

# FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2021 at 6:30pm via ZOOM

Steven Brown, Chairperson

**Present:** Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Daniela Alvarado, Rosa Arenas, Richard Asche, Kristen Berger, Steven Brown, Elizabeth Caputo, Courtney Clark Metakis, Joshua Cohen, Christian Cordova, Ken Coughlin, Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Mark Diller, Beverly Donohue, Robert Espier, Sheldon Fine, Paul Fischer, Miranda Goodwin-Raab, Madelyn Innocent, Audrey Isaacs, K Karpen, Natasha Kazmi, Doug Kleiman, Blanche Lawton, Sara Lind, Ira Mitchneck, Klari Neuwelt, Michele Parker, Jeannette Rausch, Seema Reddy, Andrew Rigie, Richard Robbins, Madge Rosenberg, Peter Samton, Susan Schwartz, Roberta Semer, Ethel Sheffer, Polly Spain, Erana Stennett, Benjamin Wu and Howard Yaruss.  
**Absent:** Catherine DeLazzerio, William Ortiz, Melissa Rosenberg and Meg Schmitt.

The full Board of Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, on the Zoom online platform. Chair Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm after the Secretary confirmed a quorum was present. The following discussions were had and actions taken.

**Chair's Welcome** – Steven Brown:

- In the chat, there will be a form for the public to sign up to speak. The goal is to maximize time for the public to speak. Please sign up in the chat and specify which topic you would like to speak.
- We are diversifying our public safety session by also having the NY Fire Department (FDNY) speak as well.

## Public Safety Session

**Battalion Chief Steven Spall, FDNY** – I am one of five battalion chiefs (9<sup>th</sup> battalion). I was on duty during the recent fatal fire incident. I am trying to improve public safety by educating and being available. A few days prior to the incident, we had a change of the clocks. At the change of the clocks, you should change the batteries in your smoke detectors. There was not a working smoke detector in the building. One of the residents realized and raised the alarm. It's that simple. A working smoke detector would probably have avoided the loss of life here. I am here to answer any questions.

**Captain Neil Zuber, NYPD 20<sup>th</sup> Precinct:** The Thanksgiving Macy's Day parade was very well attended, along with the balloon inflation event. It was fantastic to have it back – it was my first time working the parade. We are facing the same issues mentioned in previous meetings. Larcenies are driving the crime in the precincts – unintended property being stolen, shoplifting, packages from e-shopping being stolen. The buildings should be secured, and the packages should be secured and out of view. Expensive bicycles and ebikes have been stolen recently. The bikes need to be secured inside buildings also – do not leave them unlocked in lobbies or hallways. There are also many cold call scams via phone or email asking people to pay thousands of dollars. The scams include computer viruses, IRS, FBI, Social Security, etc. The con people bait you into giving up personal information. If you get a call like this, pause, and call the police! Reach out to your local police department for guidance. If something seems wrong, it probably is!

**Deputy Inspector Naoki Yaguchi, Commanding Officer of the 24<sup>th</sup> Precinct:** Happy Holidays! We are up in crime this past month. Relative to last year, we are 97 versus 69 for robberies; 13 versus 9 for felonies; 16 vs 13 for misdemeanors which is down by one quarter. Grand larcenies are leading the numbers – mostly identity theft-related crime (credit card fraud, atm fraud) with a slight uptick in package thefts, bike thefts, and a few grand larcenies from people. Thanks to the good work of detectives and patrol cops, that person was arrested and found to have a long rap sheet. In terms of robberies, out of 13, 7 of those were shoplifting – some force was used to get away once confronted shoplifting makes those cases into robberies.

**Captain Bill Gallagher, Central Park Precinct:** I'm sure you are aware of two alarming incidents in the park. On Veteran's Day, there was a sexual assault that occurred at 715am that happened in the north area of the park. It was one of the largest investigations in recent memory. The individual responsible was apprehended through a manhunt throughout the city. Some great shoe leather detective work was done by the Special Victims Unit. That person has been remanded and will not be released. He is behind bars. Another recent incident occurred five days ago: an individual murdered a person inside Morningside Park; assaulted another person; and attempted to stab another individual inside of Central Park. That person was apprehended inside Central Park. These are two alarming incidents. The silver lining is that the two individuals responsible are both incarcerated and won't be on the streets anytime soon. I'm here for questions.

## Q&A:

- Maria Danzilo: I am a little surprised that you are not talking about the recent serious acts of violence in our neighborhood – the two women who were attacked and the murder of Davide Giri. We must address the reality that the elected district attorney will not prosecute certain crimes. I am hoping this CB and neighbors will address

this. The new controller has also voiced his strong support of defunding the police, as well as our state legislatures enacting new laws putting our community at risk. I would like to see a public safety committee appointed from this board, charged with oversight of our elected leaders and agencies – to hold them accountable; to advocate for improved public safety; to act as a conduit between the public and the police precincts to make sure that our community is protected. I hope you will take this request seriously and implement this idea.

- Suzanne Jacoby: I take the subway often and don't feel safe. I see many policemen standing outside the West 72<sup>nd</sup> St. & Broadway subway station, but I don't see them on platforms or in trains. It is not just my line but others also. I have seen mentally ill people that make me feel unsafe in the stations. I would like the police to be stationed inside the subway stations watching and trying to make us feel safe.
  - Captain Zuber: Subway usage and crime is a big issue for New Yorkers now. We have transit cops that patrol the stations and subways. Those cops you see are likely the school deployment cops, fixed posts to make sure the flow of students is safe and doesn't result in any crime or violence. I know Inspector Gorman does have cops posted there, usually a double post of four cops. No one is asking for fewer police – everyone wants more police.
  - Andrew Alpert: Every station has cameras that are active and transmitting.
  - Captain Zuber: That is true. The cameras are very helpful at catching people coming and going through the stations.
  - Deputy Inspector Yaguchi: The Columbia University student tragedy is part of 26th precinct – just outside of the 24<sup>th</sup> and the CB7 district.
- Peter Arndsten: The 24<sup>th</sup> Precinct of the NYPD has been doing a tremendous job of reaching out and getting these troubled people off the street. They have been present around Frederick Douglass Houses and that has made a big difference for many people there. Given some of the things going on, that has been very welcome and very reassuring. I want to thank the 24<sup>th</sup> for that.
- Edwin Hernandez: Thank you for the wonderful officers who have been doing a great job. I was born and raised at W105<sup>th</sup> and Amsterdam Ave. I am interested in discussing a Local Law regarding educating students about nutritional programs inside public schools.
- Natalia Malone: I grew up also at W105<sup>th</sup> and Amsterdam Ave. I really see that we have a mental health crisis. I want to hear about initiatives focused on that in our community. I don't want to see people criminalized when they are in need of support.
  - Deputy Inspector Yaguchi: Certainly, some of the crimes we are seeing are by people who have mental health and/or substance abuse issues. Our role is to arrest people who are committing crimes. But we do work with the DA's office to help people if there are mental health problems.
- City Councilmember Helen Rosenthal: On public safety issues, I want to thank Captain Gallagher for his work in solving those two alarming incidents. I appreciate you keeping me informed of what was happening. It was all hands-on deck. This is an issue that I work on legislatively and policy-wise all the time. To Captain Zuber and Deputy Inspector Yaguchi, I thank you for your work too.
- Rich Robbins: I am asking my monthly question about traffic. I know there is a lot going on. But we have had nine fatalities on the street and 33 injuries! What is the status of this? I also want to raise with Chief Spall whether CB7 could help give out smoke detectors in that program?
  - Chief Spall: Yes, we can make smoke detectors available for distribution at whatever forum you could suggest. The more we get out there, the safer we all will be. We need to make sure people aren't waiting for this. I would be glad to help make that happen.
  - Captain Zuber: We did have a spike earlier in the year. The last incident was on September 11, 2021. We are working on bringing that number down to zero. Our biggest issues are with the bike lanes – especially ebikes that are going too fast. For pedestrians, the issue is people crossing not in crosswalks.
  - Deputy Inspector Yaguchi: We are down in incidents for the past month. We look at collisions. In response to community complaints in various forums, we hear a lot about bicyclists. But we don't want to target bicyclists. However, we have stepped up enforcement as needed. Regarding fatalities, we have two for the year. One investigation is making progress and we will hopefully have an arrest soon.

- Natasha Kazmi: I am also concerned about the uptick of violent crime. Can you talk about what preventative measures are being taken now that these crimes are becoming more common? One issue is related to gang violence. Is something being done with other agencies? As opposed to what happens after the crime, what is being done to prevent crime?
  - Captain Gallagher: We spend a lot of time studying our data. We have a lot of 911 call reports and community statements to make sure we are putting our officers in the right place at the right time. This is constantly reviewed by 1 Police Plaza (1PP) where we are audited and checked. That is key – to make sure our officers are deployed correctly. One of the challenges with mental illness is that a lot of preventative measures for this is not what we as police officers can address. We address it as a crime but cannot do anything before that. We do have additional resources that come in. We are able to pull more officers and deploy them as needed. For instance, you will see more police officers on duty at night in the park than at other times. It is a constantly adjusted thing.
- Shelley Fine: I want to thank you for the leadership that all of you officers on this call have provided. Kudos to all three of you on that. A very special thank you to Deputy Inspector Yaguchi for his support of the inclusive playground opening. We had several officers there to provide safety, support, and participation. It was a special day, enhanced by your support. Does anyone know what happened at W97<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway today?
  - Deputy Inspector Yaguchi: A stabbing took place a little after noon today. An arrest was made. Two individuals in a building had a dispute that spilled out onto the street, and one of them was stabbed. An arrest was made immediately.
- Susan Schwartz: What happened at Trader Joe's today? There was a huge presence there! I also would like to see something done about the bowtie of death, at W72<sup>nd</sup> St. and Broadway. There are bikes and ebikes going in every direction. It is terrifying! Ideally, the Transportation Committee can ask for a study. Also, regarding turnstile jumping, I feel like I am the only person who pays these days. So many people are not paying on the crosstown buses. I find it very upsetting.
  - Chief Spall: A gentleman decided to take a shopping cart on the escalator at Trader Joe's. He got stuck between the cart and the side wall. Members of the FDNY, ESU, and EMT helped to extricate him. He was fine.
- Courtney Clark Metakis: We should be looking to incorporate this topic of public safety as a more focused issue that this board addresses. It is time for this CB to take it seriously and put something in place.
- Ethel Sheffer: When I came onto the CB, there was a Uniformed Services Committee that I chaired. We worked with other committees and worked with agencies and police to deal with issues. This is a precedent at CB7, and it may be worthwhile to look at it. And related to Susan's point, on the crosstown 86<sup>th</sup> St. Special Service bus, the cops surveyed everyone for their payment. They gave out many summonses and fines for people not paying. The fine was \$100 each. They took the time to get the deadbeats. It was impressive!

Steven Brown: Thank you to all of our leaders. This is a popular session, and very valuable! We have to think about how to take this work and incorporate it into the work of CB7.

### **Business Session**

Steven Brown: We want to manage time correctly. A concern has been brought up that we are respectful and managing a diversity of input of many people. There is a concern that certain people may be taking up the lion share of the meeting. Over time, I am going to be looking for people who do not speak often. We must push for as many people to speak as possible.

### **Youth, Education and Libraries Committee, Blanche Lawton and Courtney Clark Metakis, Co-Chairpersons**

#### **1. Resolution Re: Ensuring Transparency and Communication from the Public-School Athletic League (PSAL)**

Courtney Clark Metakis: The PSAL stopped playing back in March of 2020 due to Covid-related shutdowns. There have been numerous policy changes in terms of how this was managed. We are seeing issues around transparency, communication, especially as relates to stakeholders. Athletics are important in the trajectory of these kids' lives, in addition to the benefits to health and social/emotional learning. This resolution calls for the PSAL to revamp its communication strategy and focus on regular communications with a single point person to achieve the goal of transparency. The resolution passed unanimously in Committee.

