

## **COMMUNITY BOARD 7/MANHATTAN**

### **Full Board Minutes**

**January 4, 2000**

Meeting called to order at 7:20 PM.

#### *Chairman's Report*

*Honorable Eric M. Nelson*

Barbara VanBuren – informed the board of the condition of Doris Park. She is at St. Luke's with pneumonia and severe respiratory problems.

Melanie Radley – reminded board members of the filming of the Planning and Zoning seminar at Manhattan Neighborhood Network on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Melanie Wymore – announced that the Youth Committee meeting would be held on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at West Side High. Teens are being invited to the meeting – the committee is going to establish a youth advisory committee.

*Public Session - each speaker is allowed two minutes and is asked to submit a written copy.*

Ron Kapon – 20<sup>th</sup> Pct. Community Council announced that they had a very successful party. He also announced his retirement from the Council after 12 years.

Olive Freud – expressed her opposition to the plans for the Coliseum, especially replacing it with such a large structure.

Alan Flacks – announced that he will mail to interested parties a list of CB7 members addresses that he put together.

Steven Mayer – from the U.S. Census 2000. They want to hire 900 people for our area – 42<sup>nd</sup> Street to 110<sup>th</sup> Street. Most of these people will work as census takers earning \$18.50 per hour. You must be 16 with working papers or 17 to apply. You do not need to be a U.S. citizen.

Anne Cunningham – from SROTO/Comander announced a public hearing on rent control tomorrow from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Shaen Begleiter – expressed his opposition to the proposed Ansonia Post Office consolidation

Peter Wright – from the Park West 77<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association spoke about block/street fairs. It is time to create an oversight committee on block fairs. Peace and quiet should be the norm – not fairs.

Anna Hunter – from Senator Eric Schneiderman's office. Pataki vetoed "Eddie Eagle" bill which would have allowed the NRA to distribute NRA gun safety literature to students.

Diana Schneider – talked about airplane fly-overs. There is the possibility of tiered radar that would exacerbate the problem. She supports passage of the Bubble Bill.

Kevin Jones – of Project Return Foundation gave an update on their work in the community. They painted a building that had graffiti on it – per the request of community residents.

Andrew Albert – announced that the planned subway diversion on C line will start on January 28<sup>th</sup> and will last one month.

Suzanna Friedman – from Assemblyman Scott Stringer's office announced that they have a community notification empowerment bill that will give community members say in siting. He will also propose same day vote registration bill to amend state constitution. He will also propose a 911 button at ATMs, a gay/lesbian anti-crime bill and a free Metrocard for all students.

#### *Borough President's Report*

Noah Pfefferbilt - announced that there is still no CB7 liaison. The board reapplication process will begin soon.

## *Reports by Legislators*

*Councilmember Phillip Reed* – announced that he is against the veto of the capital plan. He must reexamine the 5-year bus plan. So many people are up for reelection many issues will be pushed forward, especially issues that will establish benchmarks for elected officials. In particular, he anticipates a rent regulation battle in March. He wants to introduce legislation to ban cell phone usage on the bus.

## *Business Session*

### **Land Use Committee**

#### **Richard Asche and Larry Horowitz, Co-Chairs**

**1. 3 West 92 Street, Columbia Grammar & Prep School.** Application to the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA30-99-BZ) by Columbia Grammar & Prep School to allow a five-story and cellar addition to an existing school, which creates a non-compliance with height and setback, lot coverage and rear yard equivalents. *Resolution to disapprove passed 28-4-1-2.*

The co-chairs introduced the report and resolution written by Ethel Sheffer.

#### **Public Speakers:**

*Jerry Johnson* – a lawyer for Columbia Grammar stated that they need the extra space to meet programmatic needs.

*Jeff Gracier* – a local resident who is opposed to the project because of the impact of the building on neighbors – particularly cutting off air and light.

Both commended the land-use committee's careful consideration of this issue.

*Joseph Carames* – from 7 West 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Tenants Association expressed his opposition to the proposal. People in the apartments facing the school yard will lose their sun, view and their air circulation.

*Richard Sagoyan* – They need the space now and are willing to pay for the extension now instead of waiting for 2-years when the WSURP rules are over.

*Deborah Aguado* – a local resident is opposed to the project.

It was noted in discussion that even without this variance, the school could still build in the lot and block 13 of the 19 apartments. They are seeking a variance for an additional 13 feet that will affect 6 more apartments. The Chair, Eric Nelson, found comments made by the headmaster to be threatening. However, several board members, including Dan Zweig and Richard Asche, disagreed with the Chair.

