayor has made sidewalk space available to merchants, in an attempt to help shop owners. He said the issue would normally be

joint with the Business and Consumer Affairs Committee of CB7 (BCI). Mark advised everyone that the issue was taken up by BCI in May, and that a resolution was written in favor of both restaurant space and retail space, and approved by the full board at its June meeting. Thus, CB7 is already on record of being in favor. Barbara said that the pricey merchandise of many merchants made it unlikely they'd want to bring their wares outdoors, and instead are making their shops open and airy, with few customers allowed in at one time. Ken said in his view it was an equity issue, in that restaurants are being given more space, but Andrew said that people spend a good deal more time in restaurants than in shops, and were a greater safety concern.

3. Discussion of the West End Avenue Open Street

This avenue became an Open Street during Coronavirus this summer to give additional safe recreational spaces to the community. Officer John McDonnell from the NYPD said that they've tried to help out by moving barriers at night, but that there's no community partner. Colleen Chattergoon from DOT said that the program depends on a community partner to remove and replace the barriers to the streets daily or the program cannot function or continue. Helen Rosenthal, Council Member, said that she could explain the discrepancy, and that the rule fell through the cracks concerning the partner-program by DOT, the 24th precinct, and her office. She took the brunt of blame, saying she suggested the program go up to W.96th street, but then no one followed up with a partner for the program. Colleen reiterated that if there is no community partner, the program would have to revert back to normal streets. In the meantime, until it is determined one way or another, Officer McDonnell asked that the barriers be removed at 4PM since it is now dark by 8 (the original established time) and motorists are slamming into them. There were several speakers both pro and con for keeping and shutting down this Open Street. Andrew said there are so many double-parked vehicles, causing congestion, that he thinks the time has come to restore the avenue to its normal self. This was echoed by others for various reasons: William (emergency vehicles getting through); Jay (lives on WEA and it has been an issue for him and other neighbors for numerous reasons including that it's a major north/south thoroughfare and accessibility is very important); Barbara (very underutilized now with colder weather even during the summer in her estimation, cars whiz through recklessly instead of maintaining the 5mph speed and there is no enforcement at all), Steven (enjoyed it then, take it down now); Tag Gross from the community (showed a presentation of choke points from 98th-95th, with traffic building up due to construction and large double-parked trucks exacerbated by all the traffic streaming off the West Side Highway) Mark: (Very concerned about weekday use of the avenue, and feels relying on the NYPD to do the work of a community partner is a mistake.) There were also pro comments: Ken (Unfortunately we need a community partner); Rich: Loves open streets but we need more permanent sustainable items like permanent barriers that can open or close, etc.) Christina Weyl from the community also made a presentation she and her friend Jessica Spiegel created, interviewing WEA residents and charting their reactions pro and con, offering to make their data available. She suggested, as did Helen, that opening just on weekends may be the solution). The bottom line is that there seemed to be a large number who wanted the street returned to normalcy during weekends, and Colleen will look into potentially keeping the street open on weekends only. She'll get back to us.

4. Follow-up on outstanding Business.

- Helicopter noise: Andrew reached out to the EDC, who stated that they're not in charge of regulating the helicopters, but that they have reached an agreement with tour operators to have far fewer flights. Andrew will contact *Stop the Chop* and other organizations to find out what they're now seeing regarding the flights. Says the situation is rampant and potentially dangerous.
- Re the MTA: the antimicrobial and ultra-violet lights installed in trains and buses proved to be less effective than hoped. However, the new air-filtration system now being tested on Metro North and the

LIRR uses electrostatically charged particles to clean the air and is proving to be so effective that it cleans the air of the common cold germs as well as coronavirus. On the funding front for the MTA, they are waiting to see if it will materialize from the incoming federal administration and are also exploring interim funding. The MTA will vote on its budget next week. If they lose funding, they're facing 40% fewer trains and buses, 8700 layoffs, and other potential draconian cutbacks.

- Doug mentioned that his bus driver wasn't wearing a mask as well as some of the riders. Andrew asked for the badge number, which Doug has, and will follow up. He said that mask wearing around 96th has been between 97-99%.
- Howard: Asked Colleen if DOT is soon planning to get back to the committee regarding the bike lane potential for 72nd Street, from park to river. She said she will definitely follow up.