- Edwin Hernandez: I want to speak about the educational competent Bill # 1617-2019, regarding processed food is being served at public schools. Poor nutritional meals are leading to childhood obesity, diabetes, and poor school performance. Caregivers are often not aware of the food being served. By reporting about the scratch food services, we may be able to change the behavior. The passing of this bill would help out. I will put my contact info in the chat.
- Summary of discussion: This is an important resolution. In terms of communication, the PSAL is a black hole with terrible communication. Steven Brown stated that as a parent and CB chair, PSAL has never answered a single request for information. The idea that we are going to reach out to them to do a better job is imperative. MBPO Gale Brewer is also pushing this issue. Sports are important for kids and for equity – as relates to scholarship and a future for these kids. We want safe decisions, but the decisions were archaic! This was a very bad situation! To ask questions for a year, and to get no response is ridiculous! I hope more elected officials will do something to make sports in the city better and more equitable. The issue of the PSAL and equity goes even further. Small schools don't have access to more than a small part of what they would be entitled to proportionally. Officially, PSAL is an office of the Department of Education, but they are very independent and don't have much oversight.
- Courtney Clark Metakis: Yes, I am fine with modifying the resolution to also address DOE.

After deliberation, the resolution re: Ensuring Transparency and Communication from the PSAL was adopted.  
*VOTE: 39-0-0-0.*

**Business & Consumer Issues Committee, Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons**

2. 710 Amsterdam Avenue (West 94th – 95th Streets.) New application to the SLA for two-year liquor license by Seafood 710, Inc. d/b/a To Be Determined.

Linda Alexander: This is a corporate change of name. The Committee vote was 5-0-0-1, with one abstention for cause.

After deliberation, the resolution to approve a new application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by Seafood 710 was adopted.  
*VOTE: 38-0-1-1.*

3. Alteration: 2751 Broadway (West 105th – 106th.) Alteration Licensee #1027462 to the State Liquor Authority for two-year liquor license by SMK Entertainment Group, Inc. d/b/a Smoke Jazz Club. Alteration is to relocate the bar and add more space to their location.

Smoke Jazz Club is expanding and reopening. This is very exciting! They had to get a new liquor license because they are expanding to a new space. The Committee vote was unanimous in its support.

After deliberation, the resolution to approve Alteration Licensee #1027462 to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by SMK Entertainment Group, Inc. d/b/a Smoke Jazz Club was adopted.  
*VOTE: 39-0-1-1.*

4. Expansion onto Municipal Property: 240 Columbus Avenue (West 71st – 72nd Streets.) Expansion onto Municipal Property Licensee #1334573 to the State Liquor Authority and Department of Transportation by Felice 240, LLC d/b/a Felice to allow use of the municipal space.

There was some controversy here. The licensee is putting up pods adjacent to the restaurant on the sidewalk. The pods look fine in terms of clearance on the side street. No one objected from the community. This was also a unanimous vote. After deliberation, the resolution to approve the expansion onto municipal property at 240 Columbus Avenue (West 71st – 72nd Streets.) by Licensee #1334573 to the SLA and the Department of Transportation by Felice 240, LLC d/b/a Felice was adopted.  
*VOTE: 39-0-1-1.*

**Parks & Environment Committee, Barbara Adler and Natasha Kazmi, Co-Chairpersons**

**5. Resolution Re: Sanitation Issues in the Community Board 7 Area: A Comprehensive Look at Problems and a Collaborative Approach to Solutions.**

Natasha Kazmi: Thanks for participating in one of the two surveys and for sharing them. We received 314 responses; one from a block; one from a BID; and five from local block associations. We summarized the data and sent it over to relevant agencies: DOMHM, DSNY, Riverside Park Conservancy, Central Park Conservancy. Hopefully it will help them to deploy their resources in our district better than before. For the resolution, we are asking for

- more resources and improved services (to pre-pandemic levels at least, if not more);
- expanded curbside composting; and
- additional support community groups.

The resolution passed unanimously. We are hopeful the resolution will get us results. I also want to commend the Manhattan SWAB (Solid Waste Advisory Board) for their work.

After deliberation, the resolution re: Sanitation Issues in the CB7 Area was adopted.

*VOTE: 39-0-0-0.*

**6. Restoration of the Kinderberg & Renovation of the Chess & Checkers House**

Barbara Adler: The building sits on a high outcropping of rock, surrounded by chess and checker boards. The renovation will include the addition of restrooms; the recreation of a rustic structure; the replacement of roof and cupola; the upgrading of mechanical systems; and ADA compliance. We applauded this entire restoration, and it received a unanimous vote of support in Committee.

- Summary of Discussion: This is in the southern part of Central Park where there are few restrooms, especially for residents and tourists! I think we should support this as a great modification to the park. The spirit of the resolution should reflect the appropriateness of this restoration project to the park, which is an individually designated landmark. The budget for the project is unknown but shall be privately funded.

After deliberation, the resolution to approve the restoration of the Kinderberg and the renovation of the Chess & Checkers House was adopted.

*VOTE: 42-0-0-0.*

**Transportation Committee, Andrew Albert and Howard Yaruss, Co-Chairpersons**

**7. Resolution Re: Spike in Traffic Fatalities.**

Howard Yaruss: This is straightforward. There are speed and red-light cameras throughout the city. The number of them are limited by NYS. These cameras have been proved to reduce speed and number of cars that go through red lights. We unanimously passed this resolution that asks for the number of cameras to be increased and to use the cameras 24/7. This resolution will go to our state elected officials as this is an Albany issue.

- Summary of Discussion: The context of this is that there have been nine fatalities this year. There is a lot more work that needs to be done. There is a real crisis on our hands. More police enforcement of ALL laws would be good. Cameras are only after the fact. A stipulation shall be added to the resolution that the city can place the cameras where needed, and not just near schools. The cameras would also be helpful with all crime happening in the street. Issues of NYC street management should be under city control. Perhaps community board can weigh in on the idea of home rule on these issues?
- Tevin Williams, NYS Senator Brad Hoylman: Both of your state elected officials are proposing legislation called The Furious Act (S77 in NYS Senate – S579 in NYS Assembly) that would require the cameras to be on 24/7. Drag racing and fatalities have been happening during the pandemic.

After deliberation, the resolution regarding a spike in traffic fatalities was adopted.

*VOTE: 40-0-0-0.*

**8. Electric charging station pilot by DOT and Con Ed at West 76th/Columbus Avenue and West 84th/Amsterdam Avenue.**

Andrew Alpert: This will be helpful at getting our air cleaner. ConEdison is suggesting these charging stations to be installed all over the city. These are the two in our area. These stations will charge electric cars. The Committee was in favor of this resolution.

After deliberation, the resolution regarding electric charging station pilots by DOT and ConEd at West 76<sup>th</sup> St./Columbus Avenue and West 84<sup>th</sup> St./Amsterdam Avenue was adopted.

*VOTE: 39-0-0-0.*

## 9. EBIke Safety: Registration & Insurance

Jay Adolf: We have already passed a resolution calling for enhanced enforcement of traffic regulations for ebikes, etc. requesting the DOT come back with regulations on ebike safety. This resolution calls for:

- 1) electric assisted bikes to be registered in NYS;
- 2) requires insurance and other financial liability;
- 3) operators of such bicycles be required to wear protective headgear; and
- 4) That in the case of any food delivery company contracting with individuals using such e-bikes to provide food delivery, the company shall satisfy the financial responsibility requirements at its expense.

NJ, CT, and most other states have regulations that are closer to what we would like to see here. This is meant to make ebikes identifiable – especially in the case of an accident or incident.

- Summary of Discussion: The following points were raised in the discussion.
  - Responsibility for registration and insurance is with the owner of the vehicle. But, there are concerns about the obligations of delivery people. The last part of the resolution calls upon the state to enact a law that makes the delivery companies responsible for compliance, rather than the delivery workers individually.
  - Safe Streets advocates oppose this because it treats 50lb vehicles the same as 4,000lb vehicles, even when they are capped at 40mph. There is no data to support this resolution. This will discourage people from using ebikes, by making it difficult and complicated. More than half of all car trips in the city are below 3 miles. There is a real opportunity to shift from cars to ebikes. This growing potential should be encouraged as it has been done in other cities and countries.
  - There was a discussion about the definition of ebikes. Should pedal-assist ebikes be lumped in with throttle-assist bikes?
  - There are 2 issues that were raised with the resolution: 1) There is an assumption that this type of insurance is available for ebike delivery people. It is not clear that this exists. We passed the resolution that requires delivery people to obtain an insurance that may not exist. So, we should excise #2. This is a fundamental flaw of the resolution. 2) Secondly, I think by categorizing these type of electric vehicles, especially pedal-assist vehicles as ebikes might force them into traffic and out of the bike lane. That would not be safe.
  - There are many uses of our streets and sidewalks. Sometimes those uses conflict. The board should take a comprehensive look at the uses and how we value them, plus how we can keep things safe for all users. Safe Streets advocates focus on large vehicles because those are the ones that cause fatalities. Helmet laws have not been shown to improve safety of bikers. Helmet requirements would be very damaging to Citibike right when the program is only just expanding to communities of color. It would be tone deaf of the board to pass this at this time and in this circumstance. This resolution does not take a comprehensive look.
  - The registration doesn't mention license plates. License plates are already the law for delivery workers, yet it is not followed. Helmets are already the law for delivery workers. The benefits are negligible and don't protect others. #4 is unclear. The insurance is not a problem – the liabilities that the big companies protect themselves from is what is problematic.
  - Anyone who owns a dog must have a registration. Safety is so important. All of these vehicles should all have some kind of registration so that we can know who they are if they break the law.
  - This resolution will not do anything to avoid the numerous crashes that happen and will cause discrimination against our hard-working delivery workers. A thoughtful study of these issues with a public safety lens would have the greatest positive impact – accommodating rather than limiting their use. I would love to hear the committee discuss how to improve safety for bicyclists in the district – to allow them to ride more safely within the protected bike lanes.

After deliberation and the adoption of a friendly amendment removing pedal-assisted e-bikes from the resolution so that it would affect only users of throttle-operated e-bikes, the resolution passed.

VOTE: 19-15-1-0

## 10. Secondary Street Naming for Ballet Hispánico for West 89th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenue.

Ballet Hispánico is seeking approval from CB7 for secondary street signage on West 89th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues to recognize the legacy of Ballet Hispánico on the Upper West. It was overwhelmingly approved by the committee.

- Summary of Discussion:
  - A discussion was had regarding the purpose of secondary street names and their purpose. Are they meant to honor members of our community or to recognize organizations - perhaps even for commercial purposes? However, Ballet Hispánico is such an amazing institution in the Latin community. This institution has been on the UWS for decades. It has endured some of the harshest times. It stayed when other institutions moved out

and provided dance instructions for local community children. It withstood all of the tough times and weathered so much and has been a stalwart institution. This is an honor that we should bestow on this institution. It is an iconic institution! I don't think the commercialization concern applies here.

- Since we already recognized many other arts folks, I think it is incredibly important that we don't limit this recognition to old white men! Ballet Hispánico also rescued the old Claremont Stables – a landmark!
- There are some that are against all re-namings. Perhaps bigger signs on side streets with more information and context would be more appropriate, a different system developed to honor the great things in our neighborhood.

After deliberation, the resolution to approve the secondary naming of West 89th Street as Ballet Hispánico Way was adopted.

*VOTE: 27-4-3-0*

**11. NYCDOE Employee-Only Parking Zone, request by DOE Staff from the Joan of Arc Educational Campus.**

This is a request to have additional employee only parking for staff associated with the school. The Committee unanimously voted this down as we don't want to encourage more driving and the location is well served by public transit. The Committee also didn't want to favor one group over another. It is a complex area.