**2. 249 Columbus Avenue, Diane's Uptown.** Renewal application (DCA 989846) to the Department of Transportation by Merrill Eis Kremme Corp., d/b/a Diane's Uptown at 249 Columbus Avenue (71 – 72 Streets), for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 9 tables and 20 seats.

*Resolution to approve passed 31-3-0-0.*

**3. 485 Columbus Avenue, Isola Restaurant.** Renewal application (DCA907226) to the Department of Transportation by Franc-Iano Corp., d/b/a Isola Restaurant at 485 Columbus Avenue (83 – 84 Streets), for a five-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 8 tables and 16 seats.

*Resolution to approve passed 31-3-0-0.*

### **Uniformed Services Committee**

#### **Beth Berns and Sheldon Fine, Co-Chairs**

#### **4. Multi-block street fairs for 2000.**

4/30	Veritas Family & Children's Services	Broadway (east side)	Between W. 96 - 104 Sts.
	Duke Ellington Boulevard Neighborhood Association	Broadway (east side)	Between W. 104 - 108 Sts.
	24 <sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council	Broadway (east side)	Between W. 108 - 110 Sts.

5/7	The Broadway Mall Center	Broadway (east side)	Between W. 86 - 93 Sts.
	Stryker's Bay Neighborhood Council	Broadway (east side)	Between W. 93 - 96 Sts.
5/14	Committee for Environmentally Sound Development	Columbus Avenue	Between W. 66 - 72 Sts.
	Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center	Columbus Avenue	Between W. 72 - 79 Sts.
5/21	West Side Chamber of Commerce	Amsterdam Avenue	Between W. 77 - 92 Sts.
5/28	Coalition for a Livable West Side	Broadway (west side)	Between W. 72 - 82 Sts.
	Safe Haven West Side Basketball League	Broadway (west side)	Between W. 82 - 86 Sts.
6/4	West Side Crime Prevention Program	Columbus Avenue	Between W. 86 - 91 Sts.
	Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition	Columbus Avenue	Between W. 91 - 96 Sts.
6/10	Project Open at Lincoln Towers	Broadway (west side)	Between W. 66 - 72 Sts.
6/18	West Side Federation Neighborhood and Block Associations, Inc.	Broadway (east side)	Between W. 72 - 82 Sts.
	The Broadway Mall Association	Broadway (east side)	Between W. 82 - 86 Sts.
9/10	Bloomingdale Area Coalition	Broadway (west side)	Between W. 96 - 106 Sts.
	West Side One Stop for Coordinated Senior Services	Broadway (west side)	Between W. 106 - 110 Sts.
9/17	West Side Chamber of Commerce	Columbus Avenue	Between W. 66 - 86 Sts.
9/24	Valley Restoration	Amsterdam Avenue	Between W. 96 - 106 Sts.
10/7	Concerned Citizens for Community Action	Amsterdam Avenue	Between W. 76 - 81 Sts.
	Victim Services	Amsterdam Avenue	Between W. 81 - 86 Sts.
10/22	NAACP, Mid-Manhattan Branch	Broadway (west side)	Between W. 86 - 90 Sts.
	Symphony Space	Broadway (west side)	Between W. 90 - 96 Sts.

During debate board members expressed support and opposition to street affairs. Some concerns that were raised included costs to city for sanitation, uniformed services, etc... and the adverse impact on local businesses. Other members expressed their support of the fairs stating that the businesses sponsoring the fairs assume the costs of clean-up, etc..., many fairs help community businesses and fairs are part of the urban fabric.

*Resolution to approve passed 27-7-0-0.*

The following board members voted Present for the indicated fair:

Andrew Albert – Chamber of Commerce	5/21 and 9/17
Robert Herrmann – Broadway Mall Assoc.	6/18
Gale Brewer – Veritas	4/30
Ethel Sheffer – West Side Crime/Symphony Space	10/22

## **Parks, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee**

### **Barbara Adler and Robert Herrmann, Co-Chairs**

**5. East 72 Street Playground.** Final design for the reconstruction of the East 72 Street Playground in Central Park.

*Resolution to approve passed 32-0-0-0.*

**6. Happy Warrior Playground.** Preliminary design for the reconstruction of Happy Warrior Playground, Amsterdam Avenue and 97 Street. *Resolution to approve passed 28-2-3-0.*

## **Transportation Committee**

### **Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig, Co-Chairs**

**7. Strauss Park.** Proposed bus layovers at Strauss Park, Broadway and 106 Street.

*Resolution to approves passed 29-0-0-1.*

**8. 2642 Broadway.** Renewal application to the NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission (BO1743) by Two Way Cars & Rad Group, 2642 Broadway, for a For Hire base station license. *Resolution to approve passed 26-2-1-0.*

#### **Landmarks Committee**

**9. The Volunteer House.** Application to the Landmark Preservation Commission to restore the Volunteer House in Riverside Park at West 108 Street.

