

October 2004 Minutes

Full Board Meeting

Hope Cohen, Chairperson

American Bible Society

October 5, 2004

Hope Cohen called the meeting to order at 7:13pm.

The September full board minutes were approved (15-0-2-0)

Chairperson's Report – Hope Cohen

Two members have resigned from CB7: Deborah Gobble-Lewine and Marc Landis.

The next CB7 Full Board meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 3. Election Day Falls on the first Tuesday of the month.

Helen Rosenthal asked members and committees to review budget priorities.

The Department of Sanitation's 20-year Solid Waste Management Plan will be distributed soon. It will include the use of the West 59th Street Marine Transfer Station for the transfer of Manhattan's commercial waste.

District Manager's Report – Penny Ryan

Overall crime remains stable, but grand larceny (especially of unattended property) remains an ongoing concern.

Sidewalk and street cleanliness reports in CD7 are excellent.

The Office of Emergency Management will coordinate with community boards to create CERT teams for emergency preparedness.

The Parks Department will hold a ceremony celebrating Giuseppe Verdi's 191st birthday and the reconstruction of the park at Verdi Park on Friday, October 8, 11:00 AM.

Election of Officers for 2004-2005, Dan Zweig, Chairperson, Elections Committee

Election rules and explanation of ballots were reviewed.

Ballots were distributed.

Officers elected: Hope Cohen (Chair), Helen Rosenthal (1st Vice Chair), Sheldon Fine (2nd Vice Chair), George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero (3rd Vice Chair), Bobbie Katzander (Co-Secretary), Melanie Wymore (Co-Secretary.)

Public Session

Olive Freud, of the Community for Environmentally Sound Development, announced that West End Avenue improvements have been completed without incident. She noted that the connection between Riverside Drive and Riverside Blvd. will reduce traffic on West End Avenue.

Gladys Alesi, of Park River Independent Democrats, expressed concern about pedestrian safety, particularly regarding illegal bicycle traffic. Her concerns will be taken up by the Transportation Committee.

Gloria Moseson lodged complaints about Fairway and argued against its proposed curb cut for garbage removal.

Sylvia Friederich, of the Neighborhood History Group, described a collection of neighborhood history available at the NY Public Library, Bloomingdale branch.

Louise Mirrer, President of the New-York Historical Society, introduced herself and invited CB7 to visit the exhibit on Alexander Hamilton. She previewed upcoming exhibits.

Graciliano Mangual, of the 211 West 101st Street tenants' group, complained of poor sanitation, bug infestation, tenant harassment, and unregistered residents at the Frant Hotel.

Pablo Cotto, of 211 West 101st, of the same building, also complained of poor building conditions.

Follow-up: Penny Ryan reported that those conditions were discussed at the September District Service Cabinet and the agencies will be addressing them.

Ruben D. Vargas, of West 104th Street Block Association, discussed problems on West 104th Street and suggested angled parking which would create more parking spaces on the street.

Jemethy Mackaye discussed her concerns about quality of life on the Upper West Side. She opposes new sidewalk cafés, gaming tables, and excessive pay phones in the area of West 89th and Amsterdam Avenue.

Bill Crain reported that GED sites were being closed even though they are badly needed, particularly for immigrant populations.

Follow-up Elizabeth Starkey asked him to provide the Board with a list of sites that have been closed.

Jean Green Dorsey announced the flea market at PS 163 on October 23rd.

Thomas Vitullo-Martin reported on the West Park Presbyterian Church development.

Ulma Jones announced a Presidential forum, sponsored by the NAACP, to be held on October 20th.

Sue Calvin, Councilmember Reed's Office, reported on new ball fields, the renovated subway stations at West 103rd and Broadway / West 103rd and CPW, and library improvements

Joshua Bocian, Councilmember Brewer's Office, announced various events in the community. He discussed a traffic safety week to be conducted by the Councilmember's office. He announced that voter registration is closed as of Friday, October 8th.

Reports by Public Officials

John Mullen, representing the Manhattan Borough President, waived his opportunity to give a report in the interest of the Board's time.

New York State Senator Schneiderman discussed the need to defend NYC funding at the State level, particularly regarding transit and education. He noted that the time is ripe to advocate government reform.

New York Assemblymember Dick Gottfried introduced Ariana Kaiser, his new liaison to CB7.

New York Assemblymember Scott Stringer reported about his proposed reform package to address dysfunction in NY State government.