After deliberation, the resolution to disapprove a request for NYC DOE Employee-Only Parking Zone, at the Joan of Arc Educational Campus was adopted.

*VOTE: 29-3-0-0*

**Preservation Committee, K Karpen and Michele Parker, Co-Chairpersons**

**12. Resolution Re: 393 West End Avenue (West 78th – 79th Streets.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to:**

- a. replace the canopy at the West End Avenue entrance;
- b. install 1:1 double-hung windows on the west/secondary facade;
- c. increasing the height of the parapet and roof of the existing rooftop penthouse;
- d. enlarging opening and installing new windows and doors in the penthouse; and
- e. recladding the penthouse in porcelain tile.

K Karpen: This is a lovely prewar building. The Committee resolved as follows:

A. Approves the replacement canopy as appropriate to the character of the Historic District. The canopy that was added at some point. The desire is to change it to a glass and metal canopy that is airier.

Committee: 8-0-1-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 2-0-0-0.

B. Approves the enlarging of the west windows as appropriate to the character of the Historic District. Committee: 9-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 2-0-0-0.

C. Approves the penthouse renovations, with a recommendation to lower the overall height of the proposed penthouse.

- Page Cowley: For penthouses, LPC limits the height to 10', and it has to be not visible from the street. This is a modest one, but more of these penthouses are to come. But I think we need to be very careful about this. We should start to follow the guidelines that the LPC has laid out.
- Klari Neuwelt: I also am going to vote against the penthouse. The sole reason that they wanted to increase the height of the bulkhead and use a highly reflective white tile to do so is so they can market apartments that have 12' heights. This would be substantially more visible than the existing façade. I voted against C and urge others to do the same.

After deliberation, the resolution to approve the application regarding 393 West End Avenue (West 78th – 79th Streets) was adopted as follows:

- A. Canopy replacement. *VOTE: 32-1-0-0*
- B. Expand window openings on the West. *VOTE: 28-1-0-0*
- C. Penthouse renovations. *VOTE: 16-12-0-0*

- 13. 114 West 86th Street (Amsterdam - Columbus Avenues).** Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to legalize the installation without the required permits of aluminum replacement windows that do not conform to the original building fenestration.

Michele Parker: CB7 has been presented with insufficient information and detail to determine whether the legalization of the installation of the replacement windows could be considered appropriate to the character of the Historic District. These windows do not conform to the original window fenestration. We want the applicant to come back with more information.

After deliberation, the resolution for the application for 114 West 86<sup>th</sup> Street to disapprove without prejudice was adopted.

**VOTE: 28-2-0-0**

#### **Approval of minutes from previous full board meeting**

**VOTE: 26-0-3-0**

#### **Chair's Report, Steven Brown**

- I want to formally announce our new CB7 Assistant District Manager, Maxwell Vandervliet. He will be taking over everything digital. We are super happy to have him join the team!
- Elizabeth Caputo will be leading a task force to discuss the format of our future meetings. We will send out a poll to members about this.
  - Elizabeth Caputo: Return to work and return to the board office is a big issue. How can we bring people back responsibly? If you are interested in joining the task force, please let me know. We need to have a plan and set the standard for the rest of the boards across Manhattan. Please reach out to me. I look forward to staying in touch.
- I am reading a statement from our co-secretaries: "I would like to alert you to a clarification proposed by the co-secretaries in how we manage our meeting minutes for Full Board and Steering Committee. The City Comptroller's Office has recently clarified that the Zoom transcripts satisfy the legal requirement that Community Boards make minutes of meetings public. However, we are aware that the voice recognition software in Zoom frequently contains transcription errors. Starting with December, we will continue to post minutes, but will revert to the practice of some years ago and include in them briefer summaries of discussions, without providing attributions of all specific comments to individuals. Please note that the full level of detail will still be available on the YouTube postings of our meetings."

#### **Community Session**

##### **Congressman Jerry Nadler**

- Good evening. Congressman Nadler gave a quick update on the major investments congress has made as part of the Build Back Better Plan in areas including physical infrastructure, climate change prevention, pedestrian and bike infrastructure, transit accessibility, etc.
- The House Judiciary Committee has also been quite active on legislation that includes voting rights, prescription drug costs, reforming immigration system, combat hate crimes, women's health protection act, support for the right to abortion, and much more.
- I recently joined Governor Hochul to announce \$539M of aid money aimed at financial hardship caused by covid.
  - Ken Coughlin: Thank you for your efforts on BBB. Good luck in the Senate. Are you familiar with the direct contracting (DCE) program for Medicare? It was created during Trump, and the Biden administration is continuing it. It is a Trojan Horse to privatize Medicare!
  - Mary Aventure: There is a move afoot to make 4 WTC all affordable housing rather than part of the mandatory inclusionary housing program. It cannot be 100% affordable, but hopefully it will be largely so. It would take up too much of the available funding
  - Erika Petersen: I am happy that someone brought up with DCE program. People are very upset about it. I would ask your staff to investigate this as it is really frightening!

##### **NYS Assemblyperson Daniel O'Donnell**

- Creation of the historic business registry: The registry allows businesses that have been here more than 50 years to be recognized. There can be two per district. The businesses become eligible for federal money – that is the important thing!
- Funding: All of my capital funding is in CB7.



- I funded \$250,000 to the Riverside Conservancy. I am happy to report the city's investment of \$350,000. North of 110<sup>th</sup> St., NYC Park Department vehicles are no longer allowed to drive on the sidewalk because the area is so compromised. It is all about the infrastructure underneath and it needs to be addressed.
- I gave \$1M to the Children's Museum of Manhattan because, as an uncle, I have been to the museum many times, and its location was at risk of becoming a high rise. I want to support and encourage them.
- I also gave \$1M to the Delacorte Theater. I thought the people who attended the performances were primarily visitors and tourists but that is not true. The attendees are mainly from around Central Park. The money will allow for them to provide better and safer venue!
- Rats: I am against them! I was successful on CB9 to write into all of the building proposals that rat eradication must be included in what they pay for! We must ensure that the construction projects that we fund include this as well. In Riverside Park, we especially need to do a better job.
- Lastly, I wrote the anti-bullying law in NY. We know that LGBT kids are more like to commit suicide. NY is one of 15 states that doesn't require suicide training and prevention in schools. I do understand the pain that is involved. The covid pandemic has created a suicide epidemic in our country. We need to make sure our schools are dealing with this and preparing for it. NYS is 49 out of 50 in AIDS education! We need to turn the page on what used to be to what it needs to be! NYSCA is releasing its list of grants – this is the largest budget in the past 20 years. I am proud of that and fought really hard and will continue to fight hard for you!

#### **Councilperson Helen Rosenthal**

- Thanks to all of you! This is my last CB7 board meeting, serving the UWS. I think CB7 is a great board because there is a real exchange of ideas. There are real differences. You take on these issues with passion and emotion, but also facts. I have admired that over the past eight years and longer. You are unusual in that way. Not every board is as thoughtful and passionate as you are. It has been an honor to work for you.
- You will get a newsletter from me that has information about all of the moneys that I have allocated to the district and some of the highlights of the policies and initiatives I have championed. I have five or six bills that are "aging" tonight at the City Council. They will hopefully be voted on and pass. I am passing a bill the following bills:
  - Require every city and non-profit employer to notify their people that their student loans may be deferred or lessened.
  - Require Closed Captioning at movie theaters.
  - Require job postings to include the minimum and maximum for the salary range with the hope that it helps people have some surety about their salary. Hopefully, it will set the stage for a stronger future bill that includes benefits and bonuses.
  - More can be found on my website and newsletter

#### **Manhattan Borough President (MBP) Gale Brewer**

- Thanks to Helen for her service on City Council and CB7. She has been a leader on domestic violence – her leadership on that issue is legendary.
- I am as upset as you are about the NYC Parks Department Dock House project. I thank the Parks Department for doing the dredging. But the dock house needs to have your input, so it has a sense of scale.
- Trevor Day School has their garbage pick-up during student pick-up/drop off. It is something to look at to see if other schools have a challenge with this.
- The last borough board is on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 830am. We will be discussing the large ULURPs in Midtown and the Central Park 5 memorial.
- We must be conscious of the January 15, 2022, deadline regarding the question of open meetings. I don't know where it will go. We have given each CB an Owl, a device to conduct hybrid meetings. But I do hope all the CBs are thinking about what they want and how to respond.
- We are having a holiday reception on December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 2-4pm, at John Jay College.
- Term Limit issue for CB members: A member can serve four consecutive two-year terms, but the term doesn't begin until April 2019. If you need more info, April Adams can help. I am not a big fan of term limits. But the mayor liked it and got it into the charter. The expertise that you accumulate doesn't end in eight years.
- The Helicopter Task Force is ongoing. We are working hard with NYS and NJ officials. So many complaints about non-essential tourism and Hamptons flights.
- I look forward to working with you in the future on congestion pricing, capital allocations, open restaurants program, and lots of land use items.
- Thank you and happy holidays. Hope to see you on Sunday! Congratulations on all of your work!

### Councilmember Levine

- I am happy to talk to you for a final time as your NYC Councilperson.
- I have an aging bill. We have a bill that will offer labeling that will warn people of added sugar in foods. Our bill would require warning labels on packaged goods at fast food restaurants. Hopefully we will go beyond that in the future. Approximately half of elementary students are at an unhealthy weight! The labeling will include all forms of added sugar. Labelling will help inform people of the risk.
- I had a talk with Dr. Madad talking about the Omicron variant of Covid and what it means for NYC. The video is posted on our Facebook page. The Delta wave of Covid is hitting us hard – over 2,000 cases/day. Rising hospitalizations as well, largely among the unvaccinated. That is why the city is taking action.
- Our last mobile foodbank is coming up. It will take place next Thursday December 16<sup>th</sup> at my district office.
- It has been an honor to work with you all, and I'm happy to return in a new role as MBP. I cannot wait to get to work with you, starting Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Community Members

Zachary Campbell: I have a quick update on the Gilder Center Project. Construction continues. Shockcrete for the façade continues. We are hoping to finish that by the end of the year. We are proceeding with waterproofing on the roof. Interior elevator, carpentry, mechanical work, etc. all continue. We continue to average 200 workers on site everyday with associated equipment and vehicles. The renovation of Theodore Roosevelt Park is underway. We are in the process of salvage and removals in the hardscape and landscape. [zcampbell@amnh.org](mailto:zcampbell@amnh.org) is my email if you have any questions.

Michael Kenna: I am the president of a co-op and also involved with Queue-Up NY. When you voted on the open restaurant text amendment, the public record does not correctly show the way that you voted. Can someone please check that? This should have been corrected.

Tevin Williams, from Senator Hoylman's office. I am hearing a lot from CB7. I am looking forward to talking with Michelle Booker (CB7 District Manager) soon to follow up on the transportation issues. We want to get the Furious Act passed next year. And we want to tune in to the devastating attacks and rising crime on the UWS to work toward solutions on that. I am available for questions. Thanks, and here is the Senator's Newsletter:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ajeMKhMgZGalYfMpjjXl8Izt8vFmJN4/edit?usp=sharing&oid=106885352774759409806&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Michael Tellis: Is there an update on the homeless shelter on West 59<sup>th</sup> St between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues? Are any of the operators linked to any of the recent scandals.

- Steven Brown: There is no real update now. It is not slated to open for four more years. So, there is no process update or meetings with the public yet. That particular shelter was given due notice because they were buying the building. I'm not sure if it was linked to any of the past corruption issues.
- Shelley Fine: I would like to point out that there is no scandal.