*Removed and incorporated into previous resolution by consensus of the board.*

#### **Board Members Present:**

Eric M. Nelson, Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Richard Asche, Annette Averette, Beth Berns, Gale Brewer, Lisa Bryant, Dan Cohen, Hope Cohen, Beverly Feingold, Sheldon Fine, Georgette Gittens, Guillermo Gonzalez, Robert Herrmann, Lawrence Horowitz, John Howell, Betty Katz, Barbara Keleman, Marc Landis, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Lydia Padilla, Melanie Radley, Oscar Rios, Barry Rosenberg, Hector Santana, Ethel Sheffer, Elizabeth Starkey, Barbara Van Buren, Thomas Vitullo-Martin, Deborah Ward-Gonzalez, D. Maria Watson, Angela Wiggins, Melanie Wymore, Robert Zuckerman and Daniel Zweig.

#### **Board Members Absent:**

John Acevedo, Judith Alvarez, Peter Bailey, Anthony Dillett, Phyllis Gunther, Joyce Johnson, Jan Levy, Maria del Pilar Posada, Shirley Silverberg, Patricia Stevens, Jeffrey Zahn and George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Deborah Ward Gonzalez.

**Youth Committee Meeting**  
**Peter Bailey and Melanie Wymore, Co-Chairs**  
**January 10, 2000**  
**Minutes**

Meeting was held at West Side High School and was called to order at 6:15 PM.

This meeting was a follow-up of our previous youth committee meeting, which consisted of a tour of the new West Side High School building.

The Youth Awareness Theatre Troupe from the West Side YMCA performed for an audience of Youth Committee members, leaders and teens from community youth organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together youth from a variety of organizations in the district and to get these youth more involved in the youth committee's activities.

After the performance, the teens introduced themselves and expressed what changes they would like to see in their environment and what the youth committee should focus on.

We proposed forming a youth advisory committee that would meet once a month before the youth committee meeting. The purpose of the youth advisory committee would be to provide a forum for teens to express their concerns/desires and to help direct the youth committee's work based upon their input.

Representatives and teens from the following organizations attended the meeting:

Frederick Douglas Houses  
Goddard-Riverside  
Goddard Beacon  
Grosvenor  
Manhattan Valley Development Corp.  
Veritas  
West Side YMCA

The following are what the teens stated in response to the question "What changes would you like?":

- an environment to vent problems
- more teens taking charge
- a program that helps people more disadvantaged academically
- teens getting together and cleaning up the neighborhood
- a beautiful world
- the end of gang violence
- early and continuous substance abuse intervention
- programs that work with teenagers who are exposed to or have problems with family addiction
- more information about and motivation for educational attainment
- a change in relationship abuse and STD's
- freedom to wear what you want without worrying about gang colors

- teens able to do more things without carrying so many burdens
- teens to have a voice in the community
- less violence in school
- less racial prejudice/preoccupation with race
- more places where children can feel good about themselves
- there are too many racist cops
- more young people using their own voice
- greater agency collaboration
- less racial, gender generalizations – everyone is different
- more teenage involvement in community
- a safer world – no more gang colors
- more programs for students going to college – more money
- a program where teens can talk with NYPD
- a place where teens are not judged
- everyone getting along

Committee Members Present: Melanie Wymore and Peter Bailey, Co-Chairs, Willy Gonzalez, Deborah Ward, Angela Wiggins.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Deborah Ward.

**STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**Eric M. Nelson, Chairman**  
**January 26, 2000**  
**Minutes**

1. **New Housing Committee Co-Chair**  
Lydia Padilla is stepping down as co-chair of the Housing Committee. Thomas Vitullo-Martin will serve in her place.
2. **Change Meeting Dates**  
Ellen Future, President, American Museum of Natural History, has invited the Community Board to a “thank you” reception on February 9<sup>th</sup>. This reception is prior to the general reception being held from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. The Uniformed Services meeting scheduled for that night will have to be rescheduled. The regular full board meeting date falls on Primary Day. It must be moved to March 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> (Subsequently, March 2<sup>nd</sup> was chosen.)
3. **Hiring of new board office secretary/receptionist**  
Phoebe Fuentes has resigned as the board office secretary to return to school full time. We are looking for someone else.
4. **Community Board appointments and re-appointments**  
Applications must be received by the Borough President’s office no later than February 15<sup>th</sup>.
5. **Written committee reports**  
Eric has received complaints that the oral committee reports take too long and delay getting to the business section of the board meetings. From now on, Eric wants committee chairs to write approximately a two-paragraph report that will be made available every month to the public at the full board meeting. This will start with the March full board.
6. **Proposal by the Budget Committee to hold a Budget Seminar at February 23<sup>rd</sup> Steering**  
Relevant budget pieces will be distributed to committee chairs prior to the meeting. The seminar will last approximately 1½ hours. Ethel Sheffer and Hope Cohen, co-chairs of the Budget Committee, will help run it but the purpose is to get everyone’s input. Some board members agreed with having the seminar at the next Steering meeting – others thought it should be a separate event. Eric is going to look into have the seminar February 29<sup>th</sup> or March 1<sup>st</sup> (Subsequently, February 29<sup>th</sup> was chosen.)
7. **Reports by Internal Committees**
  - a) **Website**  
Gale Brewer reported that Assistant District Manager John Martinez and Community Associate Phoebe Fuentes did a great deal of work on designing the website. Gale is waiting for confirmation on the board’s URL. She has been working with students and a teacher from Martin Luther King, Jr. high school who are going to help get the website up. They recently developed the Lincoln Square BID’s website. Gale is also working with the Beacon School and SOHO Net. The schools will put us up on their servers for free for now. Only 5 community boards out of 59 have their own websites. There is no city policy on websites. CB4 has the largest website.
  - b) **Membership Committee**  
Marc Landis reported that they are reaching out to board members who have not been attending meetings – there are approximately 6 people who are regularly absent. They are also working with committee chairs where there are other internal problems.
  - c) **Communications Committee**  
Melanie Radley asked for feedback from the zoning seminar taping. She said the MNN is doing a series on transportation and CB7 volunteered Andrew Albert to participate. At the next meeting Corey Kilgannon from the New York Times will attend. They are resurrecting a CB7 brochure and they are going to start doing press releases. Translating board agendas and meeting minutes into Spanish was addressed. Eric said that there is not enough staff to move on this. Perhaps with some volunteer help the agendas could be translated. They are going to put a message in Spanish on the answering machine.

**d) Ethics Committee**

Committee met for the first time tonight. They will be reviewing bylaws and established procedures, conflict of interest, etc... They will also develop procedures to address internal issues.

**8. Recognition of Manhattan Neighborhood Network**

The taping of the zoning seminar was the first in board history. Approximately 20 CB7 board members attended. There were also members from Boards 10 and 11 including the chairs of both boards. There was also representation from Boards 9 and 12. The people who did the filming, directing, etc. did this all on their own time. Melanie Radley put a great deal of effort in to this.

**9. Review of February 1 full board agenda**

With regard to the Unified Bulk Program, everyone should at least look at the beginning of the Executive Summary prior to the meeting. Everyone who wants to ask a question will put the question in writing on an index card. The cards will be organized by Larry and Richard.

There are three items on the agenda that are controversial – the American Museum’s Transportation Plan, the Verdi Green Market and the Dog Run. With regard to the transportation plan, Eric will not allow significant board discussion. The Museum is holding a briefing at 8:00 am the day before the full board meeting to address any issues or complaints that we have about the plan. Some objection was raised about the fact that a significant number of Columbus Avenue people have not been notified about the change of layover to Columbus Avenue. It was announced that FLORAL will recommend approval of the proposed dog run although they will not take full financial responsibility for it.

**10. Discussion of Unified Bulk Program and CB7 process**

The question was raised whether the board should handle the program through the normal process or through a special process. Many expressed an interest in holding special board sessions just on this issue. Ethel and Richard have already looked at the program in detail and they could help summarize it for the rest of the board. This is the first change to zoning since 1961. This will be ULURPd through all community boards at the same time.

**11. New Business**

Jan Levy expressed concern that certain issues that need to be addressed by 2 committees are presented first at one committee and then at another. She feels that this is not effective and that the public should not have to go to two separate hearings on one issue. Although there was general agreement that there needs to be better coordination of overlapping issues, Lenore Norman pointed out that certain issues needed to be separated because they are complicated and the different committees are focused on particular aspects. Eric Nelson said that committee chairs need to talk among themselves more. Penny will notify chairs when joint issues arise to facilitate better communication.