New York State Senator Tom Duane expressed his support for the NY State reform package. He proposed an Equal Rights Amendment for the State of New York.

CB7 Candidate Statements

Sheldon Fine reviewed his experience on the Board and many, many other community organizations.

Helen Rosenthal expressed her enthusiasm for the people and work of the Board.

Charles Simon discussed his residence on the West Side, his career in government, and the value of measuring Board effectiveness in improving quality of life.

George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero briefly discussed his service and enjoyment in working on the Board.

Business Session

Land Use Committee

Richard Asche, Chairperson

1. 345 West 86th Street (West End Avenue-Riverside Drive.) Illegal conversions at the Dexter House. (Approved: 33-0-0-0)

Land Use Committee Joint with Transportation Committee

Andrew Albert, Chairperson

2. 2672 Broadway (West 102nd-103rd Street.) Disapproval of new application DCA #1063188/ULURP# N010128ECM to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Plaza Mexico, Inc., d/b/a Mama Mexico, for a two-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 13 tables and 40 seats. (The resolution was not adopted: 17-19-1-0, by roll call vote)

The applicant requested approval of an expansion of the existing enclosed café. Several Board members discussed the good-standing of the restaurant and their support of the café. Others discussed the deviation of the proposed cafe from Board's sidewalk café guidelines. An alternative resolution was proposed to approve the café if the extension on Broadway was limited to 8 ft, and was disapproved (14-17-0).

3. 753 Amsterdam Avenue, 120 West 97th Street and 135 West 96th Street. Application #C010171ZSM to the Department of City Planning by Candace Parking Corp. for a special permit pursuant to allow an attended accessory

parking garage with a maximum capacity of 257 spaces in a portion of the common cellar of three buildings at 753 Amsterdam Avenue, 120 West 97th Street and 135 West 96th Street. The Full Board voted 28-0-0-3 to affirm all of the findings reached by the joint meeting of the Land Use and Transportation committees:

1) Spaces are needed to serve accessory uses

Committees: 0-7-0-0 Board Members: 0-1-0-1

Approval FAILS thus the FINDING was NOT MET

2) Insufficient parking available in the vicinity

Committees: 0-7-0-0 Board Members: 0-1-0-1

Approval FAILS thus the FINDING was NOT MET

3) Facility will not cause or contribute to traffic congestions

Committees: 2-2-2-0 Board Members: 1-0-0-1

Approval FAILS thus the FINDING was NOT MET

4) Facility will not draw traffic to residential streets

Committees: 3-1-2-0 Board Members: 0-1-0-1

Approval FAILS thus the FINDING was NOT MET

5) Reservoir spaces are adequate

Committees: 0-6-0-0 Board Members: 0-1-0-1

Approval FAILS thus the FINDING was NOT MET

Transportation Committee

4. 477 Amsterdam Avenue (West 83rd Street.) Renewal application DCA #0885881/ULRURP# N040522ECM 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. (Approved 20-3-3-0)

5. 2418 Broadway (West 89th Street.) New application DCA#1172236 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Three Friends, LLC d/b/a Georgia's Bakery, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 14 tables and 32 seats. (Approved: 29-0-0-0)

Jemethy MacKaye expressed concern about the noise generated by the café.

6. Application #1170026 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Marie Sepanski to construct and operate a newsstand on the northwest corner of Broadway and West 60th Street. Returned to Committee.

Monica Blum and Richard Juliano described technical problems with the plan.

7. Application #1170142 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by April Sepanski to construct and operate a newsstand on the northeast corner of Broadway and West 67th Street. (Approved: 21-8-1-0)

Monica Blum and Richard Juliano expressed opposition to the plan.

Craig Mooney, of Millennium Partners, argued against the newsstand on behalf of nearby stores.

April Sepanski, the applicant, showed renderings of the proposed newsstand.

