

Full Board, Committee, and District Service Cabinet Minutes

COMMUNITY BOARD 7/MANHATTAN MINUTES - Full Board Meeting

Mel Wymore, Chairman

April 5, 2011

Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, 1000 Tenth Avenue at West 59th Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm and was chaired by CB7 chair Mel Wymore. The following topics were discussed and actions taken.

Approval of minutes from previous full board meeting

VOTE: 33-0-4-0.

Chair's Report – Mel Wymore

Welcome New Members:

- Jennifer Gomez; Joanne Imohiosen, Isaac Booker, Tila Duhaime.

CB7 Comments on Mayor's Preliminary Budget:

- Committee comments and responses due 4/5.

On-going activities:

- SRO Working Group – preserve affordable housing.
- Small Business Working Group – support small local businesses vs chains. First meeting 4/5.
- Open space inventory within the District – supported by 2 interns; creating database.
- Columbus Avenue Working Group – solving issues re bike lane; data expected later in Spring.
- Urban Planning Group – developing core urban planning principles; committees to comment.
- Skyline of CPW – working with Columbia University and others to identify soft development spots and anticipate future development and be proactive. Presentation at Preservation meeting Thursday, 4/14 at 6:30.
- Outreach committee.

Neighbor of the Month – Presented by Barbara Van Buren and Madge Rosenberg:

- David Reich – epitomized good neighbor. Joined 102nd/03rd Block Assn and an active force.
- Created Bloomingdale Aging in Place with Hanna Rubin. Neighbors supporting neighbors directly by shopping, visiting those in need. Creates a real sense of community. Went door-to-door to launch.
- Fostered participation by creating events to meet neighbors – Halloween parade, talks on topics of interest, social events, impromptu trips to jazz club, art exhibits, etc.
- Tapping into a great reservoir of good will in this community.

Community Session and Reports by Electeds:

Max Joel – NYSERDA energy research development authority:

- Supports conversion away from No. 6 fuel oil – dirtiest oil, most pollution-intensive.
- Solar One program helps pay for conversion to natural gas or No. 2 oil, helps scope out work needed.
- Incentives: calculate via app at Getenergysmart.org. Incentives for residential buildings only.

Alex Donn:

- CB7 should use Facebook as an easy, free way to reach out to the community.
- Central Park entrance at 103rd street. Bikes not allowed at the entrance, but no signage.

Ernie Smith & Marta White – 101 West 85th:

- Locked/blocked fire egress on Columbus Avenue between 85-86 (West side of avenue).
- Fire escapes lead to locked courtyard and rooftop with no egress. Recalls Triangle Shirtwaist fire.
- Landlord and Dep't of Buildings unresponsive. Building is non-fireproof.

Ian ALterman – president of 20th pct community liaison board (20pctissues@gmail.com; 646-489-3444):

- 20th is safest pct in Manhattan. Most common crime in our area is theft of unattended property -

be alert.

- Looking for pro bono accountant to form 501(c)(3).
- CERT team important free event Monday 5/2 at 6:30 – emergency exit strategies and recovery at Artie's Deli.

Rebecca Donsky – Bloomingdale Branch NYPL:

- Devastating budget cuts – FY12 loss of \$39M or 28% of budget. Will reduce service hours to 28 hrs/week.
- Greatest impact on children, seniors, the poor. Library use skyrocketing – programs increase at 30% pace.

Abby Velin – NYers for Clean, Livable and Safe Streets:

- Carriage horses treated inhumanely. Inappropriate for city of this size; worked to death then sold for meat.

- City Council Intro 86 calls for ban, replacing with 100% electric versions of 1920's vintage cars.

Cynthia Doty – West Harlem CSA (community supported agriculture):

- Shares still available. Via Wingflower Farm (Saratoga –Vermont area). Distribution site 114th/Bway.
- Opportunity to buy a share at beginning of growing season, receive share of produce. Helps farmers plan.

Edward Smith - GED Programs for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals:

- Greater Zion Community Action Network – at 109th Street – serving Manhattan Valley and Central Harlem.
- Offer college tours and fairs, ed skills, GED and vocational training; family literacy program; team tutoring.

Suzanne Jimenez – Office of Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer:

- Congratulations to new CB7 members. BP and staff vetted 508 applicants for all 12 Manhattan boards; 256 new applicants. Appointments made by charter deadline once again.
- Town Hall with NYCHA chairman at Rutgers Houses on Lower East Side re new security program.
- BP testified in support of the new proposed WEA Historic District.
- Infrastructure conference hosted by BP – brought together experts, electeds, others. Report to follow soon.
- BP co-hosted "NYers for Japan" event – raised \$20K in one night.

