

March 2005 Minutes

Full Board Meeting Hope Cohen, Chairperson

March 1, 2005 Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center

Hope Cohen called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm

The February full board minutes were approved (17-0-2)

Chairperson's Report: Hope Cohen

- **Special town hall meeting with Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott on February 16 was a great success.**

District Manager's Report: Penny Ryan

- **The Board office is continuing its work on graffiti, street vendors, and bikes on sidewalks.**
- **February Borough Service Cabinet meeting focused on rat control. Department of Health & Mental Hygiene and NYC Housing Authority reported. Last year, CD7 had the highest number of rat complaints to 311 in Manhattan. NYCHA is installing compactors at Amsterdam Houses this year and will work with CB7 on issues related to garbage handling at all CD7 developments. The Board office is receiving calls again about rat sightings and will follow-up with the appropriate agencies.**
- **The Office of Emergency Management and the Empowerment Institute held its first Manhattan-wide meeting for the emergency preparedness program All Together Now on February 26. Another Manhattan meeting will be held on March 23 at Citizens for NYC. The American Red Cross is holding a preparedness training meeting on March 7, 7 PM, at 150 Amsterdam Avenue.**

Public Session

- **Olive Freud, Committee for Environmentally Sound Development, announced a community meeting sponsored by the Sierra Club on the Department of Sanitation's Draft Solid Waste Management Plan on March 16. The Plan proposes using the West 59th Street Marine Transfer Station for Manhattan's commercial garbage.**
- **Joan Jankell, NY Public Library, spoke about extended hours on Wednesdays and Fridays at the St. Agnes Branch, 444 Amsterdam Avenue, and thanked Council Member Gale Brewer for making this possible. Branch hours are: Mondays, 12-8; Tuesdays, 12-8; Wednesdays, 10-6; Thursdays, 10-6; Fridays, 1-6; Saturdays, 10-5.**
- **Jonathan Voss, Hells Kitchen/Hudson Yards Alliance, asked people to join in opposing the West Side stadium. In response to questions about a CB7 position on this, Ms. Cohen stated the Board's policy is to support the Board that has jurisdiction, in this case CB4. CB7 would consider taking a position if asked by CB4 or if CB7 committees find it important to act.**
- **Danielle Podlucky, State Senator Tom Duane's office, reported on the successful February 24 town hall meeting at Lincoln Square Neighborhood**

Center; the February 15 vote on the State budget; and the Senator's support for the Lincoln Center West 65th Street Project.

- Christina Harvey, State Senator Eric Schneiderman's office, announced office hours (10am-4pm on Saturdays and 12:30-4pm on Fridays) at Council Member Brewer's office, West 87th Street and Columbus Avenue. Their main office is looking for interns and volunteers. Call 212-928-5578.

- Joselinne Minaya, NY County District Attorney's office, announced their summer internship program. 33% of the interns were from CD7 last year.

- Jason Haber, State Assemblyman Scott Stringer's office, reported they raised \$8000 for Tsunami victims at their February 16 event.

- Bill Crain, CUNY Is Our Future, spoke about the NYS budget undermining City College: Tuition is going up and aid is going down.

- Linda Rosenthal, Congressman Jerrold Nadler's office, reported his political asylum amendment was rejected by the House.

- Sharon Parker-Frasier, CB7, encouraged parents of K-12 public school students from West 59th-122nd Streets to run for election to the community educational councils.

- Josh Bocian, Council Member Brewer's office, announced that Dora Mendez has left. A new staff member will handle housing and social services. He has been promoted to Deputy Chief of Staff. He announced the This Side of Central Park Show; Intro 532, requiring restaurants to post delivery bike regulations; Intro 515, requiring the pasting of building numbers; and Intro 563, requiring theaters to give patrons actual start times for movies.

- Will Sneddon, owner and manager of the West 74th Street Fairway Market, introduced himself to the Board and reported on efforts to maintain the sidewalks around the market.

Manhattan Borough President's Report.

John Mullens asked Board members to send in renewal applications.

Business Session

Parks & Preservation Committee

Lenore Norman, Chairperson

1. The resolution to approve the restoration of the Minton tile ceiling at Bethesda Terrace in Central Park was adopted: 27-0-0-0. Ms. Norman complimented the Conservancy for its excellent presentation to the Committee.

