

COMMUNITY BOARD 7/MANHATTAN

FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 2021 at 6:30pm

Steven Brown, Chairperson

Present: Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Rosa Arenas, Richard Asche, Steven Brown, Josh Cohen, Christian Cordova, Ken Coughlin, Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Catherine DeLazzerro, Mark Diller, Bev Donohue, Robert Espier, Shelly Fine, Paul Fischer, Julian Giordano, Madelyn Innocent, K Karpen, Natasha Kazmi, Doug Kleiman, Blanche Lawton, Sara Lind, Ira Mitchneck, Klari Neuwelt, Michele Parker, Jeannette Rausch, Seema Reddy, Andrew Rigie, Rich Robbins, Madge Rosenberg, Melissa Rosenberg, Peter Samton, Roberta Semer, Ethel Sheffer, Polly Spain, Howard Yaruss.

Not Present: Elizabeth Caputo, Courtney Clark Metakis, Audrey Isaacs, Doug McGowan, William Ortiz, Meg Schmitt, Susan Schwartz, Erana Stennett.

Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm after the Secretary confirmed the existence of a quorum. He walked through the agenda and announced that links were being placed in the chat to allow the public and elected officials to sign up to speak.

Public Safety Session

Reports from the NYPD: 24th & Central Park Precincts

Captain William Gallager, Central Park Precinct

Captain Gallager announced that he, Captain Zuber and Deputy Inspector Yaguchi had just attended the funeral of Officer Anastasios Tsakos, killed in the line of duty by a drunk driver as he was working the scene of a fatal crash on the Long Island Expressway. On behalf of all three precincts, he wanted to recognize the sacrifice of Officer Tsakos and his family.

He then reported on two recent crimes. Friday night, there was a sexual assault in the North Woods. Both individuals are known to each other and the incident is under investigation. Friday morning there was a robbery at the corner of W72nd Street and Central Park West. An individual trying to sell a bicycle followed another individual and robbed him in the park. The investigation is open.

The Park is receiving an electric charging station and will receive a series of electric vehicles. He will report on their use and impact on the environment in the next several months. The charging station is under construction.

Deputy Inspector Naoki Yaguchi, 24th Precinct

Deputy Inspector Yaguchi noted that April had been quiet in the 24th Precinct but May looks to be busier. Saturday night there was a shooting at 104th Street and Amsterdam Ave. The 24 is still down in robberies and burglaries for the year but up in grand larcenies with an increase in scams.

Shelly Fine asked Deputy Inspector Yaguchi about the shooting, which was near his apartment. He had heard that the two young men who were victims were from Douglas Houses. D.I. Yaguchi responded that one of the individuals did have a record but he had no knowledge of their relationship to the shooter.

Linda Alexander asked whether the NYPD has come up with solutions for the motorized bikes and ATVs that are speeding on Amsterdam Avenue in groups of 10-12 at a time threatening diners and pedestrians. D.I. Yaguchi responded that they have seized three bikes and are trying to document who the bikers are. He requested that anyone with information about where the bikes are stored to please report to the precinct. He understands that they represent a danger. The NYPD has stationed officers at the bridges to prevent groups of motorized bikers and ATV's from entering Manhattan.

Doug Kleiman stated that rogue members of the biker group are also cutting off traffic on the West Side Highway as well as riding on the bridle path in Central Park and ripping up the grass. He videoed a mass of 71 riders going through 6 red lights. A New Jersey officer discussed using unconventional means like drones to apprehend bikers and he wanted to know if the NYPD was also trying different approaches. Captain Gallagher noted that helicopters have been used to track the bikers and that this type of crime is best solved via investigation rather than high speed chase which would be dangerous to both police and civilians.

Rich Robbins noted that these vehicles are loud and traveling at high speeds, conveying an impression of lawlessness. He asked whether anything could be done on the DMV side, if the vehicles are unregistered, and whether the Board should alert elected officials if there is a needed law change. D.I. Yaguchi said they were trying to come up with a lot of approaches and have intervened to arrest individuals whenever they could. He believed that advocacy could be helpful and it might be useful to contact the DMV.

Peter Arndtsen wanted to second what D.I. Yaguchi said. A young girl was killed at 97th St several years ago, pinned up against a building by an errant car fleeing the police. The motorbikes have stopped coming north into the Open Streets blocks on Amsterdam from 106th to 110th. Instead, they veer off onto Broadway. Motorized bikes have been hitting a number of pedestrians who have not been reporting the incidents.

Nicole Metzger asked D.I. Yaguchi to comment on a robbery at gunpoint at 88th and Central Park West the afternoon before. D.I. Yaguchi explained that there had not been a robbery on the street, but there had been two related incidents in two separate buildings where there had been forcible entry. It appears that the victim and the perpetrator knew each other and were engaged in a dispute.

Jonathan Halpern, a resident of 96th Street, while walking in Central Park before 9:00 A.M. in an area designated for unleashed dogs, was knocked over by two unleashed and uncontrolled dogs. He was injured and required a CAT scan. The dogwalker was not able to control the dogs. He has been in touch with owners and tried to file a report but was told he couldn't because he didn't call for an ambulance. He wished to call the issue of uncontrolled dogs to the attention of the Community Board. Captain Gallager noted that the Parks Enforcement Patrol has taken the lead in enforcing regulations concerning dogs off the leash. They have conducted two operations in the last week and issued summonses. He noted that there was ongoing enforcement but recognized that was cold comfort to Mr. Halpern. Jonathan also noted that ATV's in the Park are speeding on the hills and putting children and adults at risk. Finally, he noted that West 96th from West to East has become a speedway for cars creating a menace as cars are double-parked for unloading.

Steve Brown asked Captain Gallager and D.I. Yoguchi whether they knew about an incident in the 20th Precinct in which an e-bike hit a pedestrian resulting in a death. Captain Gallager and D.I. Yoguchi did not have details of the incident but shared safety concerns about e-bikes.

Blanche Lawton asked whether there is a limit to the number of dogs that a dog walker can walk. Several sources have suggested that the maximum is five. Capt. Gallager doubted that there was a law but stated that he would research the question.

Business Session

Business & Consumer Issues Committee

Christian Cordoba announced that the Committee will have a discussion at their May meeting regarding third-party delivery people's access to bathrooms. Linda Alexander noted that they have invited Doordash and other third party delivery companies, as well as restaurants, to present on the issue, not just the prepared food delivery businesses, but also Fresh Direct, Uber and a broader industry group. The following month, they will have representatives of the delivery people present.

Linda Alexander noted that Roberta Semer had presented at the last BCI meeting on the budget process, and they had a great discussion. She then presented the first of three pending resolutions regarding applications for liquor licenses, describing them as pro forma.

The first was a class change application to the SLA for La Dinastia Restaurant, **145 West 72nd Street (Amsterdam Avenue) from Beer and Wine only to a full on-premises liquor license.**

The resolution was approved by committee members 7-0-0-0 and by non-committee members 1-0-0-0.

Christian Cordoba then presented two new applications to the SLA for two year licenses:

- **210 West 94th Street (Broadway) Taqueria 86 Inc. d/b/a To be Determined.** The resolution passed the Committee 7-0-0-0 for committee members and 1-0-0-0 for non-committee members.
- **667 Columbus Avenue (West 93rd Street) Peak Barista LLC d/b/a Peak Barista.** The resolution passed the Committee 7-0-0-0 for committee members and 1-0-0-0 for non-committee members.

Ken Coughlin asked why a coffee house needed a liquor license. Doug Kleiman responded that Peak Barista will become a wine bar in the evening.

The vote for all three resolutions was taken by a show of hands: 40-0-0-0.

Land Use Committee

Jeannette Rausch introduced a resolution re: **Proposed map amendment to Special Lincoln Square District to include former ABC sites on W66/67th streets.**

The ABC site at Columbus Ave. and 67th Street is being vacated by ABC and they have sold the property. The site was originally removed from the Special Lincoln Square District because of ABC's plan to use the site for studios. The ABC site is contiguous with the Special District and Landmarks West wants to amend the zoning so that the special district includes the site. Landmarks West has requested that CB7 be a co-applicant.

Richard Asche noted that Landmarks West will undertake all costs of the ULURP application.

Jeannette Rausch clarified that inclusion of the site would not restrict the use or bulk of construction on the site but would prevent a super-tall tower from being built.

Shelly Fine noted that, had ABC not planned to be there, the site would have been included in the district initially. Landmarks West is unlikely to have enough influence on their own to achieve the rezoning and believes that CB7 participation will strengthen the application.

Richard Asche clarified that, legally, CB7 cannot engage in a legal proceeding but can engage in a zoning action.

Howard Yaruss asked whether the rezoning would result in any reduction in square footage. Richard Asche responded that there would be no reduction. The rezoning would require that 60% of the allowable FAR be in the first 150 feet.

Jeannette Rausch noted that, if a super-tall tower were built on the site, any open space at the base would be private. Richard Asche added that it is unlikely that any open space would be built.

Jeannette summarized that the developer has a lot of options, and we want to take the super-tall tower one away.

Richard added that ABC will continue to occupy the site for 3 years. There is no information available yet on the development plans of the new owners.

Jeannette noted that the developer is aware of Landmark West's activity.

Steve Brown stated that this agenda item had been advertised to the public at large.

Peter Samton stated that the afternoon sun from a super-tall tower on the site would cast a shadow over a good portion of Central Park. That is a difference from the towers South of the Park where the shadows are much shorter.

Melissa Rosenberg asked whether it would be a more effective rezoning if it included affordable housing.

Jeannette responded that it is not known whether the developer is planning housing or commercial development. Landmarks West is not trying to create a new zone, but just trying to tie up loose ends on the Special District. Richard added that it may be that the site is eligible for inclusion of affordable housing now with some level of bonus.

Klari Neuwelt stated that she supports the resolution and that any statements from developers at this point are meaningless. She cited two instances of developers presenting plans that turned out not to be realized.

Sara Lind noted that rezoning is laborious and time consuming and she would like to see affordable housing added if possible. Jeannette responded that the resolution is not about land use but about bulk distribution.

Page Cowley described Landmarks West as starting out with a desire to return the site to the original configuration envisioned by the Special District.

Louisa Craddock commented that tall towers are not likely to include affordable housing. With lower buildings, the likelihood of affordable housing increases.

Rich Robbins stated that it appeared arbitrary to single out one property to raise the issue of affordable housing when the need is so large. While he agreed with the sentiment in favor of more affordable housing, he did not think this resolution was the right place to raise the issue.

Robert Espier commented that it is good to keep in mind what the private sector wants. He referenced a recent \$17.5 million sale at 200 Amsterdam. Affordable housing needs should be considered district wide.

Ethel Sheffer commended the work of Landmarks West. It is acknowledged by City Planning that ULURP applications coming from the community are more likely to receive support. This collaboration of Landmarks West and CB7 is positive, and the timing is right to move on this resolution. This is about bringing this site into the Lincoln Square Special District. It is possible to work with DCP and the developer in the future on what form the construction will take and possibly work on inclusion of affordable housing.

Ira Mitchneck suggested that there are ways of including affordable housing in a large site that make sense. He has worked on a 55-56 story market rate building in Brooklyn that is 25% affordable. Going from a tower to a tower on a base is a small zoning change but one that can make a large difference in desirability to the community.

Rich Robbins asked whether the developer had weighed in. Richard Asche noted that he had met with the developer about a year and a half ago. They were noncommittal about the ULURP action.

Steve Brown noted that there has been no formal communication with the developer on their position.

The vote was taken by a show of hands: 30-0-1-2.

Health & Human Services Committee

Shelly Fine pointed out that May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and also Mental Health Awareness Month. The two resolutions from HHS address both topics. He first addressed the resolution on **Mental Health Issues and the Effects of the Pandemic**.

The committee held a Forum with speakers who highlighted the increase in mental health issues in the last year and lack of capacity in local medical and school facilities. Shelly read from the resolution and expanded on the reasoning behind each recommendation:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan urges Mayor DeBlasio and the New York City Council to invest City budget funds to: • Expand the capacities of hospital and community-based clinics to provide mental health services. • Expand “community clubhouses” as safe space facilities where people with serious and ongoing issues can gather for support and counseling • Expand the reach of mental health services, including Mobile Crisis Teams/Increase mental health screening for all patients seeking health care • Establish more free-standing Mental Health Clinics, including one in our community district • Overcome the insurance-cost barriers that prevent people from receiving needed outpatient mental health care • Expand trauma-Informed therapy for victims of abuse and trauma. • Expand trauma- informed therapy for children and adolescents in communities hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan recommends that Mental Healthcare providers increase their use of student interns from the local communities as peer support specialists and peer recovery advocates. FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan urges Mayor DeBlasio and Schools Chancellor Meisha Ross-Porter to institute a policy of creating spaces to process feelings, emotions, grief and trauma at the elementary, middle, and high schools levels. FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan urges Mayor DeBlasio and Schools Chancellor Meisha Ross-Porter to dedicate funds to social and emotional learning and to institute social-emotional learning as a part of the day-to-day curriculum! FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan supports Mayor DeBlasio’s plan for the Specialist program, that will be implemented by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), in partnership with the Department of Education. Under the new program, the current mental health workers will become Specialists and begin delivering trauma-informed group work to students at 350 schools in the neighborhoods hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shelly stated that this resolution came out of the Committee’s forum with individuals involved with mental health issues in our community.

