

April 2004 Minutes

Full Board April 7, 2004

St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital

Chairperson Hope Cohen called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm. Minutes from previous full board meeting were approved (20-0-2).

Chair's Report, Hope Cohen

The District Needs Statement is on the CB7 website (www.cb7.org) for review and comment.

- The NYC Department of Transportation's Request for Proposals for the Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise has been released. Responses are due on June 30th, 2004.
- West Park Presbyterian Church met with potential developers and community members. The congregation is interested in community input about the vision for the site. Council Member Gale Brewer and CB7 will host a community meeting at the church on April 21, 7:00 PM.
- CB7 will work to ensure that an appropriate non-profit organization takes over the lease being vacated by the Folk Art Museum in the public space at Two Lincoln Plaza.
- Lincoln Center will present its plans for West 65th Street at a community meeting on April 14th. CB7 Members should RSVP to the CB7 office.

District Manager's Report, Penny Ryan

- Crime continues to be down in the 20 and 24 Precincts Grand larceny, most often the theft of unattended property, is the most frequent major crime, and often leads to identity theft. The Commander of the 20th Precinct is working with gyms and Starbucks to reduce this type of crime.
- Noise complaints continue to be the greatest number of quality of life complaints, especially outside bars.
- The District Service Cabinet is addressing the many complaints about Fresh Direct trucks.
- Parking regulations are being aggressively enforced throughout the District.
- Safety incidents around the schools have declined, especially at middle schools where parents, the local precincts, NYPD School Safety, and the schools are working together.

Reports by Elected Officials

State Assembly Member Scott Stringer

The State budget was not passed on schedule. The Education Panel recommended that 77-88% of new funding should go to NYC, leading to a continuing battle.

- He is continuing Franz Liechter's comparative analysis of banks and has released a report.

- Seats are available on a bus to attend the March for Women's Lives in Washington on April 25.

City Council Member Gale Brewer

- Seats are available on a bus to the March for Women's Lives in Washington on April 25.
 - Collaborative work with CB7, parents, CBOs, and businesses continues to improve schools in the district, including capital projects at MS 44 and PS 191.
 - She is working to resolve the dispute between the Comptroller's Office and Parks Department that is interfering with the tree planting program.
 - Department of Youth and Community Development reduced the size of the poverty area eligible for federal funds in CD7 to West 97th-110th Streets.
 - Work is ongoing in Albany to preserve affordable housing in Mitchell-Lama buildings. Manhattan Delegation budget hearings for non-profits and CBOs, an oversight hearing on 311, and a town hall meeting will take place in May.
- City Council Member Bill Perkins**

The Council's Governance Committee, which he chairs, will review the role and needs of Community Boards.

Manhattan Borough President's Report

John Mullens represented C. Virginia Fields.

- Announced a hearing to investigate distribution of NYCHA building security tapes and an internship program at www.nycrenew.com.
- Board reappointment letters should go out by the end of next week.

Public Session

Jane Smulyan, West 109th Street, spoke about slowly improving quality of life around the Soha and Saints bars.

Armando Carmona, NYC Comptroller Bill Thompson's office, representing the Comptroller on the Upper West Side, will look into concerns about tree planting program.

Carolyn Birden, West 110th Block Association, spoke about Columbia University's commitment to the community, the lack of a traffic study report, and lack of access by local non-profits to meeting space at the Columbia University School.

Joan Bondell, Committee Against Cell Antennae Abuse, expressed disappointment about lack of help from elected officials.

Ann Armisteed discussed Columbia University's denial of space for local non-profits.

Benjamin Ryan, New York Observer, said good-bye again.

Sue Calvin, Council Member Philip Reed's office, introduced herself.

Phyllis Gunther, CB7, invited all to a dedication of a park bench in honor of her husband Ed Gunther, at 6pm, April 8, at Verdi Square.

Tom Vitullo-Martin, Friends of West Park Presbyterian Church, announced a community meeting on April 21 on the proposed church development.

Columbia University Update

Emily Lloyd, Executive Vice President, Government and Community Affairs, reported that the University Provost has assigned a liaison to work with CB7 regarding commitments of the Columbia University School. School space is being used by local non-profits that don't meet regularly. An updated traffic study was completed and will be presented to CB7's Transportation Committee on April 13.

Bill Scott, Director of Non-academic School Facilities, reported that the renovation of 17 apartments on West 109th Street near the School at Columbia is about half complete. At Broadway and West 103rd

Street, a new 13-story apartment building for faculty and post-doctoral staff will be finished in February 2005. They are looking into renting commercial space to some kind of grocery store, in response to

community interest, but cannot guarantee that they will be able to do so. At 455 Central Park West, Columbia plans to buy 53 apartments in the tower behind the Towers Nursing Home. The Cathedral Gardens project at Manhattan Avenue and West 110th Street has been taken over by Barnard College. The community elements remain the same.