Gale Brewer, City Council, 6th District:

- Thanks to Mel for participating in Academy of Medicine aging in place presentations and working session.
- Survey underway of grocery and other stores re delivery, services for the aged.
- Hearings: 4/13 - Education Committee re PCBs in schools; 4/27 - Gov't Operations re Archives (DORIS).
- Bedbugs – Dept of Health has new portal listing best practices.
- Electronics and clothing recycling Sat 4/9 at PS 87; Open House 5/16 at Dist Office.
- Housing clinic Wednesday at Goddard-Riverside.
- Supports elimination of carriage horses, but opposes use of electric cars (should ban all cars in Central Park).

Celine Mizrahi – Rep. Jerrold Nadler's Office:

- Republicans' proposed \$70B cuts would have a huge impact on NYC block grants, arts organizations.
- Green taxi bill with Sen. Gillibrand – fuel efficiency requirements for taxi fleet.
- Called on EPA to revisit its position on hydrofracking. Seeking extended moratorium.
- Introduced bill to repeal Defense of Marriage Act.

Michael Kaplan – Assembly-Member Richard Gottfried's Office:

- State budget finalized – 3 health budget programs included.
- Accountable care org'ns – payment based on outcomes rather than volume of cases.
- All-payer SPARKS claims database keeps track of results at hospitals, treatments; protects

confidentiality.

- Rent laws not in budget, but still working on it this session.

Ben Schachter – State Senator Adriano Espaillat's Office:

- Second District Office Mondays at C-M Brewer's office on Columbus Avenue.
- Preserved funding for Title 20 for senior centers; closing unused prisons.
- \$1B cut from education; Millionaire's tax not renewed.
- Continuing working with Governor on rent regs.

Ethan Mulligan – Council-Member Inez Dickens' Office:

- Fighting to restore funding for senior centers, education. Will be limited restoration to budget.
- Reso 702 calls for the US Dept of Education to take initiative to close achievement gap among black males. Graduation rate 25%; 4th grade reading level at 25%; 8th grade at 10%

Jared Chausow – State Senator Tom Duane's Office:

- Could not support failure to restore millionaire's tax – could have restored much of cuts.
- Small restoration of cuts to senior centers, education.
- Fighting for marriage equality. Supported WEA historic district at LPC.

Business Session

Parks & Environment Committee

Klari Neuwelt and Elizabeth Starkey, Co-Chairpersons

Resolutions Re:

1. 59th Street Rec Center, 533 West 59th Street (Amsterdam-West End Avenues.) Department of Parks & Recreation's design for the outdoor space at the Center.

- Rec center built at turn of last century. Concluding 15-year effort to renovate.
- Outdoor swimming pool would cost appx \$25MM more than current budget - impossible.
- Replaced with active and passive outdoor spaces for different age groups.
- Multi-purpose field accessible from new annex.
- 2 new seating areas. Meandering pathway past seating, planting and facilities.

Patricia Ryan – Amsterdam Addition representative:

- Park budget landscape \$3.4MM (pool would have cost \$25MM minimum)

Mary Rosado – President and founder of Friends of West 59th Rec Center:

- Originally seeking pool restoration; morphed into community project. Still hoping to fund a pool.
- Not getting everything we wanted, but community came together, and open space is fitting.

Community Board Comments:

- Beautiful open space design.
- Outdoor space a mixture of hard and soft surfaces to address runoff.
- Can still install an outdoor pool if funding ever materializes. Would not disturb investment in planting.
- Many area developers contributed both cash and in-kind services. Including Extell – RSC.

After deliberation, the resolution in support was adopted.

VOTE: 44-0-0-1.

Joint with the Preservation Committee, Lenore Norman and Gabrielle Palitz, Co-Chairpersons

2. Central Park. Central Park Conservancy's proposed reconstruction of the Cherry Walk Concourse between Bethesda Fountain and the West Drive.

- Former use as parking lot – will now be a small open area for gatherings. New seating overlooking the Lake.

After deliberation, the resolution in support of the proposal was adopted.

VOTE: 42-0-0-0.

Transportation Committee

Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig, Co-Chairpersons

Resolutions Re:

3. State Assembly and Senate bills, Introductions # A7744 and S4393, which would authorize a pilot program to allow the City of New York to use camera technology to enforce existing speed limits and complement the efforts of the NYPD.

- Text of resolution changed to follow changes to the bill.

Community Board Comments:

- DC has speed cameras – dramatically cut down on speeding (81% redxn) – Scottsdale AZ 88%.
- NYS interfering with NYC self-governance
- Concern that trivial speeding will become a revenue generation device.
- Speeding is the leading cause of pedestrian fatalities in auto accidents.
- Appropriate to follow UK lead on tracking cars, drivers.
- Procedural concern – should receive the text of the proposed legislation.
- Penny – 2009 bill was e-mailed with board package – 2011 version will be similar.

After deliberation, the resolution to support the proposed bill was adopted.

VOTE: 37-6-2-0.

4. Accessible NYC taxi-cabs.

- Friendly amendments to text accepted.
- NYC about to purchase a new fleet of taxis – need to be accessible to all.
- Wheelchair accessible units will be expensive. San Francisco has completely accessible fleet – can be done.
- If all cabs accessible, burden evenly spread and fare structure preserved. More efficient than Access-a-ride.