Amy Hyman noted that she would be careful about asking for school mental health. She suggested changing the language to “expand mental health services” and “continue to allocate money” to recognize efforts already in place. Shelly recognized Amy’s suggestion as a friendly amendment. Christian seconded Amy’s suggestion and noted that the DOE has placed a priority on mental health and has been pouring money into social/emotional learning. Shelly responded that he understood the DOE’s intention, but that very little social emotional learning has been effective through distance learning. Only about a third of students have been in school. The resolution is forward looking.

Ken Coughlin stated that he supports the resolution. He asked that Shelly describe trauma informed therapy. Shelly explained that trauma referred to deeply disturbing and distressing experiences. There is emotional shock, which might follow a stressful event or physical injury that might seem to be an isolated incident but could bring back the memory of something that occurred before. So, therapy that is trauma informed does not just deal with what you see in front of you but goes deeper into the larger picture of the history of that person, giving importance to the person's mental health.

Howard Yaruss asked how this request for funding dovetails with the \$800 million for mental health funded in the Thrive program and whether existing funds could be used more effectively. He noted that the Thrive level of funding was unprecedented, and it was not clear there had been much bang for the buck. Shelly responded that it wasn't possible to discern whether the requested services could be allocated from existing programs. Certainly, funds for screening should come from the Thrive budget.

The committee would like to see the Mayor's and Council's budget reflect the array of services described in the resolution -- services that were based on the Committee's testimony and research.

Robert Espier wanted to underscore one point made by Doctor Fialk from The Dorm, who testified that the key item on her wish list was the community center concept, what former practitioners referred to as the day treatment center model. We are now looking to add mental health add-ons in a casual, informal environment, where people could drop in for recreational activities and there were counselors available who could intervene. It is important to keep this historical context in mind and repurpose things that worked in the past. In this emergency it is so important to have available for our high school students these settings where there is no stigma. He strongly supports the resolution.

Steve Brown pointed out that, 15 years ago, the City disinvested in mental health facilities and we have been struggling with the results ever since. Specifically, these results have been tied to homelessness. Particularly at this time, the resolution calls for investment in the right area.

The vote was taken by a show of hands: 33-0-3-1.

Hate Crimes and Bias Attacks Against the Asian Community

Shelly Fine noted that there is a myth of Asians as a model minority that clouds their history and obscures the fact that 25% of New Yorkers of Asian descent live in poverty and one of two children of parents of Asian descent are living in poverty. There has been a significant and very troubling increase in hate crimes and bias incidents against Asian New Yorkers. In all last year, there were 38 hate crimes where they were clearly, identifiably against a group. In March alone of this year, there were 31 hate crimes against Asians in the City. Stronger action must be taken. In this resolution, Community Board 7/ Manhattan calls upon Mayor Bill DeBlasio to immediately appoint a task force to manage complaints of violence against Asians and Asian Americans. This needs to be separate from the Hate Crimes Unit and provide focus on improved reporting. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan calls on the Manhattan District Attorney's Office to work with the task force to coordinate victim-centered best practices that will maximize respect and care for victims as well as successful arrests and prosecution. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan calls upon Mayor Bill DeBlasio to act to guarantee that mental health and social services be identified and provided to all victims of violence (in multiple languages), so that their trauma from the violence as well as the legal

processes are minimized and dealt with as needed in a culturally sensitive way. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan calls upon Mayor Bill DeBlasio and School's Chancellor. Meisha Ross-Porter to implement policies that ensure inclusion of Asian American history and culture in the curriculum of all grades in public schools. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan urges Mayor DeBlasio and Chancellor Meisha Ross-Porter to formally recognize and implement actions to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in all New York City Public Schools.

Christian Cordova stated that he was in favor of the resolution but would not be voting because of a conflict. He pointed out that the NYPD does have a task force specifically for anti-Asian crimes.

Michelle Parker made a friendly amendment to add the chancellor in the beginning of the resolution. Shelly Fine agreed.

Blanche Lawton made a friendly suggestion that the task force should include members of the Asian community. Shelly Fine agreed.

Catherine DeLazzaro thanked Blanche for her helpful comment and thanked Christian for bringing up the NYPD's task force, which addresses a piece of the much larger problem.

The vote was taken by a show of hands: 35-0-2-1.

Approval of minutes from previous full board meeting

Mark Diller made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

The motion was approved by acclamation.

Chair's Report

Steven Brown asked Richard Asche to give an update on a previous resolution. Richard noted that both the City and State legislatures had made efforts in the last two years to address the issue of the voids in high-rise residential buildings that add 60-80 feet without providing any additional housing. The City's solution did not address the problem adequately and, in Richard's view, made it worse. Linda Rosenthal introduced a bill in 2019 that provided what the Board felt was a good solution. In May 2019 the Board passed a resolution in support of the State bill. The bill died but has now been revived in both the Assembly and the Senate. The Land Use committee has determined that it would be helpful if the Chair wrote a letter reminding the legislature of our previous resolution. Steve Brown has agreed to do so.

Steve Brown then asked Catherine DeLazzaro to speak about an up-coming meeting. She announced that she is working on a resolution on sexual harassment, specifically prevention, exposure and response in the workplace, for presentation at the next HHS Committee meeting. She is focusing on the requirements of the Human Rights Law, especially to do with training that employers require. She has reached out to Board members with legal backgrounds to ensure that the language is consistent with the law. She would love to hear from anyone who has experience of training or ideas on the subject.

Community Session

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer

Gale Brewer recounted that today, she held a continuation of what was started at Goddard Riverside, an effort to open the Senior Centers. At Goddard Riverside over 40 Seniors showed up to support opening the senior centers. Today, across the Borough, seniors with signs expressed their support ending up with over 50 seniors in Washington Heights. With many seniors having their vaccination cards and with other group venues open, keeping the Senior Centers closed doesn't make sense. Every Tuesday at 3:00 she sponsors a talk about vaccinations or reopening the City of New York. Andrew Rigie gave a talk on the restaurant industry and what is going on in Washington concerning grants for small businesses. Brian Kavanaugh, a state senator and the head of the housing committee, spoke on getting funding for renters, commercial tenants and small owners to prevent evictions and keep creditors at bay. Also, she was joined by Rachel Fee, Head of the Housing Conference, who spoke about the assistance residential and commercial tenants need to complete a full application for housing aid. Next Tuesday's forum will be about vaccines. At many sites people are not showing up to appointments, except at the Natural History Museum where everyone wants to go under the whale. She suggested that incentives may be necessary to reach large numbers of additional people with vaccines. On helicopter noise, she is hopeful that the US Congress will pass something soon. Gale Introduced the Storefront Bill of Rights with Helen Rosenthal. She is also advocating for money for non-profits who have been working on anti-Asian issues. She is working on a range of NYCHA issues, including the large number of seniors in family buildings and the need to ensure they have adequate food. For high school graduations, she is working to find parks and outside spaces. At the last Borough Board meeting, Mitchell-Lama United presented ideas on legislative remedies for buy-outs. Next month Gale's office will have finalized the selection of new members for the Community Board. Gale thanked the Chair for the meeting's thoughtful discussion of issues.

Councilmember Helen Rosenthal

Helen Rosenthal announced that her Housing clinic will be held tomorrow night; information is available on Helen's website. The Council will shortly be passing a plastic straw ban. Three different groups had to figure out the details. Andrew Rigie was involved, representing the hospitality industry. She commended the Community Board's work on mental health. She has spent three years working to get the NYPD Special Victims Unit to learn common form questioning and it has been challenging. She noted that the Good Samaritans have wonderful webinars on mental health focused on issues prevalent during the Covid pandemic. The Mayor is implementing a public health service corps that he announced in his last State of the City address. His plan is to hire some of the Test and Trace Team, many of whom are social workers, as permanent employees to do mental health and wellness. Helen appreciates that it is preventative and educational work. Thrive has its mobile emergency team which goes out with the NYPD and takes on more challenging cases, but the public health service corps will meet a broader need. Helen hopes to be involved in rolling it out. For those interested in addressing crime, Helen urged that they read an article in the April 28 New Yorker on the Police and the Community. The article features Alicka Ampry-Samuel, the City Councilmember from Brownsville, describing her success with mental

health and violence prevention in her district and the challenges of working with the PD bureaucracy. The main thing Helen is fighting for in the budget negotiations is mental health funding. She appreciated the thoughtful discussion on these issues at Community Board 7.

Senator Brad Hoylman

Brad Hoylman noted that the Governor has been quoted as saying that it is not safe to ride subways. He disagrees and encourages everyone to ride the subways which are clean and safe. He is taking nominations for 2 awards given out by the State Senate -- Women of Distinction and the Veterans Hall of Fame. He welcomes ideas from the community. Senator Hoylman, along with Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, held a town hall with Peter Marks, the vaccine gatekeeper for the federal government. The good news was that the vaccines protect against every variant they have studied so far. A bill he has sponsored on website translation has passed through committee. It would require agencies to translate communications into the top 12 languages spoken by New York State residents. The Senate has extended the eviction moratorium until August 31, 2021 for residential and small business renters. Also, the Mom and Pop Tax Relief Bill has passed through committee. It would suspend the commercial rent tax for small businesses through the duration of the pandemic. Another bill passed in committee is the Fighting underground racing in our streets (FURIOS) act. It is meant to crack down on illegal racing of cars and motorcycles in our streets. It will allow speed cameras to have greater reach to apprehend the "jerks" who keep people up late at night. Another bill he sponsored with Linda Rosenthal has passed the full Senate. It would allow preschool programs to keep Epi-Pens on hand for allergy emergencies. He concluded with an update on the most significant actions included in the State Budget: \$3.1 B funding for schools, fully realizing the Campaign for Fiscal Equity commitment, \$2.5 billion for Covid 19 emergency rent assistance and a \$1 billion fund for small businesses in the arts which includes the \$100 million NYC Musical and Theatrical tax credit.

Kimberley Watkins: President of Community Education Council 3

CEC 3 has sent two letters to the new chancellor. The first concerns the extension of offers to students for middle and high schools. Some parents were notified of their students' assignments in the last week. As a result of mistakes in the process, the DOE retracted those offers, after some parents and students were aware of what schools they had matched to. Schools have been provided with accurate lists for next year. The letter asks the DOE to let all parents have the information. The second letter concerns planning for fall reopening. There is no detail available on the summer program. There is no decision on whether the 3-foot rule will be ended. She particularly wanted to call the Board's attention to the problems concerning school nurses. There are four different pay structures for nurses, creating hiring problems. There are District 3 schools right now that do not have nurses available during the day. The City Council has prioritized ensuring there are school nurses in every school for the fall, but after June 30, there will be 400 vacancies that urgently need filling.

Hope Kaye from Senator Robert Jackson's office

The Senator is looking to repeal the Hecht-Calandra Act mandating the Specialized High School Admissions Test. The Senator is the co-Prime sponsor of Senate Bill 3087 which would send admissions decisions back to the City. The Senator, along with CB7 and CB9 has been conducting senior wellness

checks for the last few months. These have been extended to May 21. She encouraged those interested to sign up.

Ashley Gonzales: New York Public Library/ St Agnes Branch

Starting May 10, NYPL will enter phase 2 of reopening. Twenty-six branches will be open for computer use and browsing. During the summer, more and more sites will be opening. The Morningside Branch will be part of the first 26. Ashley shared in the chat the newsletter from the Saint Agnes branch providing details of virtual offerings.

Michelle Booker from Congressman Espaillat's Office

Congressman Espaillat has supported the restaurant revitalization fund of \$26.8 Billion. Restaurants, food stands, food trucks, caterers, wineries, breweries, snack and non-alcoholic beverage bars and taverns are eligible and can start applying now. Also, the Congressman is urging the United States to address climate change. The Congressman has submitted \$11.5M in requests for community funding for 10 nonprofits that touch on health, infrastructure and technology equity and educational and economic development in our community.

