

January 2004 Minutes

Full Board

January 6, 2004 7:00 PM

American Bible Society

Hope Cohen, Chairperson

Chairperson Hope Cohen opened the meeting at 7:09 pm. The minutes from the previous full board meeting were reviewed and approved (24-0-1.)

Chairperson's Report, Hope Cohen

- Requested that people put their cell phones on vibrate mode during the meeting.
- Board members are assigned to, and expected to attend, one committee meeting each month. However, all board members and public members are welcome and, indeed, encouraged to attend as many meetings as interest them. Votes by non-committee members will be recorded.
- The Membership Committee will be visiting various committee meetings in January.
- The Commerce Committee will meet on January 14 to review and discuss new nightlife regulations.
- Reports on recent actions:
 - o The Landmarks Preservation Commission denied the application by Shearith Israel Synagogue, 8 West 70th Street, to build above the community house.
 - o The Board of Standards & Appeals approved Touro College's application, after reducing the bulk, to construct a dormitory building at 223-227 West 60th Street.
 - o The Board of Standards & Appeals approved 200-204 West 79th Street's application to construct and operate café on the West 78th Street public plaza with the temporary, seasonal enclosure, but without the proposed public seating.
- Helen Rosenthal reported on the Strategy & Budget Committee. The Committee identified 3 areas of focus for funding and lobbying efforts for 2004: West 59th Street Recreation Center, after-school programs, commercial SROs/housing. She asked for input regarding other potential areas of study. Healthcare was suggested and added to the list.

District Manager's Report, Penny Ryan

- At the December meeting, the District Service Cabinet (DSC):
 - o Reviewed safety issues in and around schools, especially student-on-student violence and crime, and NYPD strategies to address these. The Department of Education will be moving students involved in weapon possession and violent crime to schools set up to meet their needs. No high-crime schools in CD7. School Safety will attend the Community Development Committee meeting and DSC in January to discuss safety and impacts of the new program on CD7 schools.

o The Department of Transportation and 20 and 24 Precincts reviewed 14 on-going traffic problems and plans to address them. DOT is conducting a survey and hearings on one of these – truck traffic in residential areas. The survey can be found at www.nyc.gov/dot.

· Department of Health and Office of Emergency Management visited several rat-infested properties in Manhattan Valley and PS199 on West 70th Street, and set up plans for better garbage storage and extermination. The Health Committee will discuss this issue in January.

· The citywide working group of District Managers on 311 had its first meeting with the Department of Information, Technology and Telecommunications. In the next few months, citizens will be able to use 311 on-line and neighborhood statistics will be available month-to-date. DMs are seeking location-specific information for community board planning and service delivery.

· Major crime for Patrol Borough Manhattan North is down 5% in 2003; 2% in the 24 Precinct, and 1% in the 20 Precinct. The North Fork bank at Broadway and 91st was robbed twice in December 2003.

· New police officers are training on the Upper West Side, so police presence on the streets will increase temporarily.

· The Riverside Construction Task Force will meet on Wednesday, January 28, 7:00 PM at 303 West 66th Street.

· CB7 will remain at the West 87th Street location through the month of January.

Reports by Legislators

Councilmember Philip Reed:

· Thanked the board members for their volunteer services to help the community and the city.

· Thanked CB7 for focusing on youth crimes and noted that NYPD is understaffed and that after-school coverage is inadequate.

· Reported his work to ensure that residents of North Park Apartments will not lose their affordable housing.

· Expressed concern that senior leadership of the City Council will be threatened by term limits.

· Invited everyone to his swearing in on January 31st at PS163.

Councilmember Gale Brewer:

· Mayor vetoed the lead bill and the electronic death bill; expects that the City Council will override the vetoes in February.

· Thanked Tom Vitullo-Martin for his work to save West Park Presbyterian Church and Andrew Albert for his work on public Wi-Fi service for 72nd Street.

· 70 street trees will be planted this Fall.

- Schools in the District have been challenged by after-school violence. Parents have taken the lead to protect children.
- Spoke about the commercial “mallization” of Broadway; a proposal to make MetroCards the means of payment for parking meters; and the many violations of news boxes.

Public Speakers

Joan Bondell spoke against the proliferation of cell towers. Radiation in her building (350 CPW) poses a threat to residents; urged CB7 to advocate zoning changes to limit cell towers. The Board discussed taking action. Hope Cohen referred the issue to Land Use (to investigate relevant zoning) and Health & Human Services (to explore health and environment impacts)

Olive Freud spoke against the Riverside South development. Building A should not be constructed until Riverside Boulevard and Riverside Drive are connected. Hope Cohen noted that the Transportation Committee will discuss the 72nd Street ramp (the point of connection) at its meeting this month (January 13).