After deliberation, the resolution to support accessible cabs was adopted.

VOTE: 43-0-2-0.

Business & Consumer Issues Committee

Michelle Parker and George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Co-Chairpersons

Resolutions Re:

5. Applications to the SLA for a two-year liquor licenses:

After deliberation, the following resolutions in support of two-year liquor licenses were adopted:

- 2 West 77th Street (Central Park West.) Café at the New-York Historical Society, Starr Restaurants Catering Group, d/b/a “To be determined”.

VOTE: 40-0-1-0

- 2799 Broadway (West 108th Street.) Broadway Grocery LLC, d/b/a Cascabel Taqueria.

VOTE 43-0-0-0.

6. 1 Lincoln Plaza (West 64th Street.) Renewal application DCA# 1137714 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Fiorello’s Roman Café, Inc., d/b/a Café Fiorello, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 32 tables and 64 seats.

Richard Giuliano – Lincoln Square BID:

- Supports renewal application. Applicant is well-established community partner.
- Provides numerous jobs, some of which could be lost without café.
- Fiorellos is in compliance with City’s regulations.

Community Board Comments and Questions:

- History. CB7 originally disapproved of café wider than 9'. Approved by agency at 11'.
- Café actually wider due to overhanging arcade as part of the Lincoln Square Special District. Café tables allowed as of right and without cost under arcade without a permit except for a 6' walkway.
- Operator needs the 6' space for logistics, so entire sidewalk is given away.

MOTION: (Tom Vitulla-Martin) to return to committee with instructions to limit to CB7 guidelines of 9'.

Board Comment on Motion:

- Committee should provide reasons to deviate from policy of 9' cafes.

- Issue is not whether to have a café, but its width.
- Question whether all tables are needed.
- Photos show difficulty for pedestrians to pass one another.
- An additional 2' would help pedestrians and would not harm business.
- Important amenity to the area.

After deliberation, the motion FAILED.

VOTE: 14-27-0-0.

Board Comments and Questions on the Original Resolution:

- Proposal to move café back into the corridor between the building and the café compromises egress.
- Café is an amenity for the area and tourism (European feel). Must accommodate business needs.
- Restaurants are consistently packed. Ambiance important especially in this District.
- Unfair to single out one in a series of side-by-side cafes. Should work with all cafes equally in a proactive way going forward to find additional pedestrian space.
- Cafes are attractive.
- Should find a fair long-term solution to share the space equitably.
- Sidewalk leading to Lincoln Center, movies, restaurants, shops - very crowded. Should limit if possible.
- Should reduce to standard CB7 9' rule.
- Should not move the busstop to accommodate cafes. Many buses ply this route.
- FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: add to resolution that committee will work with BID and restaurant owners to address concerns in a uniform solution.

After deliberation, the resolution to approve the application was adopted.

VOTE: 23-17-3-0.

7. Unenclosed Café Renewal Applications:

- 421 Amsterdam Avenue (West 80th Street.) Renewal application DCA #0885890 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Café Monaco Corp., d/b/a Café Monaco, for a two-year consent to operate and unenclosed sidewalk café with 14 tables and 34 seats.
- 423 Amsterdam Avenue (West 80th – 81st Streets.) Renewal application DCA# 0981250 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by BSWR Corp., d/b/a Sarabeth's, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 7 tables and 16 seats.
- 2745 Broadway (West 105th- 106th Street.) Renewal application DCA# 1025180 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Grillo, LTD, d/b/a Henry's, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 32 tables and 94 seats.

After deliberation, the resolutions to approve the applications were approved.

VOTE: 40-1-1-0.

Re-Apply Café Application:

8. 261 Columbus Avenue (West 72nd Street.) Reapply application DCA #1111397 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Pggs Gourmet, Inc. d/b/a Columbus Gourmet Food, for a two-year consent to operate and unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 16 seats.

WITHDRAWN

• NOTE: concern over substituting public notice of a committee hearing, where an issue may be discussed at length, for public notice of a full board meeting where time is limited does not meet purpose of notice.

New Unenclosed Café Applications:

9. 475 Columbus Avenue (West 83rd Street.) New application DCA# 1382144 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Il Rifugio, Inc., d/b/a Tarallucci E Vino, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 11 tables and 22 seats.

- Applicant reconfigured per committee request.

After deliberation, the resolution to approve the application was adopted.

VOTE: 40-1-1-0.

10. 217 West 85th Street (Broadway.) New application DCA# 1380682 to the Department of Consumer

Affairs by Broadway 21, LLC, d/b/a Prime Ko, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 7 tables and 19 seats.