5. New business & next month's agenda.

Sanjeev Mehta from the community has an issue on behalf of his buildings (5 & 11 Riverside Drive) with double parking on 73rd Street between WEA and Riverside. Ambulances can't get through when there is double parking, and there is almost always a line of taxis parked on the street. Many are related to the mosque and services, but not exclusively. Fridays are the worst and he said the situation is dangerous and cannot go on. He showed a presentation he made of the issues. Helen said the issue came up about two years ago, and that the residents around there were very upset. She worked with the NYPD, who asked the taxi drivers to use Riverside Boulevard for parking but said if it clearly isn't working, it must be revisited. She will initiate something with the NYPD, and wants the Transportation Committee and Sanjeev to be involved.

Chris Giordano: Asked for help or guidance in getting the crane removed between 65-66th, as there are no longer any permits. Mark told him the board wrote a letter to the borough Commissioner and the Council Member stating that since the permits were revoked, there is no reason to allow the crane to sit there. Helen will help with follow-up to get the sidewalk and street restored, and the Crane removed.

Kay Kohima from the community: Asked if there was a safe westbound street to bike around 97th-106th. Ken told her there is currently none, unfortunately, but offered a solution, providing there's a shared bike lane on 100th.

The meeting ended at 9:21PM.

YOUTH EDUCATION & LIBRARIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Blanche Lawton and Steven Brown, Co-Chairpersons

November 19, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 6:33.

The first agenda item was a discussion with Amir Kotb, Manager, Government Relations and Community Affairs, at The New York Public Library, Steve asked Blanche Lawton to lead the discussion with Amir on the expanded role of NYPL during the pandemic. Following Amir's presentation, there would be time for committee members and the public to ask questions.

Blanche welcomed Amir. She is a library fan, living near the Bloomingdale branch. She has been reading about institutions failing us during the pandemic and libraries picking up the slack. She asked Amir to expand on current activities

Amir: We are in unusual times. From the beginning, NYPL has taken the virus very seriously. It was one of the first agencies to close and pivot to digital offerings, trying to impact people and find the resources to help. NYPL has focused on parents and students, partnering with Brainfuse to provide 100,000 tutoring interactions. They have offered tele connect classes.-- Free classes in coding, web design, Google and other tech subjects. Knowing that people were without access to libraries, on July 8 NYPL reopened 8 branches for grab and go services, as well as scan and deliver. Now 50 grab and go branches are open. The libraries had begun moving to Phase 2 expanded services. Then a spike in Covid infections happened. This week, NYPL was forced to scale back to phase 1. They are constantly thinking about how to get services out. In partnership with the City, they are using closed branches for test and trace and they are distributing books in underserved areas at food distribution sites. Covid testing at library sites is by State health professionals.

NYPL has resumed its schedule of workshops, job preparation, career counseling, financial advice, citizenship training -- all virtually. Library staff and volunteers have hosted a lot of Zoom events. Unfortunately, the NYPL bookmobiles are out of service now.

Steve: How many of your prior services are available? Are there resources that can be moved to digital, such as a technology help line? Many families are having tech problems and the Department of Education is not offering a lot of help.

Amir: Now, 50 branches are open for grab and go. An additional 14 branches opened for expanded service last week but are now rolled back. Almost all classes are now digital. NYPL has added new offerings that we will keep when the pandemic recedes -- WNYC book club, missing sounds of NY. Formerly tutoring was on-site. With the pandemic, tutoring is provided through the partnership with Brainfuse. There is not a significant gap between what we provided previously and now. NYPL Tech Connect provides tech instruction and classes are always full.

Blanche: How do you promote services in communities?

Amir: We work with Branch staff to cover all community boards. We offer multiple newsletters -- NYPL Connect, NYPL Kids, the Research newsletter. There is a solid relationship with branch staff to ensure connection to communities.

Beverly: Has NYPL been seriously impacted by budget cuts?

Amir: The libraries have absorbed increased costs of health protocols at the same time that budget cuts forced reductions of 95 positions 460 hourly staff. Library materials and staff training have been reduced to maintain essential services.

