

COMMUNITY BOARD 7/MANHATTAN

FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2021 at 6:30pm

Steven Brown, Chairperson

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

Not Present: Catherine DeLazzero, Madelyn Innocent, Doug McGowan, Meg Schmitt

Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm after the Secretary confirmed the existence of a quorum.

Public Safety Session

Report from NYPD 20th, 24th, and Central Park Precincts

Captain William Gallagher, Central Park Precinct

Captain Gallagher spoke about a situation in the western part of the Park in which a man and his family were followed and he was punched in the face, with the possibility that this was motivated by anti-Asian bias. The incident is being investigated. The city has sadly seen a lot of incidents of attacks against people because of their ethnicity. If you witness a hate crime, be sure to call 911 immediately. Another incident happened on St. Patrick's day. Apart from those two incidents, crime in the Park is down compared to last year. Unattended grand larcenies are the most common scenarios of crimes in Central Park.

Captain Neil Zuber, 20th Precinct

Captain Zuber added that the 20th Precinct is seeing a lot of the same issues as Central Park, but has specifically seen an increase in property crimes from businesses (shoplifting). Comparisons to last year's numbers are artificially low, but compared to two years ago, they are up slightly. By and large, robberies in the Precinct have been shoplifting incidents gone bad (the use or threatening of force changes it to a robbery). The Precinct has been posting Wanted flyers on social media regarding a pattern of incidents of older teenagers victimizing younger teenagers mainly along Riverside Drive.

Deputy Inspector Naoki Yaguchi

Inspector Yaguchi shared that the 24th Precinct is slightly up in robberies this year, but not compared to two and three years ago. There have been a considerable amount of Grand Larceny Autos. The majority of Grand Larcenies are scams preying on elderly people. The Precinct's message to the community is

that if anybody calls with any offers on the home, hang up. There was a shooting on February 28th on 104th St and Columbus Avenue. They are working with their partners in northern Manhattan to address it.

Klari Neuwelt referenced a criminal who wrote "Done." throughout the Upper West Side and asked whether his behavior continued after he was released from being arrested.

Captain Zuber replied that he cooperated well with the Precinct and will be helping with graffiti cleanups from now on.

Rich Robbins asked about traffic statistics: crashes, injuries, etc.

Captain Gallagher noted that bicycle collisions in Central Park will increase as it gets warmer, but that the number one incident of bicycles had to do with cyclists falling off their bicycle and not colliding with others.

Inspector Yaguchi shared that pedestrian collisions and overall collisions are down but there has been a slight uptick in the number of injuries. Captain Martin from the 20th Precinct noted they saw an increase in bicycle collisions and will expect to see an increase with the warmer weather. They're seeing some upticks in injury accidents. There was a change in the reporting of accidents this past year which has caused the number to decrease significantly from past years, which affects comparisons.

Captain Zuber added that there have been some bills regarding the reporting of collisions that are freeing up the NYPD and moving some of the reporting to the Department of Transportation.

Erica Gerson asked: if one individual repeatedly commits larceny below the \$1000 threshold, can that be cumulatively charged as grand larceny?

Captain Zuber noted that there have been a couple of incidents where that has happened in the past when it is the same individual and the same store.

Maria Danzilo was in one of the banks when it was robbed last week. She was also later in a store and heard from its manager that they didn't want to report a small shoplifting incident that had occurred. She is especially concerned about small business owners who are female and unable to defend themselves. She asked what steps can be taken to assure the small business community that they are safe.

Captain Zuber noted that there has been no correlation between the bank robberies and the incident at the lingerie boutique, which was a robbery (not an assault). In terms of what the local community can do, they should not hesitate to call 911.

Inspector Yaguchi elaborated on how the NYPD responds to incidents and feedback and adjusts practices.

Peter Samton commented that he is concerned about the blocked fire hydrants on his street.

Richard Asche noted that if a crime consisted of several petty larcenies, law enforcement can treat the perpetrator as though he committed a felony.

Erica Gerson stated that while different individuals' crimes may not be connected, people look around and see that criminal behavior does not have consequences, and that creates a sense of general disorder that may influence others. Are the people who commit larcenies from our neighborhood and are they recidivists? Can there be more wanted signs?

Captain Zuber agreed that the sense that people are not being punished is an influence. For larcenies, they tend to be people who ride up and down the subway and victimize stores to fence the goods. It is a problem that arrestees are frequently released immediately. Flyers are for other police to understand who is wanted. It is the decision of the executives when public flyers are released. Attempts to coordinate with the Guardian Angels have gone unanswered.

Doug Kleiman asked if there is an idea of how to stop ATVs and motorcycles that create unsafe street conditions.

Captain Gallagher replied that they stop riders at the bridges to try to control the bands who come in from outside the City and who ride unsafely.

Phil Gordon from the Lincoln Square Business Improvement District thanked Captain Zuber for quickly apprehending the man who attacked a long-time employee.

Business Session

Land Use Committee, Richard Asche and Jeanette Rausch, Co-Chairpersons

Resolution Re: *(20 minutes estimated)*

1. **Response to comprehensive long-term plan for the City *Intro 2186***, legislation proposed by City Council requiring the city to undertake periodic citywide comprehensive planning and a completely new process for the city to accomplish this task.

Richard Asche explained that over the last six months, the City Council has tried to create a planning process that will take place over 10 years. CB7 Land Use Committee members approved of the concept of a long-term plan, the emphasis on sustainability and equity, and provisions to require a running inventory of infrastructure and budget for what it would take to maintain that inventory. The Committee decided to vote against it because neighborhoods were involved too late to have meaningful input. Also, there is no funding for Community Boards to participate. It is top-heavy, creating layers of new bureaucracy. The ten-year cycle might be too long and the process is not clear to most of the community boards Citywide. It is the Committee's feeling that it is a bad time to consider sweeping legislation when most Council members and the Mayor will be out of office and replaced within a year. The Council introduced the proposal in February but had little consultation with communities. The plan is radical and takes planning out of DCP and places it in a new Commission and a new Mayoral Office of Strategic Planning. The approach is top-down where the Commission would define quotas of different services and burdens in communities and the Mayor's office would develop options. There is very little opportunity for meaningful community input.

Shelly Fine stated that the plan doesn't take the variation among communities into account. Planning should be borough-based, with community input. It doesn't make sense to go forward with the political timing of the election.

Pablo Zevallos stated that he attended the Land Use Committee meeting and wanted to emphasize some of the positives of the proposal. What happens in other areas of the City does impact the UWS. We need to take account of full City needs. It provides a broader way of thinking about planning than DCP does.

Jeannette Rausch responded that DCP does have the capacity for more comprehensive planning but right now they are directed to research studies.

Anne Kemper noted that we do need targets for community development for the equitable distribution of burdens and services. She asked whether CB7 is happy with the current system.

Richard Asche responded that we do need a plan but we need one with greater input from the community.

Mark Diller reflected that comprehensive planning needs to be done correctly, not rushed through in the last year of an administration. He expressed concern about the duplication of existing agency functions.

Robert Espier noted that the City Council appoints maybe half of the board members in the City and that opposing this plan amounts to pushing back at them. It is a conundrum.

Richard Asche noted that there is substantial opposition to this Council plan. Those of us appointed by the City Council are selected because we are trusted to think for ourselves.

Jeannette Rausche noted that, in the February hearing, the Commissioner of DCP was opposed to the proposal. Those CB's present were largely opposed. To have the level of community services and burdens decided by a group with a few appointed members is not desirable.