Transportation Committee

Andrew Albert, Chairperson

- Mr. Albert announced the presentation on the Henry Hudson Parkway Scenic Byway initiative at the March 8 Transportation Committee meeting.

- He reported that the Committee for Environmentally Sound Development asked the Board to hold a forum to present various positions on the proposed closing of the Henry Hudson Parkway West 72nd Street off-ramp. Coalition for a Livable West Side and the NYC Department of Transportation declined to participate since the matter is in the courts. CB7 cannot hold a forum without representation from all of the parties.

2. 245 West 104th Street (Broadway-West End Avenue.) The resolution to approve the new application DCA#1187714 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Broadway 104, LLC, d/b/a Café du Soleil, for a two-year consent to operate a 9-foot-wide unenclosed sidewalk café with 18 tables and 36 seats (modified from 20 tables and 38 seats) was adopted: 26-0-1-1.

- Mr. Albert reported the Transportation Committee reviewed the revised plans and approved them 6-0-0-0.

- Alison Aguiar, building resident, asked the owner to install an awning to minimize noise and recommended no smoking. Mr. Albert said the City requires the café to be 25% non-smoking.

- Charles Simon urged the restaurant owners to continue to work with building residents to address any concerns.

3. 229 Columbus Avenue (West 70th-71st Street.) The resolution to approve the Petition to modify DCA#1186113 by FLEJ Inc., d/b/a Pomodoro Restaurant, to the Department of Consumer Affairs and obtain a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 8 tables and 16 seats, instead of the current 6 tables and 8 seats was adopted: 27-0-1-0.

4. 584 Columbus Avenue (West 88th Street.) The resolution to approve the renewal application DCA#0851262 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by New Bella Luna, Inc., d/b/a Bella Luna, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 13 tables and 35 seats was adopted: 28-0-0-0.

5. 1018 Amsterdam Avenue (West 110th Street.) The resolution to approve the renewal application DCA#1133929 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Skipwell Corp., d/b/a Bistro Ten Eighteen, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 12 tables and 26 seats was adopted: 28-0-0-0.

6. 971 Columbus Avenue (West 107th-108th Street.) The resolution to approve the renewal application #B01760 to NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission by New Special Inc., at 971 Columbus Avenue for a For Hire Base Station license was adopted: 28-0-0-0.

7. The resolution to approve the request to the Mayor's Office of Street Activity Permits by Council on the Environment to operate a GreenMarket on the north sidewalk along West 97th Street, Columbus-Amsterdam Avenues, from January 7 - December 30, 2005, was adopted: 28-0-0-0.

Present: Hope Cohen, Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Sheldon Fine, Georgette Gittens, Victor Gonzalez, Phyllis Gunther, Robert Herrmann, Larry Horowitz, Joyce Johnson, Bobbie Katzander, Barbara Keleman, William Meyers, Eric Nelson, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Luis Reyes, Oscar Rios, Ethel Sheffer, Charles Simon, Sean Small, Elizabeth Starkey, Patricia Stevens, Steve Strauss, Barbara Van Buren, Dan Zweig.

Absent: Janet Alvarez, Richard Asche, Annette Averette, Guillermo Gonzalez, Douglas Griebel, Marlene Guy, David Harris, John Howell, Ulma Jones, Chris Policano, Melanie Radley, Freddie Richardson, Michael Roberts, Helen Rosenthal, Thomas Vitullo-Martin, D. Maria Watson, Melanie Wymore, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero.

On Leave: Betty Katz, Jean Green-Dorsey.

Transportation Committee

Andrew Albert, Chairperson

March 8, 2005

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

Joint with Land Use Committee

1. 6-14 West 66th Street (Central Park West-Columbus Avenue). Application #12970BZ to the Board of Standards and Appeal by Sheldon Lobel, P.C. for an extension of term of variance for use of unused and surplus parking spaces for transient parking in a 32-story multiple dwelling. Resolution to approve was adopted. Committee: 3-0-0-0. Board Members: 2-0-0-0.

Transportation Committee

Enclosed Sidewalk Cafes

Resolution to approve #s 2-4 was adopted. Committee: 2-0-0-0. Board Members: 2-0-0-0.

