

March 2004 Minutes

Full Board Congregation Rodeph Sholom

March 3, 2004

Chairperson Hope Cohen called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm. She asked for approval of minutes from the previous full board meeting. Approved: 19-0-0.

Chair's Report, Hope Cohen

- The Community Board is requesting feedback on the District Needs Statement (DNS), which is posted on the CB7 website (www.cb7.org.) The DNS will be mailed to anyone who requests it.
- The Budget & Strategy Committee will focus on three issues: 1) Single-room occupancy hotels, 2) After-school programming, and 3) the 59th Street Recreation Center.
- Columbia University will come to the April Community Board meeting to report on projects in the District (e.g. West 103rd Street building) their progress relative to their commitments to the community for the School at Columbia.
- Joyce Johnson has asked to step down as Chairperson of the Community Development Committee. Marlene Guy will replace her.
- Board members are asked to verify their attendance records.

District Manager's Report, Penny Ryan

- The District now has its own snow blower to keep playgrounds clear of snow.
- School safety officers are now working together with parent patrols. Problems near schools have decreased.
- Crime in the District remains stable. Grand larceny continues to be the crime of highest incidence in both the 20th and 24th Precincts, including identity theft. Additional officers have been assigned to PSA6.
- The CB7 office renovation plan has been approved. The office is expecting to move to the American Bible Society in March. Phone numbers will change.

Legislators' Reports

Council Member Phillip Reed

- The City Council proposes to increase the minimum wage to \$7.10. Announced a rally to support the bill.
- Three upcoming bills will address identity theft.
- Supports gay marriage and urged the Mayor to make a clear position on the issue. Action: Distribute copies of CB7 resolution of 2003 in support of gay marriage.
- Aaron Lowenstein is returning to school and will no longer serve as Mr. Reed's liaison to CB7.

Council Member Gale Brewer

- Council budget hearings start tomorrow, March 4, 2004. Hopes housing eviction programs, arts programs, and day care programs will be restored. The Manhattan delegation will hear non-profit concerns in April or May.
- IS 44 has experienced leadership challenges. Conflict management teams will help students, teachers, and administrators in the building gain stability. A pilot homework help will be available soon.
- M7 and M11 buses have been passing students on Amsterdam Avenue. Seeks a designated MTA bus to pick up children.
- Working with Time-Warner to establish an arts center at PS 191.
- Two buses will carry people to Albany to lobby for affordable housing in NYC.
- Discussed the need to advocate gun control at the Federal level on behalf of the city.
- The Technology Committee will hold hearings about making WiFi and Broad-band services available in the city.
- Her new office on West 87th and Columbus Avenue will be renovated with respect to landmark laws. She will have open houses there on March 21st and 22nd.

Assembly Member Scott Stringer

- Predicted that the NY State budget will be passed by April 1, 2004.
- The Cities Committee is holding hearings on firehouse closings and on the economic importance of art and cultural institutions.
- New legislation will threaten Mitchell Lama buildings built prior to 1974.

Manhattan Borough President's Office Report

John Mullens represented C. Virginia Fields.

- Asked people interested in serving on the community board to submit applications, which are available at the CB7 office and at the MBP offices.
- Discussed the importance of community board work.

Public Session

- Elizabeth Ewell, Business Manager of Green Keepers, described her organization, a for-profit horticulture and sanitation service company.
- Jonathan Prinz, 205 West End Avenue Owners Corp, spoke against the West End Avenue mitigation plan and expressed concern for pedestrian traffic on West End Avenue.
- Ned Parker spoke in opposition to the West End Avenue mitigation plan.
- Mary Feliciano of Amsterdam Houses spoke about the poor condition of her apartment, as well as its impact on her health. Shelly Fine assured her that the Public Housing Task Force will investigate her complaints.

- Judy Accurso of Planned Parenthood spoke about the March for Women's Lives on April 25th. Hundreds of thousands are expected to attend the march in Washington, DC. Call 212-274-7312 for information.
- Sagrario Rosario of the Ryan Community Health Center announced a public discussion on March 17 about how the Upper West Side was able to create the Ryan Center in 1967. Call 212-376-7905 for information.
- Kate Mahnke, representing PS 87, spoke about the need to remove snow from playgrounds. While the Parks Department now has plow equipment, the school needs a curb cut for the plow to gain access to the playground. Action: Transportation Committee will add request for curb cut to its March agenda.
- Alan Flacks spoke against proposed changes in CB7 By-laws, particularly with respect to the appointment of public members.
- Nathan Zoob announced a production by City at Peace, a theatre program for young adults, called Revisions on April 3, 4, 5 at the John Jay Theatre. Expressed the need for donations from the public.
- Tom Vitullo-Martin of Friends of West Park spoke on the need for money to preserve the West Park Presbyterian Church.. He announced a presentation on the preservation plan on March 7.
- Melanie Wymore of the West Side YMCA announced that Council Member Gale Brewer will receive the annual Community Spirit Award of 2004 on March 4.
- Linda Alexander announced a free expo for coop and condo owners at the New York Hilton on March 18. For information see www.coopexpo.com.