Amy Horowitz, Deputy Director of Phoenix House, described programs for teenagers using drugs. The Impact Program, an outpatient program for adolescents, operates on the Upper West Side.

Madeleine Polayes reported that legislators and residents have worked together to develop a plan to connect RSD and RSD South without closing the 72nd Street ramp. Traffic on the Upper West Side will increase with the closing of the ramp.

Joselinne Minaya, New York County District Attorney’s office, announced an internship program at the DA’s office for 35 interns, selected from 3500 students in Manhattan. She discussed various DA programs for children, including curricula about weapons, drugs, and violence. She welcomed input from the community regarding crime or other issues related to the DA’s office.

Michele Brown, Asst. Commissioner Department of Homeless Services, invited volunteers to participate in a survey on 23-24 February to assess the number and condition of homeless people in the city. Volunteers would work through the night in two-hour shifts to survey homeless people.

Pete Linder, representative of State Senator Tom Duane, reported efforts to remove a concrete cinder block between West 64th and 65th Streets and efforts to improve tenant-management relations in public housing.

Abby Cook-Mack, representative of State Senator Schneiderman, discussed opposition to the proposed 17.5% increase in rent for rent controlled apartments. The last increase was 10% in 2002.

Shirley Jones of Amsterdam Houses asked about the status of the “Public Housing Task Force.” Hope Cohen replied that CB7 has not forgotten and that Hector Santana will chair the task force.

Jason Haber, representative of Assembly Member Scott Stringer, discussed the plethora of vacant, unused NYCHA apartments, many in the Bronx, and successful efforts to remove MTA’s LED advertising.

Joyce Goodman, community liaison for Assembly Member Daniel O’Donnell, wished everyone a happy new year.

Linda Rosenthal, representative of Representative Jerry Nadler, referred to the newsletter on the information table.

Manhattan Borough President's Report

Sheri Taft-Leonce:

- C. Virginia Fields supports the 2nd Avenue Subway, but opposes extension of the 7 line.
- Manhattan high schools are over-crowded (Brandeis is at 150% capacity), contrary to Department of Education reports.

Business Session

Health and Human Services Committee

Barbara Van Buren, Chairperson

Ms. Van Buren reported on the Committee's areas of focus for 2004:

- Rat infestation, lead poisoning, power line radiation
- Senior support, including meal programs and Medicare
- Child care, including pre-natal healthcare and insurance coverage through Child Health Plus
- Single-room occupancy hotels

The Committee plans to work with the Community Development Committee, the Commerce Committee, and the Public Housing Task Force on many of these issues.

Parks and Preservation Committee

Lenore Norman, Chairperson

1. Department of Parks & Recreation's request for proposals for advertising in comfort stations. (Disapproval adopted 32-1-2-0)
2. 163 West 85th Street (Columbus-Amsterdam Avenue.). Application #041740 to the Landmarks Preservation to construct rooftop and rear yard additions. (Approved 34-2-0-0)
3. Newsstand on northwest corner of 70th Street and Broadway (Disapproval adopted 33-1-2-0)

Transportation Committee

Andrew Albert, Chairperson

4. Application by Greenmarket to the Mayor's Office of Street Activity Permits to conduct a market on Fridays on the north side of West 97th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues. (Withdrawn)

Gabriella Langhold, representative of Greenmarket, indicated that the market was in compliance with parking restrictions.

5. 40 West 69th Street (Central Park West-Columbus Avenue.). Application by 40 West 69 LLC to the Department of Transportation for a revocable consent for a fenced-in area with planters and trash receptacles. (Not adopted 14-20-3-0)

The Board discussed whether it is appropriate for private buildings to take public sidewalk space. The Committee argued that garbage protection and containment is a public benefit that might outweigh the benefit of sidewalk space behind the stoop-line. Others argued that sidewalk space should not be narrowed or obstructed by new construction, especially where no stoops exist.

6. 156 West 94th Street (Columbus-Amsterdam Avenue.). Application by 156 West 94 LLC to the Department of Transportation for a revocable consent for a fenced-in area with planters and trash receptacles. (Approved 19-14-4-0)

The Board discussed whether it is appropriate for private buildings to take public sidewalk space. The Committee argued that garbage protection and containment is a public benefit that might outweigh the benefit of sidewalk space behind the stoop-line. Others argued that sidewalk space should not be narrowed or obstructed by new construction. However, where stoops already exist, such construction may not present a major obstruction.