Blanche: Were the reductions furloughs or terminations?

Amir: Five positions are on hold; the rest were furloughed.

Ashley Gonzales, speaking for the Branch level at NYPL, noted that services include 1-on-1 eBooks, and database searches. If the demand is there, they will offer more. Schools can request information literacy classes, which can be offered virtually.

Shelly: An 8th grader has a project and can't get the research he needs on-line. What help can NYPL offer?

Ashley: He can ask the NYPL Reference department and they can help him find resources. Or he can use Shelf Help to reserve up to 5 books. If he uses the on-line catalogue, he can put books on hold and have them delivered to the nearest grab and go branch.

Courtney: Can you tell us more about Brainfuse tutoring? Are there limits on scaling the service? Is there data on who is using it? Are there communities' not taking advantage of the offering?

Amir: I haven't heard about bandwidth problems. I will look into who is using it and get back to you. Those who are underserved are those without access to the internet.

Natasha: Are there specific offerings for seniors, such as a book club? Do you offer programming on cyberbullying or fraud?

Amir: We offer one-off sessions for seniors on request. As for book events and targeted programming, I will get back to you. We offer digital literacy generally but I will find out about specific senior-targeted programming.

Natasha: Are you partnering with Google? They have digitized millions of books.

Amir: There is no partnership with Google but we do have partnerships with publishers, data-bases, and academia.

Julian: Last time NYPL presented, you noted less interest among high schoolers. What outreach are you doing to teens?

Amir: We do counseling for college readiness. Ashley can provide more detail.

Ashley: We have ten college and career pathways hubs with extra funding. We do SAT prep, and career coaching. KatrinaOrtega@NYPL.org is in charge of that work. Teens have been hard to engage. Pre Pandemic, we did a lot of book discussions in person. We are willing to do information literacy classes at any grade level. Actual teen programming is hard.

Mark: Thanks to Amir and Ashley for speaking on a wide range of topics. You might consider using closed libraries as distribution sites for self-testing for Covid. There are now kits available for testing yourself. The CB7 office can't distribute kits because there is no budget to sanitize. DOE's closing caught a lot of families off guard. We have long supported a project to develop the basement of the Bloomingdale Branch library for community use or testing. It is a star waiting to be born. We are grateful for all the ways you are trying to cushion the stress of the pandemic.

Amir: I will inquire and let you know.

Doug Kleiman: I am interested in synergies with other agencies. With the three Bookmobiles out of service, are you planning to repurpose them for food or PPE or anything or are they just mothballed?

Amir: Mothballed, I am hoping to change that.

Doug Kleiman: Do very basic classes live online so they can be used whenever people are free?

Amir: many classes are rudimentary. They focus more on programs and software rather than how you set up your router. Book checkout software has been loaded on some school devices. Simply E page on the website

lists resources. If branches had a preexisting relationship with a school librarian, we are trying to offer the same classes. If that relationship didn't preexist, schools and teachers would be hard to connect.

Doug McGowan: Meeting demand and connecting dots is the appropriate way to go.

(Elizabeth Paldino helped provide information and links in the chat.)

Mark: To help publicize NYPL services, CB7 can add flyers to our e-blast.

Amir: Ashley will get a list of events to Mark tomorrow.

Steve: Thanks to Amir and Ashley for sharing. We would like periodic updates on your progress.

Cindy Cardinal, representing Councilmember Helen Rosenthal: The Saint Agnes branch library will be set up by January to offer additional services.

Steve then moved on to new business. He has mixed emotions on the closing of schools. In person education has been paused City-wide. The mayor had promised last spring that, if 3% Covid positivity rate was reached, he would close the schools. The WHO recommendation is 5%. Governor Cuomo said 3% was being reevaluated. In school testing has shown a .18% positivity rate. Schools are very safe. There is a continuing transparency issue on how decisions are made and on what factual basis.

Doug M: I echo Steve's concerns. What should we do? Piggy-back off our last resolution focusing on engaging principals in City-wide decisions?

Steve: Principals were not in the room when the decision to close was reached. I am pretty confident of that.

Mark: We received feedback on the last resolution. There were concerns that it did not advocate explicitly for including parents, CEC's and teachers. We should engage with these school constituencies. We aren't in a good position to speak for the community right now.