Ethel Sheffer expressed the view that It is better not to rush through such a major change.

The vote was taken by a show of hands: 39-1-1-0

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

Resolution Re: *(20 minutes estimated)*

2. Ensuring full funding for New York City Schools

Courtney Clark Metakis explained that the language of the resolution will be changed to reflect that the City has given amnesty to school budgets and that the State has not implemented cuts. The rest of the resolution remains relevant.

Christian noted that the State should be urged to provide full funding per student.

The vote was taken by a show of hands: 40-0-0-0

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

Resolution Re: *(10 minutes estimated)*

3. Database of secondary street namings

Jeannette noted that each borough has a geographic function and the database might also be well maintained there.

Gilbert Tauber explained that generally two local laws are passed each year, each with several hundred names. It takes about 40 hours per year to input the information to his site.

Milda Pocari spoke about renaming 98th street and West End Avenue, where 2 pedestrians were struck and killed two years ago, including her father, Alfred Pocari. She has distributed online and in-person petitions and has collected ~300 signatures so far. She is looking for next steps from the Community Board.

Steven Brown replied and will follow up with her offline.

Andrew Albert noted that the Department of Cultural Affairs could coordinate with the DOT to host the database. He added that there need to be notes on street signs/LinkNYC so people know where to look for the database.

The vote was taken by a show of hands: 40-0-0-0.

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

Resolution Re: *(10 minutes estimated)*

- 4. 359 Columbus Avenue** (West 77th Street.) New application to the SLA for two-year liquor licenses by LPB6, LLC d/b/a La Pecora Bianca

The vote to approve was taken by a show of hands: 40-0-0-0. The resolution carried.

- 5. 108 West 74th Street** (Columbus Avenue.) Alteration application to the SLA by B&H Restaurant LLC, d/b/a Leyla

Rich Robbins asked about soundproofing measures, to which Linda Alexander responded that there are none due to the small size of the outdoor seating area.

The vote to approve was taken by a show of hands: 40-0-0-1. The resolution carried.

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

Resolution Re: (20 minutes estimated)

- 6. 131 West 69th Street** (Broadway – Columbus Avenue.) Application #LPC 21-03585 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for:
- Partial infill of the existing rear yard extension
 - New fenestration on the new and existing rear yard extensions, including converting an existing window to a terrace-access door
 - Creation of a rooftop stair bulkhead and mechanical room
 - New railings and rear yard fencing

Erana Stennett asked if the building is in a historic district. Linda Alexander replied that it is in the Upper West Side/Central Park historic district but is not an individual landmark.

Robert Espier asked if there are fireplaces in each of the units and whether the Board must also look at the fireplaces for approval. Kevin Magee, the architect replied and explained that the flues of surrounding buildings will also be extended.

Erana Stennett asked if other buildings have had similar modifications. Kevin Magee replied that at least three other buildings on the block have extensions to the bulkhead and that he will get back with more information.

Page Cowley noted that the bulkhead is bigger than others.

The vote to approve was taken by a show of hands: 33-4-2-0. The resolution carried.

- 7. 20 Lincoln Center, David H Koch Theater at Lincoln Center** (West 63rd Street.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to restore portions of the travertine cladding on the exterior of the theater

Ethel Sheffer noted that Lincoln Center is not subject to LPC but as a city-owned building, it goes before the Public Design Commission.

Page Cowley added that the Public Design Commission does need the Community Board's support and that we should vote on it.

Jay Adolf clarified that this is a 'ratification' by the full board of the committee's conclusion.

Robert Espier asked for clarification between the national and city landmark designations. Ethel

Sheffer replied that the National Directory is a federal entity separate from New York's designations. The LPC has different rules from the federal list.

The vote was taken by a show of hands: 38-0-1-1.

- 8. 327 West 76th Street** (Cross Street.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a vertical and horizontal enlargement.

The vote to approve was taken by a show of hands: 33-6-1-0. The resolution carried.

Directed by the City Charter mandate that Community Boards review matters prior to consideration by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Preservation Committee reviews the "appropriateness" of proposed changes to individually designated landmarks as well as to properties listed within the Upper West Side's Historic Districts.

Approval of minutes from the previous full board meeting.

The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Chair's Report: Steven Brown

Steven Brown announced that a working group has been created that will be led by Polly Spain and Rosa Arenas on the subject of environmental justice. Information will be posted on the website tomorrow. Additionally, the Budget Committee has been meeting and will present at the Steering Committee meeting. They will come to this month's Committee meetings to speak briefly about the process. Steven Brown shared that District Manager Penny Ryan will be retiring this month.

Ethel Sheffer spoke to Penny Ryan's experience as District Manager over two decades and some of her major accomplishments and highlights of her tenure.

Community Session

We welcome all members of our community (residents, businesses, CBOs) who would like to speak on issues of interest to them.

Manhattan Borough President's Report

Borough President Gale Brewer thanked Gilbert Tauber and said she will work with him to make sure these efforts are successful. On the helicopters, Brewer agreed with the public and Congressman Nadler and shared that they have left no stone unturned, but need the federal legislation. She also highlighted theft at Duane Reade, Walgreens, and Target and shared that she is following up with them and the NYPD. She added that they've been asked for and have been able to provide Reso A money for police cameras. Brewer also spoke about the support that NYPD Youth Officers are providing to youth. Every Tuesday at 3 pm Stennett, she has speakers talking about vaccinations and federal allocations. She noted

that with federal funding we need to be sure it gets spent correctly, especially because it is hard to trace when added to city money. She's asking that Community Boards pass resolutions in support of units of allocations to help with this. Finally, she shared that they are still working on a Manhattan-only vaccine site, thanked the Board for the advocacy about education funding, and shared an oral history event led by Rob Synder coming up.

Erana Stennett noted that corporations the size of Walgreens can afford security and reinforced the need for them to have their own security in stores.

Shelly Fine highlighted that NYCHA Douglass Houses, WISE towers, and more are in 10025 and have not received the Covid-19 support they need as a result.

Jeanette Rausch shared that the alarm system at the 96th street CVS is constantly going off and making an awful noise, adding another effect of these thefts on the community.

Courtney Clark-Metakis noted that the pharmacy issue is not a new one and has been going on for over a year and a half.

Reports by Elected Officials

Congressman Jerrold Nadler, District 10

Congressman Nadler shared some of the details of the rescue bill signed by President Biden in March. He also spoke about the \$2 trillion jobs plan released last week and the infrastructure package. He shared he is currently working on the SALT Deductibility Act as well as the African American Museum and Burial Ground Museum and Education Act. He also shared that he reintroduced the improving Helicopter Safety Act as well as the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

Jay Adolf asked if repairing the SALT deductions can be done in the Senate by reconciliation. Congressman Nadler replied in the affirmative: anything financial is subject to reconciliation. Jay followed up with a question about tunnel infrastructure, to which Congressman Nadler replied that the Port Authority and funding for rail freight tunnels are part of the effort.

Ken Coughlin asked about Senate sponsorship for the helicopter bill, which Congressman Nadler replied they are seeking now.

Doug Kleiman asked about business interruption insurance and if anything is happening to compel companies to pay out on current claims. Congressman Nadler replied that he didn't know the answer off the top of his head but will look into it.

Steven Brown commented that he applauds the money going into NYCHA on the bill and encouraged oversight for that money.

K Karpen asked about immigration policy and whether there are any updates going forward. Congressman Nadler shared that legislation has been passed in the House (the DREAM Act, the Agriculture Act for farm workers) but whether they can get passed through the Senate is under question.