7. Disapproval of application #1089923 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Sajjad Zaheer to

construct and operate a newsstand on the west side of Broadway between West 94th and 95th Street. (Not adopted: 10-18-7-0)

Ed Butz, a representative of Symphony Space, spoke against the proposed news stand for reasons of a) safety during crowded performance periods, b) bus traffic that brings children to the building, c) congestion on the sidewalk. Dan Zweig argued that the space is a good location for a newsstand. Barbara Keleman argued that future street furniture legislation is no reason to reject the newsstand. The applicant stated that newsstands make \$20M for the city. The proposed stand will not block traffic. Others noted that the applicant is known as a good neighbor.

7(A) Approval of application #1089923 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Sajjad Zaheer to construct and operate a newsstand on the west side west of Broadway and West 94th to 95th Street. (Not adopted: 15-10-9-0)

Andrew Albert announced that with MTA's new "City Ticket" program, NYC residents can ride commuter trains (Metro North or LIRR) for a flat fee of \$2.50.

Commerce Committee

George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Chairperson 8(A) Applications to the Mayor's Street Activity Permit Office to hold multi-block street fairs in 2004. (Approved 26-4-3, those with conflicts made them known prior to the vote)

8(B) Approval of street fairs in 2004, conditional upon outstanding documentation submitted by April 1, 2004. (Approved 25-4-4, those with conflicts made them known prior to the vote)

Date

Organization Name

Fair Location

XStreet1
XStreet2

4/25/04
Veritas Family & Children's Services
Broadway (east side)
W. 96th Street
W. 104th Street

4/25/04
Duke Ellington Blvd. Neighborhood Association
Broadway (east side)
W. 104th Street
W. 108th Street

4/25/04
24th Precinct Community Council
Broadway (east side)
W. 108th Street
W. 110th Street

5/2/04
Broadway Malls Center
Broadway (east side)
W. 86th Street
W. 93rd Street

5/2/04
Strycker's Bay Neighborhood Council
Broadway (east side)
W. 93rd Street
W. 96th Street

5/9/04
Committee for Environmentally Sound Development
Broadway (east side)
W. 60th Street
W. 65th Street

5/16/04
West Side Chamber of Commerce
Amsterdam Avenue
W. 77th Street
W. 96th Street

5/30/04
Coalition for a Livable West Side
Broadway (west side)
W. 72nd Street
W. 82nd Street

5/30/04
Safe Haven West Side Basketball League
Broadway (west side)
W. 82nd Street
W. 86th Street

6/6/04
Westside Crime Prevention Program

Columbus Avenue
W. 86th Street
W. 91st Street

6/6/04
Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition
Columbus Avenue
W. 91st Street
W. 96th Street

6/13/04
West Side Federation of Neighborhood and Block Associations
Broadway (east side)
W. 72nd Street
W. 82nd Street

6/13/04
The Broadway Malls Association
Broadway (east side)
W. 82nd Street
W. 86th Street

6/20/04
Project Open at Lincoln Towers
Broadway (west side)
W. 66th Street
W. 72nd Street

6/20/04
Valley Restoration, LDC
Amsterdam Avenue
W. 97th Street
W. 106th Street

8/1/04
Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center
Columbus Avenue
W. 66th Street
W. 72nd Street

9/19/04
West Side Chamber of Commerce
Columbus Avenue
W. 66th Street
W. 86th Street

10/10/04
St. Matthews & St. Timothy's Neighborhood Center
Amsterdam Avenue
W. 76th Street
W. 81st Street

10/10/04
Concerned Citizens for Community Action
Amsterdam Avenue
W. 81st Street
W. 86th Street

10/17/04

**NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch
Broadway (west side)
W. 86th Street
W. 90th Street**

**10/17/04
Symphony Space
Broadway (west side)
W. 90th Street
W. 96th Street**

**10/24/04
Bloomingdale Area Coalition
Broadway (west side)
W. 96th Street
W. 106th Street**

**10/24/04
One Stop Senior Services
Broadway (west side)
W. 106th Street
W. 110Street**

Present: Hope Cohen, Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander. Janet Alvarez, Richard Ashe, Annette Averette, Sheldon Fine, Deborah Gobble-Lewine, Georgette Gittens, Jean Green-Dorsey, Phyllis Gunther, Robert Herrmann, Lawrence Horowitz, Marlene Guy, Joyce Johnson, Ulma Jones, Barbara Katzander, Barbara Keleman, William Meyers, Eric Nelson, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Melanie Radley, Oscar Rios, Michael Roberts, Barry Rosenberg, Helen Rosenthal, Ethel Sheffer, Charles Simon, Elizabeth Starkey, Jr. Patricia Stevens, Barbara Van Buren, Thomas Vitullo-Martin, D. Maria Watson, Melanie Wymore, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Dan Zweig.