Leif Arntzen: I am down in the Village and wanted to see firsthand how you are working on your local issues. I think local politics is the highest form of politics. I just wanted to share what is going on down here in my world. Specifically, about the Open Restaurants program, I hope we can be connected by our experiences. Rats! Rats are a huge problem! They are here in herds and all over every block! Leftovers from the night before attracting them!

Erica Overton, NYS Assemblyperson Linda Rosenthal

- At West 57<sup>th</sup> Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, we are celebrating DOT's redesign of this dangerous intersection. A split phase and dedicated left hand turn and dedicated walking turn for pedestrians are all installed.
- Regarding the PSAL conversation, Linda was talking to DOE about their policy. We have a letter ready to go along with your resolution.
- There is a building in the district that we had been working on. They have an outstanding façade violation that wasn't cleared after five years. DOB is issuing an emergency work order and violations. The building is not safe. This complaint came from scaffolding that was up for so long. Now, the Assemblymember has asked for a report about Class 1 hazardous façade violations in the district.
- Mammogram van happening tomorrow and will again in February.

Mary Evancho: I have been on the UWS for 40 years and am growing concerned about the streets. The outdoor dining is very controversial. My concern is with safety – especially fire. There is a restaurant on our block with 100 seats outside, 16 of which are right in front of our brownstone. How will the FDNY come if there is an emergency? Are these huts

secured? How will the FDNY get into residential buildings with outdoor dining in the way. They jeopardize our safety. The filing with the city about Open Restaurants was contrary to what you voted! I want to see the filing go in correctly.

- Steven Brown: This has been discussed in our BCI and Transportation meetings. Please come to these meetings to discuss further. Please send an email so we can discuss further.

Claudia Ford: I am calling regarding the Metro Theater on Broadway between West 99<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> Streets. The theater has been shuttered since 2006. There are neighbors who have taken interest in this. The façade was landmarked in 1989. It has become a blight on the neighborhood. We are trying to understand to what extent the owner has a responsibility to maintain the building in good order. Is demolition by neglect allowed. We are trying to see if its Landmark status has any teeth. Can this be investigated? Can CB7 be helpful with checking this out? What would be a pathway forward for this?

- Steven Brown: Ideally, please show up to a preservation meeting or speak with Ms. Michelle Booker to have a deeper conversation about this.

Demaris Olivo from NYS Senator Jose Serrano's Office: The application window for emergency rental assistance closed on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Additional moneys were requested. These funds would help New Yorkers still in need of aid. NYS Governor Hochul launched a \$125M fund to help landlords with troubles. If you need info, please reach out to us. Also, Senator Serrano is the chair of the Cultural Affairs Committee. NYSCA is releasing funding in rounds. The capital funding application is available now. Any NYS nonprofit arts/cultural organization is welcome to apply. If you need help with an application, please reach out to our office.

Edwin Hernandez: There is a lot of food insecurity in the community. Forty percent of school age kids are overweight due to poor nutrition! I see these students not eating properly, and I would like to focus on trying to pass this bill to make it better. AM Rosenthal's bill would show an increased commitment and investment in our children! The bill would allow healthier food for our children. I will attend the YEL meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>. I ask you to support this bill.

#### FROM CHAT

**21:35:16 From Ashley Gonzalez to Panelists:**

This is Ashley Gonzalez from the NYPL. We are fully open and ready to see everyone again! We are now offering in person children's programming several days a week. Please email [ashleygonzalez@nypl.org](mailto:ashleygonzalez@nypl.org).

**21:59:12 From B Peyre (AM Gottfried) to Everyone:**

Office of Assembly Member Dick Gottfried, 212-807-7900, [gottfriedr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:gottfriedr@nyassembly.gov), <https://www.facebook.com/RichardNGottfried>, Twitter @DickGottfried, Community Board 7 Liaison: Brice Peyre, [peyrebr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:peyrebr@nyassembly.gov). We will waive our report tonight, but Assembly Member Gottfried and his office wish all of his fellow Community Board 7 residents happy holidays and a very happy new year!

**22:47:50 From Zachary Campbell to Panelists:**

Thanks very much, if you have additional questions about the Gilder Center project please reach out to me at [zcampbell@amnh.org](mailto:zcampbell@amnh.org)

**22:52:59 From Tevin Williams | Sen. Brad Hoylman to Panelists:**

Hi everyone! Here is Senator Hoylman's December Newsletter! Please feel free to reach out to me at 212-633-8062 or [twillia@nysenate.gov](mailto:twillia@nysenate.gov)

**22:53:02 From Tevin Williams | Sen. Brad Hoylman to Panelists:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ajeMKhMgZGalYfMpjjJXl8lzt8vFmJN4/edit?usp=sharing&oid=106885352774759409806&rtpof=true&sd=true>

**23:09:21 From Damaris Olivo to Panelists:**

Damaris Olivo  
Communications Director  
Senator Jose M. Serrano  
[olivo@nysenate.gov](mailto:olivo@nysenate.gov)

*The meeting was adjourned at 11:13pm.*

## BUSINESS & CONSUMER ISSUES COMMITTEE

Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons

December 8, 2021 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

*Business & Consumer Issues Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met via the Videoconferencing application Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Co-Chairperson Christian Cordova.*

**Present:** Linda Alexander, Christian Cordova, Miranda Goodwin-Raab, Erana Stennett and Benjamin Wu.

**Absent:** Madelyn Innocent, Doug Kleiman, Andrew Rigie, Joshua Cohen and Paul Fischer. **Non-Committee Board**

**Member:** Seema Reddy.

1. **Multi-block street fairs.** Public hearing on applications to the Street Activity Permit Office for multi-block street fairs in 2022.

DATE	SPONSOR NAME	LOCATION	PRODUCER
04/17/22	Samaritan Daytop Village	Bway, West 96 <sup>th</sup> -106 <sup>th</sup> E	Clearview Festival
04/17/22	Duke Ellington Blvd. Neighborhood Association	Bway, West 102 <sup>nd</sup> -106 <sup>th</sup> E	Clearview Festival
04/17/22	24th Precinct Community Council	Bway, West 102 <sup>nd</sup> -106 <sup>th</sup> E	Clearview Festival
05/01/22	Goddard Riverside - Lincoln Square Neighborhood Ctr	Col, West 66 <sup>th</sup> - 72 <sup>nd</sup>	Clearview Festival
05/08/22	Committee for Environmentally Sound Development	Bway, West 60 <sup>th</sup> -65 <sup>th</sup> E	Clearview Festival
05/22/22	West Side Federation of Neighborhood & Block Assoc.	Bway, West 73 <sup>rd</sup> -82 <sup>nd</sup> E	Clearview Festival
06/05/22	Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition	Amst, West 73 <sup>rd</sup> -79 <sup>th</sup> W	Clearview Festival
06/05/22	Safe Haven West Side Basketball League	Amst, West 73 <sup>rd</sup> -79 <sup>th</sup> W	Clearview Festival
06/26/22	Goddard Riverside - Community Center	Amst, West 79 <sup>th</sup> - 86 <sup>th</sup>	Clearview Festival
07/17/22	Project Open at Lincoln Center Towers	Bway, West 65 <sup>th</sup> -72 <sup>nd</sup> W	Clearview Festival
08/21/22	Broadway Mall Center	Bway, West 86 <sup>th</sup> - 93 <sup>rd</sup> E	Clearview Festival
09/10/22	Valley Restoration, LDC	Col, West 97 <sup>th</sup> -106 <sup>th</sup>	Mardi Gras Festival
09/25/22	Symphony Space	Bway, West 86 <sup>th</sup> - 96 <sup>th</sup> W	Clearview Festival
10/09/22	The Broadway Mall Association	Bway, West 72 <sup>nd</sup> -82 <sup>nd</sup> W	Clearview Festival
10/23/22	Bloomingdale Area Coalition	Bway, West 96 <sup>th</sup> -106 <sup>th</sup> W	Clearview Festival

Present for the Individual Fairs:

- Samaritan Daytop Village – Roy Kearse, [Roy.Kearse@SamaritanVillage.org](mailto:Roy.Kearse@SamaritanVillage.org)
- Duke Ellington Neighborhood Association – Jean Jaworek, [Jean.Jaworek@gmail.com](mailto:Jean.Jaworek@gmail.com)
- 24<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council – Robert Josman, [RJosman@msn.com](mailto:RJosman@msn.com); Beneficiaries: Toys for Tots, 500 backpacks
- Goddard Riverside Lincoln Square Neighborhood – Clearview Festival; Beneficiary: Positive Influence
- Committee for Environmentally Sound Development – Olive Freud, [OliveFreud305@gmail.com](mailto:OliveFreud305@gmail.com)
- West Side Federation of Neighborhood & Block Associations – Clearview Festival
- Mitchell-Lama Residents Coalition – Katy Bordanaro, [Bordo119@aol.com](mailto:Bordo119@aol.com); Beneficiary: WSCAH
- Safe Haven West Side Basketball League – Clearview Festival; Beneficiary: PS 84 Special Projects Fund
- Goddard Riverside Community Center – Trish Anderton, [TAnderton@goddard.org](mailto:TAnderton@goddard.org); Beneficiary: Food Pantries
- Project Open at Lincoln Towers – Rochelle Shereff, [Rochelle185@verizon.net](mailto:Rochelle185@verizon.net) – Beneficiary: Food Pantries
- Broadway Mall Center – Clearview Festival
- Valley Restoration, LDC – Dan Cohen, [NewYorkCityDan@yahoo.com](mailto:NewYorkCityDan@yahoo.com); Beneficiary: Retired Social Workers Senior Center
- Symphony Space – Ed Budz, [Ed.Budz@symphonyspace.org](mailto:Ed.Budz@symphonyspace.org)
- Broadway Mall Association – Erin Powers, [EPowers@broadwaymall.org](mailto:EPowers@broadwaymall.org); Beneficiary: Goddard Riverside Community Center
- Bloomingdale Area Coalition – Clearview Festival

Clearview Festival Producers Present: Robert Ashe ([robertashe@clearviewfestival.com](mailto:robertashe@clearviewfestival.com)), Todd Berman and Mort Berkowitz

*After due deliberation the resolution to approve was adopted: Committee VOTE: 5-0-0-0 Non-Committee VOTE: 1-0-0-0*

2. **New Business.**

Discussion of propane tanks in outdoor sheds and why they were banned.

*The meeting ended at 7:40 p.m.*

## SENIOR TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

**Roberta Semer, Chair**

**December 9, 2021 at 10:00am**

*The meeting called to order at 10 am*

**Present:** Roberta Semer, Beverly Donohue, Madelyn Innocent, k Karpen and Madge Rosenberg. **Guest:** Lisa Beth Miller, Janet Weinstein, Margaret Walters (Lighthouse Guild), Betsy Margolis (JCCO, Paula Seefeldt (LILY), Robin Strashun (Search and Care) and Mark Jennings (Project Find).

Lisa Miller and Janet Weinstein introduced Maggi Walters who will join Lighthouse Guild as director of outreach. This will be Janet's last meeting. The Technology Center had its first public event. The Older care program is now open. Lisa spoke about the importance on ongoing assessment - she invited people to call her for appointments. Occupational Therapy only requires a referral from a doctor (the client's own on a Lighthouse Guild doctor)

Mark Jennings said that Project Find had a homeless drive over Thanksgiving, they will also provide grab and go meals at Christmas. The wait list is now closed. 98% of staff is vaccinated. They received technology grants to help senior with Wi-Fi and equipment. Lighthouse Guild is joining them for a Festival of Lights

K Karpen reported about WSCAH and St Paul and St Andrew. A big priority is healthy food. They have collaborated with Columbia Presbyterian, they also believe it is important to bring food to people they work with DoorDash and other food delivery providers. They have on-site pick up on Tuesday through Friday. Sunday the 12th there will be a free store in front of the Church for gifts, toys, warm clothing

Paula Seefeldt (LILY) the big concern is food security. They joined with Riverside Church to provide and deliver Thanksgiving dinners to constituents. They had a trip to the Shumberg Center to see a show: Travels while Black, In January they will present a program on zoom, Also they have a grant to provide cleaners who did a deep, thorough cleaning of apartments.