Win Armstrong

Senator Benjamin has introduced S914 on the lead dust issue. CB7 supported the bill last year. She is hopeful that the Assembly will introduce a similar bill. New York lead standards are antediluvian and need to be upgraded. An assembly bill exists but it is much weaker.

Liam Galligan from Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell's Office

Liam Galligan noted that Assemblyman O'Donnell is eager to get lead dust done. He signed on to the Assembly bill when it was "same as" the Senate bill and is working on amendments. Liam then introduced Dana Gallagher who will be representing Assemblyman O'Donnell in the future before CB7. The Assemblyman has been working for 12 years on legislation to restore voting rights to those on parole; the bill has finally passed and is now on the Governor's desk. The Assemblyman had a great vaccine event at Douglas Houses -- it is important to get the vaccine out into the community.

Andrew Chang

Andrew Chang spoke about the loud music played outdoors at 72nd Street and Columbus Avenue. One day the music went on nonstop for eight hours. Steve Brown asked Andrew to write down his issue and the Community Board will see that it gets to the right person to address the problem.

Hannah Weinerman from Congressman Nadler's Office

Hannah reported on two pieces of legislation that Congressman Nadler is working on. One is the Access to Counsel Act. The Judiciary Committee passed the No Ban Act. Both bills protect the due process rights of those who seek lawfully to enter the United States. The Congressman introduced the Fourth Amendment is Not for Sale Act. The Act would close a loophole that allows data brokers to sell personal information to law enforcement and intelligence agencies. Finally, the Congressman is part of a group of legislators who are introducing a bill to lower prescription drug costs.

Peter Arndtsen, Manager of the Columbus/Amsterdam BID

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group will be doing a presentation by Alyssa Cherry using soundscapes of our area on May 26 at 6:30 PM on YouTube. It tells the story of our changing neighborhood. Peter noted that they are expanding Open Streets. They have been doing 110th-106th on Amsterdam Ave. This coming Sunday, the Open Street will go down to 96th Street. That will continue on Sundays from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM. In 2 weeks, Columbus Avenue will start to be open on weekends from 110th to 106th Street for pedestrian and restaurant use.

Erica Overton from Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal's Office

Shred Day is happening on May 23 outside the Assemblymember's office. The Assemblymember worked with JCC and the Aphorp Pharmacy to get a larger space so they can vaccinate more people. The Assemblymember wrote a letter to the Department of Labor about the Influx of calls she has gotten for help with unemployment applications. It looks like DOL may have misinterpreted the new requirements in the recently passed American Rescue Act. Her office is working to unstick the backlog of benefits that have been delayed.

Bryce Peyre from Assemblyperson Gottfried's Office

Today the Assembly passed safe staffing legislation that will affect nurse to patient ratios in hospitals and nursing homes. Assemblyperson Gottfried has been fighting for this legislation for years. The bill passed today was sponsored by Assemblymember Aileen Gunther, a registered nurse. The legislature moved to extend the eviction moratorium until August 31. Assemblyperson Gottfried is sponsoring in the Assembly a bill introduced by Brad Hoyleman in the Senate to allow NYC to lower speed limits. The Assembly passed a bill to help landlords pay for back rent.

Shana Harmongoff from Senator Brian Benjamin's Office

Shana wanted to reiterate that the eviction moratorium is now extended to August 31. She wanted to thank Win Armstrong for her presentation on Senator Benjamin's lead dust bill. She noted that May is mental health awareness month and urged the community to take care of their mental health.

Luke Wolf from Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office

Luke first focused on the climate-related work that the Comptroller's Office has done recently. They were proud to announce that they are investing \$6 billion from the pension fund in companies seeking climate change solutions or aligned to the Paris Climate Accord. With 26 City and State colleagues, Comptroller Stringer sent a letter to the Federal Regulatory Commission opposing the Williams Pipeline. The Comptroller's Office has been auditing the City's initial Covid response. The City purchased 130 ventilators from a company and did not receive a single one of them. Even after protracted litigation, the City is out millions of dollars. Following up on the City's initial Covid response will help ensure that we are better prepared in the future.

Laurie Hardjowirogo from Speaker Corey Johnson's Office

In alignment with the topic tonight on hate crimes, the Speaker will be hosting a session on intervention training. The one announced for May 19 booked up so quickly that they are scheduling another one, on a date to be announced. On June 3, their office will host a rank choice voting training on Zoom from 6:00-8:00. On June 5, from 10 AM to 4 PM they will host an e-waste event to be held at Manhattan Plaza, on 43rd Street between 9th and 10th Avenues.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:21 PM.

BUSINESS & CONSUMER ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons

May 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM

Business & Consumer Issues Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met via the Videoconferencing application Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by Co-Chairperson Christian Cordova.

Present: Linda Alexander, Christian Cordova, Joshua Cohen, Paul Fischer, Doug Kleiman, Andrew Rigie and Erana Stennett

Non-Committee Board Members: Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Ken Coughlin, Mark Diller, Michele Parker, Seema Reddy, Richard Robbins, Susan Schwartz and Roberta Semer. **Absent:** Madelyn Innocent.

New Applications to the SLA for two-year liquor licenses:

1. **225-235 Freedom Place South** (West 61st Street) GC Riverside LLC d/b/a Harry's Table by Cipriani. Presenting for the Applicant: Michael Desiderio, Director of Operations, mkdezi@hotmail.com; Benjamin Savitsky, Bernstein Redo, P.C. – Attorneys at Law, Ben@brpclaw.com

- On premises liquor license.
- Waterline Square Condo.
- Food Hall/Restaurant with multiple kiosks.
- Prior, SLA Application had been approved by CB7, but due to Covid-19 it was withdrawn.
- Re-applying now for the liquor license. Same application as pre Covid-19.

Comments:

- Committee member Doug Kleiman asked if there were any physical changes to the layout since the previous application and the applicant said that there were none, as confirmed by documents submitted.

*After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted
Committee: 5-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 4-0-0-0.*

2. **433 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 81st Street) HRA Amsterdam, LLC d/b/a RA Sushi. Presenting for the Applicant: Esther Sardina, Employee, ESardina@benihana.com; Lindsey Farina, Esq., Skene Law Firm P.C., LFarina@SkeneLawFirm.com

- National fusion Japanese chain.
- Beer, wine and cocktails.
- Taking over space of what was Haru.
- No inside bar. Alcohol service via wait service only.
- Will maintain same outdoor space as what Haru used.
- Family friendly dining atmosphere.

Comments:

- Committee members reviewed questionnaire and closing times were confirmed.

*After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted
Committee: 5-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 4-0-0-0.*

Alteration Liquor License Application to the SLA:

3. **286 Columbus Avenue** (West 74th Street) Kissaki UWS LLC, d/b/a To be Determined.

Presenting for the Applicant: Dan MacPherson, Vice President, Dan@ExploreKissaki.com;

- Been great for them since coming to the UWS.
- Taking over space of the next door which was vacant.

*After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted
Committee: 5-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 4-0-0-0.*

Class Change Liquor License application to the SLA:

4. **940 Columbus Avenue** (West 106th Street) Fujiyama Ramen & Sushi LLC d/b/a Mighty Catch.

Presenting for the Applicant: Rosa M. Ruiz, RMR Business Licensing & Consulting Inc., Rosa@RosaMRuiz.com

- Were approved for Full liquor, changed their mind and were subsequently approved for Beer and Wine only.
- Re-applying now for the Full liquor license.

Comments:

- Columbus Amsterdam BID Director Peter Arndsten confirmed they were good neighbors and an asset to the community.

*After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted
Committee: 5-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 6-0-0-0.*

5. Discussion with third party food delivery service providers and neighborhood restaurants on protocols for food delivery service workers. Among the topics will be bathroom access.

Panelists:

- Sarah Locke-Henderson – Senior Manager, Public Engagement, DoorDash
- David Landon – Door Dash Government Relations, Legislative Lead

Comments:

- S L-H -
 - They work closely with their “dashers” (i.e. delivery workers for this particular platform) on any issues that may arise.
 - What are their needs? What works best for them? Restroom access – where are they available?
 - Average “dasher” works 4 hrs/wk.
 - Over 200 restaurants that were open in NYC were asked to provide restroom access.
 - The app lets the “dashers” know which restaurants allow them to use the restrooms.
- David London
 - Restroom access legislation.
 - Merchant partners have been encouraged to open up their bathrooms to “dashers”.
 - They have had discussions with members of city council about this issue and there is collective interest to do something about this “issue.” Likely to be supported by city council.

- Ken Coughlin – Proposed his amended resolution, initially presented at the April Transportation Committee meeting, which removed the original penalty of a restaurant losing its liquor license to graduated fines for restaurants denying bathroom access to bike delivery workers.
- Ligia Gualpa, who represents bike delivery workers, presented. She said many of the workers respond to apps for multiple food delivery service companies. Many of them work 12 hours or more daily. She said 60% of the workers with whom she has spoken have stated they have been denied access to use restrooms in restaurants on the Upper West Side. She added the workers want to make sure the restrooms are used safely, too, and work as re partners with the restaurants. Worker’s Justice Project at ligia@workersjustice.org / (646) 479-4769.
- Committee member Linda Alexander asked Ms. Gualpa to provide a list of the restaurants denying delivery workers bathroom access on the Upper West Side so that the Community Board could contact them and find out the reasons for it and possible solutions. She pointed out the Committee had previously requested this list three times before from Mr. Coughlin, but did not receive the information. She also added that at the June BCI meeting, bike delivery workers and grocery delivery workers, including those from Fresh Direct and Amazon Fresh, will be invited to share their experiences and explain which UWS restaurants have been denying bathroom access.
- Three Upper West Side restaurant owners, i.e., Josh Cohen, Earl Geer, and Dan MacPherson stated for the record they allow bathroom access at all times to bike delivery, grocery delivery, and their product delivery workers. They concurred that all the restaurant owners whom they know on the Upper West Side never had an issue with providing access.
- Paul Krikler, a community member, stated bathroom access is a “basic human need.” He is hoping for a clear message to support delivery people to use the restrooms.
- Lisa Orman, lobbyist from Streetopia UWS, pointed out that bike delivery people need to be able to go to the bathroom and wash their hands. She felt a resolution on the topic was about decency. She felt this was not the tone that was at the last meeting but was relieved everyone agreed and urged the UWS to lead and support bike delivery workers.
- Richard Robbins wanted to know about the percentage of restaurants on the UWS that were not providing bathroom access, as did Alexander. He said he recently applied to become a DoorDash “dasher,” but couldn’t find the available bathroom facilities info on the app.
- Ken Coughlin made a motion for the BCI Committee to on his amended resolution, which was originally presented at a Transportation Committee at which BCI was invited to participate the night before. But because Mr. Coughlin could not access the amended resolution for review by the BCI Committee and attending community, another motion was brought up to table his resolution until the June meeting, when everyone will be able to review the language, and the delivery workers will be present.
 - The vote to table the resolution until the June meeting, carried: 4-2-1-0.

6. New Business.

- Earl Geer, owner of Hi-Life Bar & Grill, 477 Amsterdam Avenue, Hi-Liferestaurant@verizon.net
 - Had SLA license suspended at one point during Covid-19.
 - SLA reissued the license with the limitation that establishment has to close at 11pm.
 - All restaurants that SLA suspended and subsequently re-issued the license during Covid-19 must now close by 11pm.
 - There is currently no mechanism in place to re-instate the SLA license as originally issued with later closing times.
 - The committee will draft a letter to support SLA to re-issue the original licenses.

- Amy Fienberg, community member, complained about the rear yard use by Pekarna, at 594 Amsterdam Avenue (89th Street). They received approval for rear yard seating in June 2019, with specific closing hours and baffling. The backyard is not baffled and has expanded beyond the agreed footprint, Noise carries upstairs to the neighbors. All there is a tarp. Owner said they would soundproof, it has not happened.

Comments:

The meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MAY 25, 2021

Committee Present: Catherine DeLazzero and Sheldon Fine, co-chairs; Rosa Arenas, Audrey Isaacs, Sara Lind, Courtney Clark Metakis, Madge Rosenberg

Non-Committee Board Members: Linda Alexander, Mark Diller, Madelyn Innocent, Doug Kleiman
Council Member Helen Rosenthal

Sheldon Fine: For our District Needs Statement we need to consider internet access in NYCHA buildings and other low income housing. How would Younity bring broadband to NYCHA?