Andrew Rigie noted that businesses that have received money from the PPP loan but haven't reopened, thus missing the opportunity to convert the loan into a grant. He asked if something can be done to resolve this. Congressman Nadler noted he will follow up and see if changes can be made to the pending legislation.

Meryl Tihanyi shared the issues she is facing with helicopter noise, which is infringing on her business that involves sound recording. She also noted that these helicopters use leaded fuel, which adds to pollutants in the city. Congressman Nadler shared the legislation that he and Congresswoman Maloney and Velazquez have reintroduced to deal with the issue.

Andrew Albert asked about the PRIA Act, which has a provision that freezes the rail map, and whether that can be prevented. Congressman Nadler agreed that it wouldn't be good to freeze the map and said that he will look into it.

State Senator Brad Hoylman, District 27

State Senator Hoylman gave some updates on the budget. It is a \$212 billion budget, the largest ever. They're increasing taxes on the most wealthy New Yorkers and corporations to protect the budget after federal funding stops. They've rejected cuts to public schools and SUNYs/CUNYs and have increased education aid funding. They've also established a \$2.43 billion emergency rental assistance program with up to 12 months of rent and utility arrears. He passed a bill called the Tenant Safe Harbor Act. There will be a \$2.1 billion, first-in-the-nation fund for essential workers that are ineligible for unemployment insurance. In addition, there is an \$800 million small business recovery grant program, \$100 million NYC musical and theatrical production tax credit, \$40 million for arts and cultural institutions, \$25 million for restaurants, \$35 million for restaurant return to work credit, and \$20 million for art and cultural facilities improvement. Finally, he shared that he voted against a bill that included \$1.3 billion for a development around Penn Station that will be a downpayment of a 20 million square foot commercial real estate project that could result in 8-10 supertall towers. The state is using a General Project Plan, which means they aren't following any local laws and can do it without input.

Christian Cordova asked about technology access in the budget. State Senator Hoylman shared that there is a broadband requirement in the budget.

Natasha Kazmi asked if there was money allotted to the Department of Sanitation. State Senator Hoylman replied: not for the city.

Reports by Elected Officials' Representatives (One-minute remarks)

Erica Overton, Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, District 67

Erica Overton added to State Senate Hoylman's comments on the budget. The Assemblymember worked with the JCC and Apthorp pharmacy to provide more room to the Apthorp pharmacy. The Annual Shred Day event will be hosted on Sunday, May 23rd from 10 am to 2 pm. This coming Sunday, Assemblymember will be having a virtual conversation with Chuck Schumer that you can register to attend. The Assemblymember submitted testimony to the city regarding sanitation issues. They are working to ensure one of the worst landlord's housing portfolio can be audited so that the restitution he owes tenants can be provided

Luke Wolf, Comptroller Scott Stringer

Luke Wolf congratulated Penny Ryan. The Comptroller's office has been following the rescue package from the federal government and the state's recently passed budget. He also shared that the results of a workplace survey were released and they have put out a number of recommendations regarding more flexible work schedules, etc. Finally, he shared an update on food insecurity, which the Comptroller has advocated FEMA funding go towards an initiative for.

Liam Galligan, Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell, District 69

Liam Galligan highlighted additional details in the state budget. He shared that Columbia University has a vaccine site starting up this weekend. He also noted that there will be a shred event on 110th street on April 24th between 12-3 pm.

Suad Hassan, State Senator José Serrano, District 29

Suad Hassan shared that State Senator Serrano is busy working on the budget. She added that they have PPE for individuals and can help community members get vaccines or provide help with unemployment issues.

Bryce Peyre, Assemblymember Dick Gottfried, District 75

Bryce Peyre thanked Penny Ryan and added to what Assemblymember Gottfried's colleagues shared about the state budget.

Public Comments

Winifred Armstrong shared that Brian Benjamin's bill on lead dust has been reintroduced and is asking that CB7's resolution from last year get resent to Assembly representatives so they can ensure the Assembly bill is the same as the Senate one.

Zachary Campbell from the AMNH congratulated Penny Ryan and provided updates on the Gilder Center Project.

Lisa Orman shared information about an upcoming community event on April 24th from 12-5 pm called Street Arts that will be a celebration of Earth Day featuring many activities on West 103rd Street at Broadway on the open streets.

Susan Peters, a member of New Yorkers for Wired Tech, spoke about concern for the increase in wireless antennas in New York streets on health from 5G and other broadband radiation. She implored the community to research this issue.

Steven Brown shared on behalf of Peter Ardnsten that the Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Talk and Latin Music Night will be on April 15th at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 10:06 pm.

BYLAWS TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

April 1, 2021 at 10am

Susan Schwartz, Chair

Meeting on Zoom was called to order at 10 AM and adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Present: Susan Schwartz (SS), Chair; Barbara Adler (BA), Jay Adolf (JA), Josh Cohen (JC), Natasha Kazmi (NK) and Michele Parker (MP).

The focus of this meeting was discussion and approval of CB7 Best Practices: Zoom circulated in advance of the meeting. As per Parliamentarian Richard Asche, the final document will not require a resolution as long as nothing conflicts with our current Bylaws. The document will be distributed in advance of the April Steering committee meeting and will be discussed at Steering.

After a productive discussion, the final version was approved unanimously. It was recommended that this document be provided to anyone who registers for a CB7 meeting, so all attendees will be familiar with our best practices.

We also had a discussion about the importance of CB7 members refraining from speaking directly to the press or any other official agency on behalf of the Board. As per our Bylaws, the only person authorized to speak on behalf of the Board is the Chair.

At our next meeting, we will begin reviewing the Bylaws, using the Manhattan Borough President's template as our starting point, as agreed at our January 2021 meeting.

We will also begin discussion of best practice for CB7 members interacting with the press.

Next Steps

1. Presentation of Best Practices: Zoom document at April Steering on April 20, 2021.
2. Our next meeting will be on Thursday May 6, 2021 at 10 AM on Zoom.

BUSINESS & CONSUMER ISSUES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons

April 14, 2021 at 6:30 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 6:30 pm by Co-Chairperson Christian Cordova.

Present: Linda Alexander, Christian Cordova, Joshua Cohen, Paul Fischer, Madelyn Innocent, Doug Kleiman and Andrew Rigie. **Committee Members Absent:** Erana Stennett. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Seema Reddy and Roberta Semer.

The following matters were discussed:

1. Presentation by Roberta Semer of the CB7 Budget and Strategy Committee on the District Needs and Budget Priorities.

Roberta:

- We are on a quicker schedule this year.
- Will be sending criteria and all details and time-line to all Chairs/Co-Chairs after the upcoming Steering Committee.

Class Change application to the SLA:

2. 145 West 72nd Street (Amsterdam Avenue) La Dinastia, Class Change application from B&W to Full on-premises liquor license.

Presenting for the Applicant: Richard Lam, President, RLam86@gmail.com, and Winnie Mok, Esq., Law Offices of Winnie Mok, WMok11@aol.com.

- Applicant uses their own delivery workers and third-party delivery services.

*After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted*

VOTE ⇒ Committee: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Member: 1-0-0-0.

New Applications to the SLA for two year licenses:

3. 210 West 94th Street (Broadway) Taqueria 86 Inc. d/b/a To be Determined.

Presenting for the Applicant: Leonel Baizan, President, Leonel2874@gmail.com.