Chair's Introduction:

- On side street, about 100 feet in from Broadway. Former La Cucina, which had a sidewalk café for years.
- Committee rejected based on strong opposition from residents, especially 1 co-op board across street.
- Applicant offered assurances and modifications to its mode of operations after committee meeting. Including early closing times and other changes to address noise inside on the street and sidewalk.
- Would close sidewalk café by 11 every night; Close windows to street by 10; Notify block of special events.
- Put out trash early morning, break down and store café furniture in store.
- Instruct staff to mitigate double-parking and street blockage.

Public Speakers:

Joey Allaham - on behalf of applicant - owner:

- Is a restaurant, not nightclub. Put a lot of money into space. Improved ambiance.
- Working with the committee.

Steve Traub – director of operations of Prime Ko:

- Not club or lounge – neighborhood restaurant.
- Last owner was not as responsible and yet received café renewals without question.
- Neighbor complaints were re noise of customers leaving the restaurant, not music.
- Just an eatery – no dancing.

Charles Abbott - 202-14 Owners corp – coop across street:

- Prime Ko has done a good job. Beautiful renovation.
- But objects to outdoor café – restaurant has become a place to party – tough to control.
- Disrespectful conduct of patrons – long after closing time. Idling and waiting for cars – noise on street.

Kristen Summers:

- Should not consider a renewal. New restaurant, new applicant. Deceptive.
- Concerned that a unanimous opposition at committee is being reconsidered without community present.
- No mention made at committee of possible discussion possible approval based on changes/concessions.
- Applicant made no effort to reach out to this community. Should defer and refer back to committee.

Martin - Lives at 2350 Bway, 12th floor – above applicant:

- Nice restaurant – not a lounge. Does serve the community – limited number of Kosher restaurants.
- Supports keeping kosher restaurants in neighborhood.
- Neighbor concerns focused on a Purim celebration - not typical of restaurant or clientele.
- No more people lingering outside Prime Ko than French Roast. Should approve.

Darren Dabora - Area Resident:

- New restaurant is quieter than former. Not a nightclub or hot spot. No longer open to the air.
- Fair is fair. Should approve.

Committee Chair:

- Request additional accommodation - staff to monitor departing patrons and idling cars.

[Applicant Agreed to request.]

Board Comment:

- Café is appropriate size and does not interfere with pedestrian traffic.
- No problem just as there was none with predecessor (La Cucuina), which received renewals.

- Important amenity for growing population of observant Jews on UWS.
- Noise comparable to French Roast next door.
- Concessions made by applicant are excessive, should take the deal on the table.
- New place is quieter than previous.
- Restaurant open 9 months - no formal complaints to police.
- Concessions offered by applicant are reduced to writing that can be incorporated into resolution.
- Noise concerns relate to departing patrons, not parties. Applicant concessions will address.
- Concern whether CB7 policy re side street cafes is sufficiently definite and followed uniformly.
- General CB7 policy against cafes on residential side streets is a good policy.
- Concern that side street café will create squeeze out service establishments on sidestreets.
- Concern about setting a precedent in favor of side street cafes.
- CB7 policy "discourages" side street cafes.

MOTION (Hope Cohen): Disapprove the application (seconded).

- Start of discussion should have been policy against side street cafes.
- Should not be giving away public sidewalk – this should have been a simple case.
- Concern that residents who objected at Committee are not present for discussion to revive application.
- If café were not on side street, accommodations would be sufficient. Side streets to be treated differently.
- Idea of a conditional 1-year approval will not be taken seriously by Agency. Should not attempt.
- "Policy" against side street cafes is only to "discourage" - not set in stone.
- Applicant has already gone out of its way to accommodate any reasonable concern.
- Other restaurants do not get this level of scrutiny.
- CB7 has had success in working with owners to abate noise.
- Committee chairs feel that, with accommodations requested of applicant, CB7 should approve.
- Neighbors raised no serious objections to prior renewals.
- This block can handle this café.
- Already handles neighboring wrap-around café at French Roast on the corner.
- Should thank applicant for concessions.
- Since DCA can overturn CB7 recommendations, smart to make the best deal possible now.

CB7 Chair:

- Request that BCI committee revisit and review café guidelines.

MOTION to Disapprove: after deliberation the motion to disapprove FAILED.

VOTE: 11-26-4-0.

ORIGINAL RESOLUTION: AMENDED to approve with conditions as agreed by applicant (including applicant's written concessions plus applicant agreement to assign a staff member to ensure noise abatement and double-parked cars from 10 until last customer leaves).

After deliberation, the resolution to approve the application was adopted.

VOTE: 27-8-5-0.

11. 203 West 103rd Street (Amsterdam Avenue.) New application DCA# 1380748 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 201 West 103 Corp., d/b/a Buca, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 5 tables and 10 seats.

- On a side street. Prior restaurant did not have a café.
- Narrow street, also on the main access path between subway and Youth Hostel.
- Cannot approve every exception if our policy against side street cafes is to have any meaning.
- Unlike last applicant, this owner did not take this space with any reasonable expectation of a cafe.
- Should follow rules.