Business Session

Transportation Committee

Andrew Albert, Chairperson

1. 263 West 86th Street, Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew (West End Avenue.) Application to the Department of Transportation for a revocable consent to permit a handicap ramp and rail Approved 29-0-0-0.
2. 412 Amsterdam Avenue (West 79th-80th Streets.) New application DCA#1158198 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 412 Amsterdam Avenue Corp., d/b/a Bettola at 412 Amsterdam Avenue, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 13 tables and 26 seats. Approved 30-1-0-0.
3. NYC Transit urged NOT to further reduce services on the M104 line. Approved 30-0-0-1.

Parks & Preservation Committee

Lenore Norman, Chairperson

4. Request from NY Charter for a seasonal commercial permit to dock a 65-foot charter boat at the West 79th Street Boat Basin as part of expanded public access and recreational services at A-dock. No action taken 8-16-6-0.

Robert Shanley spoke against commercial activity, especially party boats, in Riverside Park. The Board discussed the potential for noise and sewage from

the boat, revenues from the permit, and the ability to suspend the permit if necessary. The Board also considered the precedent set by approving a permit for commercial use of the park.

5. Proposal by the Department of Parks and Recreation to renovate the West 96th Street tennis court pathway in Riverside Park. Approved 30-0-0-0.

6. Northwest corner of Columbus Avenue and West 72nd Street. To disapprove application #042896 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to construct a metal and glass newsstand at the sidewalk. Approved 31-0-0-0.

7. 37 Riverside Drive (West 76th Street.) Application #041832 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to construct a greenhouse at the penthouse level. Approved 29-0-0-0.

8. 107 West 70th Street (Columbus-Amsterdam Avenue.) Application #042619 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to enlarge a window on the rear façade. Approved 21-4-5-0.

Hope Cohen moved to amend the resolution to delete any reference to the window type. Larry Horowitz seconded the motion. Eric Nelson moved to table the resolution (Disapproved by a roll call vote, 15-14-2-0.) Discussion continued on the proposed amendment (Approved 23-5-3-0.)

9. 412 Amsterdam Avenue (West 79th-80th Streets.) Application #044103 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to modify storefront infill installed without Landmarks Preservation Commission permits. Approved 31-0-0-0.

Health & Human Services Committee

Barbara Van Buren, Chairperson

10. Calling for a study of long-range health effects of cell phone antennae placements. Approved 28-0-1-0.

By-laws Task Force

Sheldon Fine, Chairperson

The Board discussed proposed changes to the CB7 by-laws. Each proposed change was discussed and evaluated by straw vote.

- Define the Executive Committee as the elected officers of the Board. Approved.
- Eliminate the 3rd Vice Chairperson. Disapproved.
- Add a Treasurer. Disapproved.
- Establish a Parliamentarian. Disapproved.
- Eliminate public members, except as defined in the City Charter. Disapproved.
- Require each member to serve on at least one committee. To be discussed later.

Discussion of the by-laws will continue at the April full board meeting. Date for voting on any by-laws amendments will be set once discussion is completed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 pm.

Present: Hope Cohen, Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Annette Averette, Sheldon Fine, Deborah Gobble-Lewine, Georgette Gittens, Marlene Guy, David Harris, Robert Herrmann, Lawrence Horowitz, Ulma Jones, Barbara Katzander, Barbara Keleman, William Meyers, Eric Nelson, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Melanie Radley, Oscar Rios, Barry Rosenberg, Helen Rosenthal, Charles Simon, Elizabeth Starkey, Barbara Van Buren, Thomas Vitullo-Martin, D. Maria Watson, Melanie Wymore, Dan Zweig.

Absent: Janet Alvarez, Peter Bailey, Dan Cohen, Guillermo Gonzalez, Jean Green-Dorsey, Douglas Griebel, Phyllis Gunther, John Howell, Betty Katz, Marc Landis, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Michael Roberts, Hector Santana, Jr., Ethel Sheffer, Patricia Stevens, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero.

On Leave: Joyce Johnson

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Wymore.

Steering

Minutes will be uploaded as they become available.