Absent: Janet Alvarez, Dan Cohen, Guillermo Gonzalez, Douglas Griebel, David Harris, John Howell, Betty Katz, Marc Landis, Sharon Parker-Frasier, Hector Santana.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Wymore

Steering

Steering Committee

Hope Cohen, Chairperson

January 27, 2004

1. Changes to CB7 by-laws.

Briefing sheet and text distributed.

Process:

Distribute By-laws briefing sheet and text as part of February FB mailing. This will allow a FB vote in April.

By-laws briefing/report at February FB.

Discussion time will be scheduled for March FB meeting. Members urged to read material in advance of that meeting.

Discussion at April FB, amendments will not be accepted from the floor at that time. Comments and amendments should be made at March FB or submitted in writing no later than March Steering. All amendments proposed in these ways will be voted on in April, according to parliamentary procedure.

Resolution in April will be to approve the revised By-laws in their entirety.

Amendments can be made to that, of course (in advance only, as described above). Simple majority vote required to approve amendments; 2/3 majority is required for approval of By-laws changes. Any proposed amendment to existing by-laws (i.e. something we have not proposed to be changed) would have to go through the entire process: 2 month notice for a vote and 2/3 majority to pass at that point (i.e. May or June or whenever)

2. Victor Gonzalez, Chair, Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB).

12-member NAB represents low-income residents in Community District 7; half are appointed by Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) and half by elected officials.

In conjunction with DYCD, the NAB identifies service needs of community, and develops and evaluates requests for proposals for approximately \$300,000 in federal block grant funds.

NAB wants to work with CB7 to share information on needs, to get word out to community and to improve participation in the DYCD process.

Sheldon Fine and Barbara Van Buren will work with Mr. Gonzalez. Helen Rosenthal will arrange for DYCD to attend a Strategy & Budget Committee meeting and give an update on the current process.

3. Membership Development Committee.

Visited all committees except Land Use. Shared observations about committee operations.

Proposal to have a party in February postponed until summer.

Proposing a plan to sell t-shirts and tote bags. Soliciting CB7 slogans.

Membership guide in August.

4. Responsibility for committee agendas, committee coordination and informing community.

Committee chairs set their agendas. Some items arise from consultation with the board chairperson and/or district manager. Nobody other than the committee chairperson, Board chairperson, or district manager should be putting items on a committee's agenda.

Riverside South issues will be referred to the relevant committees:

Land Use: Implementation of the Restrictive Declaration and related documents; City Planning Implementation Task Force.

Parks and Preservation: Riverside Park South design, construction and management.

Transportation: Closing of the 72nd Street off-ramp and other trans/traffic issues.

Cell phone antennae and equipment:

Land Use: Zoning.

Health and Human Services: Health impacts.

Possible role for Commerce Committee.

Work would be coordinated through Steering. If time allows, discussion would take place before committee meetings; if not, chairs would work out which committee did what.

5. Manhattan Borough Board's January meeting.

Sheldon Fine attended and reported.

Commissioner Gretchen Dykstra, Department of Consumer Affairs, presented the proposed regulations, which would eliminate the cabaret license and establish a Night Life License. Community boards will have 4 days to review the regulations when they are released in February.

Conflicts of Interest Board presented opinions that affect community boards. The BB will continue its work on SLA problems.

Mr. Fine reported on the transfer of NYPD school safety officers to high-crime schools.

George Zeppendfeldt-Cestero will attend the February 19 meeting.

6. Usual roundtable.

Reviewed January work and February full board and committee agendas.

Land Use: Following up on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications and training.

Strategy & Budget: Will be working with committees to develop budget priorities. Chairs to contact Helen Rosenthal with current priorities from CB7's FY05 capital and expense priorities.

Parks & Preservation: Considering proposal to dock a commercial party vessel at the 79th Street Marina.

Health & Human Services: Want to add the need for additional sanitation trucks to high priority budget items. Reviewed plans for committee meeting on cell phone antennae.

Transportation: Resolution on closing the Henry Hudson Parkway 72nd Street off-ramp will be at February full board.

7. New business.

George Zeppenfeldt and Dan Zweig asked for clarification on operating rules for unenclosed sidewalk cafes. They will report to the Board Office any cafes not set up to do business, as required by the regulations.

Committee Members Present: B. Adler, A. Albert, R. Asche, H. Cohen, S. Fine, D. Harris, L. Norman, H. Rosenthal, B. Van Buren, G. Zeppenfeldt-Cestero

Committee Members Absent: L. Horowitz, J. Johnson, B. Katzander, M. Wymore

Board Members Present: L. Alexander, D. Zweig

Community Development

Joyce S. Johnson, Chairperson

January 12, 2004

at Grosvenor Neighborhood House/YMCA

Joyce Johnson convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. She welcomed everyone and introductions followed.