After deliberation, the resolution to approve the application failed.

VOTE: 13-21-3-0.

MOTION (seconded) to disapprove ("Whereas it is on a sidestreet, ...")
After deliberation, the resolution to disapprove the application was adopted.
VOTE: 20-6-4-0.

Adjourn: 10:55

Present: Mel Wymore, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Issac Booker, Elizabeth Caputo, Louis Cholden-Brown, Hope Cohen, Kenneth Coughlin, Page Cowley, Mark Darin, Mark Diller, Tila Duhaime, Robert Espier, Miki Fiegel, Sheldon J. Fine, Paul Fischer, Marc Glazer, Jennifer Gomez, Victor Gonzalez, Phyllis E. Gunther, Joanne Imohiosen, Ulma Jones, Blanche E. Lawton, Marisa Maack, Dalia Mahmoud, Lillian Moore, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Gabrielle Palitz, Michele Parker, Nick Prigo, Anne Raphael, Oscar Ríos, Suzanne Robotti, Madge Rosenberg, Gabriella Rowe, Roberta Semer, Ethel Sheffer, Elizabeth Starkey, Barbara Van Buren, Thomas Vitullo- Martin, Cara Volpe, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero and Dan Zweig. Absent: Brian Byrd, Haydee Rosario, Helen Rosenthal and Eric Shuffler.

Housing Committee Meeting Minutes
Victor Gonzalez, Chairperson
April 11, 20011

The agenda consisted of several updates and three new issues.

Updates:

Trinity School – there was a scheduling conflict causing the meeting with HPD to be put off to next month.

John Peluso, resident, spoke about real estate taxes affecting co-ops and condos. He explained that the method of calculating real estate tax is a blanket assessment based on equivalent rentals in the area. He maintained that this is unfair to co-op and condo owners and puts an inequitable tax burden on them. His assessment is that co-ops and condos pay much more real estate tax than other housing units. His concern is that condo and co-op real estate tax will double in the next five years putting an unfair strain on owners, many of whom live on fixed incomes.

Victor decided that we must investigate the background information supplied by Mr. Peluso. We will do so and discuss at next month's meeting.

Bob Wyman, resident, spoke of NYSERDA's new incentive program to encourage residential buildings to switch from #6 fuel oil to #2 or natural gas. While he fully supports such conversions, he is concerned about an unintended consequence of the incentive program. MCI (major capital improvements) allows landlords of rent stabilized apartments to pass along all capital expenditures costs to their residents. In addition, landlords would also be able to file for NYSERTA reimbursement to cover up to 80% of the cost of the conversion under the new incentive program. A third concerning point is the conversion of fuels should save the landlord 30% in fuel costs every year, so the apartment dweller should have to pay for the landlord to save money.

This also affects rent controlled apartments because landlords are allowed to pass along fuel increases annually. The calculation is set by a board and is calculated based on the previous year consumption. The calculation does not take into consideration a change in fuel types. Example: A landlord can charge an approved increase in #6 fuel oil costs of (say) 2-3% even though the landlord might have changed to natural gas and actual fuel cost has dropped (say) 30%.

Therefore, let it be resolved

1. To adjust value assessed for MCI to reflect cost net of all grants, reimbursement programs and incentives regardless of source.

2. Exempt from MCI increases all investments which have the projected result of reducing operating costs 10% or more of that line item/expense category.

Approved

6-0-0-0

1-0-0-0

Lane Altshuler, resident of 465 Central Park West would like it known that his building was a beneficiary of J-51 tax exemption starting in 1997. However when he moved into the building in 2000 he was not offered a rent stabilization rider as is required by law. He instead was told the building was not rent stabilized.

The landlord is now refusing to renew rental contracts in preparation to turn the building into a co-op. This violates rent stabilization laws that require lease renewals.

Mr. Altschuler believes that this landlord has harmed all the residents of his building by this action and suspects that the landlord had committed similar harm to the residents of his other buildings.

Mr. Altschuler also believes that other landlords break the same laws because there is so little oversight and enforcement. His experience in complaining to the DHCR was that they would not work with him because his lease started more than four years ago, even though he is complaining about fraud. Mr. Altschuler has also spoken with Assembly Member Danny O'Donnell's office without satisfaction.

The committee referred him to Gale Brewer's monthly meetings on housing issues and assured him that he would meet the proper authorities there. He was also give the business card of Lewis Cholden-Brown because the law firm that employs Mr. Cholden-Brown handles such cases.

Update: SROs

Mel Wymore reported on the ongoing issue of SRO buildings on the Upper West Side. Many, if not most, SRO buildings on the Upper West Side have been converted to uses (hotels, social programs, dorms, hostels, etc.) more profitable than permanent affordable single-room housing. Many of the new uses (especially budget hotels) are not permitted by zoning laws. Last year, the State legislature passed a law to prohibit the use of SRO's as hotels. The law is scheduled to go into effect on May 1, 2011, but opponents have taken measures to block the law. It's not clear what will happen. Mel stated that SRO's in NYC have a complex history, both financially and legally. CB7 has established a working group (CB members, elected officials, and community groups) to explore ways in which SRO's can be utilized in a financially viable way that also provides permanent affordable housing.