8. 2127 Broadway (West 74th Street.) Application to the Department of Buildings by Fairway, 2127 Broadway, for a curb cut on West 74th Street to allow containerized garbage pick-up. (Approved 30-1-1-0)

9. 610 Columbus Avenue (West 90th Street.) Request by AJO Lumber Home Center/ACE Hardware for a 50-foot truck loading zone, Monday-Friday, 8AM-5PM, on Columbus Avenue. (Approved 30-1-1-0)

10. South Ferry station rehabilitation and reconstruction. (Approved 29-0-0-1)

Steering Committee

Hope Cohen, Chairperson

11. Intro 174-A: Requiring the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT) to share 311 data with community boards. (Approved 30-0-0-0)

By-laws Task Force, Sheldon Fine, Chairperson

Update on proposed changes to CB7's By-laws, and discussion and vote on proposed "housekeeping" changes, such as format, grammar, gender-neutral language, etc. (DEFERRED)

Present: Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Annette Averette, Hope Cohen, Sheldon Fine, Georgette Gittens, Willie Gonzalez, Jean Green-Dorsey, Phyllis Gunther, Marlene Guy, Joyce Johnson, Ulma Jones, Bobbie Katzander, Barbara Keleman, William Meyers, Eric Nelson, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Melanie Radley, Freddie Richardson, Michael Roberts, Helen Rosenthal, Ethel Sheffer, Charles Simon, Elizabeth Starkey, Patricia Stevens, Steve Strauss, Barbara Van Buren, Tom Vitullo-Martin, D. Maria Watson, Melanie Wymore, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Dan Zweig. Absent: Janet Alvarez, Doug Griebel, David Harris, Larry Horowitz, John Howell, Chris Policano, Oscar Rios, Sean Small. On Leave: Betty Katz, Barry Rosenberg

Respectfully Submitted: Melanie Wymore and Bobbie Katzander, (Co-Secretaries)

Steering Committee

Hope Cohen, Chairperson

October 25, 2004

Hope Cohen called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

Review of CB7's budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2006 NYC Capital and Expense Budgets

Helen Rosenthal, Chairperson of the Strategy & Budget Committee, reviewed the priorities, which were distributed with the meeting packet. Two Transportation and Health items were reordered, and the 59th Street subway station was included. The committee unanimously approved the transmittal of the priorities to the full board. The office will send the priorities to board members in advance of the November 3 meeting.

Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)

Ms. Cohen stressed the importance of this new 20-year plan for the City's environment and the impacts of the re-use of the 59th Street Marine Transfer Station. CB7 needs to review the Plan and make pro-active recommendations for how to address the long-term challenge of the solid waste stream. The board cannot simply say "no" to the Plan. A solution for disposal of the City's residential and commercial trash has to be found.

Penny Ryan reported on the status of the public review:

- The Plan and the Final Scoping Document for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the public process schedule are available on www.nyc.gov/sanitation. Copies are currently available at Community Board 4 and at the Riverside Branch Library. CB7 has requested additional copies. The DEIS will be released in November.

- The Department of Sanitation will hold hearings on the DEIS in December and the NY City Council will hold hearings on the Plan, possibly in November.

The committee voted unanimously to establish a SWMP task force. Charles Simon, Steve Strauss, and Sheldon Fine have agreed to serve. Klari Neuwelt, Sean Small, and Chris Policanomay also serve. Mr. Fine agreed to rejoin the Manhattan Borough President's Solid Waste Advisory Board.

Membership Development Committee report

Ms. Cohen reported.

- Asked Borough President's Office to make new appointments to fill vacancies as soon as possible.

- All of the committee chairpersons have agreed to continue serving.

- Will send out a letter to board members about their interest in continuing to serve on their current committees.

- Will follow-up with members who have problem attendance and check with members who are on leave.

- The Membership Development Committee is planning an event for February 16.

Borough Board report and selection of attendee for November.

No one attended the October Borough Board meeting. Sheldon Fine will attend on November 18. Request made to have CB7's 311 resolution on the borough board agenda.

Cross-disciplinary topics

New application for Indus Valley, 2636 Broadway for a two-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 9 tables and 23 seats and the rezoning of 245 West 60th Street will be heard at the November Land Use Committee, which is joint with the Transportation Committee.

Roundtable

Parks & Preservation – Lenore Norman

Reviewed the committee's resolution on the Riverside Park South café RFP. The office will distribute the resolution in advance of the November 3 full board meeting.

Transportation – Andrew Albert

- DOT is deciding if it will appeal the court decision preventing the closing of 72nd Street exit ramp until a new environmental impact statement is done.
- The 60th Street/Broadway Newsstand will be considered again at the November meeting.

Commerce – George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero

- The October event on home businesses at Staples went well.
- Sees a need for increased community and media outreach about the board and its activities;
- Will meet with Council Member Brewer on the project to get national retail and banking corporations more involved in the Upper West Side community.