- Applicant is taking over the former restaurant/bar (Whispers).
- They are hoping to be open on or about May 5th (Cinco De Mayo).
- Owner expressed that opening this business is meaningful to him because he grew up and worked in the neighborhood.
- Applicant also expressed interest in being more involved with the Community Board.

*After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted*

VOTE ⇒ Committee: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Member: 1-0-0-0.

4. 667 Columbus Avenue (West 93rd Street) Peaky Barista LLC d/b/a Peaky Barista.

Presenting for the Applicant: Dragan Bulic, LLC Member, Bulic85@hotmail.com.

- Applicant has another business in the neighborhood. This will be his second business.
- Applicant will send an updated version of his menu before Full Board.

*After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted*

VOTE ⇒ Committee: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Member: 1-0-0-0.

5. 2672 Broadway (West 102nd Street) 2672 Enterprises d/b/a To Be Determined.

Presenting for the Applicant: Mark Fox, President of Fox Lifestyles Hospitality Group, mark@flhgrp.com.

- This location is the former Mexican Festival Restaurant.
- Applicant proudly described his experienced and passionate team.
- Expects to be open late July early Aug 2021.

Comments:

- Peter Arndtsen, the Executive Director of the Columbus Amsterdam BID, generously offered to list this new restaurant within the list of Bloomindale Restaurants NYC.
- The committee concurred that Peter is a great resource for the restaurants and other businesses in the neighborhood.

*After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted*

VOTE ⇒ Committee: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Member: 1-0-0-0.

6. New Business.

Comments:

- Linda Alexander mentioned a resolution that was proposed at CB7's Transportation Committee the evening before (4/13/21).
- The resolution called for a requirement for restaurants to provide bathroom access to third-party delivery workers. Additionally, the resolution called for the Community Board to look negatively upon restaurants that do not comply with the proposed resolution when reviewing liquor license and/or Café permits applications.
- After a discussion, the consensus of the committee is that the resolution (which was withdrawn) was more within the purview of the BCI committee.
- The committee determined a need to speak with all stakeholders, including restaurant owners, third party delivery companies, and third party deliver workers to better understand the issue.

The meeting ended at 7:48 p.m.

Youth, Education and Libraries Committee Minutes

April 15, 2021

The Youth, Education and Libraries Committee of Community Board 7/ Manhattan met on Thursday April 15 by Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by co-chairs Blanche Lawton and Courtney Clark Metakis. Committee members Rosa Arenas, Mark Diller, Beverly Donohue, Paul Fischer, Julian Giordano, Natasha Kazmi, Seema Reddy and Ira Mitchneck participated. Non-committee member Doug Kleiman also participated.

1-PRESENTATIONS

Presentations of were made by Alexander Betancourt, Director, Office of Executive Communications & Intergovernmental Affairs, NYC Division of Youth and Community Development (abetancourt@dycd.nyc.gov) and Henry Danner, Director of Youth Initiatives, Office of Government and Community Affairs, Columbia University (hd2401@columbia.edu).

2-NYC DIVISION OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DYCD)

Alex Betancourt discussed many of the programs of NYC DYCD. These are further discussed in the annual report which can be accessed by the link below.

DYCD has been able to restore cuts made last year, but the demand for DYCD services is tremendous. DYCD provides services to 345K youth with a 745M budget. The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) provides 72K summer positions and receives 150K applications.

This summer, DYCD will also be part of the "Summer Rising" program with NYC DOE to address the limitations of the educational programs over the course of the on-going pandemic. This program is being designed for this summer to help address educational and social impacts of the pandemic.

DYCD is active in CB7 running a variety of after-schools programs such as Beacon and Compass (Comprehensive After-School System) with such groups as Goddard-Riverside.

Mr. Betancourt provided the following links:

2020 Summer Youth Employment Program Link

<https://application.nycsyep.com>

DYCD 2020 Annual Report

https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/2020_Annual_Report.pdf

3-COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESENTATION

Henry Danner discussed programs available for youth and young adults which are part of Columbia University's Office of Government and Community Affairs. While these programs were initiated as part of Columbia University's Community Benefits agreement which was generated by the Manhattanville campus development, the programs also help the northern portion of CB7 as well Morningside Heights, West and Central Harlem. As they are part of the Community Benefits Program, no public funds are involved. Featured programs include the Connected Youth Initiative which serves ages 16-24 intended to bring disconnected youth together with education and employment opportunities. The Connecting Youth Initiative extends throughout 10025 residences which is further south than other CBA benefits. CU also runs several summer programs which are described in detail in the attached links.

Mr. Danner the following links: to the following sites for CU's programs as well as a referral form disconnected youth.

[Collaborative of Community Programs for Youth & Families | Government and Community Affairs \(columbia.edu\)](https://neighbors.columbia.edu)

<https://neighbors.columbia.edu>

and

<https://gca.columbia.edu/content/community-affairs>

[Connecting Youth Initiative and Referral form |](https://gca.columbia.edu/content/connecting-youth-initiative)

<https://gca.columbia.edu/content/connecting-youth-initiative>

[Connecting Youth Initiative Referral Form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1OTn70I58sGM2VZk0WmjwYPeNeb2yp7EPXwr_h5pcB-g/edit)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1OTn70I58sGM2VZk0WmjwYPeNeb2yp7EPXwr_h5pcB-g/edit

4-NYC DYCD / CU DIALOGUE

It was discussed that the pandemic has been very difficult on youth. There was discussion as to whether the critical point was 9th or 10th grade, but wherever the critical point of engagement is, there are many children at a critical inflection point with less support and services in need of more support and services. In regards to youth employment and youth community connections, ages 14 to 16 were discussed as critical to develop skills to develop the social skills to be in a workplace and ages 16 to 25 were discussed as critical to develop workplace skills to fully participate with skills in a workplace.

Funding was discussed using last year as a benchmark. Funds are in place with sufficient time to plan for a summer program this year which was not the case last year and this restoration of funding in a timely manner is a positive event.

5- BOARD MEMBER Q&A

Individual board member discussion is as follows:

Blanche Lawson commended both presenters on their excellent work and thanked CU for support outside of their defined neighborhood. She also encouraged the presenters to work together and not be restrained by the boundary of CB7, South side of 110th.

Paul Fischer suggested opportunities available through various Union apprentice programs for disengaged youth could offer opportunities.

6- PUBLIC COMMENT

Kristen Berger, Secretary of CEC 3, brought up substantially increased fees charged to users of school facilities, particularly after-schools programs. NYC DYCD said that that some of these programs may be able to use DYCD permits and that this should be investigated.

7- NEW BUSINESS

The June 22 meeting will be the discussion for the annual district needs statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Ira Mitchneck

PARKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Klari Neuwelt and Barbara Adler, Co-Chairpersons

JOINT WITH

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Andrew Albert and Howard Yaruss, Co-chairpersons

APRIL 19, 2021 via ZOOM

Present: Klari Neuwelt and Barbara Adler, Co-Chairpersons; Ken Coughlin; Susan Schwartz; Natasha Kazmi; Polly Spain. **Absent:** Elizabeth Caputo. **Transportation Present:** Andrew Albert, Co-Chair; Doug Kleiman. **Chair:** Steven Brown.

Non-committee Board Members Present: Mark Diller.

The Co-Chairs called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Steven Brown confirmed that Doug McGowan had left the Board and therefore was no longer a committee member.

Prior to the regular agenda, Roberta Semer, Chair of the Strategy & Budget Committee, briefly explained the processes and timing for this year's budget priorities and District Need Statement.