Present: Victor Gonzalez, Mark Darin, Marisa Maack, Lillian Moore, Nick Prigo and Suzanne Robotti. Board Member: Louis Cholden-Brown. Chairman Mel Wymore. Absent: Robert Espier and Gabriella Rowe.

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes
Andrew Albert and Dan Zweig, Co-Chairpersons
April 12, 2011

1. Request by Greenmarket for the use of the sidewalk on the W/S of Columbus Avenue between

76th and 77th Street for the Sundays of September 25, October 2 and October 16, when the craft fair is at the Theodore Roosevelt Park. Chris Gatto the Greenmarket manager explained that they need additional space on Columbus Avenue for 6 farmers on the curbside. They have tents that are approximately 10 feet by 10 feet. All the other farmers will be inside the playground. There will be nine feet of sidewalk.

Motion to approve the use of the W/S of Columbus Avenue between 76 and 77 Streets on the Sundays of September 25, October 2 and October 16 by six farmers.

Motion carried: 10:0:0:0

2. 96th Street update: The turn arrow at 96th and West End Ave has been made longer at the end of green phase. Additionally the northwest side of WEA at 96th is supposed to be day lighted. The Transportation Committee will meet at the Broadway Mall Center on 96th and Broadway on Thursday April 28th at 8:30 am to see what the situation is.

3. DOT Update:

Two speed bumps were approved for 93rd between Columbus and Amsterdam and 2 speed bumps between Broadway and Amsterdam. There is a back log to place speed bumps.

On Amsterdam at 87th, there is a metal rod sticking up.

DOT considers priority schools where there have been a certain number of accidents

DOT is looking for the Transportation Committee to recommend 10 "Stop Here on Red" signs for Broadway. We need to decide which are the ten worst streets.

The Transportation Committee will request a stop sign requested at stop sign at Manhattan Avenue and 103rd.

A motion to create speed restrictions by all schools in CB7 which might include: 20 miles speed limits, traffic calming, signage, speed bumps, flashing lights, cameras where appropriate was approved: 10:0:0:0

3: Update on Columbus Avenue Working Group by Mel Wymore. The working group has recommended shortening left turn mixing lane, clarify signage and consolidate parking. Jessie Bodine has worked out some parking issues on Columbus between 94 and 93rd streets and has looked at problems on 95-96th and 86 to 87th. DOT has agreed to remove 30% of signs and will improve signage. The working group is looking for data in 4 areas: traffic safety, bike volumes, car volumes, and speed of trips north to south. DOT will also look at bikes using side walks. CB7 would like to know the number of bikes not in bike lane.

The working group will meet again in May with Transportation Committee.

DOT will use an interactive community process going forward.

Trees will be planted in May. Block associations and community organizations can work with CB7 to plant and care for the planters..

4 New Business

Discussion of the proliferation of food carts by Avi Weiss 408-460-0630. We will need to create a CB7 policy

Present: Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Ken Coughlin, Marc Glazer, Ulma Jones, Blanche Lawton, Anne Raphael, Oscar Rios and Roberta Semer. Board Member: Tila Duhaime, Mark Darin. Chairman Mel Wymore. Absent: Lilian Moore and Dan Zweig.

Business & Consumer Issues Committee Meeting Minutes
Michelle Parker and George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Co-Chairpersons
April 13, 2011

Application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license:

- 45 West 81st Street (Columbus Avenue) Calle 8, LLC, d/b/a Calle Ocho.
APPLICANT DID NOT SHOW, NO VOTE WAS TAKEN

- 413 Amsterdam Avenue (West 79th Street) Flagship SB Amsterdam NY, LLC, d/b/a Saravana Bhavan. Represented by Anthony Caraballo, 718 875 2929 expeditor and Mr. Ramaioh, owner. Open 7 days 8:30 AM to 11:00 PM.
COMMITTEE APPROVES 7-0-0-0 Non-Committee, Board: 2-0-0-0

- 949 Columbus Avenue (West 106th Street) 949 Columbus Ave Inc., d/b/a Voza Represented by Ms. Stacy Weiss, attorney 212 521 0828, and Mr. Ernest Tallja, owner. Ground floor and basement, 62 seats. September opening.
COMMITTEE APPROVES 7-0-0-0 Non-Committee, Board: 2-0-0-0

SIDEWALK CAFÉ APPLICATIONS

2. 53 West 72nd Street (Columbus Avenue.) Renewal application DCA# 1160306 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by P.S. Café, Inc., d/b/a My Favorite Bistro, for a two-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 13 tables and 26 seats. Represented by Mr. Singh 917 721 0769.
COMMITTEE APPROVES 7-1-0-0 Non-Committee, Board: 2-0-0-0