Betsy Margolis (The JCC) they are working on their winter-spring programs. The big push is to present programs on memory and to improve cognitive function. There are always wellness and fitness programs.

Robin Strashun (Search and Care) they are working on a Valentine's Day program which will be in Spanish in conjunction with the NYPD 23 precinct entitled "Love Yourself, Protect Yourself"

Roberta Semer reported on what's happening at Goddard Riverside: WSCAH continues to bring food to the Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center 1 day a month. Over 1,000 meals were handed out or delivered on Thanksgiving with help from WSCAH and St Paul's and St Andrews. There will also be meals handed out on Christmas.

Nest Thursday, November 16 at ten, there will be a small meeting to plan some events for 2022. We wish everyone a good holiday season and best wishes for the New Year

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am

***Next meeting is Thursday January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 am***

# PARKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Barbara Adler and Natasha Kazmi, Co-Chairpersons

*Joint with the* **PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

K Karpen and Michele Parker, Co-Chairpersons

December 9, 2021 at 6:30PM

**Present:** Barbara Adler, Natasha Kazmi, Daniela Alvarado, Ken Coughlin and Susan Schwartz.

**Preservation:** Michele Parker and K. Karpen, Co-Chairpersons; Jay Adolf, Josh Cohen, Page Cowley, Mark Diller, Klari Neuwelt, Madge Rosenberg, Peter Samton and Susan Schwartz. **Absent:** Elizabeth Caputo, William Ortiz and Polly Spain.

**1. Delacorte Theater, Central Park:** *Application concerning the renovation of the Delacorte Theater, to provide for improved ADA access; reconstruction of exterior facades, pathways and overhangs; improvement to lighting and stage facilities; and infrastructure improvements.*

The presentation introduction was made by Katie Riley (DPR), followed by Rosalind Barbour (Public Theater), Stephen Chu (Ennead Architects), and Valerie Campbell (Kramer Levin) and Julie Rosen (Higgins Quasebarth & Partners). The proposal is to upgrade the theater for safety and more comfortable conditions for staff, audiences and artists including those with disabilities, streamlined backstage operations, better theatrical infrastructure and a revitalized exterior.

The presentation covered appropriateness and design for submission to the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

The appropriateness presentation consisted of an explanation of the history and evolution of the Delacorte Theater and approaches of other renovation projects in Central Park and in Prospect Park, which have been found to be appropriate by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

The design component of the presentation covered the massing and proportions of the existing theater in comparison to the proposed new theater, the exterior design, signage, lighting, aging, plans and elevation, accessibility, as well as anticipated landscape. The new design modernizes the materials, structure and accessibility. Generally, the theater footprint will stay the same and nothing in the proposed design will damage the existing landscape. An arborist will review the root structure of existing trees to avoid damage. Some seating will be relocated, new ramps and access lifts will be added which would give much more accessibility.

Questions came up about lifespan, cost, changes to footprint and height and signage, the adjacent comfort station, availability of bike parking, the sustainability of the materials used, the type of wood to be used (including the engineered wood process), timing and phasing, as well as the subtle fall colors chosen for the seats and the size of the signage used around the theater.

The cost of the renovation is approximately \$77M: Funds in the amount of \$40M are already earmarked from City, \$1M from Assembly Member O'Donnell, and the rest of the funds are in the process of being raised.

A hearing with Landmarks is likely to take place in January, and groundbreaking would be in Fall 2022, with an effort to complete by the Summer of 2023. The goal is to lose as few performances as possible in the Summer 2023 season, but it has not yet been determined how or whether the theater will close, or if work will be done in the off-seasons.

The Parks & Environment Committee recommended a Resolution to approve the project, to be drafted.  
Committee Member Vote: 10-2-2-0

*The Parks & Environment portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:51PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

Daniela Alvarado



# PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

K Karpen and Michele Parker, Co-Chairpersons

*Joint with the* **PARKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE,**

Barbara Adler and Natasha Kazmi, Co-Chairpersons

December 9, 2021 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

*The Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Thursday, December 9, 2021, via the Zoom online platform. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Preservation Co-Chairs Michele Parker and K Karpen.*

**Present:** Michele Parker and K Karper, Co-Chairpersons; Jay Adolf, Joshua Cohen, Page Cowley, Mark Diller, William Ortiz, Madge Rosenberg, Peter Samton and Susan Schwartz. **Parks & Environment Present:** Barbara Adler and Natasha Kazmi, Co-Chairpersons; Daniela Alvarado, Ken Coughlin and Susan Schwartz.

*The following discussions were had and actions taken.*

1. **Delacorte Theater, Central Park** (81 Central Park West). **Application concerning the renovation of the Delacorte Theater, including improved ADA access; reconstruction of exterior facades, pathways and overhangs; improvement to lighting and stage facilities; and infrastructure improvements.**

**Preservation Committee**

*See P & E committee minutes.*

2. **23 West 83<sup>rd</sup> Street** (Columbus Avenue – Central Park West.) **Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to replace a single aluminum 1:1 double-hung window with a inswing casement window with a meeting rail to emulate a 1:1 configuration.**

*Presented by Ryan Coxen.*

- Window is on the upper right-hand corner of the front faced; only a small upper portion of the window is visible because a bay window directly below obscures its visibility.

**Discussion:** The need for the change was stated to be access to plants on the small balcony outside the window and was questioned by some committee members as providing possibly unsafe access and needing a railing

Application was **approved** as submitted 7-3-0-0.

3. **256 West 88<sup>th</sup> Street** (Broadway – West End Avenue.) **Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for rooftop and rear yard additions.**

*Presented by Jackie Peu-Duvallon & Chris Menziuso.*

- **The roof** is currently empty except for flues.
- The proposal is for a 10'4" tall addition consisting of one room and a stair bulkhead set back 23' from the front façade.
- 3 rooftops to the West have rooftop additions previously approved by LPC,
- Building to the East (254) has no addition.
- No portion of the proposed rooftop addition will be visible from a public way.
- **Rear Yard Addition** will be full width and add 1 new floor.
- 2 buildings to the West have full width additions.
- 3 large glass openings would be created on the third floor.
- The addition would match the adjoining addition at 258 W. 88<sup>th</sup> in height and volume.
- A 6' wood fence will surround the rear yard which is proposed to be bluestone set in cement.
- There will be cellar excavation only under the proposed addition.
- One large tree will be removed from the center of the yard. The applicant agreed to explore planting a new tree in a corner of the yard.

**Discussion:** Several committee members expressed concern about the proposed removal of the tree and the installation of a non-permeable surface in the rear yard. The applicant agrees to change the proposed bluestone, cement surface with interlocking pavers set in sand.

A general concern was expressed about the plan to renovate the front façade which was not presented to the committee. The applicant intends to file an application for this with LPC and hopes it will be approved at the staff level.

While accepting the applicant's description of the proposed front façade restoration, some committee members were reluctant to approve this application w/o knowing the full picture of work not presented. The applicant did not agree to a postponement of CB7 review citing scheduling issues.

A vote to approve with a requirement to use permeable material in the rear yard was 4-3-3-0, so the resolution failed. A second proposed resolution to **disapprove** was passed 9-1-0-0.

**4. 173-175 Riverside Drive (West 89<sup>th</sup> -90<sup>th</sup> Streets). Application #LPC-22-03297 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to repair and increase the height of the historic balustrade above the roofline, and to repair or replace terra cotta, limestone and other decorative and ornamental features of the three primary facades, and repair deteriorated structures behind or surrounding windows on the primary facades.**

*Presented by Barbara Esden.*

- Replacement of brick "in kind" on various lintels, with the main focus on the cornice and balustrade
- Work on cornice and below is approvable at LPC staff level; balustrade needs public hearing thus CB7 review.
- Aluminum coated spindles will be inserted between balustrade piers to reduce openings to code. Balustrade height will be raised 8" also for code compliance. Material used will be terra cotta.
- A suggestion was made by 1 committee member to possibly fill in the space between the piers w/ recessed brick but the consensus was that the proposed spindles were appropriate.

The application was approved as presented 9-0-1-0.

**5. 315 Central Park West (West 91<sup>st</sup> Street.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to install a flag at the school entrance on West 91<sup>st</sup> Street near the corner of Central Park West.**

*Presented by Nicholas Agneta, Architect for building owner.*

- Flags would be 24" high and 10" wide.
- Flags would be on metal poles attached to façade by 2 metal plates on each side.
- The flags would contain "Twin Parks Montessori School" and the school logos of 2 stylized green trees.
- Below the 2 proposed locations of the flags there are already 2 plaques containing the school's name.
- The committee was concerned that the flags may not be permitted under the portion of the zoning resolution governing such installations and the applicant was uncertain on this issue.
- Concern was also expressed about the method of attachment on the façade and the appearance of 4 signs in close proximity.

A vote to **approve** the application was 5-3-2-0, insufficient to pass.

The committee then decided to submit the application to the Full Board with no recommendation.



# TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Howard Yaruss and Andrew Albert, Co-Chairpersons

December 14, 2021 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

*The meeting can be viewed in its entirety at:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0qLLhppWtE&t=591s>

**Present:** Andrew Albert and Howard Yaruss, Co-Chairperson; Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Elizabeth Caputo, Ken Coughlin, Sara Lind and William Ortiz **Absent:** Doug Kleiman and Erana Stennett. **Non-committee Board Members:** Robert Espier, Seema Reddy, Richard Robbins, Roberta Semer and Mark Diller.

*The meeting was called to order by co-chair Howard Yaruss at 6:31 pm.*

Prior to the committee taking up its scheduled agenda, it heard a report on collisions within the 20<sup>th</sup> precinct from Captain Leighton Myrie. In the past 28 days, there were 39 collisions, compared with 42 for the same period last year. Most collisions occur in the north-south corridors, and there has been a spike in cab collisions -- 12 this year versus 3 last year. The primary nature of all collisions is sideswipes (23 of the 39 collisions), which Capt. Myrie attributed to the narrowing of the roadways caused by double-parking and the temporary outdoor dining structures.

But the number of fatalities in the 20<sup>th</sup> precinct -- seven -- is way up this year, far outstripping any of the 12 other commands in Manhattan North. Five victims were pedestrians, one was a cyclist and one a motorcyclist. Four of the pedestrian fatalities occurred on Amsterdam Avenue. Four of the seven victims were between the ages of 65 and 90. He said that the strikes might have been survivable if the victims had been younger. He said that as a result the precinct is focusing on outreach to seniors in the senior centers and disseminating safety flyers to the Upper West Side Coalition of Block Associations and building security personnel and others.

Yaruss asked whether the precinct has reached out to the DOT to request loading zones as a way of reducing collisions caused by double-parking. Capt. Myrie said they haven't. Colleen Chattergoon of the DOT said they are looking into loading zones on Central Park West and will get back to CB7 in a few months or so. She suggested that if Yaruss wanted more detailed information, he could contact the Manhattan Borough Commissioner about expediting CB7's request for loading zones.

Committee member Ken Coughlin asked what message the precinct is conveying to seniors and why we don't hear of similar outreach to drivers. Capt. Myrie said that while one of the fatalities involved a senior struck in a crosswalk by a driver charged with failing to yield and another was hit by a driver backing into a parking space, none of the four pedestrian fatalities at issue involved a driver doing anything "egregious." He said people should try to use the crosswalks and not walk between parked vehicles or cross mid-block. He said there is often outreach to drivers in the form of checkpoints.

Committee Co-Chair Albert asked what time of day did the accidents occur? Capt. Myrie responded that most of the accidents occurred during the day, while it was light out.