Avi Lichtenstein - Operations manager for **Younity** wireless Infrastructure for residential buildings:

- We work with public-private partnerships in NYCHA. We have six projects ready for sign up.
- We are the building's provider. If the internet is lost, phone and cameras in the building are lost. The building is the data center. We monitor 24/7. If there is a problem, our tech is sent within 2 hours.
- There is battery back up that keeps internet working.

Madelyn Innocent: Great thing, however, the wiring in NYCHA is problematic.

We are always afraid of fire. NYCHA hasn't updated electrical systems. Seniors don't have the knowledge to use the internet. When I taught classes, seniors could not get it. How do we enable seniors?

Avi: We do not use your electric wires. The internet is wired and powered by Younity. There is battery backup. We do not use NYCHA wiring. Everything is preinstalled. Seniors in affordable housing in New Jersey have been educated and have an onsite Younity support worker.

Doug Kleiman: Are you pulling off of cel towers or 5G?

Avi: We bring hard wired fiber optic cable into each building. 5G does not go through windows or walls, but we can put in 5G if wanted. The cost to residents is \$15-25.00/month.

Doug: It sounds like an incredible product.

Linda Alexander: Mom can stream show while two kids use internet for homework.

Avi: Our relationship so far is through L & M or other private sector of the partnerships, not through NYCHA. In some buildings tenants pay us directly; in other building all internet is paid by the building and charged to the tenant.

Council member Helen Rosenthal: The City is in the process of bringing broadband to all of NYCHA and will give a device to each student. It is important to have complete information.

Avi: We are working with NYCHA through the RADs.

Helen: You have investors? NYCHA tenants pay 1/3 of their incomes and all utility services are included in the rent. Victor Bach (Sr. Housing Policy Analyst at the Community Service Society) is concerned with RAD and PAC partnerships. Are you registered as a valid bidder for a contract with NYCHA? We want tenants to be educated. Are you pitching to every Community Board?

Shelly: We invited Yunity because they are providing services that no one is offering in NYCHA. We want to know how this will be better. We have not heard anything equivalent.

Catherine: Thanks to Helen, Madelyn, and Linda.

Robin Straschun - Search and Care At Home Senior Services

- In 1972, when there were no senior services or Meals on Wheels, a minister in Yorkville found a woman who died of starvation in her own apartment. He went door to door to find other isolated seniors. He started Search and Care to establish relationships, to provide help that allows people to remain in their homes and community.
- They open representative payee accounts to help seniors pay bills and manage their money. They provide in home social services for mental and physical and financial health. .
- They have grown into East Harlem, which has a high concentration of NYCHA housing.
- They have a grant from New York Community Trust to provide culturally appropriate food and another from the Robin Hood Foundation.
- They advocate for clients who feel diminished and disrespected.
- Their social workers meet clients where they are at, helping to pay bills and file for benefits.
- They have written a manual about this that you can order from Amazon.
- They have an emergency safety supply closet for people returning home from the hospital.
- During the pandemic they Zoomed music, news and nutrition information.
- They help with pet upkeep, tech coaching, individual coaching, decluttering, telephone check ins.
- There is no cost for any services.
- Robin wants to introduce Search and Care to the Upper West Side.
- They complement Managed Long Term Care.

RESOLUTION ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Catherine DeLazzerio: We want to improve the understanding of sexual harassment, to help manage victims fears, to explain where to report incidents, to understand rights, responses, options. We share the resolution with the NYC Commissioner of Human Rights and other to get legal and other advice. These are not changes; they are enhancements to existing laws.

Rosa Arenas: What about going into another person's workplace, as I do working for a union? How do you protect yourself against an abuser finding you? How do you get your supervisors to support you?

Courtney Clark Metakis: Are there gold standards in other states or cities that could be looked at?

Helen: Catherine did an amazing job. My committee wants to address these questions. This provides the outline of what law changes we need. LA County did a good job. But we pass a law and then what? The City has done a lousy job of enforcing the laws. We want a second look at the effects of legislation already passed. If CB7 passes the resolution, it should go to borough board.

Survivors' addresses can be found on voter data bases. We need legislation to protect addresses.

Catherine: Thanks for your help.

Sara Lind: Thanks to Catherine. It is difficult to report harassment if it puts you in danger of losing your job.

Shelly: Catherine worked so hard. She needs a vacation. It affects men too, risking more embarrassment and fear. One out of 10 women report harassment; 1 out of 20 men report

From chat: See three links on Helen's website about Ms. Bonner, harassed for testifying on pay parity, and others.

Rosa Arenas will contribute to the June 29 meeting focus on anti-racism.

Please reach out to Catherine with any suggestions or additions or modifications to last year's DNS.

Mark: Be selective about budget priorities; don't use a slot for something already funded.

Catherine: We will discuss as a committee and look at budget priorities of other boards.

Land Use Committee Minutes

May 2021

Present: Committee members: Jeannette Rausch and Richard Asche (Co-chairs), Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Sheldon Fine, Ira Mitchneck, Seema Reddy, Richard Robbins, Melissa Rosenberg, Peter Samtom, Ethel Sheffer. Non-committee board members: Mark Diller and Doug Kleiman

1. Presentation of proposed zoning amendment affecting community boards 7 and 9:

Andrew Lassiter, a City Council land use staff member presented a proposed amendment to the Zoning Resolution which is intended to preserve affordable housing, primarily in the Community Board 9 area. The proposal would downzone portions of the Broadway corridor to discourage construction on “soft” sites. The proposal would also upzone to 10A the triangular block on the west side of Broadway between 124th and 125th streets. In the Community Board 7 area, the proposed amendment would upzone the block between 109th and 110th Streets on both sides of Broadway from 9A to 10A, and provide for mandatory inclusionary housing which would require that 25% of any units built would be set aside for affordable housing. The proposal does not specify what income level would qualify for access to the affordable units.

According to Mr. Lassiter, the Community Board 7 sites would be permit an FAR of 12. A “soft” site on the West Sid of Broadway (2825 Broadway) would contain 278 units and would rise 24 stories. It would house approximately 70 affordable units. By contrast, under current zoning, if a developer took advantage of the voluntary inclusionary housing provisions in the Zoning Resolution, the building would contain approximately 38 affordable units.

A soft site on the East side of Broadway (2810 Broadway) produce 38 affordable units under mandatory inclusionary housing, and 20 units under voluntary inclusionary housing.

Public speakers:

Dan Cohen announced that he had proposed a compromise to the upzoning proposal for Community Board 7. His proposal would increase the allowable FAR to 12, but would not permit an increase in the height from that currently allowable under R9 zoning.

Steve Max, representing Three Parks Independent, stated that his group opposes the proposed rezoning in CB7.

Pablo Zevalles asked whether in light of recent amendments to Rent Stabilization laws eliminating vacancy decontrol stabilized tenants need the protection afforded by the downzoning.

Larry Wood, representing Goddard Riverside, stated that his group favors the proposed amendment, although the upzoning presented a tough balancing act. He stated that Goddard had been consulted in the planning process for the proposed amendment.

Cynthia Doty noted that the process by which the proposal was formulated resulted not from consultation with the CB 7 community but “from the top down.”

Miriam Labban commented that the plan would produce very little additional affordable housing.

Board members:

Shelly Fine stated that the current 9A zoning on the 109-110 block was the result of a compromise with the Mayor and the City Planning Department, and that the community would have preferred even more restrictive zoning. He noted that a building under construction at 103d and Broadway would be built under voluntary inclusionary housing. He noted that CB7 had not been involved in any of the working groups considering the rezoning. He asked whether the rezoning proposal for CB 9 could survive without rezoning CB 7.

Jeannette Rausch noted that the proponents of the plan had not engaged in any comprehensive planning or study the impact on CB 7.

Louisa Craddock also asked whether there was a need to include CB 7 in the rezoning. Mr. Lassiter responded that the planners had looked at the area “holistically.”

Ethel Sheffer suggested that 125th Street could rezoned 10A. She noted that in the past, the borough president’s office had estimated different numbers of affordable units from the estimates now being provided.

Page Cowley commented that when CB7 was rezoned several years ago, there was an extensive investigative process which was very granular. She said the aim should be to avoid unintended consequences of a rezoning. We need to know more before we can agree to the proposal.

Mark Diller said that he has deep respect for the community board process, and that he and an open mind He needs to know more about the possible consequences of the rezoning.

Richard Asche stated that that he was very much in favor of increasing the number of affordable units, and noted that CB 7 is on record as having requested mandatory inclusionary housing in our district. However, the proponents’ failure to included CB 7 in the planning process meant that there had been insufficient exploration of the context and insufficient outreach to CB7 area residents.

2. Proposed Zoning Resolution amendment to require special permits for hotel construction in commercial and mixed use disticts:

Nabeela Malik, representing the City Planning Department, introduced a proposed amendment to the Zoning Resolution which would require a “special permit” before a hotel had been built in commercial and mixed use (i.e residential with a commercial overlay) districts. Ms. Malik noted that there had been an exponential growth in hotel room occupancy and hotel construction over the past decade, which growth had been temporarily halted by the pandemic. City Planning believes that more control is needed over the location and design of new hotels.

Louisa Craddock asked what issues had arisen which require the amendment. Ms. Malik responded that arisen were in the nature of building design, but that hotel construction could also affect area residents and businesses.

Jeannette Rausch questioned whether there was a need for a special permit: “I don’t understand what is driving this.”

Public speakers:

Erica Gerson stated that the proposed amendment seems like a solution in search of a problem. The most prominent deterrent to ne construction in the city is the bureaucracy.

Pablo Zevallos stated that it makes no sense to impose a new level of bureaucracy if the goal is to encourage hotel construction.

The proposed amendment is subject to ULURP. The deadline for Community Board Comments is July 12. The Committee agreed to defer vote on the proposed amendment to its June meeting, so that the full board could vote in early July.

Miss Malik announced that this would be her last appearance as liaison from the City Planning Department to Community Board 7, as she is leaving on June 1 for other employment. Several committee members thanked Nabeela for her diligent and important work with the board, and wished her well.

3. Station accessibility:

The committee continued its consideration of the joint MTA-City Planning Department proposal to amend the Zoning Resolution to simplify the granting station access easements from adjacent landowners, and to encourage developers to undertake station improvements. There was general agreement that the committee approves in part and disapproves in part the proposed amendment.

Board Members:

Generally, the Committee approved the areas of approval and disapproval contained in the attached resolution, for the reasons set forth in the resolution.

4. 50 West 69th street construction:

Kara Kelly and Marie-Therese Pope residents on the park block at 69th street presented a petition signed by more than 300 residents of the block opposing the granting of permits for weekend work.

They reported that there has been no new weekend work since CB 7 Chair Steve Brown sent a letter to the Commissioner of Buildings inquiring about the routine issuance of such weekend permits. The residents complained that even on weekdays the construction work is marked by excessive noise and vibration, possibly because the owners are digging through 50 feet of bedrock. They asked for advice from the Committee. The consensus was that unless there were code violations, there is no effective remedy. One committee member observed that there ought to be a regulation setting time limits on construction in residential neighborhoods. One committee member suggested that the neighbors contact the contractor directly to see if an accommodation can be made.

5. Continued presence of crane on west 66th street:

Chris Giordano, representing the 64-67th Street block association reported that although the developer's permit for a crane expired in April and there is no existing need for a crane, the structure has not been removed and remains a nuisance to residents of the block. (Subsequent to the meeting, the Board received word from Councilperson Helen Rosenthal's office that the crane will be removed.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Richard Asche

Preservation Committee Joint with Parks & Environment Committee Minutes

May 13, 2021

The Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met jointly with the CB7 Parks & Environment Committee on Thursday, January 14, 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, and P&E Co-Chairs Barbara Adler and Klari Neuwelt. Preservation Committee members Jay Adolf, Joshua Cohen, Page Cowley, William Ortiz, Madge Rosenberg, Peter Samton, Susan Schwartz, and Mark Diller; P&E Committee members Elizabeth Caputo, Ken Coughlin, Natasha Kazmi, Jeannette Rausch, Susan Schwartz and Polly Spain; CB7 Chair Steven Brown, and non-Committee Board members Doug Kleiman, Ira Mitchneck and Roberta Semer participated in the meeting. The following discussions were had and actions taken.

200 Central Park West -- The American Museum of Natural History. Application # LPC-21-08864 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for the proposed relocation of the Equestrian Statue of Theodore Roosevelt.

The American Museum of Natural History (“AMNH”) is an individual landmark designated in 1967. The buildings comprising the AMNH campus, designed by various renown architects through the generations, have been modified and replaced over the years, and new buildings have been added, including the Gilder Center that is currently under construction on the Columbus Avenue frontage of the campus. The August 24, 1967 LPC Designation Report catalogues the buildings and their architects through that date.