Business Session

Parks & Preservation Committee

Lenore Norman, Chairperson

Klari Neuwelt presented the resolutions.

- 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. (Approved 25-0-0-0)**
- 2. 52 West 84th Street (Central Park West-Columbus Avenue.) Application #044807 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to alter a window opening. (Approved 25-0-0-0)**
- 3. Plans for the construction of artificial turf playing fields between West 103rd and 107th Streets, Riverside Park. (Not Approved 14-13-2-0)**

Dr. William Crain spoke against artificial turf and urged the Board to opt for natural grass. Grass is part of the ecosystem and children benefit from nature.

KC Sahl, Administrator of Riverside Park noted that the new turf is environmentally sound, relatively economical given frequent use, and potentially safer than natural grass. It also makes the fields available for use virtually any day of the year; natural grass plantings must be fenced off much of the time.

The Board discussed the potential precedent set by covering this public field with artificial turf, especially given the increasing demand for competitive play spaces.

Land Use Committee

Richard Ashe, Chairperson

Richard Asche reported on the Department of Building's (DOB) ruling to permit mixed-use residential development in M1 manufacturing zones. The Land Use Committee agrees with Manhattan Community Board 2 that this is an inappropriate abrogation of Department of City Planning's (DCP) responsibilities by the DOB. DCP has mechanisms to receive and respond to public comment; the DOB does not. Manhattan Community Board 7 will write a letter opposing the ruling.

Transportation Committee

Andrew Albert, Chairperson

4. 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. (Approved 27-0-0-0)

5. 502 Amsterdam Avenue (West 84th-85th Streets.) Disapprove 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. (Approved 24-3-0-0)

6. 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. (Bundled Enclosed, Approved 20-7-2-0)

7. 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. (Bundled Enclosed, Approved 20-7-2-0)

8. 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. (Bundled Unenclosed, Approved 27-1-0-0)

9. 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. (Bundled, Approved 27-1-0-0)

10. 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. (Bundled Unenclosed, Approved 27-1-0-0)

11. 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. (Bundled Unenclosed, Approved 27-1-0-0)

12. 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. (Bundled Unenclosed, Approved 27-1-0-0)

13. 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. (Bundled Enclosed, Approved 20-7-2-0)

14. 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. (Bundled Unenclosed, Approved 27-1-0-0)

Chairperson Andrew Albert reported that the West 72nd Street ramp closing will likely occur in 2005. He will draft a letter to the NYC Department of Transportation summarizing a recent meeting with CB7 on this topic.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Present: Hope Cohen, Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Annette Averette, Deborah Gobble-Lewine, Georgette Gittens, David Harris, Douglas Griebel, Phyllis Gunther, Robert Herrmann, Lawrence Horowitz, Ulma Jones, Joyce Johnson, Barbara Keleman, Marc Landis, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Melanie Radley, Oscar Rios, Barry Rosenberg, Charles Simon, Elizabeth Starkey, Thomas Vitullo-Martin, Ethel Sheffer, Melanie Wymore, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Dan Zweig.

Absent: Janet Alvarez, Peter Bailey, Dan Cohen, Sheldon Fine, Guillermo Gonzalez, Jean Green-Dorsey, Marlene Guy, John Howell, Barbara Katzander, Betty Katz, Michael Roberts, Helen Rosenthal, Barbara Van Buren, William Meyers, Eric Nelson, Hector Santana, Jr., Patricia Stevens, D. Maria Watson.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Wymore.

Steering

Hope Cohen, Chairperson

April 27, 2004

Chairperson Hope Cohen called the meeting to order at 7 PM. She introduced members of the Lincoln Center Redevelopment Team.

Presentation of Lincoln Center Redevelopment Plan

Rebecca Robertson (Executive Director, Lincoln Center Development Corp.) and Philip Habib (Philip Habib & Associates, traffic consultant) presented schematics, renderings, and video simulations of plan to redevelop parts of Lincoln Center that face West 65th Street. The plan includes substantial changes to facades, public spaces, and traffic flow around and within the center. After the presentation, the group discussed the establishment of a task force to work with Lincoln Center during the redevelopment process.

Action: Hope Cohen asked that chairs or representatives from Land Use, Transportation, Commerce, Parks, and Community Development sit on the task force.

Committee Chair Responsibilities

Hope Cohen reiterated that committee chairs should focus on developing new board members. She discussed the need to delegate tasks to committee members, including the taking of meeting minutes. She emphasized that minutes are important to Board operations and a Board requirement.

The group discussed the lack of participation within committees. People made various suggestions to improve committee participation, including pre-meeting calls, e-mails, and staff support.

Action: Look into list-serve tools for Community Board communications.

Membership Development Committee

Barbara Adler demonstrated T-shirts developed by the committee. She also presented the newly developed Community Board Membership Guide.

Action: Review the Membership Guide and prepare feedback for next month.