3. 466 Amsterdam Avenue (West 82nd – 83rd Streets.) Renewal application DCA# 1357229 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Sushi Hana Fusion, Inc., d/b/a Sushi Hana, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 8 tables and 22 seats.
APPLICANT DID NOT SHOW, NO VOTE WAS TAKEN

4. 467 Columbus Avenue (West 82nd -83rd Streets.) New application DCA# 1384273 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Canteen 82, Inc., d/b/a Blue Caravan, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 9 tables and 18 seats. Represented by Mr. Mark Kazzmarek. Also present was Mr. Allan Lipkin, a resident of 83rd st who complained about the noise from the restaurant's air conditioner which is located on the roof of the backyard extension. Applicant agrees to make immediate repairs to the air conditioning system.
COMMITTEE APPROVES 7-1-0-0 Non-Committee, Board: 2-0-0-0

5. 513 Columbus Avenue (West 84th -85th Streets.) New application DCA# 1384479 to the Department of Consumer Affairs by 513 Columbus Avenue, d/b/a Cotta, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 23 tables and 44 seats. Represented by Mr. Sergio Riva, manager. The applicant was reminded that he had agreed to install awnings on this café in response to complaints from the tenants about the noise from the café. (Request was made and agreed to when the applicant presented his application for a liquor license.)
COMMITTEE APPROVES 7-1-0-0 Non-Committee, Board: 2-0-0-0

NEW BUSINESS

1. Complaint presented by Ms. Stacy Handker, 212 542 8882 and Avi Weiss concerning the food trucks parked on West 71st st. and Broadway. Complaints include food odors, idling vehicles, and litter. Arguments developing between the trucks vying for space and potential fire hazards. Applicants have already collected 100 signatures on their petition drive.

COMMITTEE PROPOSES JOINT MEETING WITH TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

2. NEW CAFÉ POLICY GUIDELINES. Working group forming to discuss enclosed and unenclosed café guidelines. Members to include George Zeppenfeldt, Michelle Parker, Linda Alexander, Marc Glazer, Susan Rubattie. Other interested Board members also invited to join.

Present: George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Michele Parker, Linda Alexander, Elizabeth Caputo, Paul Fisher, Marc Glazer, Ulma Jones and Anne Raphael. Board Member: Louis Cholden-Brown and Suzanne Robotti.

Absent: Dalia Mahmoud.

Parks & Environment Committee Meeting Minutes Klari Neuwelt and Elizabeth Starkey, Chairpersons April 21, 2011

The meeting was held at the Central Park Visitor Center at Tavern on the Green. Thank you to Doug Blonsky, Administrator of Central Park and President of Central Park Conservancy, Dan Daily, Caroline Greenleaf and other DPR staffers who welcomed us.

1. Presentation by Sara Jayanthi, NYSERDA Energy Smart Communities Coordinator on newly announced NYSERDA grant program to partially finance conversion of heating plants burning No. 6 fuel to cleaner fuels in residential buildings with 5 or more units.

The program offers \$6.5 million in incentives to help multi-family buildings switch to cleaner fuels, such as natural gas, No.2 oil or other clean energy sources in an effort to provide a healthier and cleaner environment. It is a statewide program. NYSERDA has already received 50-60 applications. The program lasts until November 2011 or until the funds are exhausted. More than 9000 buildings in NYC burn No. 6 oil fuel (In CB7, there are approximately 350 buildings which burn No. 6 oil). The amount of the incentive for each building will be based on the amount carbon emissions are reduced over a 10-year period through conversion to cleaner fuels. The incentive is capped at \$175,000 per project or 80% of the total cost, whichever is less. Sara provided an Application Form and Program Guidelines. These will be posted on CB7 website, along with links to a full program description as part of the committee's outreach to eligible building owners in CB7. Sara pointed out that buildings owned by religious institutions or NFP organizations are not eligible for this NYSERDA program but that there are other incentive programs available. For owners of 1-4 family houses, Con Edison has an Oil for Gas conversion program with rebates. Sara also spoke briefly and left information (which will be posted on CB7 website) about NYSERDA's Multifamily Performance Program which includes a complete energy assessment and

incentives to improve energy efficiency. On April 21, 2011, Mayor Bloomberg presented an update of the PlaNYC which included phasing out of No. 6 fuels by 2015.

2. Presentation by Jennifer Lantzas, from the Dept. Of Parks and Recreation/ Public Art Program, about upcoming public art exhibit in Riverside Park South. The exhibit, by seven artists from the Art Students League, will be on view from July 2011 through April 2012 at various sites south of 72nd St., along the Hudson. Five of the seven artists were present at the meeting and spoke briefly about their work and its inspiration: Noa Shay, Allston Chapman, Elizabeth Allison, Selva Sanjines and John Balsamo. The program is jointly sponsored by the Art Students League. For a preview, go to www.nyc.gov/mcb7. The committee received assurances that the art would be firmly and safely installed and sited so as not to obstruct or interfere with recreational uses in the park. The committee voted 8-0-0 to approve the project.