AMNH sits within Theodore Roosevelt Park on City-owned land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks & Recreation (“Parks”).

This application concerns the removal of the statue of Theodore Roosevelt that dominates the plaza leading to the Central Park West entrance to the museum – one of several main entrances to the campus (the “Statue”).

The Statue was commissioned in 1925 in connection with the design of the New York State Memorial to former New York Governor and U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt. It was unveiled on October 27, 1940, after completion of the Memorial, which opened on January 19, 1936. Designed by the sculptor James Earle Fraser, the Statue portrays President Theodore Roosevelt on horseback, flanked by an African man on his left and a Native American man on his right. Like the Memorial, it was meant to celebrate Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) as a devoted naturalist and author of works on natural history.

The Statue has been the subject of substantial controversy for years because of its hierarchical composition that places an elevated white figure of power on horseback and generic Native American and African figures in subservient or subordinate positions walking alongside. This depiction has been the subject of sustained objection and derision and is viewed by many as inherently racist.

Proposed Plaza and Stair Treatment

In place of the statue pedestal and base, the existing north and south plaza and stairs will be connected by a new central plaza and stairs, directly aligned with the upper staircase to the entry doors, welcoming

visitors into the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial building. The contrast between existing and new features of the plaza will be marked by the use of different railings on the connecting stairs that will use a similar bronze material to the existing railings, but in a new design, and a slight gap between the existing and new stairs. This gap is intended to help reconcile the existing misalignment between the north and south existing stairs and will contain a bronze plate through which the new railings will be attached. A slim bronze outline of the Statue pedestal will be inset into the paving of the new portion of the plaza. The design will include text engraved in the stone pavers to mark the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial and explain the relocation of the statue.

Removal and/or replacement of significant features from City Parks requires the approval of the NYC Public Design Commission. Since AMNH is an individual designated landmark, the appropriate process includes consideration of the proposal by the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, which submits its comments and recommendations to the PDC.

Presentation by Bill Higgins and Elise Quasebarth of Higgins Quasebarth, Preservation Consultants; Sam Biederman, Assistant Commissioner of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation; and Dan Slippen, Vice President of the American Museum of Natural History.

Sam Biederman:

- AMNH sits within Theodore Roosevelt Park, which surrounds the AMNH campus of buildings. The entirety of the AMNH campus is built on City-owned land.
- The Department of Parks & Recreation ("Parks") is the City Agency that oversees the administration of the Park and campus.
- The proposal removal of any statue is a rare action – but in this case is the right course.
- The United States Supreme Court has confirmed the role of local government as stewards of NYC's collection of public art to decide what works of art and other items are to be placed in or removed from the public realm.
- Parks and AMNH hasten to add that the Statue was not erected with malice of intent or with the purpose of endorsing racist views of preference, privilege or supremacy. Nevertheless, the hierarchical composition of the Statue creates an image of the virtue of colonization and the supremacy of white races over others.
- Parks supports the current application to remove the Statue and reconstruct portions of the Memorial Plaza.
- The proposal includes creating an opportunity for a long-term loan to another institution with connections to the legacy and works of Theodore Roosevelt. The approval nor implementation of the proposal are not contingent upon any such arrangement.

Dan Slippen

- The Memorial Commission to honor Theodore Roosevelt was formed ca 1920, and was funded by an allocation from the New York State Legislature.
- John Russell Pope was the architect for plaza/memorial.
- Sculptor James Earle Fraser's intent in flanking the image of TR on horseback with native African and American figures was to depict TR's friendliness to all races and cultures.
- The hierarchical composition is viewed by some as inherently racist. The inherent imbalance in the heights, clothing and prominence of the flanking figures leads to the misinterpretation of the allegorical figures as real persons, and of their subservience.

- The composition of the Statue and its interpretation of racial and class distinctions and superiority/inferiority undermines the museum's mission.
- The Statue has been the subject of adverse public reaction over the years. In 1971 red paint was splashed on the statue by native Americans protesting the message derived from its composition. Anti Columbus Day protests have also featured defacement and other protests with the Statue as their subject.
- Following the white supremacist demonstrations and violence in Charlottesville in 2017, the Mayor established the Commission to review statues in New York's public realm.
- Commission unable to reach a consensus re removal. The Charlottesville demonstrations were held at least in part in response to the removal of statuary of Robert E. Lee and other Civil War figures.
- AMNH created an exhibit in 2019 to explore and explain the intent, interpretations and reactions of the public to the Statue. The concerns and need for responsiveness that motivated AMNH's actions became more urgent after the 2020 murder of George Floyd, which in turn sparked widespread demonstrations calling attention to racial hierarchies and structural racism woven into the fabric of a host of aspects of society and government in the United States.
- AMNH is leading the request to remove the Statue both as an expression of its mission and educational vision, and to align the TR Memorial with the values that the legacy and history of TR are intended to convey.

Rolando Kraeher, architect

- In addition to correcting the message conveyed by the Statue and its role in celebrating TR, the opportunity presented by the application is also a unique and exciting design project.
- The guiding principle for the project is to employ a simple and minimal replacement design so as not to distract visitors from the elements that comprise the Memorial on the Plaza.
- In place of the bulk and dominance of the Statue, the new concept is based on continuity, openness and inclusivity.
- The new set of stairs that will take the place of the Statue will be the same width as the monumental arch over the main entrance doors.
- The outline (or "echo") of the former Statue plinth will be drawn in bronze in the pavers in approximately the same location where the Statue now sits.
- The existing plaza has three different colors of granite pavers (pink, grey and white) forming patterns in the plaza. The proposal is to leave the patterns to the north and south of the footprint of the Statue in place, and to add a new pattern styled after the surrounding plaza in place of the Statue.
- The proposal includes the installation of new railings composed of the same bronze as the existing railings, but with new subtle distinctions in design configuration between old and new (the new will have sharper angles for the handles as they return to the pavers).

Bill Higgins

- The application requires CB7, the LPC and ultimately the PDC to make findings as to the appropriateness of BOTH the removal of the Statue and the plan for reconfiguration of the Memorial plaza.
- The Statue is an unusual sculpture – it is not an entire work in itself, but rather part of an ensemble memorializing TR as a person with many facets.
- The Memorial to TR also includes the memorial hall located in the interior of the Central Park West main entrance to AMNH. The Statue was created as part of a multi-faceted composition,

which also includes the references and bas relief to aspects of TR as naturalist, soldier, statesman, humanitarian etc.

- The Statue depicts TR, a white man, on horseback between flanking figures below him carrying his guns; the flanking figures are not fully clothed.
- The portrayal raises themes of imperialism and racial superiority.
- The Statue has been problematic from the beginning – more so as decades go on.
- These are tumultuous times. This is a time in which the mistreatment of minorities and those perceived as “different” has been brought into focus perhaps more than ever before.
- The Statue carries a message that runs powerfully against the theme meant to be conveyed by the Memorial.
- Removal of the Statue does not diminish the message of the Memorial – it actually enhances it.
- The standard for both facets of the application (removal; replacement) is appropriateness. Appropriateness takes these factors into account. Preservation is equally about the stewardship of the meaning that the built fabric embodies.
- This Statue detracts from the Memorial, and this condition justifies its removal.
- Removal of the Statue creates a much more open path to the main entrance, symbolizing openness to the portion of the Memorial within.
- The outline “Echo” image of the plinth will include a brief text to explain removal of Statue, including reference to the memorial to which the sculpture is a part.
- The AMNH master plan and the buildings comprising the campus has changed over time. For example, the technological and scientific obsolescence of Hayden Planetarium led to its removal and the construction of the now-iconic Rose Center.
- The Memorial is changing to keep pace with a changing world.
- This solution is better than trying to replace the Statue with another sculpture.

Joint Committee Questions and Comments:

Natasha:

- Q: Will the brief text included in the Echo on the pavers include image of former Statue?
- Q: Where will the Statue go? Who Owns It?
- A: Sam Biederman: Ownership of the Statue is not straightforward. While it was commissioned and paid for by the NYS Commission to create the Memorial, it is assumed that it was owned by the City of New York, not the State. Research has revealed no formal legal transfer of ownership from NYS to NYC. But believed to be NYC.
- A: The proposal is to make the Statue available to a culture institution devoted to the work and legacy of TR, but nothing has been finalized.
- A: The text accompanying the Echo has not been written; it will not include an image of the Statue.

Polly:

- Q: Was any consideration given to separating the depiction of the African and Native American figures from the Statue composition, and sharing the African figure with African Burial Grounds in lower Manhattan?
- A: The Statue is viewed not as separate pieces but one work of art.

Susan Schwartz:

- Q: Cost and timing of the project?

- A: Rebecca Myers – once all permits are obtained, removal would be multi-week process. First the Statue would be prepared for removal. Then the plinth would be removed. Then the plaza rebuilt with the Echo.
- A: Reconstruction of the stairs could take months once the Statue is removed. Expect to be able to use the entrance throughout the removal process. Cost estimate \$2.1MM.

Klari:

- Note that the main entrance will still not be accessible.
- Q: Is the proposed new location for the Statue Sagamore Hill?
- A: Sam Biederman: no final information is available as to where it is going. City Hall handling is that decision.

Ken:

- Q: What will become of the plinth?
- A: It will travel with the Statue.

Jay:

- The reasons for the removal of the Statue from this location will be the reasons it will never be displayed anywhere else. It is disingenuous to refer to this as a relocation – it is just a removal, and the Statue will be consigned to oblivion.
- The Report by the Mayor's Commission of 2019 took pains to note that the removal of the Statue was not a reflection on TR's beliefs, philosophy or policies.
- Polly's suggestion for the disassembly of portions to be reused elsewhere, leaving TR in place, is a good one.
- Notwithstanding Bill Higgins' good argument about the grandeur of the Memorial, the Statue is iconic. We would be replacing a grand monument with steps.
- No reason why TR could not remain in place and other portions be placed in appropriate other places.

Barbara:

- Q: Who is paying?
- A: Dan Slippen: AMNH is funding the study; working with Roosevelt family regarding relocation.

Peter:

- Appreciates Bill Higgins' analysis.
- Comparison to the FDR memorial competition in DC.
- The Statue is an integral part of the entrance plaza – its removal leaves a major void.

Mark:

- The reasons for the proposed removal by AMNH concern its educational mission. Principles of academic freedom enshrined in the first amendment limit the review of government into the appropriateness of that mission. The correct inquiry is limited to the aesthetics of the build fabric with and without the Statue, not whether the decision that it is inconsistent with mission is correct.
- Concerned with hacking apart a work of art – even though the composition is no longer consistent with mission, an artist's vision should be respected as a whole – it either stays or

goes. We do not want to be like those in the Vatican centuries ago who ran around painting fig leaves over private parts in great works of classical antiquity.

- Q: What standard for appropriateness should be applied in this unique situation? Was considering whether the standard for legalization should be applied – i.e. whether the proposed condition would be appropriate if it had been proposed ab initio, neither faulting nor crediting its currently being in place.
- A: Bill Higgins: This is terra incognita. There is no direct precedent for this type of an application.
- A: The removal of the original Hayden Planetarium building is a parallel. It was an equally historic structure. Its removal raised issues that go beyond architectural history to include scientific evolution and obsolescence.
- A: The team gave thought to the partial removal of the flanking figures, assuming it could be done. But excising the non-white figures from the expression of the artist is itself not a clear move devoid of controversy. Equally problematic to be seen simply erasing the African and Native American figures – would send an equally powerful and problematic message.
- A: There is no single right answer here. There are a spectrum of answers – AMNH's is based on mission.

K:

- The Statue does a disservice to TR's legacy. AMNH is onto something with this application.
- Openness of the Memorial plaza is appropriate to replace the Statue.

Michele:

- Q: Is this application calendared at LPC?
- A: Jennifer Landzas: Yes – June 8th.
- Q: Will all of the pavers on the plaza be removed, or just the area affected by the plinth removal?
- A: Renecca Myers: Only the pavers for the replacement stairs and in the area of the plinth will be replaced. The rest of the plaza will remain intact.

Roberta:

- Wonderful decision to remove the Statue.
- Always had problem with the statue.
- Should not compromise the artist's vision by removing certain figures.

Doug:

- Q: The verbiage on the Echo will be important – has it been written? Words matter.
- A: Dan Slippen: AMNH is working on text – not finalized. The text will not be a part of LPC/PDC application.

Jeannette:

- TR had a strong relationship with AMNH – there should be a model of the Statue within the museum with an explanation to tell this story.

Madge:

- Q: Will AMNH consider replacing the Statue with another, new statue of TR?