Community Development

Minutes will be uploaded as they become available.

Transportation

Andrew Albert, Chairperson

March 9th, 2004

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Matthew Bapen, Director of the West Side MRI, presented revised request for a one-car "No Parking" zone in front of his ground-floor clinic at 2373 Broadway on the South side of West 87th Street. About eight patients visit the clinic each day. They come by car or ambulette (two per day.)

Michael Moreland, Resident Manager of the building, said the Board of the building was against the request.

The Committee deferred action until next month when a member of the Board of the building can be present. In the meantime, members of the Committee will look at the site.

Café Applications

2. 53 West 72nd Street (Columbus Avenue.) New application DCA#1160306 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by P.S. Café, Inc., d/b/a My Favorite Bistro, for a two-year consent to operate an enclosed café with 12 tables and 24 seats.

The applicant failed to appear. No action taken.

3. 502 Amsterdam Avenue (West 84th-85th Streets.) New application DCA#1146560 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Romagica, Corp.

d/b/a Celeste Restaurant, for a two-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 4-5 tables and 9-10 seats.

The applicant was present. Vote to approve: 5-0-0-0.

4. 180 Columbus Avenue (West 68th Street.) Renewal application DCA#0895625 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Mafra Restaurant, Inc., d/b/a Il Violino at 180 Columbus Avenue, for a two-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 15 table and 36 seats.

The applicant/owner was present. Vote to approve: 5-0-0-0.

5. 235 Columbus Avenue (West 70th Street.) Renewal application DCA#0784335 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Wah Fung Restaurant, Corp., d/b/a Hunan Park, for a two-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 10 tables and 20 seats.

The applicant/owner was present. Vote to approve: 5-0-0-0.

6. 425 Amsterdam Avenue (West 80th Street.) Renewal application DCA#0963002 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 425 Amsterdam Café, Inc., d/b/a McAleer's Pub at 425 Amsterdam Avenue, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 16 seats.

The applicant/owner was present. Vote to approve: 5-0-0-0.

7. 476 Amsterdam Avenue (West 82nd-83rd Streets.) Renewal application DCA#0976652 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Upper West Restaurant Corp., d/b/a Fred's at 476 Amsterdam Avenue, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 14 tables and 30 seats.

The applicant /owner, David Honor, was present. Vote to approve: 5-0-0-0.

8. 2330 Broadway (West 85th Street.) Renewal application DCA#0976925 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by North On Broadway, LLC, d/b/a Time Café at 2330 Broadway, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 31 tables and 62 seats.

The applicant/owner, Craig Hanson, was present. April King, a resident of West 85th Street, east of the restaurant, spoke of large numbers of waiting patrons who, at times, have made the sidewalk on West 85th Street all but impassable. Mr. Hanson will keep a sharp eye on positioning of the stanchions and make every effort to keep the lines orderly.

Vote to approve: 6-0-0-0.

9. 726 Amsterdam Avenue (West 95th-96th Streets.) Renewal application DCA#1101424 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Paper & News, Inc., d/b/a Café Con Leche at 726 Amsterdam Avenue, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 5 tables and 19 seats.

The applicant/owner, André Hernandez, was present. Vote to approve: 6-0-0-0.

10. 2756 Broadway (West 105th-106th Streets.) Renewal application DCA#0890575 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Wild Rose Management, d/b/a Meridiana at 2756 Broadway, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 12 tables and 31 seats.

The applicant/owner, Giovanni Nicolosi, was present. Vote to approve: 6-0-0-0.

11. 477 Amsterdam Avenue (West 83rd Street.) Renewal application DCA#0885881 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 83rd /Amsterdam Restaurant Corp. d/b/a Hi-Life Bar & Grill, for a two-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 16 seats.

The applicant/owner, Earl Geer, was present. Vote to approve: 6-0-0-0.

12. 477 Amsterdam Avenue (West 83rd Street.) Renewal application DCA#0885881 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 83rd/Amsterdam Restaurant Corp. d/b/a Hi-Life Bar & Grill, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 9 tables and 26 seats.

Vote to approve: 6-0-0-0.

13. New Business: A) Proposed bike lanes eastbound on West 90th and westbound on West 91st Street from Central Park West to Riverside Drive as part of greenway system.

Before its April 13 meeting, Committee members will visit the streets involved to determine whether there would be a safety issue.

B) Request to move existing public pay telephones from the building line to the curb line at 260 West 60th Street, 910 Columbus Avenue, and 907 Columbus Avenue.

Before the April 7 full board meeting, Committee members will visit the sites to determine the appropriateness of the proposed moves.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie Katzander

Commerce

Minutes will be uploaded as they become available.