Land Use – Hope Cohen

Development over municipal buildings will be considered at the November meeting.

Strategy & Budget – David Harris

The Citizens Committee for Children will be invited to the November meeting. Community Development and Health also invited.

Health & Human Services – Barbara Van Buren

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene representatives will attend the November meeting to discuss children's health services in CD7.

Meeting dates

Steering Committee on November 23. Full Board on December 7.

New business

Department of Parks & Recreation issued a permit for a holiday fair with 90 vendors in Central Park adjacent to Merchant's Gate for three weeks in December. Concerns about this use of Central Park and the lack of notification.

Present: Hope Cohen, Andrew Albert, Sheldon Fine, Marlene Guy, David Harris, Lenore Norman, Helen Rosenthal, Barbara Van Buren, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero. Board Member Tom Vitullo-Martin. District Manager Penny Ryan.

Absent: Barbara Adler, Richard Asche, Larry Horowitz, Bobbie Katzander, Melanie Wymore.

Community Development Committee

See Strategy & Budget Joint Committee Meeting

Transportation Committee

Andrew Albert, Chairperson

October 12, 2004

Andrew Albert called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM and introduced Margaret Forgione, the Manhattan Borough Commissioner for the Department of Transportation, who spoke about several projects that DOT has been working on in the West Side.

1. Update by the NYC Department of Transportation on changes in traffic regulations along the West 96th Street corridor.

Commissioner Forgione spoke about the 95th/96th Street interchange of the Henry Hudson Parkway, as well as the intersections of 95th/96th Sts. & West End Ave., and 96th & Broadway.

She reported that a slight change in the "green time" of the lights at 95th & Riverside Drive, as well as 95th & West End Avenue, from 78 seconds to 89 seconds, has helped to speed the flow of traffic, and ease the bottlenecks that have occurred there. During the Monday to Friday period, the green time has been extended from 34 seconds to 37 seconds. This also applies to the PM rush period.

At West End Ave & 95th Street, the green time has increased 9 seconds, and 4 seconds in the PM rush period, from 4 to 8 PM. Ms. Forgione has been at the site several times, and has personally witnessed an improvement in the throughput of vehicles in these locations.

At 96th & West End Avenue, new signage has been installed. Additionally, some parking has been removed from West End Avenue in rush hours to help speed traffic. Teacher parking for P.S. 75 has been relocated, allowing parent drop-offs on the West End Avenue frontage of the school.

The 24th Precinct has reported much fewer accidents at this location since the changes. Nilda Mesa, of the safety committee of P.S. 75 likes the new cones that have been put in place, but still expressed concern about the intersection. She would like to see a protected left turn at 96th & West End Ave - in both directions. Sgt. Smith, the new traffic safety officer of the 24th Pct. sees the issue of children vs. traffic to be an ongoing issue. It has been observed that parents are crossing 96th Street in violation of the lights, endangering their children and themselves.

2. Request by the West 104th Street Block Association to replace the four cobra head light poles on West 104th Street, West End Avenue-Riverside Drive, with three F-poles.

Steven Zirinsky, of the 104th St. Block Association, showed the committee the block's newsletter, which showed the block has been alerted about the proposed changes to the block's light poles, and the diminution to three from four poles.

The committee passed the following resolution:

Whereas the 104th St. Block Association has published notice in their newsletter that the 4 existing cobra head light poles will be replaced by 3 F-Pole lights, and

Whereas Steven Zirinsky, a member of the Board of the West 104th St. Block Association, has told the committee that no objections have been received,

Be it resolved that CB#7 supports the 104th St. Block Association's plans to install 3 F-Pole lights on 104th Street between West End Ave & Riverside Drive.

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

3. Application #1170026 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Marie Sepanski to construct and operate a newsstand on the northwest corner of Broadway and West 60th Street.

Marie Sepansky appeared without her architect, and her plans were unchanged. The committee, at the last meeting, had raised concerns about her plans not being in conformity with site conditions, specifically excluding the existence of a door that opens, and a water hatch plate on the sidewalk. Ms. Sepansky was told to draw up plans that reflect the conditions on the site before the committee would entertain any application for a newsstand.

4. Application to the Mayor's Office of Street Activity Permits by the Lincoln Square Business Improvement District for curb line and street closures on November 29, 2004 for the Winter's Eve at Lincoln Center.