1. Presentation by Richard Hernandez, Director of Adolescent and Teen Program and Margie Laracuenta, Director of After school, Grosvenor Neighborhood House/YMCA, on various programs.

In the past many participants and parents have become frustrated with the frequent changing of directors at Grosvenor. Stabilization has now occurred since the partnership with the YMCA. The new center director is Emily Lopez.

Participants viewed Grosvenor as a recreation facility; they are trying to change the mind set and focus on educational programs. Massive campaign is underway to publicize the change over. Open house and flag ceremony will take place mid February; public will have the opportunity to register, learn about the programs and tour the facilities. A few of the new programs includes:

- Chill Program: intercity children to learn how to snow board every Wednesday at Mount Creek, NJ.**
- Junior Knicks and NY Jets Program: kids are given the opportunity to attend training camp with professional athletes.**
- International Y Global Teen Program: exchange program. City kids are sent to another country for 3 weeks. Program is also offered to outside community based organizations. This summer teens will travel to Thailand.**

Manager Kelly Baez, NYPD School Safety proposed introducing and hosting the Investigators Programs at Grosvenor. The program is geared toward junior high school students ages 10-12.

2. Discussion with Borough Manager Kelly Baez, NYPD School Safety, on youth-related issues.

- Patrol Borough Manhattan North does not have any "Operation Target Impact" schools. 1 supervisor and 11 agents were transferred out of Manhattan North to impact schools.**
- Since October Brandeis High School has been off the city's top 10 crime list. Joint efforts with NYPD and the administration are making everyone security conscience. Daily meetings are conducted to discuss the previous day and decide how they will manage the current day.**
- Current problems in the district pertain to the junior high schools. Reported incidents are taking place outside the schools between 4:30-5:30PM.**

Margie Laracuenta spoke on concerns about a growing trend of video stores promoting large gathering of kids during school and after school hours. Kids go to these locations to congregate and play video games. Owners are installing chairs and tables.

Manger Baez - School Safety does not have any jurisdiction over an establishment. Will send a truancy unit to patrol the location during school hours.

Peter Arndtsen Columbus/Amsterdam BID will speak with store managers to see if assistance is needed School Safety and the precinct.

3. New Business

Samantha Fox, Captain, Clearwater Inc. spoke about sailing opportunities for the public and community based organizations.

Committee Members Present: Joyce Johnson, Sheldon Fine, Georgette Gittens, Marlene Guy, Sharon Parker-Frazier. Committee Member Absent: Guillermo Gonzalez.

Transportation

Andrew Albert, Chairperson

January 13, 2004

1. 421 Amsterdam Avenue (West 80th Street.)

Amir Terem, owner, attended.

The committee adopted a resolution approving the new application DCA#1157466 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Malka Restaurant Inc., d/b/a Monaco at 421 Amsterdam Avenue, for a one-year consent to operate and unenclosed sidewalk café with 18 tables and 36 seats: Committee 6-0-0-0; Board Members 4-0-1-0.

2. Wi-fi districts.

Marshall Brown of The Wi-Fi Salon reported (see attached.)

3. Proposed closing of the Miler Highway 72nd Street off-ramp.

Margaret Forgione, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, David Wallack, Deputy Commissioner, Naim Rasheed, Office of Project Analysis and SEQR, Maurice Bruet and Jenny Torres represented the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT). Commissioner Forgione distributed and reviewed copies of the findings on which the decision to close ramp are based, and responded to questions.

- DOT made the decision based on the 1992 Riverside South Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Department's attorneys determined that when the developer asks, DOT had to make a decision.
- DOT reviewed alternatives from community groups and elected officials. None of them worked.
- DOT cannot require the developer to speed up the build out of Riverside Boulevard. 2011 is the estimated completion date.
- DOT has not considered a northbound exit between West 59th and West 72nd Streets. The department has ways to get emergency vehicles onto the highway.
- DOT did not ask for data or study traffic on Riverside Drive between West 72nd and West 79th Streets because the volume did not warrant further study.
- Parking will be prohibited on West End Avenue from West 70th to West 59th Streets during rush hours (southbound in AM and northbound in PM) to facilitate the flow of traffic. West End Avenue will be able to handle displaced traffic. DOT will provide number of affected parking spaces. Citywide signal timing for pedestrians will be maintained.
- FEIS and updated counts by DOT and Philip Habib, the developer's traffic consultant, considered the two phases of the project (West 72nd to West 64th Streets completed by 2006 and West 64th to West 59th Streets by 2011) and

factored in other development are area from West 72nd to West 57th Streets. Found no change in impacts identified in 1992.