2. 202 Columbus Avenue (West 69th-70th Street.) Renewal application DCA#0696556 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Lenge Saimin, Ltd., d/b/a Lenge, for a two-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 15 tables and 39 seats.

3. 366 Columbus Avenue (West 76th-77th Street.) New application (Change of Assignment of Consent) DCA#1162243/ULURP#N050005ECM to the

Department of Consumer Affairs by Jacques Imo Restaurant NYC, Inc., d/b/a Jacques-Imo's, for a two-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 14 tables and 36 seats.

4. 2483-2485 Broadway (West 92nd-93rd Street.) Renewal application DCA#0916146/ULURP#N040341 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Hussien Environmental, Inc., d/b/a Cleopatra's Needle, for a two-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 9 tables and 16 seats.

Unenclosed Sidewalk Cafes

Resolution to approve #s 5-12 was adopted. Committee: 2-0-0-0. Board Members: 3-0-0-0.

5. 201 West 79th Street (Columbus-Amsterdam Avenue.) Renewal application DCA#1125981 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Renolta, LLC, d/b/a Nice Matin, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 24 tables and 68 seats.

6. 442 Amsterdam Avenue (West 80th-81st Street.) Renewal application DCA#0953744 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 442 Amsterdam Restaurant Corp., d/b/a The Mill, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 8 tables and 14 seats.

7. 461 Columbus Avenue (West 82nd-83rd Street.) Renewal application DCA#1137611 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Basswood Restaurant Association, LLC, d/b/a Kitchen 82, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 10 tables and 12 seats.

8. 503 Columbus Avenue (West 84th-85th Street.) Renewal application DCA#0957290 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by J&D Operators, LLC, d/b/a Prohibition, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 11 tables and 22 seats.

9. 2340 Broadway (West 85th-86th Street.) Renewal application DCA#1000314 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Broadway Desserts, Ltd., d/b/a French Roast, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 24 tables and 47 seats.

10. 2450 Broadway (West 91st Street.) Renewal application DCA#0940252 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Carmines Broadway Feast, Inc., d/b/a Carmine's, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 7 tables and 22 seats.

11. 656 Amsterdam Avenue (West 92nd-93rd Street.) Renewal application DCA#1104296 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Wing Li Long, Inc., d/b/a Yuki Sushi, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 12 seats.

12. 732 Amsterdam Avenue (West 96th Street.) Renewal application DCA#1138270 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Le Se Amsterdam 732 Restaurant, Inc., d/b/a Dive Bar, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 7 tables and 17 seats.

Other

13. 921 Columbus Avenue (West 105th Street.) Renewal application #B01768 to NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission by New Superior Radio Group, Corp. at 921 Columbus Avenue for a For Hire Base Station license.

Resolution to approve was adopted. Committee: 4-0-0-0. Board Members: 1-0-0-0.

14. Application to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Mushtaq Ahmed to construct and operate a newsstand on the southeast corner of Broadway and West 67th Street.

Resolution to approve was not adopted. No action taken.

Committee: 2-0-2-0. Board Members: 1-0-0-0. The committee will report to the full Board.

Joint with Parks & Preservation Committee

Lenore Norman, Chairperson

15. Henry Hudson Parkway Scenic Byway initiative.

Hilary Kitasei, Chair, Henry Hudson Parkway Task Force, identified the needs and goals of the plan which include:

- Preservation of historic parkway character**
- Protection of scenic views - control and elimination of billboards**
- Enhancement of parks & greenway within and adjacent to the corridor**
- Improved governance & administration of the resource**
- New sources of funding for projects and goals identified in the Corridor Management Plan.**

The joint committees adopted the following resolution: 8-0-0-0.

WHEREAS, Community Board 7/Manhattan desires to protect and enhance the Henry Hudson Parkway as a significant architectural, environmental, historic, recreational and scenic resource; and

WHEREAS, the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council is pursuing the development of a corridor management plan for the parkway as a prelude to the possible designation of the Henry Hudson Parkway as a New York State Scenic Byway; and

WHEREAS, the parkway from West 72nd Street to West 110th Street in Community Board 7/Manhattan is being considered as the southern section of the scenic byway; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 7/Manhattan desires to explore issues including local control, as well as possibilities for our community by the development of the Henry Hudson Parkway corridor management plan;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan approves the concept of the Henry Hudson Parkway being designated a New York State scenic byway; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan will send representatives to attend meetings of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council.