1. Report by Ken Coughlin on (a) New York City Council Economic Development Committee February 17, 2021 hearing on proposed NYC legislation regarding helicopter flights and (b) Manhattan Borough President's Helicopter Task Force March 25, 2021 meeting. (Joint with Transportation Committee.)

Committee member Ken Coughlin reported on the February 17 Council hearing and the March 25 Borough President's Task Force meeting, both of which he had attended for CB7.

The primary sponsor of the three proposed City Council bills is CM Vallone. Vallone said at the hearing that there has been a massive surge in complaints about helicopter flights over NYC recently. Intro 2026 would permit only helicopters meeting "Stage 3" noise levels to use the three public NYC heliports, all of which are in Manhattan. Intro 2027 calls for a study of electric helicopters, and Intro 2067 calls for collecting safety and route information.

At the hearing, the EDC questioned the practicability of electric helicopters, and testimony by others on this point varied substantially. Representatives of the helicopter industry opposed the proposed legislation. Various Council members, neighborhood and other advocacy groups, etc. testified in favor of the proposed legislation. The proposed legislation was "laid over" at the end of the hearing. Council Member Helen Rosenthal, who attended the P&E Committee meeting, and who is a co-sponsor of Intro 2026, advised that, because CM Vallone is the sponsor, all efforts in support of passage should be directed to his office. Rosenthal said that if there is a second hearing, there would likely then be a vote in the full Council.

The March 25 Borough President's Task Force meeting concerned HR1643, reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Nadler, among others. It is directed at non-essential helicopter flights over NYC, and it would effectively ban most private helicopter flights over NYC. Per BP Brewer, all

NY and NJ electeds support the bill. CB7 is on record with a resolution supporting the bill. Gaining support in the Senate is in progress.

There were various committee and community comments and questions. Susan Schwartz said that she opposed CB7 taking any position in favor of banning the film industry from using helicopters over NYC. The discussion about whether the Nadler bill would do so, and also about whether the Nadler bill would ban helicopter flights over the Hudson River, was inconclusive.

2. Presentation by Department of Parks & Recreation and Riverside Park Conservancy on 2021 Riverside Park Conservancy public art installations and related programs in Riverside Park.

Elizabeth Masella (DPR), Whitney Deardon (Riverside Park Conservancy) and Karin Bravin (curator) presented the plan for 13 site-specific art installations by a total of 20 artists in Riverside Park during the summer of 2021. The art varies in nature, including augmented reality works, sculptures, photos attached to fences and numerous flags and banners. Each work will have a short explanatory sign and a code to access more information by cell phone.

3. Presentation by community member Ira Gershenhorn on proposal to place oyster castles in several locations between 69th Street and 133rd Street in the Hudson River.

Community member Ira Gershenhorn presented his proposal to install several oyster castles in the Hudson River adjacent to Riverside Park. Tanasia Swift of the Billion Oyster Project joined the discussion. Gershenhorn concentrated on his proposal for 59th Street in Riverside Park South as the most practical of his proposed sites. He said that DPR has installed oyster castles in Little Neck Bay and at Swindler's Cove.

The oyster castles would consist of groupings of up to 144 concrete modules placed in the Hudson near the shoreline. That would be intended to attract ribbed mussels and oysters. The mussels are not edible, and the oysters are not intended for harvest. The primary objects of the project are educational and ecological. Gershenhorn said that he would clean trapped debris from his oyster castles and otherwise maintain them himself they are presumptively permanent. His installations would be different from the work of the Billion Oyster Project.

Numerous permits would be required, including one from DPR. Gershenhorn has been told that DPR is not currently issuing permits, until it has evaluated its Little Neck project. Gershenhorn would prefer an organization to partner with him to seek the necessary permits.

Tanasia Swift gave a brief description of the Billion Oyster Project and its installations in the waters around NYC.

Committee and community members commented and asked some questions. The comments were generally favorable to Gershenhorn's proposed project and to the Billion Oyster Project. However, Gershenhorn said that he did not seek a resolution from CB7 at this time, and in any event the committee did not propose one.

4. Report by Natasha Kazmi on February 16, 2021 Sierra Club webinar on recycling residential organic waste.

Committee member Natasha Kazmi gave a slide presentation on the February 16 webinar, which she had attended for the committee. The applicable definition of organic waste is anything that can be broken down into usable compost.

80% of New York City's garbage is exported to landfills. Though organic waste collection programs that were suspended for financial reasons in the earlier stages of the Covid pandemic have been largely restored, only a very tiny percentage of NYC's household waste is collected as organics. Numerous financial and other considerations constrain the separate collection of organic waste.

Four alternatives for the future were presented on a summary slide. Universal mandatory curbside organic collection was favored by the webinar speakers, but it would be politically difficult to implement and that would be lengthy process. Also, Staten Island has a facility for organic composting at Fresh Kills, but a city-wide composting facility would be needed.

There were questions and comments by committee and community members, generally favoring organics recycling. CM Rosenthal mentioned that the Council has restored funding for organics collection to FY2019 levels, and that a bill for a "renewable" reuse of Rikers Island has already passed the Council.

5. Report by Polly Spain on newly-formed CB7 Environmental Justice Working Group.

Committee member Polly Spain reported on the progress of the CB7 Environmental Justice Working Group, which consists of several members of CB7 from several of its committees. Several Working Group members have concentrated on identifying environmental justice issues in a designated northern section of the CB7 district, and several others have concentrated in a designated southern section. A survey that CB7 issued on its website has elicited 44 public responses. Most responses concerned waste disposal (garbage) and rodents.

In the southern section, there are particular concerns at Amsterdam Houses, which has been covered long-term with scaffolding and netting and has other environmental justice issues as well.

The Working Group will hold a community forum on Zoom on April 26. The Working Group's activities will also be discussed at this month's Steering Committee meeting and next month's Full Board meeting.

6. Updates on Committee Business.

Co-Chair Neuwelt gave two updates. Regarding the massive restoration project by DOT at the 79th Street Rotunda, she said that CB7 has been unable to get any update from DOT or DPR about when the work will start. Regarding the CB7 resolution asking for the NYC Council to amend the NYC Clean Air Act to eliminate the exceptions to the prohibition on smoking in NYC parks, Neuwelt said that though CM Levine, who is Chair of the Council Health Committee, had been enthusiastic about our request, it had turned out that what we seek is subsumed in a much broader bill introduced by CM Koo in 2018 that would also ban smoking while walking on DOT sidewalks, and for that reason under Council rules CM Levine can't introduce our request in an independent bill. However, he had planned to hold hearings on several health bills this past winter, including the Koo bill, but the Speaker of the Council had not permitted him to include the Koo bill in the hearings. CM Rosenthal advised the committee that the Council had been concentrating for several months on Covid-specific bills, but that there could be another round of hearings soon on other bills such as the Koo smoking bill.