- DOT did not do origin and destination studies for the off-ramp.
- DOT did not study M79 bus layover or the impacts of the Rotunda roadway reconstruction, scheduled for 2012. Few road closures are expected with the reconstruction. The 79th Street exit ramps are substandard.
- Left turns from the West 79th Street exit northbound onto Riverside Drive are prohibited, but drivers continue to turn. It is not a high-accident location. DOT will work on any safety issues related to the intersection.
- Schedule and phasing: West End Avenue mitigations (as required by the FEIS) and approval of the developer's plans for the removal of the off ramp must be completed before the ramp is closed. Closure could be in 2004 if conditions are met. Developer pays for mitigations, ramp removal and the connection.
- ConEd is working on opening the northbound lane adjacent to its facility on West End Avenue between West 65th and West 66th Streets.

Eric Nelson questioned whether DOT was required to make the decision or had discretion, and asked who actually made the decision. The fact that the developer had to make an application to DOT for permission implies that the department had discretion to approve or disapprove. DOT will have attorneys attend a committee meeting to explain.

State Assemblyman Scott Stringer disputed DOT's statement that the FEIS assumes the ramp closure. The FEIS did not conclude the ramp had to be closed. Asked the developer to attend a meeting and requested DOT to do a complete traffic study.

Mr. Nelson drafted the following resolution, which was adopted: Committee 6-0-0-0; Board Members 6-1-0-0. Mr. Albert asked for the sense of the room, which was 15-1-0 in favor.

WHEREAS, late on Friday, January 9, 2004, the New York City Department of Transportation ("DOT") approved a request by Hudson Waterfront Associates, developer of the project commonly known as Riverside South (the "Developer"), for the closure of the 72nd Street off-ramp from the Miller Highway, and

WHEREAS, DOT failed to appear before, or otherwise meet with, the community until January 13, 2004, four (4) days after such approval was granted, rather than before the matter was determined (so that the community's views could be properly taken into account), and

WHEREAS, there is substantial disagreement as to whether the applicable final environmental impact statement (FEIS) required the closure of the off-ramp, or merely identified closure as an option, and

WHEREAS, DOT has not committed to awaiting the completion of a series of actions in addition to certain West End Avenue traffic mitigation measures – including particularly: (i) construction and completion of the full length of Riverside Boulevard (through to 59th Street); and (ii) improvement of the West Side Highway's 79th Street (northbound) off-ramp – before the 72nd Street off-ramp is closed, and

WHEREAS, the necessity of closing the 72nd Street off-ramp, but even more importantly, the necessity of closing it now, merely because of the imminent completion by the Developer of its Building "A" (between 71st and 72nd Street at Riverside Boulevard) – rather than in 2011 or whenever, if ever, the balance of the Riverside South Project, and the remainder of Riverside Boulevard, are completed – is in substantial doubt, and

WHEREAS, DOT's action, and particularly its taking of such action now, appear to be simply an accommodation of the Developer, even if that is not actually the case,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan:

(a) opposes the Department of Transportation's grant of approval of the closure;

(b) urges DOT to immediately withdraw such approval;

(c) recommends that any further consideration of the matter be postponed until the balance of the Riverside South project, and particularly Riverside Boulevard, are completed; and further

(d) urges the Department of Transportation to reconsider the traffic, parking and quality-of-life effects of the 72nd Street off-ramp closure in a much more comprehensive way, including specifically in face-to-face consultations with the community, before the matter is ever considered again.

The discussion of CB7's policy on new newsstand applications was laid over to the February meeting.

Committee Members Present: Andrew Albert, Bobbie Katzander, Barbara Kelemen, Eric Nelson, Oscar Rios, Dan Zweig. Committee Members Absent: Charles Simon. Board Members Present: Barbara Adler, Linda Alexander, Hope Cohen, Phyllis Gunther, Marc Landis, Klari Neuwelt, Melanie Radley, Helen Rosenthal, Elizabeth Starkey, Barbara Van Buren.

Commerce

Minutes will be uploaded as they become available.

Parks and Preservation

Lenore Norman, Chairperson

January 8, 2004

Certificate of Appropriateness applications:

1. 50 West 67th Street, the Musician's Building (Central Park West-Columbus Avenue.) Application #043001 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to replace arc-headed windows.

Arpad Backsa, the architect presented the application to replace 8 arched windows with aluminum clad windows with the same profile that will be painted black to match the windows on the rest of the façade. Since these windows are arched they cannot be approved at staff level.