16. Old Business Query: Have the Right and Left Turn signals been installed at Broadway and 110th Street?

Present: Transportation Committee: Andrew Albert, Sheldon Fine, Bobbie Katzander, Charles Simon, Dan Zweig. Parks & Preservation Committee: Phyllis Gunther, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman. CB7 Chairperson Hope Cohen.

Absent: Barbara Keleman, Eric Nelson, Oscar Rios.

Parks and Preservation Committee

Lenore Norman, Chairperson

MARCH 10, 2005

Committee Members Present: Lenore Norman, Klari Neuwelt, William Meyers, Phyllis Gunther

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Lenore Norman.

1. CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS APPLICATION BY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION RE RESTORATION OF THE MALL AND LITERARY WALK, 66TH TO 72ND STREETS IN CENTRAL PARK.

Gary Dearborn and John Reddington presented the design for the Central Park Conservancy. After discussion and questions, the committee decided to approve the plans.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the plans for the restoration are appropriate to the landmark design,

Community Board 7 approves the plans for the restoration of the Mall and Literary Walk.

Vote: 4-0-0-0

2. PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION RE PLANS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PLAYING FIELD AT BOOKER T. WASHINGTON/MS 54 ON WEST 108TH STREET.

Bob Redmond and Douglas Nash of DPR and Meg Rasmussen of RBA Group, landscape architects, made the presentation. The budget is about \$900,000. The yard area, currently asphalt, will be replaced by a new generation of synthetic turf for Little League and soccer. Pier 40 in the Hudson River Park has about 10 acres of this substance. New drinking fountains will be installed. If there is sufficient money, the handball courts will be moved back against the wall to increase visibility and the chain link fence will be replaced and plantings installed.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the proposed design and materials will offer significant improvements over the present condition of the playing field,

Community Board 7 approves the design for the reconstruction of the playing field at Booker T. Washington/MS 54.

VOTE: 4-0-0-0

3. CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS APPLICATION BY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR CREATION OF RIVER WALK (FORMERLY "CANTILEVER") BETWEEN 85TH STREET AND 91ST STREET AT THE HUDSON RIVER IN RIVERSIDE PARK.

Douglas Nash of DPR and Sid Burke of R.G. Rausch, landscape architects, presented the design. This project, formerly known as the "Cantilever" when that form of construction was anticipated, would connect the pedestrian and bike path between approximately 85th Street and 91st Street, where now a detour is required because the pathway west of the highway is too narrow, to the riverside path to the immediate south and north.

The Mayor has allocated \$8.6 million to the project, and the construction funds are in place. NY DEC wanted to minimize the structure, and the plans take that into account. For several blocks, the path will be built on pilings and will diverge from the bulkhead. DPR will provide a mitigation area of salt marsh on Randall's Island.

The path will have 14 feet of clear width, with separate lanes in each direction for walkers and bikers. The surface will be asphalt, and there will be Riverside Park lampposts and luminaires.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the creation of a usable pedestrian and bicycle path in the area encompassed by the River Walk has been an amenity long awaited by Community Board 7; and

WHEREAS, the new path will help to alleviate crowding on the paths in Riverside Park and will substantially contribute to the Hudson River Greenway by permitting recreational users to remain at the river's edge rather than having to detour up and into the upper park,

Community Board 7 approves the design for the River Walk in Riverside Park.

VOTE: 4-0-0-0

4. DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION PRESENTATION OF THE SCHEMATICS FOR THE WEST 69TH STREET TRANSFER BRIDGE ("NEW YORK CENTRAL TRANSFER BRIDGE NO. 4").

Michael Bradley, Executive Director of the Riverside South Planning Corporation, made the presentation. KC Sahl, Administrator of Riverside Park, and James Dowell, Executive Director of the Riverside Park Fund, were also present and participated in the discussion.