Manhattan Borough Board

Hope Cohen reported that the Borough Board discussed a new website on land use issues and the possible closing of the Veteran's Hospital on east 23rd Street. She noted that the next Borough Board meeting will include a bus tour of all 12 districts in Manhattan.

Action: Shelly Fine will attend the next Borough Board meeting on May 20th.

Committee Reports and Full Board Preparation

Community Development is developing a resolution to express concern about the process by which the Education Chancellor's regulation on school promotion was established. Important groups, like parents and teachers, were not included in the process.

Action: The regulation should be posted on the CB7 website.

Health and Human Services is investigating child health care issues. Over 200,000 children in Manhattan do not qualify for health insurance. The committee is also investigating lead poisoning, obesity, and meals on wheels.

Jointly with Community Development, Parks & Preservation will submit a new resolution to the Full Board to approve two turf ballfields in Riverside Park.

Strategy & Budget announced that District Needs Statement submittals are due in June.

Action: Committees should work to develop and edit their sections in May.

Commerce is working to encourage the landlord of 100 W. 72nd St. (where Star Nightclub is tenant) to oust the club and consider a new type of tenant.

Transportation anticipates no controversial issues at Full Board.

Announcements

Larry Horowitz announced that CB7 challenged CB9 to a softball game. Now we need to establish a team.

Present: Hope Cohen, Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Shelly Fine, Marlene Guy, David Harris, Larry Horowitz, Bobbie Katzander, Lenore Norman, Helen Rosenthal, Barbara Van Buren, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Melanie Wymore

Committee Members Absent: Richard Asche

Board Members Present: Linda Alexander, Eric Nelson, Klari Neuwelt

District Manager Penny Ryan

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Wymore

Community Development

Minutes will be uploaded as they become available.

Transportation

Andrew Albert, Chairperson

April 13, 2004

1. Request by PS 87 for support of the application by the Department of Parks and Recreation to the Department of Buildings for a curb cut on West 77th Street, east of Amsterdam Avenue, to provide access to the playground for snow removal and maintenance.

Kate Manke presented the request for a curb cut at the big play yard east of the Tecumseh Playground.

Resolution:

Be it resolved that Community Board 7 supports the Department of Parks and Recreation's application to the Department of Buildings to install a curb cut on West 77 Street to allow for snow removal at BOTH playgrounds on 77 Street, east of Amsterdam Avenue.

Committee: 4-0-0-0

2. 254 West 87th Street (Broadway-West End Avenue.) Request by the West Side MRI for a one-space "No Parking" zone on the south side of West 87th Street.

Matthew Eapen, of West Side M.R.I., presented a revised proposal for their request for space in front of their establishment for 20 feet of curb space for ambulettes that come to drop off patients.

Mel Scholl, of the Boulevard, discussed whether this curb space was necessary, considering

that West Side M.R.I. MAYBE gets two ambulettes a day. West Side M.R.I. has operated here for 20 years prior to this request. After considerable discussion, the Committee passed the following resolution:

Be it resolved that Community Board 7 supports West Side M.R.I.'s proposal for 20 feet of curb space in front of their establishment, to allow for ambulettes to pull to the curb.

Committee: 3-2-0-0. Public: 0-1-0-0.

3. 423 Amsterdam Avenue (West 80th-81st Street.) Renewal application to the Department of Consumer Affairs by BSWR, Corp. d/b/a Sarabeth's Kitchen, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 5 tables and 10 seats.

Be it resolved that Community Board 7 approves the request for a two year renewal of their unenclosed cafe.

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

4. Presentation by Columbia University and the Sam Schwartz Company on the Broadway and West 110th Street intersection traffic study and recommendations.

Larry Kelman and Eric Arsemont, of the Sam Schwartz Company, presented their traffic proposals for 110th Street & Broadway. The Committee had seen these before, & approved them before. They consist of a protected eastbound (left) turn from southbound Broadway to eastbound 110th Street (Cathedral Parkway). Later on, a possible protected right turn (north) onto Broadway

will be considered. The Committee ratified their earlier approval.

Be it resolved that Community Board 7 reiterates its approval of the installation of a protected left-turn (eastbound) movement for traffic on southbound Broadway at 110th Street.

Committee: 7-0-0-0. Public: 2-0-0-0.

5. 695 Amsterdam Avenue (West 93rd-94th Streets.) Renewal application #B01527 to NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission by New Family Radio Dispatch, Inc. at 695 Amsterdam Avenue for a For Hire Base Station license.

Glennis Cespada presented for New Family. This was a renewal of an existing for-hire base. It was noted that drivers do not hang around the base - there is no reason to. The base is on Amsterdam Avenue between 93rd & 94th Street.

A motion to approve was passed.

Community Board 7 approves the renewal of a base for New Family Car Service, at 695 Amsterdam Avenue.

Committee: 7-0-0-0. Public: 0-0-1-0.