Shelly: Speaking as a former teacher, principal and superintendent, closing schools now, after opening 2 months ago is different. The demographic that is missing in these decisions is parents. The fact that they are not participating in decisions is horrendous. Parent representation is needed.

Julian: CPAC is meant to assume that role. Also, the parents in PEP were not very involved in this decision. Many schools do not get synchronous instruction every day. Rates of attendance are low. We are entering winter, which will prevent open windows for ventilation. We should postpone action to a later meeting. The Governor and the Mayor are not on the same page. The closing seems unfair as gyms and restaurants open.

Beverly: Why should the whole city close if the data on infection rates is much more granular? The bias appears to favor adult activities not kids.

Steve: We have learned too much to use one city-wide percentage.

Courtney: The 3% was set with an agreement in the spring. I do not see why the City is not reassessing that decision. Health officials could weigh in on micro-targeting, which should be discussed. The closing was also an adult issue for parents who cannot work. The Impact on the workforce without notice is untenable. This is a time sensitive issue for struggling families.

Steve: Timing is an issue. Making a statement soon is important. Personally I want everyone to find an alternative to one City-wide number.

Courtney: Agree about process and urgency. What if we write a statement on what DOE should do to involve and support families?

Steve: We could state that we support the process of decision-making evolving.

Arjun Mehta: I second everything Steve and Courtney are saying. It is important to get most kids in front of synchronous instruction. The amount of Zoom time my little brother has is not close to the instructional time he had in person. We should encourage maximizing synchronous instruction.

Mark: Teachers are currently having to prep for multiple teaching environments. Teachers also were asked to attend buildings and large numbers opted out. We could quickly draft a letter focused on the process of what happens next -- advocating for the voices that need to be in the room with parents in some formal way as part of the process as well as principals and educators. Going farther in critiquing the 3% citywide standard is not appropriate.

Steve: I would also like to see a resolution to include new data points including micro-zones. We have earned a lot since the 3% was agreed to back in May. While I don't want to advocate for a specific solution, I would like to move past one number for 1 million kids. This is an obsolete process.

Doug K: If a school is in a general population area of high spread, then school kids are part of community spread.

Catherine: We could have a robust meeting next month including teachers, parents and public health officials. There is urgency for kids kept out of school. We don't know what the DOE is doing re testing. We should advocate for more communication. I am worried about kids without connectivity who are now out of school. We should stress the importance of including administrators, teachers and parents. As a committee, we need to watch our language -- use family and guardians rather than parents.

Julian: The process argument is the right one. We could make a stronger resolution if we wait for the full board meeting and we could be more impactful if we had more information. We could make a stronger point about using a local percent rather than a City-wide percent if we had time to learn more. I am a strong proponent of student voice. I would advocate for more student input, more gathering of student views.

Steve: A resolution adopted at the December committee meeting would pass the full board in January. I believe that the next 2 weeks are most crucial for kids. I am concerned that the DOE could use this closing to close for the year. I support a process-related resolution now.

Mark: We only have one shot at this issue. If we adopt a resolution now, without adequate information, we cannot go back. I recommend a process-oriented letter rather than a resolution.

Catherine: Explain why a letter is preferable to a resolution. Julian is correct about student engagement. While there is a concern about being vague, we can be explicit about engagement. Why not multiple resos?

Doug M. If we want bang for our buck, we should approve a resolution today. It happens that today schools closed. We shouldn't make the perfect the enemy of the good.

Steve then proposed approving the preparation of a resolution focused on 1. The greater inclusion in the decision process on school closing of families, educators and principals 2. An expansion of the data reviewed to determine opening and closing of schools.

The resolution passed 7-1-1. Non-committee vote was 1-1-1.

Steve: I appreciate thoughts on relevant people to invite to our next meeting. I am proud of the way we work through disagreements in this committee.

Present: Steven Brown, Blanche Lawton, Catherine DeLazzero, Paul Fischer, Julian Giordano, Natasha Kazmi, Beverly Donohue, Doug McGowan, Courtney Clark Metakis and Doug Kleiman. **Chair:** Mark Diller. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Rosa Arenas and Paul Fischer.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.