Mr. Bradley provided an update on the plans for the restoration of the "gantry" at West 69th Street and the Hudson River, in Riverside Park South. The site has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 2003. A grant totaling \$1.5 million in federal and state money was received through the T21 program, administered by NYS DOT, and NYS Parks and Coastal Resources, administered by NYS Dept. of State.

The design is being paid for by New York City out of \$250,000 paid by the Riverside South developer taken from the park budget from Riverside South, which money had originally been targeted to stabilize the structure.

The project has two components. The first is to restore the pier and structure to some past period, to stabilize it and to make it safe for public occupancy. The second component would be to provide dredging and a gate for ferry service. Mr. Bradley reported that there may be interim ferry service by New York Water Taxi at the end of Pier I at West 70th Street next spring. At some time in the future, ferry service might be provided at the 69th Street gantry instead

There was discussion about the history of the project and issues regarding concern about the use of the gantry for commercial ferry service.

The final design has not been completed.

5. PROPOSAL BY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR TWO BINOCULAR VIEWING MACHINES AT THE WESTERN TIP OF PIER I AT WEST 79TH STREET.

KC Sahl, Administrator of Riverside Park, made the presentation for DPR. An RFP had gone out for a proposal to place two coin-operated binoculars at the tip of Pier I at West 70th Street for a term of four years. Through apparent oversight, the project had not been brought to CB7 prior to the RFP going out. There was one bidder. The Committee was unable to learn who it was or what price it proposed to charge for use of the binoculars. Mr. Sahl said that if CB7 did not want the concession DPR would abandon the proposal.

The Committee was concerned that it had not had the opportunity to comment on the RFP before it went out. It was also concerned that the RFP had not arisen from a community-based need, but rather seemed a commercial intrusion that would contribute to a slippery slope of commercialism in Riverside Park South.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, Community Board 7 did not have the opportunity to consider the RFP before it was issued; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 7 is concerned that the proposed concession would contribute a bad precedent with regard to commercialism in Riverside Park South; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 7 believes that the advantages of the proposed concession do not outweigh its disadvantages,

Community Board 7 disapproves the proposal to grant a concession for coin-operated binoculars at the tip of Pier I in Riverside Park South.

VOTE: 3-0-0-0

6. REQUEST TO NYC DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION ASKING THEM TO DISCONTINUE USE OF THE NORTH SIDE OF PIER 99 (AT WEST 59TH STREET) FOR BARGE TIE-UP.

Michael Bradley, Executive Director of Riverside South Planning Corporation, made the presentation. He showed a map indicating that the water to the north of Pier 99 at West 59th Street is part of Riverside Park South. He said that the next phase of the park, Phase 4, which is now in design, will include recreational boat use of the water area in the Hudson River to the west of the park, including the north side Pier 99, where DOS has a barge tied up. He

requested a letter to DOS asking it to stop using the north side of the pier for the barge tie-up.

The Committee discussed the matter and decided that it needed to coordinate with the CB7 committee that addresses DOS issues and also with our Team SWAMP. Ms. Norman said that she would follow up.

7. DISCUSSION OF INTRO 515, A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE NYC ADMINISTRATIVE CODE IN RELATION TO STREET NUMBERS. (JOINT WITH LAND USE COMMITTEE.)

No one was present from the CB7 Land Use Committee.

The Committee discussed the proposed legislation, which would require street numbers to be displayed on buildings. The Committee was concerned about the design of street numbers in landmark districts and on individual landmarks. The Committee did not know whether the City Council sponsors had considered that issue. Ms. Norman undertook to discuss that issue with the office of Councilperson Brewer, who is one of the sponsors.

8. DISCUSSION OF INTRO 327, A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE NYC ADMINISTRATIVE CODE IN RELATION TO CONCESSIONS ON PROPERTIES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The Committee discussed the proposed legislation with Michael Bradley, Executive Director of the Riverside South Planning Corporation, KC Sahl, Administrator of Riverside South and James Dowell, Executive Director of the Riverside Park Fund.

It was agreed that the proposed legislation was intended to benefit parks. However, it was also agreed that the proposal involved complex policy and financial considerations. Ms. Norman undertook to discuss the matter with the office of Councilperson Brewer, who is one of the sponsors.

The meeting was adjourned about 9:45 p.m.