Committee member Ken Coughlin said that we were coming up on two years from the initiation of the mandatory inland bypass for cyclists between 72nd Street and 83rd Street in Riverside Park, which was at about Memorial Day weekend in 2019, and that per CB7's prior resolution concerning the design for the bypass we need to have an agenda item next month revisiting the bypass as called for in that resolution,

7. New Business.

No new business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes by Klari Neuwelt

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2021 at 6:30pm

Steven Brown, Chairperson

Steering Committee Members Present: Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Rosa Arenas, Richard Asche, Steven Brown, Christian Cordova, Louisa Craddock, Mark Diller, Bev Donohue, Shelly Fine, Julian Giordano, Madelyn Innocent, K Karpen, Doug Kleiman, Blanche Lawton, Courtney Clark Metakis, Klari Neuwelt, Michele Parker, Jeanette Rausch, Seema Reddy, Andrew Rigie, Melissa Rosenberg, Susan Schwartz, Roberta Semer, Polly Spain, Howard Yaruss

Steering Committee Members Not Present: Page Cowley, Catherine DeLazzero

Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Chair's Report

Steven Brown acknowledged the recent verdict of the George Floyd case and the importance of healing in our communities. Updated on the process of hiring a new District Manager, which has involved all members of the Executive Committee—since there is no standing Personnel committee—and close coordination with the Manhattan Borough President's Office. Roughly 100 resumes were submitted, narrowed down to 13 based on a set of criteria, and then the top four were selected for interviews this week. Steven thanked Bev Donohue for her work in this process.

Sheldon Fine asked if the deadline for applications was over. Steven replied that it was and that the posting was pulled from online today.

Jay Adolf asked if the Full Board will vote for the District Manager, and if so, if the Board will have a selection of multiple candidates. Steven replied that he will get back on the first question, but on the second: if a vote is required, only one candidate will be provided to the Board.

Blanche Lawton asked when the anticipated timeline is for filling the position. Steven is hoping for 2-3 weeks but will update if it changes.

Mark Diller thanked Steven and the Executive Committee and recommended that, if not already done, the interview questions should be approved by the Manhattan Borough President's Office to ensure the process goes smoothly. Steven replied that this process is currently being followed.

K Karpen asked if there will be any overlap with Penny. Steven replied that that is the goal.

Steven announced that the NYCHA Taskforce has been folded into the Housing Committee and acknowledged Madelyn Innocent and her leadership.

Committee Chair Reports

K Karpen shared the Preservation Committee's updates. They spoke about the WISE Towers at their last meeting and will follow up on that in their next meeting. They also took up the issue of construction netting around projects and their color. Steven added that they were assured that the Costantino Nivola horses are safe and will be put back in place.

Melissa Rosenberg shared the Housing Committee's updates. HPD came to speak on the Collegiate funds. The committee also spoke about NYCHA and heard from NYCHA tenant leaders in the district. They will be working on a letter to NYCHA officials asking them to come to the table. They will also be seeking support from elected officials.

Andrew Albert shared the Transportation Committee's updates. Leah Flax of NYC Transit came to speak at the last meeting about health and safety in the NYC Subway system. The committee also spoke about homelessness and its relationship with the subway. Howard Yaruss shared that the committee also discussed the shortage of public bathrooms in New York City and the need for bathrooms for delivery workers to use. This issue will be taken up by BCI at their next meeting.

Blanche Lawton asked about the Bowery Residents' Committee and why they are being asked to speak at the next meeting and not a city agency. Andrew replied that the BRC is contracted by the MTA and placed in charge of the homeless issue in the subways.

Sheldon Fine noted that if anyone is interested in volunteering, he works with the MTA's mask force, distributing cloth masks once a month along the lines. Shelly also asked about the 106th street mid-street crossing. Andrew Albert shared that the DOT has approved the mid-block crossing and we are waiting for the next steps from the DOT.

Courtney Clark Metakis asked Andrew Albert to share with the committee when the Bowery Residents' Committee will come and present. She also requested that the Board create a Homelessness Issues Taskforce.

Courtney also announced that there will be full funding for Fair Student Funding.

Blanche asked if the funding is from the federal or state government, and Beverly replied that it is a both-and.

Blanche shared the updates from the Youth, Education & Libraries Committee. They are thinking of doing something in May or June focused on libraries. They are also thinking of getting in touch with the NYPD youth outreach teams. Blanche also shared that the Director from DYCD noted at the previous YEL meeting that SYEP funding has been restored and that applications are out. They are expecting to fund 70,000 slots for their program. They also flagged the "Summer Rising" program, which will have an academic and outdoor component.

Linda Alexander shared the Business and Consumer Issues Committee update. They had four liquor license applications and one class change application. Christian shared that they will be looking at the delivery worker access to restrooms resolution at the next meeting and including various stakeholders.

Barbara Adler shared the Parks & Environment Committee updates. They have no resolutions but two interesting presentations coming up at the next meeting.

Jeanette Rausch provided the update for the Land Use Committee. This month they have City Planning coming to present five initiatives as well as George Janes coming from Landmark West! Regarding a proposal for a map amendment to the Lincoln Square Special District.

Sheldon Fine provided the update for the Health and Human Services Committee. He first thanked the Board for advocating for a special vaccine site at Douglass houses. They will be providing an update on NYCHA vaccination sites at their upcoming meeting, as well as hosting a forum on community mental health issues and the effects of the pandemic. They will also be visiting [NYC.gov/stopasianhate](https://nyc.gov/stopasianhate) to view a toolkit for addressing Anti-Asian Bias, Discrimination, and Hate.

Madelyn Innocent spoke to some of the issues the Douglass Houses and other NYCHA buildings are facing when it comes to vaccinations, including some people misinforming residents that vaccines are mandatory by law.

Roberta Semer shared the update for the Senior Taskforce, which spoke about vaccine access to seniors across different housing developments. They will be hosting an event next month, information will be posted online.

Estee Williams (public) asked what will be done to address the mental health of youth. Steven noted that it was spoken at a past YEL meeting, as well as at a past meeting HHS meeting. Sheldon added that it will be discussed at this month's HHS meeting as well.

Budget Committee

Roberta shared that she and Beverly have been attending every committee meeting. This year, budget priorities will be limited to twenty total, and are asking each committee to prioritize their budget priorities in advance. There will be a public hearing before Steering, the priorities will be finalized at Steering, and they will be voted on at the October Full Board meeting. If there are more items than a committee can fit in the top twenty, those items will go in a letter to the relevant department. A timeline will be sent to all Board members. Beverly added that committees should reach out to their stakeholders early and often.

Jeanette Rausch noted that it's really useful to track past priorities and see what has been funding. The District Needs Statement is an underutilized tool that Boards have.

By-Laws Task Force

Steven introduced the By-Laws Task Force, which has worked to put together a Zoom Best Practices document.

Susan Schwartz shared the Zoom Best Practices document with the committee.

Melissa Rosenberg suggested that we think through how to introduce this document at meetings so Board and community members know what the grounds are for removal. She also noted that the bullet point around sharing organizational involvement isn't necessarily related to Zoom and might want to be rethought so people don't need to provide a laundry list of their organizations. Susan replied that it is something that will be brought up in the By-Laws as well and the goal is to have all Board members on the same page.

Christian asked if the implications of "must" instead of "should" had been considered for the second bullet points. Susan agreed that it would be better to say "should" instead of "must." Steven added that these are simply meant to be best practices, and we aim to keep our meetings flexible and include as much community involvement as possible.

Doug Kleiman noted his appreciation of the Best Practices document. He asked about item three (about keeping one's camera on) and stated that it may be good for people to turn their camera off periodically if needed.

Jeanette asked if this document is primarily for full board meetings as well as whether the office will be opening up soon and when our meetings will be returning in person. Steven replied to the second question that there have been conversations around when the office will open up, but not yet about when meetings will return to the office. Susan replied to the first question that the document is aimed at both full board and committee meetings.