WHEREAS, the windows will replicate as closely as possible the profile of the original windows; and

WHEREAS, the windows are on the top floor and usually reviewed at staff level;
and

WHEREAS, the windows will be painted black to match the existing windows;
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7's Parks and Preservation Committee
approves application #043001 to the Landmarks Preservation Committee to
replace the 8 arched windows.

2. Discussion of Landmarks Preservation Commission's proposed changes to
the Administrative Code with regard to the installation of public pay phones in
areas under the Commission's jurisdiction.

We discussed the proposal offered by the Landmarks Commission to change the
Administrative Code with regard to the installation of public pay phones in
areas under the Commission's jurisdiction. The Committee will report their
comments to the Chair who will write to the Commission.

3. New Business

The Committee discussed future agendas and decided to invite Jim Dowell, the
resident of the Riverside Park Fund to the February meeting to discuss
Riverside Park issues.

Greg Smith, the Dock Master at the 79th Street Marina spoke about some of the
plans for expansion of public access to the Marina. The breakdown of users of
the Marina is 45% permanent residents; 45% recreational boaters, and the
remainder are transients. The Marina has offered kayaking for years and is now
planning to expand the program. In addition, they are planning to have a
commercial vessel parked at the pier for the summer months on a one year
pilot program. The vessel will accommodate 50-100 guests and will be used,
for Corporate events, weddings etc. The committee questioned the
environmental impacts since the plan is to accomplish this with a contract and
not an RFP.

The Committee decided to invite the Dock Master to the next meeting and have
the marina residents present so we know how they feel about this proposal.

Committee Members Present: Lenore Norman, Chairperson, Patricia Stevens
(minutes), Phyllis Gunther. Committee Members Absent: John Howell, Betty
Katz, Klari Neuwelt, Michael Roberts.

Strategy and Budget

Helen Rosenthal, Chairperson

January 20, 2004

1) Melanie Wymore gave an overview of the status of the 59th Street
Recreation Center regarding renovation and funding. Renovation: Phase I of
the project is moving ahead successfully. Funding: the project group is
developing various funding sources and considering the type of organization it
will use to administer the financing.

Action: Melanie will keep the committee posted moving forward and bring
issues to our attention when necessary.

2) CB7's Community Development Committee Chair, Joyce Johnson, met with Gale Brewer's office to develop a plan for studying the status of after school programs in our district. They will work closely with Thomas and Shanifah Rieara to survey the schools and collect data regarding both the substance of the programs and their funding.

Action: Elizabeth Starkey will follow up with the parent coordinators to find out what schools are doing with after school programs; she will coordinate these efforts with the above.

Action: Penny Ryan will follow up with the 24 and 20 precincts to get data on youth crime during after school hours. David Harris mentioned the Fight Crime Invest in Kids program.

Action: David Harris and Joyce Johnson will work with Lucy Friedman to discuss CB7 efforts with after school programs.

Action: The CB7 Youth Committee will follow up with the after school program issue for our DNS and budget priority process.

3) Committee Strategy.

We discussed the importance of knowing the budget priorities of our elected officials, both past and looking forward.

Action: Bob Herrmann will draft a letter to the elected officials requesting their appropriation lists from last year and their thoughts for this year.

We discussed whether or not the DNS truly reflects CB7's needs. We decided that the DNS needs to: 1. gather information; 2. effectively present the information; and 3. serve as an advocacy document.

Action: Elizabeth Starkey will review the DNS from other Community Boards and distribute any that seem particularly interesting, relevant or helpful.

Action: David Harris and Melanie Wymore will develop a draft of the committee's budget priority criteria and a model game plan, with a timetable.

Action: Helen Rosenthal will update her chart from last year comparing our DNS with our budget priorities.

Action: Consider getting a grant to fund an intern to help with the required data collection.

Action: Begin process of helping each CB7 committee determine its priorities.

Committee Members Present: Helen Rosenthal, David Harris, Robert Herrmann, Elizabeth Starkey and Melanie Wymore. Committee Members Absent: Janet Alvarez and Hector Santana.

Health and Human Services

Minutes will be uploaded as they become available.

Land Use

Richard Asche, Chairperson

January 21, 2004

1. 72 West 88th Street (Central Park West-Columbus Avenue.) Submission to the City Council by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), under the Tenant Interim Lease Program, to sell the above-mentioned property to the 72 West 88th Street Housing Development Fund, providing 12 cooperative units for sale to the current tenants and storefront commercial space.

Rafel Aries, President of the Tenants' Association, made the presentation and noted concerns with the floor repairs, roof and boiler maintenance, distribution of rent from commercial spaces and the choice of management company. The list has been submitted to Councilwoman Brewer's office. HPD was invited, but arrived after the item was heard.