Richard Juliano, of the Lincoln Square B.I.D. appeared with a request to close many locations for the B.I.D.'s Annual Winter's Eve Festival, which will take place on November 29, 2004. This will include tents on the E side of Broadway bet. 63rd & 64th Sts, as well as in front of the Time-Warner Center, and Richard Tucker Park. While the event will take place from 6 PM to 9:30 PM, the curb lanes in these locations will be utilized for the entire day. (see enclosed sheet for exact closings & locations).

The committee passed the following resolution:

Whereas the Lincoln Square B.I.D. has held Winter's Eve celebrations for several years, and

Whereas it has become a much attended & eagerly anticipated event in the Lincoln Center area,

Be it resolved that CB#7 approves the Lincoln Sq. B.I.D.'s application for

selected street & curbside closings for the Winter's Eve celebrations, Monday, November 29, 2004. (see sheet for exact locations)

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

5. Request by P.C. Richards for a truck loading zone on the south side of West 87th Street, from the Amsterdam Avenue corner, running 80 feet to the west, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 7AM to noon.

John Pflug, Gary Richard, and Wayne Fox, the store manager, (212-579-5200) appeared to ask for a loading zone for the large trailers that service the new P.C. Richards store at 87th & Broadway. They have requested 80 ft of loading zone on 87th Street, heading west from Amsterdam Avenue (approx. 4 parking spaces). The trailers come three times a week, and parking would be restored at all other times. The committee felt that it would be improper to grant this request at this time, since the block had not been notified of these plans. The representatives of P.C. Richards understood, and will endeavor to notify the block in time for the next Transportation Comm. meeting.

6. 413 Amsterdam Avenue (West 79th-80th Street.) New application DCA#1003929 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by The Magical Duck, LLC, d/b/a Ristorante La Grolla, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 11 tables and 22 seats.

No representatives came to the meeting, and the cafe was not discussed.

7. 247 West 72nd Street (Broadway-West End Avenue.) New application (change in ownership) DCA#115445/ULURP# N040265ECM to the Department of Consumer Affairs by EW HW BG, LLC, d/b/a Dougie's, for a two-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 8 tables and 26 seats.

No representatives came to the meeting, and the cafe was not discussed.

8. 2791 Broadway (West 107th-108th Street). Renewal application DCA#0735569/

ULURP#N040360ECM to the Department of Consumer Affairs by India Food International, Inc., d/b/a Indian Café, for a two-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 15 tables and 52 seats.

Representatives were present, and the following resolution was adopted:

CB#7 approves Indian Cafe's request for a renewal of their outdoor cafe.

Vote: Committee: 4-0-0-0. Public: 1-0-0-0.

9. Review of Transportation Committee priorities for the FY 2006 NYC Capital and Expense Budgets.

The committee discussed the transportation capital and expense budget priorities for the coming year, with the Chairman designated to be the liaison to the Budget Committee.

10. New Business:

- Leonard Peters brought up the issue of pedestrian safety, with bicycle delivery persons being a huge problem. The establishments he cited as the worst offenders were Famous Famiglia, Empire Szechuan, with others also a problem, such as Hunan Balcony, Texas Rotisserie, &

- Gabriela's, although to a lesser extent. Bicycles are also going contra the traffic flow, a safety problem in itself.

- Dan Zweig - cars going north on West End Avenue to 106th Street are not observing lights, and almost hitting pedestrians!

- Miriam Febus - shuttle buses operating at 96th & Broadway for the recent general orders shutting the #2 subway line down at 96th Street have become a problem, as they are parking on 97th St. bet. West End Ave & Riverside Drive, and idling - sometimes throughout the night! They are also parking on Riverside Drive. Andrew Albert will look into the problem. In any event, there was only one more weekend of service disruptions planned for the foreseeable future.

Committee Members Present: Andrew Albert, Bobbie Katzander, Charles Simon, Dan Zweig.

Committee Members Absent: Barbara Keleman, Eric Nelson, Oscar Rios.

Commerce Committee

Minutes will be uploaded as they become available.

Parks and Preservation Committee

Lenore Norman, Chairperson

October 14, 2004

1. Request for Proposal from Dept. of Parks & Preservation for the Riverside Park South Cafe at West 70th Street.

This RFP succeeds one that had been responded to by the Board in March 2001. At that time, the vendor defaulted on the contract by not moving forward with the construction.