Minutes by Klari Neuwelt

Strategy and Budget Committee

Helen Rosenthal, Chairperson

March 14, 2005

Responding to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget. Helen Rosenthal testified to the City Council regarding the impact of the Mayor's Preliminary Budget on CD7. The testimony also included City Agency responses to the CB7 budget priorities. A copy of the testimony will be distributed. A suggestion was made to send a copy of the testimony to the Mayor with a cover letter stressing the importance of funding for the after-school-programs.

Update CB7's District Needs Statement. The District Needs Statement (DNS) for FY06 is available for review at www.cb7.org. The Strategy and Budget Committee members decided to each take a section of the DNS and work with specific CB7 Committees to update the DNS. The updated DNS is due in June 2005. Committee assignments are as follows:

- Commerce: Bob Herrmann
- Parks: Bob Herrmann
- Transportation: Sean Small
- Health: David Harris
- Community Development: Helen Rosenthal and Melanie Wymore
- Land Use/Housing: Elizabeth Starkey
- 59th Street Rec Center: Melanie Wymore

The Strategy and Budget Committee will not meet in April. Rather, the Committee members will attend their assigned Committee to work with them to develop their updated DNS. Penny and Helen will forward specific sections of the DNS to each Committee for their review. Helen will contact each Committee Chair.

Next meeting will be May. Date and location to be announced.

Members Present: Helen Rosenthal, Bob Herrmann, Sean Small, Elizabeth Starkey and Melanie Wymore

Members Absent: Janet Alvarez and David Harris

Health and Human Service Committee

Barbara Van Buren, Chairperson

March 15, 2005

The meeting was called to order By Barbara Van Buren, Chair.

1) The first item was a presentation by Michelle Brown, Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Homeless Services, on a project they are involved in at the public space in the Harmony residential building. (Public

spaces are provided by buildings in exchange for permission to build beyond the building code level, enhancing their income.) The residents and management of the Harmony are concerned about the extensive use of the atrium by the homeless, which they feel limits its use by the general public. At the present time a rock climbing program is operated during the day, and while there is activity, the number of homeless lessens. However, the atrium is open from 8 a.m. to midnight, and in the hours when there are no programs, the homeless congregate.

A group consisting of the Lincoln Center Bid, The Harmony staff and management, the Bowery Residents Project, The Goddard Riverside Outreach program, Rosa Mexicana, representatives of the Police and Sanitation Department, and the Community Board are meeting to look at alternative services for the homeless. There are no services provided in the Atrium, and the area is used as a lounge. It has been noted that there is no indication of criminal activity in the setting on the part of the homeless. The social service agencies are attempting to encourage the use of services at other locations. Since it has been noted that the homeless do not congregate when there is anything else going on in the atrium, the building was encouraged to develop some activities in the space.

Efforts are just beginning to have an intensive out-reach program, and for the building to consider what they want to do in the public space, and the Community Board will be updated on the results.

2) Following last month's presentation on possible Social Security Changes, the committee considered a resolution on the subject to be presented to the Board. Although this is not an area which solely affects Board 7, it is a topic which does affect the well-being of most of the residents of the Board District, as retired and current wage earners and their families, and the disabled, are all involved in the Social Security system. Changes could cause irreversible harm. As there has been no concrete proposal presented to Congress, and as there have been so many suggestions as to what could be included in the changes, it was felt we could not address all the issues which have been raised in the resolution. Because decisions will be made by Congress, the resolution called on CB7s Senators and Representatives to vigorously work to insure a full discussion and public hearings in Congress on any changes in the current system which could affect the well-being of citizens, and impact on the national debt, which would then limit other services needed by the public.

The resolution was passed 3-0-0-0 Committee Members. 1-0-0-0 Board Member. 1-9-9-9 Public Member.

Present: Committee Members Barbara Keleman, Freddie Richardson, Barbara Van Buren

Board Member : Elizabeth Starkey.

District Service Cabinet

March 16, 2005

American Bible Society

1865 Broadway (West 61st Street)

Penny Ryan convened the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

Follow-up from January 2005 meeting:

1. Anibal Aviles playground partial closure due to bricks falling from city-owned garage – Parks Dept reported that a scaffold was constructed and the situation is being corrected.