3. Presentation by Zhen Heinemann, Recreation Manager from Riverside Park about upcoming Summer on the Hudson 2011 program. Ms. Heinemann described this incredibly popular, free, summer-long (and into the fall) series of events in Riverside Park, including movies, concerts, dance (including an Irish Dance Festival and a learn to dance session on Pier I), poetry readings, fishing festival, West Side Country Fair and so much more. New programs include a program for young cyclists, Learn to Ride! with Bike and Roll NYC on May 28 as well as Light up Your Bike program, with Bike New York, on Nov. 14 where cyclists can get “blinky lights” as well as tips on safe riding. Asked about funding for the program, Ms. Heinemann said she had been running the program on vapors, i.e., money in her budget that was running out. She will be looking for a sponsor for next year’s program. Ms. Heinemann also spoke briefly about Parks Greeter Corps, a group of motivated volunteers who are deployed into the parks to inform park users about available programs and amenities and also report back on the park’s condition and environment. Anyone wishing to volunteer can sign up at nyc.gov/parks/greetercorps or call 212-360-8287.

4. Presentation by Bike and Roll on new bicycle rental location at Tavern on the Green. Scott Cavanaugh, president of Bike and Roll, spoke about the latest of its 10 bicycle rental locations to open in NYC, at Tavern on the Green. Bike and Roll will continue to operate rental location at Columbus Circle, but kids’ bicycles have been moved to the Tavern location where they will enjoy the use of the former parking lot. Starting on Sunday, May 15, and every Sunday through Labor Day, Bike and Roll will provide free bikes and free cycling lessons. The committee had concerns about the two containers in the parking lot, their size and color. Scott said they were standard size containers (8 ft. high) and had been painted Central Park green. He will check to make sure the tops of the containers had been painted. Many innovations in the operation are underway. Bikes can be picked up at one location and dropped off at another. Because almost 35% of their clients are NYC residents (who don’t have space to keep a bicycle), Bike and Roll will be offering a seasonal membership which would sharply reduce the price of the rental. Bike and Roll has a concession for one year with option to renew. In addition to the rental locations, Bike and Roll sponsors city-wide tours, including one that passes through RSP at 72nd St., on the shared pedestrian/cyclist path. Scott said he would advise his tour leaders not to congregate on that section of the path. Scott indicated interest in working with CB7 on some of the cyclists’ issues in the district.

5. Update on Committee Discussions:

- **Public use of private ball fields in RSS:** Councilmember Gale Brewer reported on follow-up meeting and discussions with Extell over the use of the private ball fields. A meeting was held on April 4 with the coaches of all the student/organized sports teams, including public and private school teams, and Little League soccer and softball teams, to discuss their use of the field. The schools need the fields for practice between Monday and Friday. The Little Leagues need the fields for games on the week-end. Given the 4-hour, 6 day/week schedule proposed by Extell, it is expected that the needs of the organized youth sports teams will fill the available slots. The \$25/hr fee will be waived for public schools. The schedule and the rules and regulations for use of the fields are being drafted. We will ask Extell to return to the committee for an update in June. Thanks from the committee and community to Gale for her good work on this issue.

Central Park Police Precinct enforcement of traffic signals with regard to cyclists in Central Park. Council Member Brewer has organized a meeting of the stakeholders, DOT, NYPD, CPC, CB7, TA, Road Runners, etc. to discuss the issue. It will take place on Tuesday, April 26 at 12 noon at the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center, on 110th St.

DPR signage on shared pedestrian/cyclist paths. There has been no formal response to the letter from the committee to Adrian Benape, Doug Blonsky and John Herrold, on the exact language on signs in both parks where there are shared pedestrian/cyclist paths. However, there does seem to be a growing consensus that signs in Central Park and RSP should be the same. The committee will follow-up on signage in RSP at 72nd St., where the Dismount signs are still up.

CB7 Resolution on Schools burning Dirty Heating Oil. This resolution which passed the full board unanimously in February is now being considered by the Borough Board. The discussion at the Borough Board was very favorable and the resolution will be voted on at the April meeting. Councilmember Brewer has followed up with a strong letter to DOE, which produced additional information about the DOE's plans to remedy the problem, including plans to convert to cleaner fuels so that there will be no schools still burning No.6 fuel by 2015.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 16.

Present: Elizabeth Starkey, Klari Neuwelt, Ken Coughlin, Mark Darin and Suzanne Robotti. **Chairman** Mel Wymore. **Board Member:** Isaac Booker and Tila Duhaime. Council Member Gale Brewer. **Absent:** Elizabeth Caputo, Phyllis Gunther, Nick Prigo and Tom Vitullo-Martin.