- A: Dan Slippen: AMNH is not considering a replacement statue.

Community Questions and Comments:

Rev Schuyler Vogel – Fourth Universalist Society (on Central Park West).

- Appreciates the proposal to remove the problematic Statue.
- It is appropriate to erase racist Statue.
- AMNH should consider using the space vacated by the Statue to include works proposed by those who were negatively affected by TR's colonialist and imperialist views. Such inclusion could be empowering.
- A: Dan Slippen: AMNH believes that another statue is neither necessary or appropriate. AMNH continues to celebrate TR as a pioneering naturalist and conservationist.

Joint Committee Discussion:

Jay:

- We live in a different era than the times when the Statue was installed.
- AMNH's decision that the Statue is inappropriate and should not remain in its current form is itself appropriate – no quarrel with that decision.
- Separating the figures comprising the Statue could be an act of disrespect of the allegorical figures - they deserve their own prominence and respect.
- Total removal of the Statue is not warranted because the issues supporting removal could be dealt with otherwise.
- Replacing the Statue with just steps is not appropriate to the grandeur of the memorial and the museum. We should weigh alteration of the work of art with consigning it to oblivion.

Klari:

- The removal of the Statue is a political decision and a done deal. It is based on an unimpeachable rationale.
- It is not advisable or doable to split up the Statue.
- The proposed replacement plaza is appropriate.
- Concern that there is no place for the removed Statue. It could be relocated within the museum with an explanation, which would be the best solution. The explanation would be consistent with mission, and it would save the artwork intact.
- Dan Slippen: AMNH currently has such an exhibit; the Statue will not be included in the museum.

Peter –

- Still agree with Jay – the two figures creating the problematic hierarchical message could be separated and moved to be placed on the same plane as TR.
- A: Dan Slippen: AMNH cannot take apart the Statue.

Melissa –

- This is a missed opportunity to do something creative to correct the problematic message.

Roberta –

- The Statue as it currently exists is offensive – it is appropriate to remove it.

- It is very important to address the persecution reflected in the hierarchical composition – parallels to the Jewish experience.

K

- The open steps will be striking – similar to the Metropolitan Museum across the Park.

Resolutions:

A: Removal: Resolution to approve the removal of the Statue under the terms and conditions proposed by AMNH as appropriate to the character of the individual landmark and the Historic District.

VOTE: Joint Preservation and Parks & Environment Committees: 10-2-0-0 ; Non-committee Board members present: 6-0-0-0

B: Replacement: Resolution to approve the proposal for the reconfiguration and reconstruction of the Memorial plaza under the terms and conditions proposed by AMNH as appropriate to the character of the individual landmark.

VOTE: Joint Preservation and Parks & Environment Committees: 7-2-3-0; Non-committee Board members present: 4-0-2-0

Calendared for the June 8, 2021 public hearing at LPC.

Preservation Committee Agenda – The remaining items on the agenda were considered by the Preservation Committee.

120 West 74th Street (Amsterdam-Columbus Avenues). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to expand the existing and previously approved top floor and rooftop addition.

The subject building is a townhouse constructed of brownstone in a Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival style designed by architects Thom & Wilson ca. 1886-87. It is included in the Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District.

Presentation by: Frank Nigro and Fredrick Becker

- The applicant has previously been granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to create a full-width basement plus 3 story addition to replace the existing L-extension in the rear yard.
- The applicant now seeks a full-height/full-width rear yard addition at the same depth as previously approved – i.e. basement plus 4 stories. The result would be a top floor of the building that would extend to the plane of the previously approved full-width extension.
- The existing fenestration, the fenestration previously approved, and the fenestration proposed for the modified rear yard addition all consist of pairs of punched 1:1 double-hung windows. The existing windows have modest sash details on all but the ground floor. The tall, thin doors and windows previously approved for garden access continue to be proposed at the ground floor. There is a small transom detail at the top of the approved and proposed windows for the parlor floor.
- The fenestration pattern in the approved and proposed rear façade continue the pattern of punched windows in the rear facades of the neighboring buildings to either side, although the applicant's building would be proud of the plane of those buildings.

- The materials previously approved for the rear yard extension was a light grey stucco. The proposed materials for the revised extension is common red brick.
- A simple black metal railing is proposed for the top of the extended rooftop deck above the new proposed rear extension façade.
- The existing condition within the donut is a hodgepodge of rear additions of varying heights and widths, and with a variety of rear parapets configurations.

Committee Questions and Comments:

Jay:

- LPC Staff usually frowns on full height additions.
- A: Yes, LPC would prefer a setback as in the previously approved design. But the proposal to replace stucco with red brick for the extension is a good trade.

Madge:

- There is a lot going on with respect to the front façade.
- A: The work proposed for the front has been previously approved – it includes restoration plus the creation of an innovative accessibility ramp with garbage enclosures integral to the design. The work also includes the restoration of the cornice and brownstone surface.

Mark:

- Brick a good trade-off for the stucco previously approved.
- Ordinarily oppose full-height additions, but in this case the punched windows throughout carries forward the more utilitarian origins of rear yard facades, so is appropriate.
- Would prefer lintels and sashes to match those in the neighbors's windows (and those in the current condition not included in the previous approval).
- A: Willing to incorporate lintels and sashes in the revised detail.

Peter

- The presentation materials are misleading because the extension is proud of the neighbors' buildings, and is not properly depicted on plans.
- A: The incremental shadow from the additional part of the rear extension would be minimal.

Community Questions and Comments:

Patricia Still – neighbor in adjoining townhouse

- The noise and dust are awful. The garden in the rear yard is all but unusable due to the construction.

Joyce Cohen - neighbor

- Q: Will the additional floor requested on the rear yard addition be visible from the street?
- A: It will not be visible from any public way.

Tally Wiener - Lives next door.

- Attorney with US EPA – concern for the dust and dirt.

- The presentation is misleading in that the shadow cast onto the cul de sac of the neighboring building's L-extension will place it in darkness and threaten trees in the garden.
- On April 29th vibrations from the construction shook the floor of the neighboring building so badly that they broke shelving and shattered dishes in the adjoining apartment.
- Plans also misleading because the neighbors were told that the rear yard construction would only extend to the 3rd floor.
- CB7 should reject the proposal – should not increase the scale of the existing problem.
- Should either adjourn the meeting without a vote or reject the application.

Michael Brush – apartment faces the donut/rear yard

- Light will be diminished if the extension is granted – will threaten plantings.
- Light is essential to quality of life.
- Plants in the rear window will be affected by the loss of light.
- A: Architect Nigro – prior statements were in alignment with the prior approved plans – not hiding anything – now seeking an additional floor and the plans have been adjusted accordingly.

Committee Discussion/Consensus:

Mark

- Attorney for the project Fredrick Becker is present – call on Mr. Becker to be a second, independent point of contact for the concerns of the community.
- Becker – agreed to serve as a point of contact for the community with respect to construction concerns.

Resolution – Approve the application as appropriate, conditioned upon the supplementing of the rear fenestration design to include lintels similar to the original condition.

VOTE: 6-1-1-0; non-committee 2-0-0-0

Calendared LPC June 8th.

170 Central Park West, New-York Historical Society (West 77th Street.) Application #LPC-21-07870 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a four-story addition to the existing museum structures on the current parking lot space on West 76th Street, including rooftop and interior gardens.

The New-York Historical Society is an individual landmark designated in 1966. The original structure, now the central building, was completed in 1908 and was designed by architects York & Sawyer. Wings were added to the central building along the West 77th and West 76th Street frontages ca. 1938 by architects Walker & Gillette.

Presentations by Graham Wyatt of Robert A.M. Stern, architects; Louise Mirrer, President and CEO of the New-York Historical Society; and Roy Moskowitz.

Graham Wyatt:

- The existing building is composed of granite in a classical style. The Central Park West York & Sawyer façade features a striated granite first floor with a monumental entrance with a triangular pediment, with minimal windows flanking the entrance. The second floor includes seven recessed large windows separated by Ionic columns resting on the inset from the floor below, and leading to a copper cornice at the top. Two large bronze windows flank the seven bays where the side-street Walker & Gillette wings meet the Central Park West façade.
- The West 76th Street Walker & Gillette façade, next to which the proposed new structure is to be built, continues the striated granite first floor and recessed large window bays separated by Ionic columns on the second floor, with five such bays on the side street elevation. The first floor of the West 76th Street façade includes five short, wide rectangular windows with divided light set relatively high on the first floor elevation.
- A belt course separates the first floor striated granite and fenestration from the second floor monumental window bays.
- In the central portion of the footprint of the existing structures, the existing “stack” building contrasts with the classical facades on the avenue and side streets in being relatively unfenestrated and undecorated, and is composed of light-colored common brick. The stack building has a wing that extends to be co-planar with the West 76th Street façade, which has three courses of large metal windows spanning the relatively narrow frontage, and a clerestory set of smaller windows above. The ornate copper cornice at the top of the granite classical composition wrapping around the West 76th Street façade continues above the wing of the stack building on the side street.
- To the west of the stack and main classical buildings, the footprint of the N-YHS lots include a vacant lot area enclosed by a utilitarian brick wall.
- N-YHS proposes a four-story addition to the classical building and stack, to be built within the vacant lot on the West 76th Street side of the buildings.
- The proposed addition will continue the design and proportions of the classical CPW building, with a first floor of striated granite and a second floor with three window bays separated by Doric rather than Ionic pilasters to emulate the columns on the CPW York & Sawyer façade. The granite used on the addition will be the same Deer Isle granite as used on the Walker & Gillette Wings.
- The addition will continue the street wall height of the neighboring brownstones as well as the proportions, scale, materials, and architectural treatment of the classically proportioned CPW building. The new building will be built as-of-right following NYC Zoning regulations and will not require a zoning variance.
- Windows matching the dimensions, materials and composition of the second floor monumental windows on the West 76th Street façade will be added to the south façade of the stack building.
- The belt course between the first and second floors on the West 76th Street façade will be emulated in a slightly different composition on the new granite portion of the south façade. Windows matching the dimensions of the existing first floor rectangular horizontal windows will be cut into the new addition, arranged vertically rather than horizontally.
- Sculpture gardens will be added in the rear open space behind the new wing and on top of the completed addition.

- The new wing and renovations to the stacks building are designed to be capable of construction in phases depending on financial resources available and programmatic needs.

Louise Mirrer:

- The time has come to realize the expansion envisioned when additional parcels were acquired in the 1930s to the west of the main building.
- The N-YHS was founded in 1804 (the year of the Alexander Hamilton – Aaron Burr duel).
- The mission has broadened since 1804, and now encompasses not just the history of the City of New York, but of the State and the nation. The goal is to disseminate the curated history to the broadest possible public.
- The use of the current facility has greatly expanded, from approximately 9,000 per year in the early years of the existing structure to the current use by over 500,000 visitors per year, including approximately 200,000 NYC public schools students and teachers annually.
- The N-YHS has exhausted every nook and cranny, including the additional space added in a 2011 renovation. The N-YHS has run out of classroom space as well as rest room facilities.
- The N-YHS has grown programmatically, including through a new collaboration with the LGBT+ museum, curating and preserving LGBT+ Community collections as well as its new American Democracy collections.
- The inadequate library stacks require the removal to off-site storage of significant portions of the collection, with more that will be forced off-site in the future. The N-YHS will be a research library without an on-site collection – one cannot operate a great library with no collection available on site.
- Moving forward with a plan to help all Americans and beyond to learn to about American Democracy through a new building that meets the growing needs for space.

Graham Wyatt:

- The current site is the 8th home for N-YHS over the years.
- N-YHS purchased 10 lots in 1891 along CPW.
- The original central portion of the CPW façade was the result of a design competition won by York & Sawyer (the same architects as the Central Savings Bank building at Verdi Square).
- In the 1920s the N-YHS purchased 3 more lots: 2 on West 76th Street, and 1 on West 77th Street.
- The wings on the side streets were added in the 1930s per the phased plan for expansion developed by York & Sawyer. The Wings were constructed under the design of Walker & Gillette.
- N-YHS bought four more townhouses on West 76th Street in 1937. The townhouses on the lots were demolished, and have been vacant ever since.
- Since the 1940s, several expansions were contemplated for the West 76th Street lots, but none were constructed.
- The York & Sawyer central building and the Walker & Gillette wings were designated an individual landmark in 1966, and in 1973 and again in 1990 were included in Historic Districts.
- A large mixed-use residential tower intended to create revenue for fund the N-YHS mission was proposed in 1983 using designs from Richard Meier and Platt Byard Dovell White. The tower was never approved or built.