Committee member Sara Lind said there's a lot of illegal parking in loading zones and asked if there can be more. Capt. Myrie said that the precinct enforces loading zone violations.

Committee member Jay Adolf said that loading zones won't help much on Amsterdam Avenue, which is a permanent disaster due to all the different street uses and users. He said that one simple solution would be to get rid of the on-street restaurants.

Board member Rich Robbins asked Capt. Myrie whether there are any common traits among drivers who kill or injure, whether there is any tracking of serious injuries (in addition to fatalities) and what can be done to crack down on speeding, noting that the 20<sup>th</sup> issued no speeding tickets in a recent month. Capt. Myrie said the issue in the precinct isn't speeding, it's congestion.

## **Item 1: Update on the M96/M106 layover.**

Building construction at 270 West 96<sup>th</sup> (on the south side of 96<sup>th</sup> Street between West End Avenue and Broadway) will necessitate the moving of the layover spot that buses on the M96 and M106 lines use before making their eastbound trips.

Jessica Spanton and Buckley Yung of the MTA explained the plan to the committee. The layover will be moved to the block of 96<sup>th</sup> between Broadway and Amsterdam, but because the layover spot cannot take the entire curb on either the north or south side of that block, there will be a split layover, with space for one bus laying over on the south side and two buses on the north side. Operators will fill the two spots on the north side first and a third bus that needs a layover will have to continue the route to the layover on south side of 96<sup>th</sup>, and operators will have to explain to riders they pick up

at the intervening stops that they will be laying over when the bus reaches the south-side layover area. The western-most stop between West End Avenue and Broadway will be preserved during construction, but the second stop on that block will be eliminated. The current eastbound stop between Broadway and Amsterdam will be shifted further west to accommodate the new layover. Signage will be changed to reflect these changes.

Construction at 270 West 96<sup>th</sup> will begin in January or February of 2022 and take about three years. The contractor pays DOT for the bus stop moves.

In response to a question by Adolf, Yung said that riders catching a bus at the preserved stop on 96<sup>th</sup> just west of the construction site may have to flag the bus down because drivers may not be looking for a passenger there if they are going to the layover spot on the next block, although operators will be instructed to do so. Co-chair Andrew Albert stressed the importance of the bus displaying “Not in Service” at these times. Yung said that sometimes bus operators forget to change their display. Yung said that unfortunately westbound passengers wishing to get off at the stop at 97<sup>th</sup> and West End Avenue may have to wait on their bus for the duration of the layover on the north side of 96<sup>th</sup> if they don’t want to wait for the next bus.

**Item 2: Presentation by Hannah Weinerman of Rep. Jerrold Nadler’s office on the recently enacted Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.**

Weinerman outlined provisions of interest to New Yorkers in the Act and provisions that might be relevant to fund projects that the committee has discussed in past meetings.

Nationally, the law provides \$550 billion in new spending over the next five years. New York will receive \$11.6 billion in federal highway aid and \$1.9 billion for bridge replacement and repair, \$9.8 billion for public transportation (much of which will go directly to the MTA), \$100 million for broadband coverage, \$3.6 billion to prepare the state for the impacts of climate change, \$2.6 billion to improve water infrastructure, \$685 million for airports, and \$6 billion for the northeast corridor projects, including the Gateway tunnel.

The money is given to the state through formula allocations and through competitive grant programs that both city and state governments apply for. Community boards won’t be able to apply for funding but there are hundreds of competitive grant programs in the law, some existing with new funding and some entirely new programs. Weinerman said it is important for community boards to work with city and state partners to explain priorities. She highlighted some programs of potential relevance to CB7:

- Potential funding for bike share and scooter share systems;
- Capital projects for the construction of bus rapid transit corridors and dedicated bus lanes;
- Vulnerable road user research, directing the federal highway administrator to prioritize roadway
- design research into safety countermeasures to minimize fatalities and promote cycling and walking;
- “Safe Streets for All,” which funds state and local Vision Zero programs and other initiatives to reduce crashes and fatalities, especially among cyclists and pedestrians;
- Resources to make transit more accessible;
- Funding for resiliency in our transportation system;
- A new grant program to combat encroachment by invasive plants along transportation corridors; and
- Funding for more thoughtful freight corridor planning.

Committee member Elizabeth Caputo said that funding for the freight tunnel is critical and is something that Rep. Nadler has fought for for years.

Coughlin asked for confirmation that funding for the freight tunnel is included in the bill. Weinerman said that it is definitely included.

Coughlin asked how CB7 and the committee can we learn of the availability of these programs without becoming legislative experts.

Weinerman said that we should sit down with state elected officials when the program parameters are released in January and look at what programs we want to encourage agencies to apply for.

Board member Roberta Semer said she is thrilled that this was passed and looks forward to working with Weinerman on it as chair of the board’s Budget Committee.

Weinerman provided two links in the chat, one giving breakdowns of all of the funding programs in the Act:

- <https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Infrastructure%20Investment%20and%20Jobs%20Act%20-%20Section%20by%20Section%20Summary.pdf>

and one giving the funding that New York State will receive:

- [https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2021-11/Bipartisan\\_Infrastructure\\_Law\\_NewYork.pdf](https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2021-11/Bipartisan_Infrastructure_Law_NewYork.pdf)

### **Item 3: Discussion and potential resolution regarding request by Greenmarket/GrowNYC to renew its Street Activity Permits for the 77<sup>th</sup> Street and 97<sup>th</sup> Street Greenmarkets.**

Albert noted that unfortunately Cathy Chambers of GrowNYC couldn't attend the meeting to answer questions. However, she told him prior to the meeting that it is possible that the City will not approve the renewal of the 77<sup>th</sup> Street greenmarket's permit.

Coughlin suggested a strongly worded resolution in favor of the 77<sup>th</sup> Street market. Board members Mark Diller and Rich Robbins echoed this. The sense of the committee was that we should vote on a resolution immediately rather than wait to hear from Ms. Chambers just prior to the January full board meeting. In the meantime, co-chair Albert will try to ascertain the problem with the 77<sup>th</sup> Street market.

Noting that the Union Square greenmarket has expanded the days it is open, Robbins suggested that a possible expansion of the days be included in the resolution. Albert said that this could complicate matters.

**Resolution:** The following facts were taken into account when considering this resolution: The Greenmarket has become an integral part of the West Side Community, providing residents and visitors with all types of natural and farm-grown foods, products, and services. Manhattan Community Board #7 fully supports the renewal of both the 97<sup>th</sup> & 77<sup>th</sup> St locations of the Greenmarket for the calendar year 2022.

*Committee: 8-0-0-0. Non-committee Board Members: 4-0-0-0.*

### **Item 4: Discussion and potential letter of support regarding a request by the Ethical Culture Fieldston School for a school crossing guard.**

Nelson Dones, a former NYPD and NY Transit Police employee who is now the school's deputy director for public safety, requested the letter of support for a crossing guard at 63<sup>rd</sup> Street and Central Park West. He noted that the school has 450 students and that Central Park West is a wide, very busy street that many students must cross. Mr. Dones said that the school has been trying for about a year to get a response from the 20<sup>th</sup> precinct.

In an exchange with Mr. Dones earlier in the meeting, Capt. Myrie of the 20<sup>th</sup> precinct said that when it comes to such requests, the NYPD is supposed to fill requests from public schools before private schools. But he suggested that the precinct could put someone at the location using its own resources.

Mr. Dones claimed that the 20<sup>th</sup> has only one or two crossing guards in area and wondered why the school couldn't be given one.

Albert asked if there is any signage alerting drivers that a school is nearby. Mr. Dones said there is no signage.

Colleen Chattergoon of DOT said she would like to help with signage and markings and gave Mr. Dones her email address.

Mr. Dones also said that the current situation in which northbound Central Park West traffic can turn left on 63<sup>rd</sup> Street at the same time that southbound traffic can turn right is "an accident waiting to happen." Ms. Chattergoon said that DOT can look at the signals as well.

Adolf asked whether it is City policy to provide crossing guards at private schools, and what agency makes the determination on providing a guard. Mr. Dones said it's not unheard of, it just depends on how much political clout the school has, and the NYPD is the agency that makes the call on the guards.

Noting that the school charges \$55,000 a year tuition, committee member Barbara Adler asked why the school can't simply hire a private security guard. Coughlin agreed, noting that this is what Columbia Grammar does further north on Central Park West.

Yaruss, who lives nearby, said it sometimes seems that every student is being ferried to and from the school in a private car. He would like to see an effort on the school's part to encourage car pooling and coming to school in something other than a private vehicle. He described the situation as total chaos.

Mr. Dones said that five buses pick up and drop off the kids. In answer to a question from Albert, he doesn't know how many students use mass transit.

Diller said he understands the point about a wealthy school hiring its own guards, but noted that security guards and crossing guards are different: while a crossing guard is a peace officer empowered to do things like stop traffic, a security guard may not have training in this area and has no official empowerment. He said he would support a letter in support on this basis.

Board Member Seema Reddy disclosed that she has a child who attends the school and said that the traffic situation has grown far worse in the past two years since the advent of the Covid pandemic. Now, to prevent crowding there are drop-offs for different grades on both sides of Central Park West, so classes can enter the school one at a time. This has led to "absolute chaos," and she said something needs to be done to bring some order to the situation.

Lind said she is sympathetic to the wealthy school argument but thinks we should do everything possible as a board to protect children's lives.

Coughlin proposed that the letter say we support a crossing guard at least for the duration of the pandemic, while special drop-off practices at the school are required.

[Adolf said he agreed with Coughlin, at which point the entire committee took a break to buy lottery tickets.]

Caputo said she would vote for the letter but that we need to make sure that all neighborhoods are being treated equally when it comes to crossing guards. Many other public and private schools are being underserved, she said.

**Letter to 20<sup>th</sup> Pct. & DOT:** Manhattan Community Board #7 supports the placement of a crossing guard at 63<sup>rd</sup> St/Central Park West to help keep students travelling to; from the Ethical Culture/Fieldston School safe, for the duration of the pandemic, as travel has changed due to the pandemic. CB7 also supports the installation of signage to indicate the presence of a school and to warn motorists to slow down and watch for children. Additionally, we are requesting a change to the traffic signal at 63<sup>rd</sup> St & Central Park West, so that traffic from both northbound & southbound Central Park West cannot turn into 63<sup>rd</sup> Street at the same time.

*Committee: 7-1-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 3-0-0-0.*

#### **New Business:**

Adler said that the Parks & Environment Committee has been trying to find out when the construction at the Rotunda in Riverside Park will commence. She has contacted the original presenters from the DOT's Bridge Division, with no response.

Albert said it's likely spring, but we just don't know. He will ask DOT Manhattan Borough Commissioner Ed Pincar.

*Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.*

# LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Richard Ashe and Jeannette Rausch

December 15, 2021 at 6:30 via ZOOM

*Land Use Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met via the Videoconferencing application Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Co-Chairperson Richard Ashe.*

**Present:** Richard Ashe, Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Sheldon Fine, Klari Neuwelt, Jeannette Rausch, Seema Reddy, Richard Robbins, Melissa Rosenberg, Peter Samton and Ethel Sheffer. **Absent:** William Ortiz and Andrew Ridge.

**Non-Committee Board Members:** Jay Adolf, Daniela Alvarado, Mark Diller, Robert Espier, Doug Kleiman and Roberta Semer.

*The following matters were discussed:*

## 1. City Process for Permitting Outdoor Restaurant Seating:

Jeannette noted that the record recording the CB's vote against eliminating, in its entirety, *Chapter 4 – Sidewalk Café Regulations* of Article 1 within the Zoning Resolution and thus removing DCP from overseeing any aspects of sidewalk cafes, was corrected in the City's ZAP portal.