6. Request by the Dominican Sunday Organization to name the traffic triangle on Amsterdam Avenue and West 110th Street in honor of Minerva Bernardino.

Belkis Ravelo presented the proposal to name the new yet-to-be-built- Parks Dept. triangle for Minerva Bernardino, who was a co-founder of the United Nations Organization & a strong defender of human rights. Ms. Ravelo also proposed naming Amsterdam Avenue between 96th & 110th Streets for Ms. Bernardino! An active discussion ensued about the naming, what connection

Ms. Bernardino has/had to the location, and whether this proposal should have been at the Parks Committee. Additionally, the idea of naming Amsterdam Avenue from 96th to 110th Street for Ms. Bernardino was not embraced by any committee member. In fact, since the proposal has not received funding yet (Councilmember Reed is backing the triangle), it was decided to take no action on this proposal at this time.

7. Department of Transportation proposed to install bike lanes eastbound on West 90th and westbound on West 91st Street from Central Park West to Riverside Drive as part of greenway system.

After a lengthy discussion of the need for these bike lanes, the proposed location of the lanes, and possible alternate locations, the following resolution was passed by the committee:

Be it resolved that Community Board 7 opposes the Department of Transportation's proposal for bicycle lanes on West 90th & 91st Streets.

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

(The NYC Department of Transportation will attend the May Committee meeting to discuss the proposed lanes. The Committee agreed to hold the item until then.)

7. New Business

B. Katzander - Newsboxes are in the M72 bus stop on the S side of 72nd Street near C.P.W.

D.Zweig - Suggested signs be posted on subway entrances alerting customers there is No Smoking in the subway.

C.Simon - Asked why pedestrians are unable to cross from the W side of Broadway to the E side of Amsterdam Avenue on 72 Street, without being stopped by a traffic signal.

E. Nelson - Constant idling of limos, black cars on the S side of 60 Street in front of the Mandarin Oriental NY Hotel. As summer approaches, situation will get worse, he feels. (location is actually not in the CB#7 district)

Committee Members Present: Andrew Albert, Bobbie Katzander, Barbara Keleman, Eric Nelson, Oscar Rios, Charles Simon, Dan Zweig.

Commerce

Minutes will be uploaded as they become available.

Parks and Preservation

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARKS & PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

LENORE NORMAN, CHAIRPERSON

COMMUNITY BOARD 7, MANHATTAN

APRIL 15, 2004

Committee Members Present: Lenore Norman, Klari Neuwelt, Phyllis Gunther.

Committee Members Absent: John Howell, Betty Katz, Michael Roberts, Patricia Stevens, William Myers.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairperson Lenore Norman.

The following agenda item was considered jointly with the Community Development Committee. Community Development Committee Members Present: Marlene Guy, Chairperson, Sheldon Fine, Sharon Parker-Frazier (present for latter part of discussion.) Non-committee Board member Melanie Wymore was present for the latter part of the discussion of the first agenda item.

1. RENOVATION OF 103RD AND 107TH STREET BALLFIELDS IN RIVERSIDE PARK

Penny Ryan, District Manager, explained that this item was on the agenda of the joint committees because there had been no board action on it at the April Full Board meeting and Hope Cohen, CB7 Chair, had considered it appropriate for it to come for further consideration of the joint committees.

KC Sahl, Riverside Park Administrator, gave an introduction to the project. He explained that THE Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) had contracted with the Central Park Conservancy to design the project, but that Gary Dearborn of the Conservancy, who had presented the project to the Parks and Preservation Committee in March, could not attend because of a conflicting obligation.

Margaret Bracken, horticulturist for Riverside Park, explained the plan in detail. This section of Riverside Park was created in the 1930's as landfill. This site was created for active recreation and has always been an active recreation site. In the 1990's it was refitted with "natural turf" (grass) but the heavy use has severely damaged the grass, with serious compacting of the soil and serious drainage problems.

The plan is to replace these areas of compromised lawn with the newest generation of artificial turf in the 103rd Street field, which is intended primarily for softball, and in the 107th Street field, which is intended primarily for soccer. A new undersurface will be installed to facilitate drainage. Additionally, new plantings will be installed around the perimeter. The total area of this project is about 3.95 acres out of about 325 acres in Riverside Park.

There is currently, in CB7's district, artificial turf at 102nd Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Additionally, there is a field in Riverside Park at 101st Street with a prior generation of artificial turf.

James Dowell, Executive Director of the Riverside Park Fund, explained that the West Side Little League and West Side Soccer League organizations had been working on this project for five years. The budget is \$3.1 million, of which the City has allocated \$1.7 million from the Borough President, Council Members Reed, Perkins and Brewer and the Mayor's discretionary funds. The Riverside Park Fund is working to raise \$1.4 million, of which it already has \$1.05 million. It is confident it can raise the balance within the time frame of the project.

Mr. Dowell explained that the Fund had paid for a full-time seasonal attendant at the fields for several years to maintain them, but that the result in terms of conditions of the fields had been no better than it is without the attendant.