During the summer of 2004, a temporary cafe was installed which raised a number of community concerns because it did not conform to the Board's resolution. Because of that, members of the committee met with Parks to establish the requirements. The Parks Department issued a new RFP for our comments. There were a few major changes from the original plan and these were reviewed and discussed. A consensus on all the major points with the exception of whether or not alcohol should be served or only wine and beer. K.C. Sahl, Administrator of Riverside Park and Jim Dowell, President of Riverside Park Fund was present to clarify the ambiguous statements.

2. 27 West 72nd Street Olcott Hotel

Present: H. Thomas O'Hara, Architect, Valery Campbell, Attorney and Peter Rosenberg, Manager.

Application to replace the front door on 72nd Street and install a garage door on the 73rd side of the building.

The building is being converted from a hotel to a condominium apartment house and has a preservation plan to ensure on-going maintenance of the building. The new door will replicate as closely as possible the original doors. The architect showed original drawings; but doors were not exactly built as drawn aluminum sides on the present doors will be removed, but door surrounds, which are original, will be preserved.

An accessory garage will be created in the basement to accommodate 14 cars. Entrance to the garage will be through an existing doorway which will operate automatically. Steps will be removed to accommodate a curb cut. There will be no signage. A pear tree will be removed to allow for the entrance to the garage, but 3 trees will be planted on the block. The developer needs authorization from CPC for the approval of the garage.

3. 433 Amsterdam Avenue d/b/a Haru (West 80th– 81st Street)

Present: Marcia Esquenari, Architect

Application to install a bracket sign and lights and to legalize the installation of an illuminated sign without Landmarks permits.

The illuminated sign will be retained, but will be attached to mullions rather than the metal along the top; the menu will be placed inside the glass; the awning will be removed and replaced with 3 individual awnings between the cast iron columns. The awnings will be white with black lettering. The bracket sign would be reduced in size to an 18" projection.

Because there was objection to the bracket sign in general, the resolution to approved with the exception of the bracket sign.

4. 339 West 71st Street

Present: Paul Gregory, Architect.

Application for rear extension to the building and a roof-top addition.

This application is almost identical to a previous application for 341 West 71st Street which was previously approved by the Board.

341 is a 15' 9" building. Applicant is requesting a rooftop addition and an extension in the courtyard of the building which is now unused space. The 30' rear yard will be retained. The windows will be clad in wood. The Penthouse addition is not visible from the street. The materials will be brick and block.

Committee Members Present: Lenore Norman, Phyllis Gunther, William Meyerse, Kalri Neuwelt, Michael Roberts. Board Member: Present: Melanie Radley. Committee Members Absent: John Howell, Patricia Stevens. On leave: Betty Katz.

Strategy and Budget Committee

**Helen Rosenthal, Chairperson
Joint with**

Community Development Committee

Marlene Guy, Chairperson

October 20th, 2004

Helen Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM

Determine process for developing CB7 strategies regarding after-school, day care and head start programs.

Ms. Rosenthal reported on the delay in the consolidation of after-school programs and in the issuance of a new Request for Proposals. At recent budget consultations, neither the Administration for Children Services nor the Department of Youth and Community Development would comment on the status of the consolidation. Ms. Rosenthal has scheduled a meeting with Council Member Gale Brewer's office to discuss the best way to gather data on after-school programs in CD7.

The joint committees reviewed a survey of CD7 day care agencies regarding waiting lists. Most of the agencies do not keep waiting lists, but the directors believe there is a need for more day care - in most cases for one full class per agency.

The committees also reviewed the Citizens Committee for Children's (CCC) analysis of Fiscal Year 2005 budget impacts on all services for children. Based on the complexity of the analysis, the committees decided to hold a joint meeting on November 15 and invite CCC to discuss these services and their findings. They will invite the Health & Human Services Committee to attend given their interest in children's health services.

Review of CB7's priorities and order for the FY 2006 NYC Capital and Expense Budgets.

The S&B Committee discussed the priorities submitted by each committee and then developed a consolidated list of proposed priorities. The list will be presented to the Steering Committee on October 25, and then to the full Board on November 3. Following the November 3 vote, the priorities will be sent to the Office of Management and Budget, Council Members and Borough President.

Present: S&B - Helen Rosenthal, Janet Alvarez, David Harris, Robert Herrmann, Elizabeth Starkey, Melanie Wymore.