Environmental Justice Working Group

Polly Spain gave a brief presentation on environmental justice, the New York City Environmental Justice Law, and the Advisory Board's planned report. The timeline for the Community Board's involvement is to help draft the report and its scope through April, comment on the draft report/scope in June, prepare solutions for the EJ plan from July to September, provide feedback on the draft EJ plan from December 2021 to February 2022, and comments on the draft EJ plan from January 2022 to March 2023. Rosa Arenas created a survey for the community to fill out to receive input for the EJ Working Group.

Linda thanked Polly for the presentation and noted that there is common ground with the Climate Mobilization Act of 2019. She asked if there is a collaboration with the real estate community. She also noted that we can all work to reduce our load on the grid and help with EJ.

Jay asked if an example could be provided of a specific environmental benefit that is not equitably distributed and a sense of the process that can change that. Polly Spain replied by noting the metal sheeting, scaffolding, and low lighting of Amsterdam Houses and the issues to air quality those also

have. She shared that there a variety of other issues that need to be addressed as part of an ongoing project.

Rosa shared that the athletic soccer field on Frederick Douglass Houses requires permits from a team to access, which may limit access to many of the residents of Frederick Douglass Houses themselves.

Michele suggested that she and Rosa can meet to discuss the history of the fields of the neighborhood.

Jeanette noted that she has been advocating for the Douglass playground to be renovated because it's an important aspect of Environmental Justice for the community. It would also be nice to put an EJ perspective on our Community District Needs.

New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Richard Ashe and Jeannette Rausch

April 21, 2021 at 6:30

Land Use Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met via the Videoconferencing application Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Co-Chairperson Richard Ashe.

Present: Richard Ashe, Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Sheldon Fine, Jeannette Rausch, Seema Reddy, Richard Robbins, Melissa Rosenberg, Peter Samton and Ethel Sheffer. **Absent:** William Ortiz and Andrew Ridge. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Andrew Albert, Steven Brown, Mark Diller, Doug Kleiman, Sara Lind and Roberta Semer.

Guests: Department of City Planning: Christopher Lee, Nabeela Malik, Azka Mohyuddin; MTA: Leah Flax, Munsun Park; and Landmark West: Sean Khorsandi, George Janes.

The following matters were discussed:

1. **Co-Chairs Report:**

Budget: Roberta Semer reported that the Strategy and Budget Committee has initiated the planning process for our Community District Needs. The budget committee will hold meetings with stakeholders in May and June. Committees are expected to submit their budget requests and statements of district needs in July. The public hearing will be in September, and a final vote will occur at the full board meeting in October. This year, CB7 plans to only submit its top 20 items for capital and expense funding. Items that do not make the top 20 can be recommendations outside the Community District Needs Statement. This year, CB7 plans to only submit its top 20 items for capital and expense funding. Items that do not make the top 20 can be recommendations outside the Community District Needs Statement.

Follow-ups & New Items: Jeannette Rausch reported that as discussed at our March meeting, a letter was sent to the Department of Buildings (DOB) regarding weekend construction permits in general and specifically related to 50 West 69th. We are also pleased to report that DOB responded promptly and weekend permits have not resumed.

Jeannette also noted that we were informed that CB9 and CM Levine's office would like to present a rezoning proposal they are considering that could also include some sites within CB7. We anticipate them to be on our May or June agenda.

Richard Ashe reported that State legislation to amend the Multiple Dwelling Law to limit the use of "voids" in tall residential towers is active again. The Board had supported legislation introduced by Linda Rosenthal in 2019. Essentially the same proposed resolution has now been introduced in the Senate and Assembly. The Committee agreed to send a letter to relevant officers and representatives reiterating our support for the proposed legislation.

2. **Zoning Text Amendment 2020Y0194- Elevate Transit Zoning for Accessibility**: Chris Lee, Nabeela Malik and Azka Monyuddin of the Department of City Planning Department and Leah Flax and Munsen Park representing the MTA presented the proposed text amendment, which would make existing zoning regarding transit easement provisions mandatory and transit bonus mechanisms more generous. These measures are proposed to speed up opportunities for making local and regional transit accessible to all. At present only 136 of 493 subway stations are accessible. Under the proposed text amendments, MTA easements would be excluded from some floor area calculations and other zoning height, setback, streetwall, and lot coverage regulations. In addition, floor area bonuses would be available to developers who built “significant” station improvements and could add as much as 20% of floor area and 25% of a building’s height.

The presentation included a power point presentation, which is appended to these minutes. The proposed amendment was certified on April 5; Community Board responses are due by June 14.

Community Discussion:

- Peter Samton noted that the proposed amendment is long overdue. He mentioned the construction of the Montana residential building between 87 and 8th and Broadway of which he was the architect. When it was built, he and the owner asked the MTA for permission to build a subway entrance in the building, but the request was rejected by the MTA.
- Mark Diller pointed out that a 25% height bonus for station improvements could be granted at the discretion of the chair of City Planning, which does not necessarily provide much community input. Azka agreed, but noted that, although not subject to formal board review, the community board would be consulted during the approval process. Any bonus above 25%, where a site presented a unique zoning issue would also be subject to a special permit, which includes full community board review.
- Louis Craddock complimented the officials for a thorough presentation. She also pointed out that the 25% height bonus was not tied to accessibility but could be awarded for station beautification.
- Seema Reddy asked if the stretch of Broadway with Contextual Zoning and height limits would over-ride the height bonus. The answer was that such would be an authorization for a special permit.
- Ethel Sheffer noted that under the proposal improvements for bonuses did not specifically need to provide accessibility.
- Richard Robbins asked about other efforts underway to implement accessibility and if the existing access-of-ride would continue. The response was yes on both.
- Jeannette Rausch questioned the details of the accessory retail use permitted as part of the area covered by an easement, and how that related to the developer’s permitted retail use.
- Doug Kleiman noted that a site such as that on 79th Street could be eligible for a height bonus for improving the 79th Street Broadway station and providing affordable housing.
- Andrew Albert asked whether the text amendment would apply to commuter lines with stations in New York. Chris Lee replied that it does.
- Richard Asche asked whether a bonus could be awarded under the proposed amendment for buildings that had earned other bonuses, such as an inclusionary housing bonus (20%). Chris Lee replied that a double bonus was possible for inclusionary housing sites but not for other bonus programs. Richard also asked whether there was a dollar amount a developer would be required to contribute in order to receive the bonus. Lee replied that there was no set dollar amount but the criteria are set forth in the proposed amendment and are

reflected in the appendix to the attached power point presentation. Richard asked whether the amendment applied to existing buildings. Lee replied that it does. The Committee agreed that the members needed time to study the details of the proposed amendment, and deferred a resolution until the May meeting. Jeannette suggested that we exchange ideas and impressions via email prior to the May meeting.

3. **Amendment to Lincoln Sq. Special District Proposal:** A proposal was made to include the ABC site (Columbus and 67th street) within the Lincoln Square Special District and to have CB7 be a co-applicant for the ULURP action. Page Cowley, speaking as a member of Landmark West, advised the Committee on work to date by Landmark West to prevent out of scale development on the recently sold ABC properties on Columbus Ave. between 66th and 67th Streets. She suggested that the Community Board review the proposal and, if we agree, join Landmark West as a co-applicant.

George Janes, the consultant for Landmark West explained its rationale: The ABC site is contiguous to the Special District, but was excluded when the district was created as an accommodation to ABC, which argued that given its use and purposes the district rules were too restrictive. However, ABC has recently sold the site to a developer, and the rationale for excluding the site from the special District no longer exists.