- The Walker & Gillette wings included slight variations on the York & Sawyer façade, and still create an harmonious composition that functions as a single work.
- The Walker & Gillette wings were the inspiration for the current proposal.
- The Stack tower is tall but is not visible from directly in front of the York & Sawyer building. It is only visible from locations up and down CPW.

Roy Moskowitz :

- The N-YHS application has been submitted to LPC with a request for a public hearing on the June 15th calendar.
- The N-YHS outreach relating to the project has included meetings with community organizations including block associations and individual building leadership on West 76th and West 77th Streets, the Municipal Art Society, LandmarkWest, and the Landmarks Conservancy.
- The N-YHS would welcome CB7 taking a leadership role by forming a working group to facilitate on-going outreach relating to the project, particularly during demolition and construction.
- N-YHS has received a detailed letter of support from LandmarkWest's "Certificate of Appropriateness committee, which describes the proposal as an "appropriate Goldilocks compromise."

Committee Questions and Comments:

Peter:

- Complete and convincing presentation. RAMSA were the perfect choice for architects for this project.
- As a suggestion, the project creates an opportunity to use both the roof of new building and also the roof of the existing building for the public events and programming. It would have a spectacular view of Central Park.
- A: Graham Wyatt – agrees that the roof would be stunning, but the existing roof space is needed for a huge amount of mechanical equipment, which fits well in a roof recess presciently created by York & Sawyer. Financial constraints also limit such potential use.

Jay:

- Q: Understand the need for haste re phase 1 –how long until the full design is realized?
- A: Louise Mirrer – Whether the project is built at once or in phases will depend in part on the success of fundraising. The pandemic set back both private and City fundraising.

Mark

- Q: Why are the pilaster designs for the addition in a different style than the Walker & Gillette window details?
- A: The architecture evolved from the heavy classical columns used by York & Sawyer to the simplified designs of Walker & Gillette. The current column design continues that trend, and turned the Walker & Gillette columns into pilasters. Similarly the new design emulates the cornice from detail from York & Sawyer without being an exact match.
- A: This is a means to be playful and yet scholarly with the design.

Klari:

- Wonderful design. Appreciate the approach in contrast to the 2007 proposals.
- Q: Will the decorative cornice be pre-patinated to match the existing cornice?
- A: Most likely it will pre-patinated – now that acid rain no longer patinates copper so quickly, it will take a long time to match the other facades.
- Q: Bathroom facilities – will the interior renovations include new rest rooms, and will they be unisex?
- A: Will significantly increase the number of rest rooms, which are contemplated to be non-gender specific rest rooms. These designs are still being finalized.

Ira:

- Hoping that the warm reception to this project will lead the N-YHS to re-think the fenestration recently approved for the York & Sawyer facade.
- Applauds the design for the service doors where the stacks building meets West 76th Street.
- Wish would take the same approach with the gallery windows on the upper floor, which should be in bronze.
- Q: Perplexed by the use of large windows in a conservation room in the stacks tower.
- A: Windows in stack tower – not to the conservation room but to classrooms.
- A: The main windows will have bronze cladding and will have same mullions and proportions as the comparable windows on the Walker & Gillette facades.

Community Questions and Comments:

Peter Wright – representing 6 West 77th Street Co-op

- Co-op rear windows look out on the construction site.
- This is an historic occasion for N-YHS after three failed proposals.
- The project was presented to the Co-op, and was very thorough and professional outreach.
- The project is highly sensitive to the neighborhood and those who face the garden.
- The 6 West 77th Street Co-op applauds the sensitivity of the design and endorses the project.
- Concern about noise and dust during construction. Notes that the American Museum of Natural History funded replacement windows at a neighboring building to abide the dust and noise from the Gilder Center, which is farther away than this building.

Jay -

- CB7 has hired a new District Manager, who will start work soon. The DM often functions as a liaison for construction matters

Sari Rosenberg – teacher at the High School for Environmental Studies (and an UWS Resident):

- Supports the expansion project.
- Environmental Studies is a partner school. Teachers participate in N-YHS teacher professional development and curriculum development; students have been interns.
- Design is an appropriate addition to the individual landmark and the Historic District.
- The design honors the height and scale of the existing landmark and the buildings in the surrounding historic district, including the use of matching Deer Isle granite.

Committee Discussion/Consensus:

Resolution to approve as presented.

VOTE 8-0-0-0; Non-committee Board members: 3-0-0-1.

322 Central Park West (West 92nd Street). Application for an extension of a rooftop boiler flue.

The subject building is a 15-story masonry apartment building with a limestone base and common brick façade with limestone details. It was built ca. 1926 by architects George and Edward Blum. It is included in the Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District.

The owners of 322 CPW having converted the oil furnace to a dual-fuel (gas/oil) boiler propose to line the boiler chimney flue from the furnace to the roof with a stainless steel flu liner to preserve the chimney and minimize future damage to the surrounding masonry as a result of condensation created by gas combustion.

The existing masonry chimney, constructed in accordance with codes applicable at the time of construction, is non-compliant with the 2014 Mechanical Code as it relates to its height and proximity to other adjacent structures. By virtue of lining the chimney, the building is now required to bring the chimney into compliance with the 2014 Mechanical Code.

In accordance with the Code and given the proximity of the chimney to the nearby domestic water tank, the flue must be raised to approximately 16 feet. Given the slenderness of the exposed extension, it cannot be executed in heavy masonry to match the existing but rather constructed in metal with structural steel enframement which will be painted a dull gray.

A request for a reconsideration to allow the chimney to remain at its existing height has been submitted to DOB, but it is unlikely that grandfathering will be granted.

Brief consideration was given to lowering the water tank, but as it contains both domestic and fire reserve, this is not possible.

Drawings illustrate that there is no other location re reroute the chimney or relocate the water tank that would have less impact on the sightlines from a public thoroughfare.

Presentation by Adele Swank and Robert Bates, Walter B. Melvin Architects

Building was built in 1929 according to Code. The corner of the chimney is unsafe. Copping is in bad shape and brick is loose.

New flue lining will extend the life of the chimney.

The 2014 Mechanical Code is unrelenting.

Steel angle armature is needed to support the flue.

Masonry is too heavy to extend the 14-foot chimney

The only nearby combustible structure is the water tower.

From one spot on 92nd Street, from Central Park West, and from Central Park the flue is visible.

The hearing is scheduled for June 8 at LPC. If the grandfathering is approved before that date, which is unlikely, the chimney can remain as is.

Community Questions and Comments:

[none]

Committee Discussion and Consensus:

Resolution to approve the metal boiler chimney extension as presented.

VOTE: Committee: 6-1-0-0 Non committee board members: 2-0-0-0

263 West 93rd Street (Broadway – West End Avenue). Application for a Street Window Replacement

The property is within the Riverside-West End Historic District. The building is a townhouse with its parlor floor only a few steps above the sidewalk, built ca. 1897 by architect Alexander M. Welch.

The property has received approval from LPC at the staff level for replacement of all windows - except second floor front windows - for a new bulkhead addition as well as other alterations. Based on the LPC approval, a permit from the DOB has been granted and certain parts of the alteration such as the new bulkhead are underway.

The two second floor front windows are special windows. They are single hung windows with a transom-like window composed of stained glass above. The stained glass transoms will be preserved. The bottom portion is operable and provides ventilation for the room currently by sliding up and down. The applicant requests permission to replace the bottom portions. The operation of the bottom portion will be different from the windows already approved at LPC – the proposed operation will be to pivot on an axis near the top of the tall, thin rectangular windows. Since the stained glass top portion will remain, the bottom portion will operate as a single hung window. The replacement window will be an awning window in order to provide code required ventilation. The difference in size of the new glass vs. the existing glass is 1%, which is below the 6% threshold set by LPC.

Presentation by Mohommad Badaly, architect:

Awning windows are needed to preserve the stained glass section of the windows and for ventilation. They will be Marvin aluminum clad windows and will open up to 8 inches away from the façade at the bottom. LPC approved the other Marvin clad windows in the building.

Committee and Board Questions and Comments:

Ira Mitchneck:

- Q: Windows in buildings on either side are not good or historically correct. Could you use a pivot window?
- A: The two windows will change only 1%, less than pivots.
- Concern that the use of awning windows in a configuration not typical of townhouses is not appropriate.

Mark Diller:

- Q: Do the existing windows move now?

- A: They are single hung.

Community Questions and Comments:

[none]

Committee Discussion and Consensus:

Resolution to approve the replacement of single hung windows with two awning windows.

VOTE:

Committee: 6-1-0-0 Non-committee board members: 1-1-0-0

Proposed Resolution on Construction Netting:

The following facts and circumstances were considered by the committee in reaching its decision:

- Construction and renovation projects throughout New York City, including in Historic Districts, are increasing as the pandemic restrictions are easing.
- Several buildings in our district are planning Local Law 11 repairs and/or façade cleaning.
- In addition to scaffolding and sidewalk sheds it is likely that several of these projects will require Construction Safety Netting (also referred to as Debris Netting).
- Such netting is often essential to reduce the risk for accidents from debris, provide additional accident protection for workers as well as reducing clean up time.
- Much, if not all, of the netting in use in our district (and throughout the City) is black.
- The widely used black netting creates a “shroud” like effect and an ambience of gloom in addition to a reduction of visibility through the netting; the reduction of visibility reduces the effectiveness of security lighting at the site, particularly illumination of vacant floors, and the ability to observe any existing damage. Black netting also absorbs and retains heat causing increased discomfort to both workers and building occupants.
- The use of black netting is particularly inappropriate on structures in a historic district and on individual landmarks wherever situated within New York City.
- A review of Safety Netting manufacturers servicing the New York City area indicates that almost all such manufacturers make code compliant safety netting in “white” or “light sand” colors and thus such netting is readily available.

Therefore, in light of the foregoing, Community Board 7, Manhattan calls upon the New York City Landmarks Commission and the New York City Department of Buildings to immediately mandate that Construction Safety Netting used upon any structure in a designated Historic District or upon an individually designated Landmark, be “white”, “light sand” or equivalent light color and that the use of black safety netting be prohibited in such circumstances.

Further, Community Board 7 calls upon the New York City Council to enact a law codifying the foregoing requirement and prohibition.

(Note: The committee was made aware of a project beginning at P.S. 166 in our district. Largely through the efforts of our colleague, Peter Samton, the contractor has agreed to use the lighter color Safety Netting).

Committee and Board Questions and Comments:

Ira Mitchneck:

- DOB regulates netting. Do people living inside prefer dark netting as architects Robert Bates suggested?

Community Questions and Comments:

[none]

Committee Discussion and Consensus:

Resolution was adopted as presented.

VOTE: Committee 7-0-0-0; Non-committee board members 2-0-0-0.

Sense of the Committee Resolution

The Committee learned that colleague Doug McGowan has left the Committee and the Board.

The Committee wishes to express its gratitude for Doug's thoughtful and informed participation in Committee and Board discussions.

Therefore the Committee resolved to express its appreciation to Doug, and to wish him well in his future endeavors.

Adopted unanimously by acclimation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 pm.

YOUTH, EDUCATION & LIBRARIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY MAY 20TH, 2021 6:30PM

Via ZOOM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Blanche Lawton (co-chair), Courtney Clark-Metakis (co-chair), Rosa Arenas, Catherine DeLazzer, Bev Donohue, Mark Diller, Paul Fischer, Julian Giordano, Audrey Isaacs, Natasha Kazmi, Ira Mitchneck, Seema Reddy

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Roberta Semer, Steven Brown (Board Chair)

Presentation on the latest health data on children and COVID-19, including vaccination updates and science standards for schools.

Guest speakers:

- Emily Oster, PhD – Professor of Economics, Brown University. Creator of the National Covid-19 School Response Dashboard (the “Dashboard”)
- Patricia A. DeLaMora, MD – Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Division of Infectious Diseases, Weill Cornell Medicine / New York Presbyterian

Dr Emily Oster, PhD: Dr Oster discussed the background of school reopenings, and the motivation to create the Dashboard. In March of 2020, everything shut down abruptly, including schools, except in Sweden. Then the UK/Europe started reopening, as well as schools in certain US states (IN, GA, FL), followed by an ebb and flow of reopenings in the fall of 2020. The reopening experience of the UK, Germany, and Spain was very reassuring.

However, even as late as August, there was no centralized data collection system planned in the US, either at the federal or state levels. As states were reopening schools, questions like: are schools superspreaders? what mitigation factors matter? what type of spread occurs? by whom? tracking of covid cases? masking/distancing protocols?, remained unanswered. Therefore, the public Dashboard was created, and it was a joint effort among school supers associations, two principal associations, Qualtrics, Brown University. The data was collected bi-weekly from states like NY, TX, MA, FL.