Mr. Sahl explained that he anticipates taking the project to the Landmarks Commission in May of 2004, and has not yet had contact with it about the project. He anticipates taking it to the Art Commission in June, bidding it out in July and August and starting construction in 2004. Construction should take about a year.

The committees discussed that this project has been in CB7's budget priorities for several years, starting with the priorities F/Y 2002. In 2002, CB7 passed a resolution approving a renovation of the soccer field that also used artificial turf. However, it was decided by DPR to expand the project to include the softball field, so the combined project was being presented now.

Mr. Dowell explained that no promises had been made to user groups about increased access to the fields; the only promise was better fields.

Mr. Sahl said that he had researched the safety record of the new generation of artificial turf being used in this project. He did not find anything about these exact standards, but anecdotal evidence was that it was much safer than prior generations of artificial turf and of severely damaged natural turf. Further, it does not require the use of pesticides or fertilizer. He explained that using this turf will allow four or five times the amount of use that natural grass would. Further, users will be able to wear cleats, which is not permitted in the field in Riverside South. The fields will be open at essentially all times year-round. By contrast, the field in Riverside South, like many other grassy areas in Riverside Park, is closed for grass restoration for the majority of the year.

Mr. Sahl was asked what other areas of Riverside Park might be candidates for artificial turf. He identified possible replacement of the artificial turf at 101st Street, plus an area at 78-79th Streets now in clay, as well as possibly the 69th Street field in Riverside South, which does not receive enough sun for grass to grow well. He stated that only active recreation field would be candidates for artificial turf, and the DPR would come to CB7 to review any additional proposal. He stated that DPR would not consider artificial turf for any passive recreation area.

Eddy Collins, the Commissioner for the West Side Soccer League, stated that the League has 44,000 children. He spoke about the greatly enhanced recreational opportunities for children that these fields would offer. He stated that the 69th Street field is usable only for three months, while the 101st Street field is used all the time. Woody Freiman, Peter Goldberger and Mark Friedman of the Soccer League made similar points, emphasizing the unmet need for expanded and safe active recreation space. They also mentioned that these fields would take pressure off of other crowded locations. Neil Wright, of West Side Little League, mentioned that that organization had 1200 children, and echoed the remarks of the prior speakers.

William Crane, a public member of the Parks and Preservation Committee, opposed the project. He spoke about the obligation to preserve natural earth, said that children needed contact with nature, said that children's activities were overscheduled, and said that there was no safety record on new surfaces and that runoff would be worse.

Mr. Dowell stated that in addition to the permitted activities by the Little League and the Soccer League and others, the fields would be heavily used during the day by school physical education classes and others. Permit usage is monitored to ensure public access. He stated the Mr. Crane's understanding of science and horticulture is wrong.

The members of the two committees then discussed the project.

Sharon Parker-Frazier: As a soccer mom and physical education teacher, and in light of the

obesity problem with our children, she is concerned about the need for available recreational space.

Sheldon Fine: This area was always intended for active recreation. It is good that no pesticides will be needed for the artificial turf, and water will be conserved. He is not convinced that any better alternative is available.

Melanie Wymore: She had voted against the proposal at the April Full Board meeting, but is changing her mind. We should consider nature, but there is a strong need for recreational space.

Phyllis Gunther: She is now in favor of the proposal, but believes that the Board's approval and resolution should be limited to these two fields.

Klari Neuwelt: This space was never land and had no natural existence. Also, it is important that this was a community-based initiative. It would send a very bad message to the community groups who had spent years raising funds to second guess them and the DPR on this issue.

Lenore Norman: Bill Crane is to be thanked for his thoughtful comments, but there is a strong need for recreational space.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the renovation of the ballfields at 103rd and 107th Streets has been a budget priority of Community Board 7 for several years; and

WHEREAS, several elected officials have committed substantial discretionary funds for this project; and

WHEREAS, community-based organizations, primarily the West Side Soccer League and the West Side Little League, have been raising money for this project for several years and have raised over \$1 million and are confident that they can raise all the additional funding necessary to bridge the gap between the amount of public financing available and the total cost; and

WHEREAS, in 2002 Community Board 7 passed a resolution approving the renovation of one of these fields with artificial turf; and

WHEREAS, the project area is on landfill, and has always been devoted to active team sports and other active recreation; and

WHEREAS, natural turf (grass) at these locations is very expensive to maintain and has a very short life-span, whereas artificial turf, although initially more expensive, is significantly less expensive to maintain and has a much longer life-span; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong need for additional active recreation capacity in our community, and in Riverside Park in particular; and

WHEREAS, the use of artificial turf on these fields will permit them to be used year-round, and in all weather conditions, while fields with natural turf are closed to the public for most of the year for grass restoration; and

WHEREAS, the current generation of artificial turf appears to have a good safety record;

WHEREAS, DPR has promised to return to CB7 for input prior to converting any other field in Riverside Park to artificial turf;

Community Board 7:

(1) approves the proposal to renovate the fields at 103rd Street and 107th Street in Riverside Park as presented by DPR, including the use of artificial turf; and

(2) does not, by such approval, express any position about the use of artificial turf at any other site; and

(3) requests that DPR report to it on a regular basis after the project is completed about maintenance, usage and injury issues at this site.