2. Repair: SEC Amsterdam & 80th Street sinkhole in street. DEP reported that the sinkhole was repaired in February. Ms. Ryan requested that Mr. David Lipsky, DEP, do a visual inspection to make sure work had been done because CB7 continues to receive complaints.

3. SROs: Kent, 155 West 83rd Street, CB7 requested that HPD conduct an overall inspection, especially for overcrowded rooms; if building is found in violation HPD will pursue court action.

4. Updates on bars and clubs and noise control:

· Fez at Time Café, 2330 Broadway (85th Street) NYPD issued two violations for underage drinking. Fez is no longer opened Sunday nights.

· El Charro, 564 Amsterdam Avenue (88th to 89th Street) – Relatively quiet lately.

· Ding Dong, Columbus and 104th Street. It was reported that the building has something going on in the basement which may be associated with the bar – 24th Pct to investigate.

· Suite, Mona, Roadhouse, Lions Head, SIP on Amsterdam Avenue, between 108th - 110th Streets. The 24th Precinct, Columbus-Amsterdam BID and CB7 will request a meeting with owners.

5. Rats – complaints growing again, will have a full report next meeting. Increased rat abatement is needed at Fredrick Douglass Park.

Projects:

· Delivery bikes on sidewalks

o The 20th Precinct identified Columbus Avenue as the most problematic avenue. The first step is to educate restaurant owners and delivery personnel. Auxiliary Officers can assist with the distribution of the 20th Pct. information flyer (also to be used by the 24th Pct). BIDs, police, and CB7 will visit owners after receiving a list of restaurants from the BIDs and Precincts.

· Graffiti

o 20th Precinct, Parks, community organizations and CB7 to identify problem areas. Some areas: AMTRAK; St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital residence, West 60th Street; WSFSSH, West 107th Street; and areas around.

o Parks Dept. used two very effective products to remove graffiti, but they are no longer receiving supplies. Ms. Ryan will check with Mayor's office on the use of the products.

· Vendors

o 20th Precinct to enforce Broadway, 59th-86th Street.

o Vendor book storage on the street continues to be a problem in the 20th precinct. In the 24th Pct, on Amsterdam Avenue, 104th – 105th Streets, vendors sell used articles on the street. Ms. Ryan said that Grosvenor House is working with the vendors to resolve this issue.

Construction Updates:

· Frederick Douglass Circle – Manhattan Avenue is now southbound to West 106th Street.

· DOT bridge inspection – West 79th Street transverse closed 3/19, 5 AM-noon.

· New electrical work scheduled April on WEA, 59th to 63rd Streets – ConEd.

· Water tunnel work scheduled for November on West 60th Street, Amsterdam-Columbus Avenue.

· Broadway and West 93rd Street – demolition.

· Mayflower site, CPW-Broadway, 61st -62nd Streets – excavation.

· 33 WEA, 61st Street – excavation.

· West 60th, Amsterdam-WEA, Touro College/Plaza Street closure on 3/19 and 20, 6AM-9PM for installation of crane

· WEA, 59th-60th Street – excavation.

· 555 West 59th Street – demolition.

Agency Reports:

Parks – 63rd to 64th Street - Samuel Bennerson Playground has graffiti – 20 Pct will inspect. Permits have been issued for the basketball tournament. Schedule will be sent to Ms. Ryan.

PSA6 – In the last 28 days, there were crimes of identity theft, assault, and narcotics.

DEP – In the last month there were 445 service requests, majority being noise and sinkholes. Lead paint complaints are increasing. Test kits are available that measure lead paint.

The 24th Pct reported that overall crime was down 30% for the last 28 days. Grand larceny still up due to unattended property. The 20th Pct reported an improvement in the 7 majors, however grand larceny continues to rise because of unattended property. Educating the community is key in reducing this crime.

DOS – Homeless problem on West End Avenue, between 59th to 61st Street. Cardboard and other objects used by homeless for sleeping and protection cannot be discarded if the homeless are present. 20th Precinct will monitor the situation.

- Northeast corner of 96th Street and Amsterdam Avenue a homeless man opens garbage bags and dirties the area.

- The Harmony atrium homeless condition is very difficult. The Lincoln Square BID is trying to resolve this issue.

Ms. Ryan adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.