In general, student and staff case rates mirrored community rates, ie they are higher in the winter and then go down precipitously in warmer months. Also in general, staff rates are higher than both community and student rates. However, how much of that is due to increased testing of staff relative to the community, or due to something else, is hard to tell. Though this was seen more in NY. However, with the roll out of vaccination, the staff rates are beginning to come down so much that their rates are now lower than students in some cases. In conclusion (and with the help of some slides), Dr Oster said that schools do not appear to be superspreading sources. She highlighted and explained some anomalies, like that of New York, where there was a significant spike in cases among school staff vs the general population post-Christmas. However, this can be explained by the fact that testing among staff was 10x that of the general population. Also, the numbers have dropped very significantly as vaccination has picked up speed.

Dr Oster also discussed the racial equity comparison (across the US) of the different modes of instruction during the pandemic: FT in-person, hybrid, and virtual. In general, white, non-hispanic students seemed to gain the most as they were in-person instruction throughout. Black students, on the other hand, moved from no instruction to virtual to hybrid and thus experienced negative equity consequences over time.

Dr Oster also discussed the relationship between relative in-person density (using NY data) and covid-19 cases: In areas where in-person student density is high, covid cases are lower. While there are many possible explanations for this, she concluded that opening schools normally (full in-person, 5 days a week) in the fall should not be problematic from the point of view of covid cases, and in fact should be a realistic option.

QUESTIONS:

CB7 Member Questions:

Q: The US educational system/ decisions are the purview of the states. How does that compare to the UK/Europe?

A: The US educational system is definitely more fragmented, and a lot of decisions were made independently across different states and even within states. The UK/European systems have been helped by their centralization, but not sure how much that has helped with covid mitigation. Also, some of their protocols have been very different, ie less masking in much of Europe.

Q: How does the data account for different policies in different areas, eg masking/ no masking, outdoor/indoor, etc?

A: It is in fact difficult to isolate one mitigation factor among many and the specific impact of it on covid cases in a certain community. What has helped is to study cases of natural variation and compare districts which are next to each other and have made different choices (eg in MA). However, school spread has in general been very little, and most of the variation in many places is just about community outbreaks, so the analysis and mitigation strategies specific to schools has so far been more complicated than anticipated.

Q: Re: Vaccination. How does the prospect of vaccinating even very young children play into the decision to reopen schools?

A: In principle the earliest possible date for vaccinating elementary school-age children would be the end of calendar year 2021. But it would be an "enormous, enormous mistake to predicate school reopenings on vaccinations of kids especially under 12 but also probably 12-15. This is a low-risk group." The risk to them of not having access to in-person schooling will be more than the risks from covid. Even in Israel, where the vaccination rate is very high but the population under 16 has not been vaccinated, there has been virtually no spread in the younger population. Also, there will be legitimate questions about vaccinating such young children. "Predicating school reopenings around vaccinations is another way that we could fail them."

Q: Given the data we have now, as opposed to lack of much information earlier in the pandemic, what is the best way to deal with some of the more draconian mitigation measures that some communities have put in place (eg the 2 case rule in NYC schools)?

A: Case study in Ohio, where in one high school there was 70-80% full-time, in-person attendance, 3' separation. The mitigation strategies there were quite strict, ie kids were being asked to quarantine as soon as they were considered to have been exposed to covid-19, staying out for 14 days etc. This was causing a lot of frustration because, after quarantining many many kids, the school's conversion rate to covid was minimal at just 2 cases. Many kids were being pulled out of key experiences, like their last football game, etc. The

school worked with the state to come up with a less draconian measure, given that the conversion rate was so low, so then they shifted to the strategy of daily testing, and that resulted in the same outcome, ie minimal conversion to covid. This was an example of the cost of frequent disruptions in schooling, and lessons to be learnt in order to open schools more normally.

Q: What lessons have been learnt, after 12 months of the pandemic, vis-à-vis school reopenings?

A: Schools should reopen full time, regular 5-days, in person, with some regular testing regimen for younger kids, strong encouragement of vaccination for older kids, close contacts tested regularly. Good information collecting system.

Q: What kind of cooperation is in effect right now at the state/ federal level?

A: Not sure as Dr Oster isn't working on this directly, but probably working on learning what kind of information states are collecting now.

Public Questions:

Jon Petry: How do we change the conversation from managing a pandemic emergency to a more normal management?

A: Slowly! Given the experience in NY, it will be difficult to switch back to 'normal' right away. The more information we have, the better.

Rebecca Kuhar: Son is a ninth grader LaGuardia HS, zooms in once a week. Concerned about the mental health of these kids. So it seems like there are far more benefits to getting kids into school than not. So what am I missing?

A: Not sure. Politics. Staffing issues. No public health defense for not reopening fully.

Mark Levine: Incredible discussion. Clear and compelling discussion of the science, trade-offs. Opening 5 days a week in the fall for all children in the fall. But space limits are there in our school system. But there are other tools like masking, ventilation, testing that need to be addressed. Resistance re testing?

A: Testing is a reasonable part of getting back to school safely, can cause some prevention, esp testing unvaccinated kids with antigen or pooled tests once every two weeks. These things can be done with everybody in school, and may be more cost effective than brand new expensive ventilation systems and more practical than 3' or 6' distancing. Kids of families who have been resistant to testing are simply moved to virtual learning right now, which is 'overkill,'

Also teachers being asked to teach both remotely and in-person has been shown to have terrible consequences, this has been shown in k-12 as well as higher ed, like Harvard.

Q: Stephanie Kokinos: Randomized testing of asymptomatic children, and the disruptive impact of that.

A: Avoid shutting the classrooms just because of one positive case. But more important to develop a formal plan/protocol for different situations, as opposed to the situation right now where rules are unclear and being made on the fly.

Q: Daniela Jampel: Reasons for the successful reopening of the Providence RI school district?

A: The state of RI just made a decision in June 2020 to reopen in person in September. Not much discussion was invited, though stakeholders were informed and asked what would make them feel safer, but the plan of

fully reopening in the fall was very clear and decisive. That kind of messaging made everyone focus on “how can we open” than arguing about whether to open or not.

Dr Patricia A. DeLaMora, MD :

Grew up in NYC public schools. Now lives in Westchester, next to New Rochelle. Her three kids are now in school full time, with really no problem. Before the christmas break, they were in hybrid learning (going to in-person school every other day). Students didn't have the same schedule from week to week and that was hard for the kids. After December break, all 5000 people in the district were tested (teachers and students) and only 50 positive cases. After spring break, students were told to come to school in-person full time, no more zoom school. And its been remarkably good, though there is crowding in the classrooms (3' distance), masked, 400 kids in the high school are vaccinated today. Vaccinations just started about 6 weeks ago. Yet there's been only one case of covid in the entire high school and no cases/quarantining in the middle school. Each week there had been randomized pooled testing of 3% of the population of the school. But now they have stopped pooled testing because transmission rates were so low. There has been covid in the community and also covid in the high school, but those HS cases are clearly linked to sports and travel teams, wrestling.

Biggest lesson learnt in the last 6 months is that there is very little transmission in schools from child to child, especially if they are masked and somewhat distanced. However, even when older kids are not distancing outside of schools (eg getting into each others cars, going off campus if there is a free period), there is still very little transmission. That is important information. Also, restructuring traffic flow of kids inside school buildings so that there is no cross-traffic.

Pfizer and Moderna's trials for younger kids are very promising and Dr DeLaMora expects these to be available by the fall – ie vaccines for all age groups will be available soon. While there are very few medical contraindications to vaccination, it still cannot be made a requirement for a job at schools. Yet a realistic risk, eg, may be that of an asymptomatic 5 year old infecting an unvaccinated teacher. Another risk is the anti-vaccine sentiment out there, and education /outreach efforts to change that should continue. And finally, making policy up on the fly, as cases ebb and flow, is also disastrous. Clear plans re who to quarantine, and how to quarantine effectively while staying within the state's guidance, in an accurate manner instead of a blanket quarantine for entire classrooms, are going to be critical for reopenings. Clear communication to families of all this is also crucial.

Bottom line: Dr DeLaMora agrees with Dr Oster that there is no good public health argument to be made for keeping schools closed at this point.

QUESTIONS:

CB7 Member Questions:

Q: If nothing changes today, should schools be opened up?

A: Yes!! Social consequences of staying at home are terrible. Very little data to support that staying at home cannot be done safely. School transmission mirrors community transmission and school transmission does not exacerbate community transmission. Many cases in schools can be traced to activities outside, like families, sports et.

Public Questions:

Q: Daniela Jumpel: 1. Testing and masking – is there any threshold? 2. Ventilation vs windows vs HePAA filters?

A: 1. Once all people are vaccinated, masking will not be necessary. But if you are in a mixed group or a public space, then keep masks on. And unless every person in a classroom is vaccinated, masking should still be necessary. That may be a way to convince parents to vaccinate their children. Also, there might be plans to vaccinate young kids in pediatrician offices, as opposed to in a colder environment like a CVS, so that might also encourage families to vaccinate kids. 2. Is complicated to answer depending on how many people, ventilation, etc.

Q: Beverly Johnson: Physician in NYC, 3 kids. How can NYC schools policy be changed so that one positive case doesn't end up quarantining entire classrooms.

A: Other districts have been changing such rules, perhaps through 3' distancing, etc. But unless there is a federal mandate, most likely these issues between the UFT and the families will continue.

Q: Natalya Murakhver: PS 87 mom. Organizing lawsuit against the city to mandate K-12 inperson schooling with teachers. Not a day to waste, especially for HS kids. The overly cautious masking of children and its impact on development, speech etc. Risk/reward balance?

A: Transmission has occurred within schools (older kids) in some cases. Masking is required also for reduced transmission from asymptomatic kids to family members/community. So where does personal responsibility end and societal responsibility begins. Ethical questions vs policy questions.

Senior Task Force Minutes

May 13, 2021

Committee Members Present: Roberta Semer, Chair Task Force; Louisa Craddock, Madge Rosenberg, Bonnie Lumagui (Hamilton Madison House); Lisa Beth Miller & Janet Weinstein (Lighthouse Guild); Paula Seefeldt (LILY); Susan Matloff-Nieves (Goddard Riverside); Mark Jennings (Project Find); Susan Leichter & Betsy Margolis (JCC/Manhattan); Daniel Leinweber (Mt Sinai)

Elected Representatives Present: Erik Cuello, Cindy Cardinal, Rita Genn, Erica Overton, Hannah Weinerman, Luke Wolf,

Meeting called to order on zoom at 10 am.

1. Discussion of upcoming Hearing and Vision Forum on May 26th at 10:30 am. Janet Weinstein and Roberta Semer explained the format. The Lighthouse Guild and the Center for Hearing and Communication will each give a 20 minute presentation about the latest technologies. Then there will be time for a Q and A. Flyers have been sent to all members of the Task Force and the Local Elected Representatives. Helen's office has included the flyer in their eblast. Roberta will continue to send flyers out and will reach out to the local media.
2. A brief discussion ensued about what to do next. The Senior Centers will be allowed to start providing "grab and go" meals outside their centers once the protocol for the meals have been approved. It was decided that we need to write a letter to the Mayor requesting that Senior Centers be allowed to open. Everyone agreed to co-sign. We will see how the virtual forum goes on May 26th and determine if we can plan an in person event going forward.
3. Daniel Leinweber offered to send the small containers of hand sanitizer to any of the organizations on the Task Force.
4. Paula Seefeldt said that LILY continues to reach out mostly virtually, but they did have a booth at a local block association's fair. It was a good opportunity for people to learn about LILY.
5. Rita Genn spoke about a meet up that a Veteran's Group is organizing on the Sheep Meadow on Saturday. She plans to attend and will report back to us. Rita also said that the Riverside Branch of the NY Public Library is scheduled to open maybe over the summer. There will be a ban on plastic straws
6. Betsy Margolis said the JCC will offer a few programs for small groups on the 7th floor. They are also planning a bird walk in Central Park. The number of participants will be limited. Susan Matloff-Nieves explained that they aren't able to have their group walks, even though they are outside and not in the center. We joked about bootleg walks.
7. Bonnie Lumagui spoke about the caregiver program that she oversees. They are able to communicate with caregivers and the clients in a variety of languages including: Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and Korean.
8. Bonnie said that they are concerned about the vote. She offered to share some materials. This year's election will evolve Ranked Choice voting which will be confusing.

The Next Meeting is schooled for JUNE 10 at 10 am, the second Thursday of the Month.