VOTE: Joint Committee and other Board members: 7-0-0-0

Public members: 2-1-0

Minutes by Klari Neuwelt

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS APPLICATIONS.

169 West 87th Street, St. Mathew's and St. Timothy's (Columbus-Amsterdam Avenues.)

WHEREAS, 169 West 87th Street houses a head start program accommodating 64 children, 32 of whom are full time students; and

WHEREAS, in order to receive federal funds, the building must be able to accommodate children and adults with physical disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the proposal to install a small outdoor lift which does not touch the steps or the stone railings meets those requirements; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of the fence from 7 feet to 3 feet and the change in the design is appropriate and is in response to a request from the Landmarks Commission; and

**WHEREAS, the bar across the lift is required for safety purposes; and
WHEREAS, the windows are being changed from metal to wood and the building is being restored in an appropriate manner;**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Parks & Preservation Committee approves application #040140 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to install a barrier free access lift and a fence at the areaway.

Committee: 3-0-0-0.

169 West 78th Street (Columbus-Amsterdam Avenues.)

WHEREAS, the building has had a painted facade since before it became a co-op and long before it was included in the historic district; and

WHEREAS, the condition of the facade is so poor, painting the facade again seemed to be the only affordable alternative; and

WHEREAS, the co-op replaced the fence, which was no longer able to be repaired, with a design which matches a neighboring building on the block;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Parks & Preservation Committee approves application #044181 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to install a barrier free access lift and a fence at the areaway.

Committee: 3-0-0-0.

200 West 84th Street (Columbus-Amsterdam Avenues.)

WHEREAS, the canopy meets all Department of Transportation requirements; and

WHEREAS, there is no objection to the shape or size of the canopy;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Parks & Preservation Committee approves application #045685 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to legalize the installation of a canopy without Landmarks Preservation Commission permits.

Committee: 3-0-0-0.

Strategy and Budget

Helen Rosenthal, Chairperson

April 19, 2004

1. Minutes from the previous month's meeting were read and approved. Next meeting is on Monday, May 17, 7 PM, at CB7.

2. Follow-up reports on outreach to legislators on budget priorities. Committee members reported making phone calls, initiating process, but not getting useful feed-back from legislators' staff.

Action: Follow-up with phone calls to staff and to elected. Keep committee posted.

Helen: Brewer, Perkins, Reed

Elizabeth: Duane, Field, O'Donnell, Powell, Schneiderman, Stringer

Melanie: Gottfried

David/Melanie: Maloney, Nadler, Rangel

Penny: Patterson

Action: Penny to email to committee the letter that went out to electeds.

3. Liaison to CB7 Committees by Strategy & Budget Committee (S&B) for District Needs Statement (DNS) for FY06.

Melanie reported on meeting of Commerce Committee which she attended.

Melanie will work with Commerce Committee on its section of the DNS.

Penny will work with Parks & Preservation Committee.

Elizabeth will attend meeting of Health & Human Services Committee on April 20 to see that their recent topics of concern are reflected in DNS statement.

David Harris and Elizabeth Starkey will work with Community Development Committee.

Bob Herrmann suggested stronger correlation of DNS with CB7 budget priorities, highlighting the budget priorities at the beginning or end of each section of the DNS.

Action:

The DNS will go to the June Full Board meeting. All S&B committee members must have their sections completed by May 17.

Helen will email message to committee chairs and will speak at Steering Committee and Full Board meeting concerning need to review and submit DNS sections to S&B.

Bob will coordinate budget priorities with DNS sections.

Penny will email DNS w/ budget priorities to committee members.
Committee.

CB7 will email DNS to agencies before budget consultations.

The committee discussed getting assistance on the format of the DNS from Debbie Ravino, a member of the community who volunteered to help; Helen will call her. The committee will also explore the use of photographs in the DNS, on the web site, but not in emails. The committee

will invite a representative of the Independent Budget Office to the June meeting; Penny will follow-up.

4. The committee discussed the changes in CD7's Neighborhood Development Area made by Dept. of Youth and Community Development (DYCD.)

Helen will consult with Shelly Fine and George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero on the proposed resolution, and with Steering Committee. S&B will convene at 6:45 p.m. before the May 4 Full Board meeting to discuss and vote on resolution.

5. Assessment of After School Program needs in district 7 and DYCD action to consolidate programs.

RFP to be issued shortly. Implementation target date is Jan. 2005.

Elizabeth reported on conversations with parent coordinators at M.S.44 and P.S. 199.