Parks and Preservation

Lenore Norman, Chairperson

March 11, 2004

Certificate of Appropriateness applications to the Landmarks Preservation Commission:

1. 250 West 77th Street, Hotel Belleclaire (Broadway-West End Avenue.) Application #043463 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to replace windows on all of the secondary elevations.

2. 52 West 84th Street (Central Park West-Columbus Avenue.) Application #044807 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission is to alter a window opening.

Park Issues

1. Presentation by K. C. Sahl, Administrator, Riverside Park of the plans for the reconstruction of the playing fields at West 103rd and 107th Streets.

Public and private money totaling \$3.1 million dollars is now available to lay down artificial turf, provide new fencing and lighting, regrade surfaces and

make other changes to enhance these playing fields which were designed by the Central Park Conservancy.

The schematics were presented by Gary Dearborn, senior landscape architect, of the Conservancy. The playing fields are mainly used for children's soccer and baseball games. The reason for the use of artificial turf over natural grass was that it lasts longer (2 to 8 years); it's good all year; it's safer and cleaner; and supports a higher level of usage. The budget includes its maintenance and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has recently set up artificial turf crews to handle it.

Enthusiastic support for the reconstruction was given by a representative of the West Side Soccer League and others.

Bill Crain spoke against the use of artificial turf on the basis that children need as much exposure to the natural world as possible as psychologists have found that when children interact with nature they are soothed and calmed down and feel a sense of belonging in the world. He also believes that artificial turf is more dangerous.

The Central Park Conservancy was thanked for providing its expertise in upgrading the heavily used playing fields.

A resolution to approve the proposed reconstruction plans for the 103rd and 107th Street playing fields in Riverside Park was made and seconded.

Committee Vote: 6-0-0-0.

2. Update by the American Museum of Natural History on the presentation of aerial photographer Yann Arthus Bertrand's exhibit "Earth from Above" along on the fence at the perimeter of Theodore Roosevelt Park, West 77th-81st Streets.

Patricia Hamilton, Public Arts Curator of the Department of Parks and Recreation, explained that the photographs would be installed on three sides of the park from mid-June through September 2004.

Susan Bloom, the Project Coordinator, gave an overview. The exhibit has already been shown in 50 cities and seen by 30 million people. Books and individual copies of the photographs were circulated to the Committee while the presentation was being given. The number of photographs to be exhibited will total 135. The 4' x 6' photographs will be weather proofed through lamination and cleaned immediately of any graffiti. They will also be embossed so that people with limited or no vision can experience them through touch and the captions will be in English and Spanish. They will be eye level for adults and children through angling and carefully secured to the fence. From 7 - 11p.m., the exhibit will be lighted. A contribution of \$30,000 will be made to the museum at the end of the show.

Lisa Guggenheim, Vice President for Community and Governmental Relations of the American Museum of Natural History is excited about the exhibit and stated that it is consistent with the museum's exhibit on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development.

Peter Wright, President, Friends of Roosevelt Park, reported that their Board unanimously supports the exhibit with the following provisos

agreed upon by them, DPR and the Museum, and now subject to the approval of CB 7. They include: (a) providing security sightlines for visitors who go into the park at night and are not able to see out into the street, especially with many of the lights out - 7 last night; (2) protecting the daffodils at the fence line, which were donated by the Dutch government and planted by volunteers in commemoration of 9/11; (3) minimizing lawn damage and restoring it; (4) taking care not to damage the irrigation systems and having the Friend's Park Manager present to supervise easel installations; (5) budgeting for extra horticultural labor to mow grass and weed around the fixtures; and (6) allocating the exhibitor's contribution is for the Brandeis High School, Friends of Museum Park, the American Museum of Natural History, and DPR's horticultural program.

The DPR 's Manhattan Borough Commissioner William Castro stated that he will keep the Committee Chair alerted of all plans relating to the

project and that Parks Commissioner Benepe agreed to hire additional workers to restore the site at the close of the exhibition.

Barbara Adler, Executive Director of the Columbus Avenue BID, who is also member of CB 7, informed the Committee that the BID is in favor of the exhibit.

K.C. Sahl stated that he saw the exhibit in Paris and was impressed with it.

The Committee discussed Riverside Park South and Riverside Park, south of West 110th Street, with KC Sahl, Park Administrator, and Jim Dowell, Executive Director, Riverside Park Fund.