The committee adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Community Board 7 endorses the intent of the 72 West 88th Street Housing Development Fund to purchase the above-mentioned property, providing 12 cooperative units for sale to the current tenants and storefront commercial space under the Tenant Interim Lease Program; and

WHEREAS, a list of incomplete work including floor repairs and boiler and roof maintenance must be completed before the purchase and the choice of a management company reviewed;

BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 7/Manhattan encourages the City Council to approve the sale pending completion of all repairs.

Committee: 5-0-0-0. Public: 1-0-0-0.

2. Intro to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and its planning uses – Micaela Birmingham and Noreen Whysel, Municipal Arts Society.

Micaela Birmingham and Noreen Whysel from the Municipal Arts (MAS) Planning Center demonstrated the capacity of GIS, which provides assistance and support for communities doing planning. It provides computer generated mapping tools and the ability to overlay data base information in order to analyze several different features at once. It is linked to a variety of data tables and provides multiple query functions.

MAS selected MCB7 as the Manhattan pilot for their MICITI site. The other boards, one in each borough, include 2Bronx, 2 Brooklyn, 3 Queens, and 2 Staten Island. CB1 in Lower Manhattan is also participating in the project. The site is publicly available on www.myciti.org, which can be accessed though www.cb7.org. The current data base includes a variety of land use data and linkages to other city data and demography data bases. An Email function permits multiple users to share information. It can be individualized by including local community information. CB7 has numerous collections of data that in the future can be input into the system. The committee suggested that at some point the system be presented to the full board.

MAS will offer basic training on the new website in February and advanced training in March.

3. Discussion with residents of 350 Central Park West on zoning restrictions for cellular antennae installations on buildings.

The residents of 350 CPW led by Joan Bondell and John Campos, Astoria Neighborhood Coalition for Responsible Siting of Cellular Antennae, presented

the issues surrounding the placement of cellular antennae on the building. Nextel has located antennae directly outside the windows of residents' apartments and situated a noisy ten-ton air conditioner in the courtyard to provide cooling for the attendant electronic equipment housed in the basement. Residents are concerned about the effects of direct radiation—Campos noted that the US standard for safety of microwave emissions is much higher

than Europe—and the obtrusive equipment as well as Nextel's insistence on access through apartments to service the equipment. Councilmember Vallone is introducing legislation for a moratorium on cellular antennae until the issue can be studied. The Health and Human Services Committee will consider the health related issues at their February meeting.

Based on the testimony of the community and discussion by the committee, it was decided the committee would seek more information on cellular antennae placement on residential structures and the ramifications for "commercial use" and the impact on residents from the Law Department, Departments of Buildings and City Planning. Richard Asche will draft the letter.

Although the Department of Buildings claims the number and locations of antennae in NYC cannot be ascertained, cellular antennae cannot be erected without filing an application. Buildings Issuance #540 exempted cellular antennas from zoning regulations although it does require the filing of an alteration application and the issuance of a permit. Because of current laws, there are no monitoring, applications for building permits are not required, tenants are not notified, and seemingly there is no governmental oversight. Also city regulations seem to be in direct conflict with FCC regulations which permit only rooftop installations.

4. Review of CB7's comments on the on the draft Environmental Impact Statement Scope of Work for the Department of City Planning's and the City Council's proposed changes in the Zoning Resolution regarding community facilities.

The committee agreed that Richard Asche would write a letter to the Department of City Planning, highlighting that the EIS needs to examine densities for all zones; the effect of permitting additional FAR bonuses for community facilities; the effect of special privileges for not-for-profits on the available affordable housing stock; and urging that rear yard exclusions not be granted to any not-for-profit .

5. Report on West Park Presbyterian Church – Tom Vitullo-Martin.

Tom Vitullo-Martin summarized the current status of the negotiations with West Park Community Church. The Friends of West Park were invited to a presentation on the proposed residential tower and are proposing their alternative plan for the church on February 8. The Friends planning committee includes Shelly Friedman, counsel, and Robert Pauls, economist. The plan which would be self funding and provide 65,000 square feet of available space in the renovated facility—40,000 for leasing-- includes syndicating and leasing air rights (a kind of air rights trust analogous to a land trust) leasing space in a renovated church facility and raising money in the community. Mr. Vitullo-Martin noted that several compatible institutions in the community would be interested.

Committee Members Present: Richard Asche, Melanie Radley, Barry Rosenberg, Ethel Sheffer, Tom Vitullo-Martin. Committee Members Absent: Dan Cohen, D. Maria Watson.