Russell announced that the MHA no longer exists. Furthermore, the UTA has been broken down into separate tenant associations for each building.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Deborah Ward Gonzalez.

Present: Eric M. Nelson, Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Gale Brewer, Hope Cohen, Sheldon Fine, Beverly Feingold, Robert Herrmann, Larry Horowitz, Marc Landis, Lenore Norman, Melanie Radley, Thomas-Vitullo Martin, Deborah Ward Gonzalez, Melanie Wymore, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Dan Zweig ; Absent: Richard Asche, Peter Bailey, Beth Berns, Joyce Johnson, Barry Rosenberg, Ethel Sheffer, Hector Santana, Jr.



**Landmarks Committee**  
**Co-Chairs: Lenore Norman and Barry Rosenberg**  
**January 20, 2000 7:00 PM**

**1. 50 West 72<sup>nd</sup> Street.** (Central Park West - Columbus Avenue) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC#001639) to establish a master plan governing modifications to windows that were installed without Landmarks Preservation Commission permits and the future installation of windows. The building originally had casement windows.

1. Front of building (facing 72nd Street): to install four over fours with 3-inch grids to give the appearance of casement windows.
2. Rear (south side of building): original casements being replaced with dark anodized aluminum double-hung windows complete with permanent grids. This will be done one apartment at a time with vacancy or vacationing residents. LPC has no problem with this side of the building.
3. East and west sides of building: carbon copies of each other; mix and match plan. First rows of windows are four over fours. Third rows are casement. Original plan was for double-hung with 6 by 6 grids. LPC proposed keeping existing casements and double-hung with grids for 1st and 3rd rows. Lenore Norman suggested keeping the first row double-hung to echo the front of the building with all other casements.

A discussion about retaining casements ensued with the request that the architect communicate with Michael Levine. Barry Rosenberg said in actuality double-hung windows can't be made to look like casements. AC units are problematic and sleeves should be studied. Ms. Norman stated that AC units make casements difficult, but sleeve cannot interfere with architectural design of the building. The preference is to retain casements, but recognize the difficulty with the AC units. The solution may be to cut windows rather than the walls of the building. However, this is impractical since the building is a rental.

Patricia Dasko, a resident, said the building was in violation from 1988-1996 because mortar has dried up and needed to be replaced. Casement windows are more efficient. New windows do not allow fresh air; are difficult to close because of location behind radiators; tend to go off track; are hot to the touch; and allow rain damage. In summary, the committee suggests staying with casements with first rows on east and west sides of the building. The committee decided to table the application until Mr. Heuermann resurfaces casement windows and comes back to the committee next month.

**2. 71 West 89<sup>th</sup> Street.** (Central Park West - Columbus Avenue) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC#002065) to install new windows.

The architect was not present, and the owner did not have drawings. The committee will ask LPC to delay its decision until the architect makes a presentation next month.

**3. 18 West 89<sup>th</sup> Street, a.k.a. 17-19 West 88<sup>th</sup> Street, The Dwight School.** (Central Park West - Columbus Avenue) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC#002924) to construct a rear-yard addition.

School is on a through lot site from 88th to 89th Streets. New addition of 3,400 square feet will be on the roof of existing gymnasium and will be a library and technology center. Two stories with a mezzanine and planned fencing will add 26 feet to structure. Addition will be visible only from the alley on 89th Street, not from 88th Street. Although the structure impacts the east end of the doughnut, there is a lot of opposition from the brownstones to the west where the structure is very visible.

Stucco and large windows were changed to narrow slot windows to accommodate neighbors to the east. The committee urged beautification such as plantings to hang from the roof to soften the impact of the stucco wall. The committee is concerned with precedents and the proliferation of rear-yard additional and the negative impact of adding 26 feet next to low-rise structures. The committee voted to hold over the application until February, when there would be more community notification and perhaps a joint meeting with Land Use, which is considering a BSA application for the project.

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

#### **4. New business.**

Mr. Norman and Jan Levy attended a meeting of the Federation of West Side Neighborhood and Block Associations to enlist help with missing street signs in historic districts and for designation of buildings about 96th Street. Ms. Levy presented a draft of a proclamation for buildings that have done exceptional jobs in restorations. This will be discussed further.

There being no further business, the meet was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Stevens

Present: Lenore Norman, Barry Rosenberg, Dan Cohen, Patricia Stevens