Peter Arndsten, Director, Columbus Amsterdam BID, will assess after school programs in schools in the northern part of the district.

Committee members present: Helen Rosenthal, Robert Herrmann, Melanie Wymore, Elizabeth Starkey; Hope Cohen; District Manager Penny Ryan.

Committee members absent: Janet Alvarez, Hector Santana.

Health and Human Services

Barbara Van Buren, Chairperson

April 20, 2004

Agenda:

Report from district health care providers serving children and families.

Chairperson's Report:

Ms. Van Buren reported the results of research into the subject. There are currently no city child health clinics in CB 7, and no readily obtainable data about the number of children in the district who are not covered. But citywide,

according to the United Hospital Fund, 640,000 children are uninsured: of those, 310,000 are eligible for Medicaid, 120,000 are eligible for Child Health Plus. So even if those eligible for coverage could be reached and encouraged to enroll, there would still be a significant number of children for whom no coverage is available.

Report from St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital

Maggie Macklin stated that just about all of the people seen at the hospital are insured; if eligible but not insured they can be enrolled at the hospital, through the HEAL center (Health Education Advocacy Learning). For those who are not covered by insurance, a sliding fee scale is used; that policy is currently being revised and standardized across the Continuum Health Care system.

Common reasons for children being brought in for care include:

- Asthma and other bronchial problems
- Diarrhea, dehydration, stomach infection
- Sickle Cell related problems

Ms. Macklin said lead poisoning has not been presenting much of late, in part perhaps because of screening programs.

Report from Ryan Center:

Fern Fleckman, Miriam Ruiz, Sagrario Rosario and Cleon Edwards represented various aspects of this community based health service. They reported their active efforts to bring people in for preventive care, and enroll children and families in government insurance programs. They discussed the barriers of language, communication, fears about immigration status and frustration with paperwork. In response, they explained, their community based program, where many languages are spoken, can break through some of these barriers to care. Yet the staff shares their clients' frustrations with government programs, for example, parents can be penalized for working extra jobs; exceeding eligibility requirements by only a few dollars can mean a loss of coverage. And even for those who are covered, or who are at the bottom of the Center's sliding fee scale, the cost-per-visit often means a child won't be brought to care unless an illness is reaching a crisis.

A major health problem the Center has identified is obesity among young children. In response, the Center is developing a curriculum to deliver at the two schools where they provide School Based Health Program. Ryan is also providing mental health services, particularly as an intervention at a school where there have been extensive discipline problems. The Center also provides outreach to the general population with a speakers bureau, with health care professionals addressing schools, community organizations, and other groups about major chronic illnesses. The center's mobile van also parks at various schools, where students can seek help and advice about STDs and other issues.

There followed a general discussion about the inconsistent delivery and availability of health care in public schools, now that the Department of Health is, in effect, out of the business. Both Ryan and St. Luke's/Roosevelt are currently providing School Based Health Programs: Ryan at M.S. 54, Booker T. Washington High School, Edward A Reynolds School and West Side High School. St. Luke's/Roosevelt provides pediatricians and nurses at Martin Luther King Jr., Brandeis and Randolph schools.

Areas for further research and possible action:

Representatives from Ryan Center expressed fears that coverage facilitators might be eliminated, forcing clients to have to negotiate the central office system, which will discourage more people from seeking care.

Pataki's budget indicates cuts in Family Health Plus and Child Health Plus, which would further reduce access to health care. We will contact Dick Gottfried's office, (Chair of the Assembly Health Committee) to see if there are action steps to take.

Everyone present expressed the wish for better coverage for nutrition counseling, and psychiatric services for young people and their families.

The indigent pool lobbied for and available to hospitals, could also be considered for Community Health Based programs such as the Ryan Center.

After 9/11, eligibility rules were widened to some extent, providing a door for more people to enter coverage; it might be possible to revisit eligibility requirements, particularly those that penalize families hovering at the edge of eligibility.

It was suggested a committee member take on the task of finding out where 3-1-1 directs parents who call for immunizations for their children, in the absence of city child health clinics in the district.

Upcoming Meetings:

May: Access to services for older residents:

Meals on Wheels

NORCs

Senior Centers

Prescription Costs

Olmstead Decision

June: School Health Report Card

-In School Services: No Nurses?

-Parent Coordinators: testimony

-Vaccination & Immunization Information

-HIV Curriculum: Does it exist?

Committee Members Present: Barbara Van Buren, Deborah Gobble-Lewine. Committee Members Absent: Annette Averette, Peter Bailey, Jean Green-Dorsey, Barbara Keleman. Board Member Present: Elizabeth Starkey, representing Community Board 7 Budget Committee

Land Use

Richard Asche, Chairperson

April 28th, 2004

Joint with Transportation Committee

1. 699/717 West End Avenue (West 94th Street.) Application #813-63-BZ to the Board of Standards and Appeals by Howard Zipser for Central Parking Corporation, to amend the existing garage permit to include 125 existing parking spaces.