Community Development – Georgette Gittens, Joyce Johnson, Sharon Parker-Frasier.

CB7 Chairperson Hope Cohen, District Manager Penny Ryan.

Public Member Peter Arndtsen.

Absent: Sean Smalls, Marlene Guy, Sheldon Fine, Guillermo Gonzalez.

Health and Human Services Committee

MINUTES OF 10/19/04

Meeting was opened by Chair, Barbara Van Buren.

Board Members present: Annette Averette, Barbara Keleman, Chris Policano, Freddie Richardson, Barbara Van Buren, and Elizabeth Starkey, liaison to the Budget Committee

The bulk of the meeting was a discussion of recommendations for the committee's budget priorities. In several areas which were of high concern for the committee, we still had too little information to make recommendations. The continuing concern about rats which we thought might need additional funding, is being addressed by the Commissioner, who will let us know when he has developed a comprehensive plan, which may either require a reallocation of existing funds, or additional funding.

The speaker who was to come to tell us about the school health program tonight was unavailable due to the flu vaccine shortage. The written material we had been sent was for another school district. We were told the representative would be available next month.

The budget recommendations which were made follow:

HRA: Provide funding for on-site case managers to work with individuals placed in the commercial SROs on an "emergency basis". Although each client is assigned a case manager in a central office, and the case manager is required to make monthly contacts, many HRA clients never see their workers, who do not call to make appointments, and who usually do not come back if their client is not home when they arrive. As the individuals placed are medically needy, and often have histories of mental illness and substance abuse, more frequent contacts are necessary to insure they are receiving needed services. The committee recommended a ratio of one case manager for every 40 clients, office space in the building, and computer terminals to link the case managers to Central Files. As HRA already has case managers assigned to each client, it is thought that a shift in assignments might eliminate the need for new funds for these workers. HRA is also planning to reduce the rent they are paying the owners of commercial SROs to \$60 a night per person from up to \$100. This savings could be utilized to equip case managers' offices.

Department For The Aging: We recommend an increase in the contract funding for the Senior Center Meal Programs. At the time the last contract was to be negotiated, five years ago, the community programs were told that they would be given the same increases union people were. No increases were given in salaries, or in budgetary items for the program, such as food rent, utilities, equipment, transportation, etc. Agencies are not able to keep staff who have received no cost of living increases, and they cannot afford the 14% increase in the Consumer Price Index they are expected to absorb. These are vital services for the physical and mental health of a growing senior population.

DFTA : Funding should be continued for the delivery of hot meals to the home-bound elderly from community based groups on a daily basis. The agency has changed its Meals on Wheels program in the Bronx to the delivery of frozen foods once or twice a week. There is concern that this will eliminate deliverers ability to maintain on-going assessment of the needs of the recipients. There is also question as to whether the seniors will be able to manage the new delivery system, and its increased demands on their planning skills. The new "pilot program" in the Bronx has only been operating since October 1st. No changes should be made in the other boroughs until there sufficient time passes to allow an evaluation of the impact of the Bronx changes

DFTA: Funding for existing NORC programs in our community should be maintained. These programs provide needed services to older individuals living in housing units designated as "naturally occurring retirement communities" They have proved valuable, and should be expanded if possible. The committee would also ask that consideration be given to expanding the concept of NORCs, so services are not limited to people living in buildings whose owners have agreed to participate, but rather are extended to a defined community.

Department of Health and Mental Health: The City should assess health hazards associated with pesticides used by City agencies, and develop least toxic alternatives to current pest control policies, programs, and practices. More toxic chemical pesticides are commercially applied in New York City than elsewhere in the state. Children, families, and municipal employees are regularly exposed to toxic pesticides in buildings and facilities owned and

operated by the City of New York The City has looked at the effects of pesticides used against the West Nile virus. They should give the same attention to other pesticide use.

Issues to be considered at future meetings:

- a) Domestic violence resources in CB7
- b) Medically uninsured children and families
- c) Health curriculum in schools. (Explore if Community Development Committee is looking at this.)
- d) Substance abuse resources
- e) HASA's movement in MOUs with commercial SROs
- f) Follow-up on consequences of NYCHA regulations on volunteer service.
- g) Exploration of City Council plans re the Lead Paint legislation, and the court case pending.

Meeting adjourned

Land Use Committee

Minutes will be uploaded as they become available.