Strategy and Budget

Helen Rosenthal, Chairperson

March 10, 2004 minutes

1. Previous months minutes approved 4-0-0-0
2. Land Use Committee will be discussing DNS and Budget priorities next week at their committee meeting. Hope Cohen will touch base with Richard Asche and report back to S&B.
3. Fourteen letters to electeds regarding their budget priorities were signed to go out. Follow up calls will be made:
 - Helen: Brewer, Perkins, Reed
 - Elizabeth: Duane, Fields, O'Donnell, Powell, Schneiderman, Stringer
 - Melanie: Gottfried
 - David/Melanie: Maloney, Nadler, Rangel
 - Penny: Patterson

Helen will remind the committee of follow up calls

4. Andrew Albert reported on the budget work of the Transportation Committee
 - What they seek tends to be well defined: resurfacing, rebuilding, signage, etc.

- Community complaints are instructive.
 - In the future, DEP needs could be done jointly w/ the Transportation committee.
5. The draft strategy and budget tracking form was approved for future use.
6. After school consolidation was discussed:
- Penny reported that there will be a 3/30 meeting at Baruch by invitation for Community Board members, parent coordinators, and parents, with DYCD to go over the findings and recommendations of their year-long study.
 - The findings will be reported to the Mayor in May. If all goes as scheduled there could be an RFP issued that would go into effect in January of 2005.
 - Elizabeth will call the parent coordinators of MS 44 and PS 199 to learn about their after school programs and possible unmet need.
 - CB7's reps at the Baruch meeting will report to S&B at our committee meeting in April.
7. SRO's and public housing, Child Health Plus, and NORCs were discussed briefly by the committee and put off until we could have input from the Health and Human Services Committee

8. The 59th Street Rec center

Melanie is submitting an appropriations request to Rep. Nadler

9. David reported that he was working on getting a Coro fellow to work with CB7 on its DNS.

10. Melanie will work with Janet as a liaison to the Parks and Preservation committee.

11. With nothing else to volunteer for, Elizabeth offered to take the April minutes of our committee.

Present: Helen Rosenthal, David Harris, Robert Herrmann, Elizabeth Starkey, Melanie Wymore.

Board Member Andrew Albert. District Manager Penny Ryan.

Health and Human Services

BARBARA VAN BUREN, CHAIRPERSON

3/16/04

Agenda:

Discussion of committee goals and timetable for the year, and for district needs statement input.

New Business: Unscheduled Presentation from Transportation Alternatives

Aaron Friedman of Transportation Alternatives, supported by community member Robert Barden, spoke in support of pending legislation to restrict car alarms in New York City. He presented survey results from the Highway Loss Data Institute, which indicate that cars with alarms "show no overall reduction in theft losses." His group endorses the car alarm ban bill sponsored by Eva Moskowitz, which is currently being considered by the City Council. Now Community Board resolutions are being sought in support of the measure. More information is available at www.transalt.org

Mr. Friedman was advised that this sounded like something that should also be considered by the CB7 Transportation Committee.. We will work out the logistics, and let him know what will be scheduled. Since this item was not on the agenda for tonight, and so the public had no notice of it, no vote was taken on the issue.

Scheduled Business: Goals and Timetable

With the help of public members Lani Sanjek and Maggie Nachlin, the Committee focused on an overall theme for upcoming meetings: Connecting to Coverage and Care. It became clear that more current data is needed about the number of children in the district who are not enrolled in CHP. Also, the local effects of a projected 3.2 million dollar budget cutback are uncertain. Ms. Sanjek pointed out that New York City used to lead the nation in well child care services, but that role has faded in the years since the budget crisis of the 1970's. There was a consensus that we need to learn answers to questions such as:

Where does 3-1-1 send people calling for health care needs for children and the elderly?

Who are the district safety net providers now, and are they threatened by budget cuts?

Are private institutions that receive public funding serving the needs of the community?

How can we provide easy-to-understand information about access to care?

The discussion revealed that these kinds of questions apply to several kinds of populations within the district. Accordingly, the following schedule of meetings was developed:

April 20th: Connecting to Care: Children

-Input from Riverside Child Health Station

-HHC Representative

-Citizens Committee for Children

-Facilitators re: connecting people to FHP, CHP, Medicaid

May: Connecting to Care: Elderly

June: School Health Report Card

-In School Services: No Nurses?

-Parent Coordinators: testimony

-Vaccination & Immunization Information

-HIV Curriculum: Does it exist?

Committee Member Present: Barbara Van Buren, Deborah Gobble-Lewine.

Committee Members Absent: Annette Averette, Peter Bailey, Jean Green-Dorsey, Barbara Keleman.

Public Members Present: Lani Sanjek, Maggie Nachlin

Land Use

Minutes will be uploaded as they become available.