As the Committee's vote reflected a consensus that eliminating any existing rules prior to the establishment of new rules was undesirable, further discussion was held regarding the overall unsatisfactory and general lack of genuine and clear processes for moving forward with a new structure for permitting outdoor seating.

Committee members expressed several points as follows:

- DOT indicated it would develop draft guidelines by March 2022. The speed and limited outreach at which the DOT is now proposing to advance these guidelines (a three-month public outreach process) does not permit for sufficient local community input and is at odds with what DOT relayed to the committee in September (18 month-two years process).
- We need to discuss the issues with other committees, and we need to hold a public hearing.
- We need to recognize what other communities are experiencing (see recent NYT article re: MCB2)
- Some suggested that the new administration may take a different view of the current proposal.
- It is recognized that even within our Committee and our larger CB, we don't all speak with one voice on this issue, we do all agree that the current process is vague and flawed.
- It is important to focus on who our constituents are in articulating our views.
- We might want to coordinate our next discussion around certain aspects to provide more structure.

The Committee agreed that while it was likely the City Council would vote on the City Planning Commission-approved text change in January 2022, there remains a need to advocate for a process of sufficient duration and outreach to provide for adequate community input both as to forthcoming guidelines from DOT and as to approvals of individual restaurant applications for permits. We agreed to discuss at Steering Committee how best to proceed.

## 2. Scaffolding:

Richard indicated that he was not able to coordinate a representative from CM Ben Kallos's office regarding his proposed sidewalk scaffolding legislation [Int. 1389 and Int. 1353-2019 <https://benkallos.com/scaffolding-2016>]

The committee engaged in a discussion of some key questions and issues as follows:

- Problems are posed by building owners leaving scaffolding in place for excessive periods, sometimes extending several years or more, and often posing real safety issues.
- The trick is to keep scaffolding where needed, but ensure it is well maintained and safe.

- It is believed that DOB lacks sufficient inspectors.
- There are some unique circumstances regarding faith-based institutions that have scaffolding for many years due to a lack of funds to fix their buildings.
- Amsterdam Houses has a horrendous situation, but Erica from Assembly member Rosenthal's office indicated that a letter had been sent to NYCHA and they claimed they would be removing it shortly as work was projected to be completed by June 2022.
- Schools are also another land use that often have scaffolding for years. CB7's YEL Committee will also be discussing this, and we should coordinate.

All agreed that this was an important issue, and we should work with incoming CM Gale Brewer to push legislation to address better maintenance and prompt removal of scaffolding in our community. We should also coordinate with other communities and incoming MBP Mark Levine.

3. **New Business:**

Page called the committee's attention to a proposal by LINK NYC to erect 5G cell towers which are 32 feet tall at locations in the City, and that these pose a number of concerns, especially if in residential historic districts.

Ethel, who is an appointed member of the PDC, shared more detail on these sidewalk structures that are part of an effort by the NYC Office of Information, Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT) as a means for providing 5G access to communities with little or no service. She noted that the Public Design Commission had approved the towers, but with certain limiting conditions. She also noted that to date, they were only looking to install such within Industrial and Commercial neighborhoods.

All agreed we needed to get more information on citing criteria and it would be good to ask DoITT and Link to come and present such to the community.

*Upon motion duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45.*

# YOUTH, EDUCATION & LIBRARIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Blanche Lawton and Courtney Clark Metakis, Co-Chairpersons

December 16, 2021 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

**Present:** Kristen Berger, Courtney Clark Metakis, Beverly Donohue, Mark Diller, Robert Espier, Dana Gallagher, Audrey Isaacs, Blanche Lawton, Ira Mitchneck, Seema Reddy and Benjamin Wu.

*The meeting was called to order at 6:32 by co-chairs Blanche Lawton and Courtney Clark Metakis.*

Courtney announced that three groups of speakers were on hand to present on issues relating to school construction and school scaffolding in Community District 7:

1. Three parents from PS 333 – David Pincus, Lynn Feng and Gui Stampur
2. Rodney Mendez, PTA Co-President of PS 165
3. Josh Adams, New York City School Construction Authority (SCA)

The parents from PS 333 (the Manhattan School for Children) then introduced themselves. David Pincus, a former member of Manhattan Community Board 4 has a 7-year-old daughter in P.S. 333 who is unable to hear her teacher speak due to drilling noise. Gui Stampur, a lawyer, has a child in kindergarten, and Lyn Feng has a son in the school.

Lyn Feng then described the parents' concerns. The school building is shared by Manhattan School for Children (MSC) and two other schools. Scaffolding has covered the entire building for over seven years. SCA estimates September 2022 for substantial completion of the renovation project, with total completion several months later. The parents' goal is to have construction complete by next fall's school start. That would require substantial completion by June. MSC is a co-teaching school with substantial numbers of special needs children. Construction vehicle activity is constant. Two out of three outdoor play areas are closed off to students for construction materials. Third through eighth graders line up under the sidewalk shed for dismissal and drop off in a narrow corridor that prevents social distancing. There is no place to play and students can't appreciate the outside of the landmark building. Parents have been trying to work with local government, including the SCA to expedite the project. They met with Josh Adams last week to discuss concrete ways that the SCA can speed up construction.

She outlined three areas where the parents would like to see action:

1. The SCA providing parents with regular visibility into the project, including phasing and budget.
2. Speeding up completion by any means possible. For example, the contractor rarely works on Saturday, though Saturday work is permitted. The contractor is supposed to have 60-70 workers on site, but parents have seen a maximum of 20 only. Prioritizing phasing of the project to complete work around the biggest outside areas would have the most immediate positive impact on students.
3. The SCA providing monthly check-ins with Josh Adams with Community Board 7 present.

David Pincus added that, for three months, ConEd did street work with jackhammering during school hours. The windows had to be open because of Covid. Teachers could not be heard. Students were taken into the corridor to read. Street work has now been finished, but his daughter lost 2-3 months of education.

Gui Stampur noted that the emotional toll on students from the construction was real. He offered to provide an essay that a fourth-grade student wrote on the impact.

Rodney Mendez then spoke about construction issues at PS165 on W109th St.

- Construction on a \$17 million roof project has gone on for 10 years. Scaffolding has become part of the landscaping.
- Quality of life concerns include having to change kids' shoes 3 times because of poop on the sidewalk.
- The staging areas are now empty of construction materials but are still closed off.
- Teachers have lost parking and now must pay for parking lots.
- The school looks closed, which hurts enrollment, which is critical for school budget and programs. Who wants to go to a spooky school? He is working with the school to address the enrollment impact.
- There is an impact on the social emotional learning of students from the scaffolding and looking at a permanently spooky school. Ending construction would be a morale booster for students and teachers. There is an immaculate building hiding behind the scaffolds.
- He met with Josh Adams. His approach was a stereotypical construction view. The lesson to be learned is that these are not regular construction projects. It should be that part of the SCA's mission is to work on institutions for learning. His feedback did not mention kids. That's a big deal. They need to remember who their end users are. He was told that construction would wrap up in August and the scaffolding would be down by October. The schedule keeps getting pushed back.



Blanche Lawton then introduced Joshua Adams from the School Construction Authority.

Josh empathized with the parents on the time frame and noted that both projects are nearing the end.

- PS 165 is a roof repair and PS 333 is an exterior modernization.
- PS 165 will reach substantial completion in August 2022. Getting inspections completed after that will be necessary before the scaffolding can come down.
- PS 333's renovation will reach substantial completion in September 2022.
- PS 165 was substantially delayed because of a prior contractor problem. The original completion date with the current contractor was 2021. That date was pushed to 2022 because of work shutdowns during Covid.
- PS 333 was delayed because of the need to investigate issues uncovered in early phases. The school used Flemish bond construction. Demolition discovered that the rods were in bad condition and not holding the face brick. The project needed to address the problem.
- He is holding progress meetings in both schools monthly on safety and progress. Current policy is for parent representative to attend each meeting. If permission were to be granted, more than one representative could attend.
- He also holds internal technical progress updates with the contractor. The projects are still on track for the announced dates. However, if they find additional problems, they will need to investigate them.
- The contractor is not allowed to work when school is in session. During the summer and during school breaks they can work during the day. He will inquire whether it is possible to work both daytime and evenings on Saturdays.
- Flooding at PS 333 is caused by a drainage issue, not in the staging area. He will contact the director of facilities to try to clean out drains.
- Regarding concerns about the homeless sheltering at the site, he is working with Goddard Riverside. If the community can document the time and locations of homeless sightings, he can notify Goddard.

Cindy Cardinale then spoke, representing Councilmember Helen Rosenthal:

- Josh is the 3rd person in this role in 18 months. She is aware that two-week look-ahead documents on the projects are provided to neighbors. There is a tension between what neighbors want and what parents want. Parents want early completion and neighbors want minimal disruption. Can Josh provide the two-week look-ahead to parents? There is precedent to having additional meetings. She encouraged him to meet with as many stakeholders as possible. In 15 months, the timeline has shifted several times.
- Josh responded that he could provide the look-aheads to parents. The budget does not impact the timeline. All on-going projects are fully funded within the Capital Plan. Work hours are a constraint. He did confirm with the General Contractor that 60-70 workers are on-site. He will go out to observe next week.

**The co-chairs then called on Board members for comments.**

Mark Diller:

- He focused on where CB7 can add value by making sure the look-aheads are shared and the right parents are informed so they can attend and ensuring there is a CB7 attendee.
- He wondered if half the time on the project has been waiting for inspections. CB7 can push both the SCA and DOB to get inspections done.
- These are complicated projects and the incoming City Council member has expertise to offer.
- DOT doesn't care about any of these issues and has been terrible at coordination. The CB7 District Manager has a monthly service cabinet attended by City agency representatives and can try to get ConEd and DOT to share.
- Josh Adams responded that the SCA has its own inspectors and does not use DOB. SCA inspections do not take long. He would be happy to join the district service cabinet.

Blanche Lawton noted that the SCA has a lot more constraints than private construction has. No private development would take 10 years. She wondered about contractual leverage. Is there a financial burden on contractors for project delays?

Kristen Berger suggested involving the Community Education Council (CEC3). Every school has a liaison at CEC. The priority for completion is the outdoor yards. She recommended briefings monthly.

Ira Mitchneck described his experience as an architect on public and private projects and his history working with the SCA and the NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

- When the SCA was created, NYS SHPA was given jurisdiction over historical aspects of school preservation, not the City's Landmarks Preservation Commission.
- Private construction jobs must retain independent architects for inspections.
- He worked with the same contractor currently managing PS333 construction on a project that was run by the EDC. Work was done only during summer. The contractor staffed the project so that a 2-summer program was done in one summer. Early probes were done to identify potential problems. A production manager was brought in to procure materials 6 months before the job started. It was unpopular with neighbors but working for two months



24/7 got the job done. A lot of contractors can't run a job on a 1–3-month funding cycle. The EDC funding cycle was 2 weeks. Defaulting contractors is painful in the public sector. It can take years to default a contractor, unlike in the private sector. Probes are unpopular but critical. There were multiple meetings on the construction site, many of them tedious and uninformative. If EDC could do this, so could the SCA if some changes in their legislation gave more flexibility.

- Everyone at the SCA is sincere. They never miss an opening date for a new school. Their record is not so good on school rehab. Scaffolding could take no more than 2 weeks to dismantle.

Courtney Clark Metakis asked if there were areas where CB7 advocacy could help in expediting the work. Josh Adams responded there was a lot CB7 could do to help. It has been difficult to get responses on problems from the NYPD and other agencies concerning illegal activity. DSS and Goddard Riverside have been responsive on homeless matters. The NYPD have not responded to emails.

Mark Diller suggested Josh try to get DOE school safety officers and crossing guards to patrol the area.