Presenter: Howard Zipser, attorney for the applicant

Discussion: This is a correction to an application approved by CB7 in September 2003. At the time, the applicant was applying for extension of the certificate of occupancy for 30 of the 125 spaces. Now it turns out that permit needs to include all 125, so this action is to amend the permit in that manner. BSA variances of this type are generally for 10 years.

Outcome/Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan approves the application #813-63-BZ to the Board of Standards and Appeals by Howard Zipser for Central Parking Corporation to amend the existing garage permit to include all 125 existing parking spaces.

Committee: 3-0-0-0

Joint with Transportation Committee

2. Preliminary discussion of Zoning Resolution text amendment to allow enclosed sidewalk cafes in the Lincoln Square Special District.

Presenter: Fred Becker, attorney, and Doug Griebel, owner, Rosa Mexicano

Discussion: Although new enclosed cafes generally are not favored by CB7, Mr. Griebel's application 3 years ago for an enclosed café on Columbus Avenue between 62nd and 63rd Streets was approved because of the unique nature of the site (i.e. lightly trafficked and forbidding). However, it ultimately turned out that such a café is precluded by the zoning, which prohibits enclosed cafes in the Lincoln Square Special District. Mr. Griebel is now seeking a text amendment to the Zoning Resolution (application #N040154ZRM) to allow enclosed cafes on the easterly side of Columbus Avenue between 62nd and 63rd Streets. Council Member Gale Brewer and the Lincoln Square BID have endorsed his application, but the Department of City Planning (DCP) has been discouraging.

Board Members were particularly concerned about:

- the lack of design criteria for the proposed indoor/outdoor nature of the café (i.e. "removable partitions" to make café unenclosed during summer months)
- impact of the proposed zoning text on the existing, long-vacant, and completely illegal enclosure on the corner of Columbus Avenue and 63rd Street.

Joint with Transportation Committee

3. ULURP N040202ZRY Community Facilities Zoning Text Change.

Presenter: None. This is a continuing item that the Committee has been studying for months.

Discussion: In January 2004, CB7 sent a letter on this issue to DCP. Now we are in ULURP and need to have a resolution stating our concerns about the proposed text amendment to the Zoning Resolution. The text amendment is aimed primarily at lower density communities, and so misses the opportunity to address the many issues of concern to CB7 (and much of the rest of Manhattan)

Outcome/Resolution:

The New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) has proposed a zoning text amendment respecting community facilities. For the most part, the amendment concerns low density areas of the city, primarily outside of Manhattan. Unfortunately, the text change fails to address issues of importance within Community Board 7, including a substantial FAR bonus for community facilities and an exemption to the rear yard requirements in R7-2 zones for schools and hospitals.

Community Board 7 believes that the existence of a FAR bonus for community facilities development will place undue pressure on housing stock, particularly in R7-2 districts. In R7-2 zones, community facility uses should not replace residential uses, but should instead supplement residential uses, up to the bonusable FAR.

Community Board 7 also believes that encroachment into rear yards in R7-2 zones by schools may not always be in the best interest of the surrounding community. All encroachments should be by special permit. Moreover, 23 feet is excessively high; at least half of that allowable height should be below the average grade of the curb.

Accordingly, Community Board 7 RESOLVES that:

In connection with the proposed text amendment to the Zoning Resolution (ULURP #N040202ZRY) affecting community facilities, the FAR bonus available in R-7 zones be eliminated, and that the availability of an exemption from the prohibition on building in required rear yards for schools, day care centers, houses of worship, colleges and universities, and hospitals or health care facilities be made subject to special permit, and not as of right; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DCP reconsider its proposal for mandated off-street parking for houses of worship in view of the inappropriateness of such a requirement for Orthodox and Conservative synagogues.

Committee: 3-0-0-0 Board/Public: 2-0-0-1

4. Preliminary discussion of City Council Intro 170-2004 to amend the City Charter to create an appeals process for BSA variance decisions.

Discussion: All agreed that the BSA variance process is problematic but were unconvinced that the City Council's proposed amendment to the City Charter is the best solution. Richard Asche and Ethel Sheffer recommended examination of a study by the Municipal Art Society (MAS) and associated proposals for Charter changes. The Committee will continue to discuss this issue over the next few months.

5. Discussion of NYS legislative agenda re: Mitchell Lama housing and sidewalk advertising.

Discussion: Mr. Asche has invited Assembly Member Scott Stringer to discuss these topics with the Committee at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Land Use Committee Members Present: Richard Asche, Ethel Sheffer, Tom Vitullo-Martin.

Land Use Committee Members Absent: Dan Cohen, Melanie Radley, Barry Rosenberg, Maria Watson.

Transportation Committee Members Present: Andrew Albert.

Board Members Present: Hope Cohen, Doug Griebel, Larry Horowitz.