Gui Stampour expressed that he did not trust that the 9-month plan for completion was real. He asked whether a phased approach focused on freeing up the school yard was feasible, as currently only 40% of the yard is usable. Josh Adams responded that the roof work won't begin until spring. Phasing would not be possible as the school yard is part of the fall-protect area and is a staging area. However, he will see if the SCA can reduce the size of the cordoned area.

Rodney Mendez stated that the limit of the number of workers who could be on the PS 165 roof seems to be an important constraint. The August 2022 deadline is a big deal for parents.

Robert Espier discussed how change orders can slow a project down and suggested that keeping an eye on change orders would be a way to understand whether unforeseen circumstances would delay completion. He suggested SCA share this information. Josh responded that he would take back a request for a longer view of the projects beyond the two-week look-ahead.

Ira Mitchnick compared investigative probes to exploratory surgery. He viewed them as effective in minimizing change orders, noting that change orders were time-killers requiring everyone to get out to the site to review the issue.

Blanche Lawton noted that CB7 might structure a way to have on-going communication

#### **Public Comment:**

Jaime Cunningham, parent of a fourth grader in PS165, noted that, in normal times, summer and vacations do not seem to be used effectively for construction. The superintendent in her building near the school has not seen a lot of action at the site. It would help if more workers could be used during summer. Josh Adams responded that, at PS 333, the SCA reduced the timeline by 2 months over last summer. PS 165 is on track for an August substantial completion.

Courtney Clark Metakis noted that a parent from PS333 had posted a question in the Chat. Her son uses a wheelchair and has access problems. Can more be done to allow better accessibility? Josh Adams responded that there should be adequate width for a wheelchair around the scaffolding as that was required by the building code. Lyn Feng noted that the practicality was that space was tight when students were dropped off. Josh Adams suggested that CEC3 can submit any construction requests by January 15 for inclusion into the Capital Plan.

Robert Espier remarked that ADA improvements to schools are included in CB7's budget requests every year. The Board is looking for projects that are actionable.

Blanche Lawton and Courtney Clark Metakis thanked the speakers for participating and providing food for thought and items for action.

The Committee members then discussed what next steps to take on the topic of the meeting. The consensus was that more work was needed before any resolution could be prepared. The following plan of action emerged:

1. Prepare a letter to the new City administration pointing out excessive school building renovation timelines as an issue that CB7 wishes to pursue.
2. Ensure that Josh Adams is invited to the CB7 District Service Cabinet and facilitate his coordination with other City agencies, especially the NYPD
3. Organize SCA meetings for Parent Association and CB7 representatives or piggyback on existing meetings.
4. Research where other school projects have been delayed in other districts with an eye to joining with other Community Boards in requesting an audit from the incoming Comptroller.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 PM*

# STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 21, 2021 at 6:30pm via ZOOM

Steven Brown, Chair

**Present:** Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Steven Brown, Elizabeth Caputo, Courtney Clark Metakis, Christian Cordova, Ken Coughlin, Louisa Craddock, Mark Diller, Beverly Donohue, Sheldon Fine, Natasha Kazmi, Ira Mitchneck, William Ortiz, Michele Parker, Jeannette Rausch, Seema Reddy, Andrew Rigie, Rich Robbins, Melissa Rosenberg, Susan Schwartz, Roberta Semer, Ethel Sheffer and Kristina Villarini. **Absent:** Catherine DeLazzero, K Karpen, Doug Kleiman, Blanche Lawton and Howard Yarus.

The Steering Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, on the Zoom online platform. Chair Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm after the Secretary confirmed a quorum was present. The following discussions were had, and actions taken.

## Chair's Report

Steve Brown opened with the Chair's report for the last Steering meeting of 2021.

- The Board has two new members – Anthony Thomas and Christina Villarini.
- Since two committees did not get a quorum this month, he will take a look at attendance issues at the end of the year. Membership requires attendance at two committees and the Full Board meeting. He will have conversations with some members who are missing most of their meetings.
- At the Borough Board, he supported a short-term resolution to extend virtual meetings. He abstained on a longer-term resolution since we have established a task force to develop a recommendation for the Board. If the current expiration date of January 15 to the Open Meeting Law suspension is not extended, it could impact our committee meetings in the last half of January.
- He has Created a Personnel Task Force. Its members are Seema Reddy, Beverly Donohue and Roberta Semer. The purpose is to put the CB office team together and address some bumps.
- He is creating a Task Force on Public Safety. CB7 is one of the few CB's without a committee or task force charged with public safety issues. The Task Force will work for 6 months and decide whether an on-going task force, a committee or combining public safety responsibilities into an existing committee is the best solution. William Ortiz and Josh Cohen will co-chair the Public Safety Task Force.

Steve Brown then responded to comments and questions from Board members related to the Public Safety Task Force:

- The Task Force meetings will be open to the public, announced and links provided.
- The members will define the mandate and focus; almost every committee has public safety issues and collaboration will be important. For example, YEL focused on kids as both victims and perpetrators of crime.
- The Co-Chairs will recommend members and the Chair and Executive Committee will finalize appointees.
- We have some public safety issues without any committee coverage (e.g., a partial closing of a FDNY company due to opposition to the vaccine mandate, ConEd concerns).
- One possibility is to broaden the task force to all City uniformed services as was done at CB7 in the past.
  - Precinct and fire commanders and sanitation representatives came to past uniformed services committee meetings
  - It would be important to attend and be aware of existing meeting structures such as NYPD Community Councils.
- A new task force should be critical and analytic, more focused on data than is possible in the precinct reports that are part of the Full Board meetings.
- Members noted linkages the new Task Force would have with homeless services, transportation, phone theft and playground safety.

A suggestion to have representation on the Task Force from all committees received approval from William Ortiz, Task Force co-chair

## Committee and Task Force Reports

- **BCI:** Christian Cordova reported that there was no quorum at the December meeting. Approval of street fairs was the only item on the agenda. While there was no vote, the sense of the meeting was to approve all 15 items which were unchanged from previous years.
- **Preservation:** Michele Parker reported that the Committee voted on 4 applications. One was disapproved. That application involved a rear yard and rooftop. There were issues with the rooftop and a consensus that the applicant should have addressed the front facade.

- **Parks and Environment:** Barbara Adler stated that the Delacorte Theater renovation in Central Park was the subject of a joint Preservation and Parks meeting. While the project plan was sensitive, there was some pushback from members on the colors of seats. The joint committee vote was 10-2-2.
- **Housing:** Melissa Rosenberg announced that the Housing Committee did not meet in December but is exploring the potential for a joint meeting with the HHS Committee in January on Project Find.
- **Transportation:** Andrew Albert reported that the Committee discussed the change in layover location for the 96th Street crosstown bus because of construction at 270 West 96th Street and had a good discussion on the Federal infrastructure legislation and its implications for the MTA and street safety. They voted on a resolution approving the Greenmarkets on West 97th Street and West 77th Street and included strong language in support as they heard that the W77th Street location might not be approved. The Committee will send a letter of support for a school crossing guard at the Ethical Culture School at West 63rd Street and Central Park West.
- **Land Use:** Jeannette Rausch reported that the Committee had a lively discussion on LinkNYC's plan to extend the height of its cell towers to support 5G. They also discussed open restaurants and want to focus on scaffolding with Gale Brewer when she takes office in January as City Councilmember.
- **YEL:** Courtney Clark Metakis recounted that the December meeting focused on scaffolding at two schools in the district. Several action items emerged for further work on the subject.
- **HHS:** Sheldon Fine announced that the committee was not meeting in December. He has been in contact with the Center for NYC Affairs at the New School. They have done an amazing survey and report on the NYC workforce during the pandemic. NYC has three times the job losses of the rest of the country and only 57% of the lost jobs have been regained. The Committee will be working on this issue during the up-coming month.
- **Budget:** Roberta Semer noted that the District Needs Statement for FY2023 is not on the website yet because City Planning has not completed formatting. The Budget Committee will be reaching out to Committee Co-Chairs in January to explain the changes in format put in place by DCP.
- **Senior Task Force:** Roberta Semer announced that the Task Force is planning a series of events on housing that will be on Zoom and posted at some of the Senior Centers. The first event will be at the end of February or beginning of March with a second one probably in April.
- **By-Laws Task Force:** Susan Schwartz reported that there was no December meeting.
- **Open Meetings Task Force:** Elizabeth Caputo reported that she has assembled a group and will likely host a poll. The task force expects to put together a plan for meetings beyond January.

### Old Business

**Dock House for the 79th Street Boat Basin:** A number of Board members expressed deep concern about the current design put forward by The Economic Development Corporation for dock house replacement as part of the boat basin reconstruction. The Parks Committee has addressed the issue at several meetings. Members are hoping for an opportunity to make themselves heard. While dredging the boat basin is popular, the dock house design issue has received wide-spread negative comment. Elected officials are aware of the strength of community feeling and EDC is aware that CB7 wants another meeting. The Public Design Commission (PDC) has authorized the project to proceed to the next step; they have not approved the design. The architectural firm is a sub-contractor to the project engineer. In the past, the PDC has convinced architects to radically change designs. The strong letter expressing CB7's concerns is on the CB7 website; it has been used by Borough President Brewer and Councilmember Rosenthal and has been forwarded to the PDC.

### New Business

**Text Amendment on Permanent Open Restaurants:** A discussion took place on what process CB7 should use to have a voice in the development of DOT's detailed plan and in the expected City Council consideration of the zoning text amendment to transfer jurisdiction over sidewalk cafes to the Department of Transportation. Matters discussed included:

- At its September 2021 Full Board meeting, CB7 disapproved the zoning text amendment by a vote of 27-17-3-0 on the grounds that it removed Community Boards from the location approval process at a time when no guidelines or preliminary location criteria had been developed by DOT. CB7 took no position on whether DOT was the appropriate agency for this function.
- DOT has made clear that its plan for public outreach does not include meetings with individual community boards. They are focused on virtual roundtables and survey work through partner agencies and their outreach appears to be perfunctory. They had publicly committed to one and a half years of plan development and consultation, but that promise seems deceptive.
- Should the CB7 weigh in directly with the City Council and prepare testimony?

- Should the three committees involved (BCI, Planning and Transportation) have a joint meeting to develop a CB7 position? There was not a consensus that this should occur. BCI would prefer to meet with small businesses that would be impacted and that have already invested heavily in infrastructure for the temporary Open Restaurants program.
- While a variety of opinions were expressed there appeared to be consensus that DOT should not be the sole agency in charge of all decisions.
- If it is a *fait accompli* that the City has decided to take this matter outside the zoning resolution, would CB7 be better off focusing on what the new rules should be?
- It is important to develop a position as quickly as possible to forestall the perception that CB7's negative vote in September means we are opposed to outside dining.
- A hybrid approach emerged as a consensus way to proceed
  - First individual committees would use part of their January meetings to consider their priorities using six topics to structure the discussion – accessibility, safety, equity, neighborhood context, enforcement and sanitation.
  - Following the committee meetings, CB7 would hold a public hearing, probably in February, to get input from the community. On this issue, it is important that the public be heard.
  - The Board would then finalize a position to communicate to the new administration, the new DOT commissioner and the new City Council and Borough President.
- DCP added a provision to the text amendment that will go before the City Council stating that the amendment would not take effect until permanent program guidelines are approved. A decision point for the Community Board is whether to come up with suggestions soon or wait until the Council has a hearing to make our input public.

Steve Brown and Board members summarized the discussion. Each committee should discuss their issues in January. Land Use could focus on dissatisfaction with the DOT's process. BCI could focus on the impact on businesses and Transportation on safety issues. A public hearing would follow in February enabling the development of a CB7 resolution on the issue. A resolution on our dissatisfaction with the process is not necessary. DOT knows we are unhappy with the process. We could, however, prepare a letter on the topic.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.*