The ABC site is zoned C4-7, which allows for “standard towers” covering <40% of Zoning Lot and no height restrictions. As a result a developer could create extremely tall slender towers, which, theoretically, could be as high as 1600 feet. The Lincoln Square special district imposes minimum lot coverage, bulk and tower regulations, which essentially limit the permissible height of buildings in the district to approximately 400 feet and result in “tower on base” buildings. Only a change in the type of tower structure allowed and no change of bulk would occur with the inclusion of the ABC sites within the District.

Community Discussion:

- Peter Samton noted that if such towers were built, they would cast a shadow at certain hours and times of year at least midway across Central Park, including the Sheep Meadow.
- Roberta Semer noted that a previous study by George Janes showed that potential towers in the neighborhood would significantly reduce light and air as far north as 72d Street. Roberta opined that it would be important for the Board to join in the application.
- Ethel Sheffer asked whether the Community Board would be expected to contribute to the cost of a consultant on the application. Sean Khorsondi, represented Landmark West, assured the committee that the Board would not be expected to contribute to the cost. George Janes noted that the application is fairly simple and is not expected to entail large costs.
- Melissa Rosenberg noted that she worked for a firm that represents the current owner of the site and then asked if this would be setting a precedent for a Community Board to be a co-applicant.
- Sheldon Fine indicated that there are many cases of Community Boards being applicants. He also expressed the view that the Board should join in this application.

Upon motion, duly seconded it was resolved, that Community Board 7 joint as co-applicant with Landmark West in the application to amend the Zoning Resolution text and map to include the ABC site in the Lincoln Square Special District.

The resolution passed on the following vote:

Committee members: 8-0-0-2 in favor. Non-committee Board members: 6-0-0-0 in favor.

Upon motion duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Catherine DeLazzero and Sheldon Fine, Co-Chairpersons

April 27, 2021 via ZOOM

Present: Catherine DeLazzero & Sheldon Fine, Co-Chairpersons; Rosa Arenas, Robert Espier, Audrey Isaacs, Sara Lind, Courtney Clark Metakis and Madge Rosenberg. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Richard Asche, Mark Diller, Doug Kleiman, Polly Spain, Page Cowley and Ethel Sheffer.

DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT

ROBERTA SEMER: We are making a late start on the DNS. This month we should contact stakeholders. Each committee should present list in early July. In September public hearings will be held and Steering will adopt the lists. Constituent input, cost benefits, likelihood that this will not happen without Community Board advocacy are criteria for the list. The limit is 20 capital and expense items. Any extras will be listed separately. This year everything will be different because of the pandemic.

SHELDON FINE RECEIVES PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

- CATHERINE DELAZZERO : Sheldon Fine received the President's Award for Volunteer Service for 175 hours of volunteer work and leadership with the Community Services Support Team, getting food to 136 households in need during the pandemic, being president of the West Side Federation of Senior and Supportive Housing. He builds relationships to find out what people really need. Many people stop him at meetings or when I am with him on the street to warmly thank him. He has lectured in courses I was teaching, mentored students, and responded to any student who contacted him. He listens deeply and shares his optimism. He is a lifelong educator and was head of the local District 3 school board. He is president of his synagogue, where he fought for its preservation and then worked on its historic restoration. Shelly has demonstrated that "my house shall be a house of prayer for all people." He helped bring vaccinations to Douglass Houses. Shelly shows respect and kindness to each person without judgement. He reflects and attends to the needs of others always through actions.
- ETHEL SHEFFER: Catherine said so much that tells about Shelly. I know his respect for diversity, his nuttiness, his sharp insights, his always acting on the basis of respect, decency, kindness. He is not a saint but a person of great acceptance. When Shelly was chair of CB7, there were so many problems including the very tall buildings at 100 Street and Broadway. He asked me to set up a taskforce. At the first meeting 400 people showed up and we worked for almost 2 years to successfully rezone. When I had an accident in my house, the next day Shelly brought a bag of treats and correct holiday foods. I value him as a colleague and a friend.
- RICHARD ASCHE: He epitomizes the best of the UWS. I can't imagine the Board without him, both as a leader and a worker.
- ROBERT ESPIER: I admire his math skills and his parliamentarianism, his deepness and his unrelenting punstering.
- MARK DILLER: Shelly teaches that how one does the service is as important as the service done. For Shelly, it is about people.

COVID VACCINE

SHELDON FINE: Vaccinations will start at Douglass Sunday.

AFFECTS OF COVID ON MENTAL HEALTH

PRAMEET SINGH, MD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Mount Sinai Morningside and Mount Sinai West Hospitals:

Patients come to Mt. Sinai West and Morningside from all over. Forty percent come from the catchment area from Hell's Kitchen, the UWS, Morningside Heights and West Harlem.

We offer every level of adult psychiatry service at both West and Morningside.

At MS West we have inpatient addiction service, which was closed during COVID. We hope to reopen after Memorial Day. The unit also treats opioid addiction.

Since the second wave, without traveling nurses, we have had a shortage of nurses.

We need to expand Medicare units.

The Child and Adolescent Unit for 5-18 years olds is very oversubscribed because there are only three other outpatient units for this age in the city.

The 114th St. Assessment Center will send adolescents to appropriate clinics.

Mt. Sinai has a regional reputation for treating personality disorders.

At Morningside we run a high school with the board of education at the Care Program.

Our mother-child clinic offers prenatal care.

The Waver Program supports children so that they can stay with their families and not wind up in foster care. This program is off campus.

Our Mobile Crisis Team is composed of a part time physician and social worker tasked with going out to the community from 8 am to 8 pm to see people who need assistance. NYCWELL sends a team to the patient's home and can recommend hospitalization or an appointment for a visit.

In the outpatient clinic more than 1/2 the people are women and a significant number are Latino and black. We offer individual therapy, medication therapy, group therapy.

Our chaplains provide support for grieving and loss. People with a sense of purpose appear to suffer less.

We see more patients through telepsychiatry.

There has been an increase in domestic violence throughout the pandemic, often involving drugs and alcohol.

People with chronic conditions missed scheduled care for conditions such as diabetes, because they wanted to avoid hospitals and hospitalization and did not adhere to exercise or other needs for their conditions during COVID.

In the first six months of the pandemic depression and anxiety went from 10% to 40%.

Pharmacy chains will set up social workers to screen for mental health problems.

There are increased expectations of mental health care.

We need to increased focus on the needs of the younger generation who have been without school.

Addiction treatment needs to increase because the pandemic created more need for care.

Telepsychiatry is here to stay. Mt. Sinai is adapting to it.

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

DR. SINGH: The Community Board should ask for increased capacity, ways to build resilience, and support for going out to the community to build partnerships and rebuild assistance.

COURTNEY CLARK METAKIS: Are you seeing the same people or new people in telepsychiatry. How can the capacity be increased.

DR. SINGH: We need to expand clinics. Once folks are referred to a provider, they tend to stay. Primary care providers do not take back mental health patients after they stay in the hospital. Free standing mental health clinics are needed. Integrate mental health into primary care. Have social

workers or psychologists in regular practices. Adolescents can be helped by telepsychiatry, which offers better access and less stigma.

The State and City should fund mobile crisis units. The budget needs to go up as more care is required.

RICHARD: Is more domestic abuse reported now that people were at home together more and there was a greater isolation and proximity? With the courts closed and then telecourt, it was harder to get orders of protection.

DR. SINGH: The PPH outreach project to reach mentally ill homeless ran out of money. CUCS (Center for Urban Community Services) took over the agency to offer free care through volunteers. New shelters have more social workers. Mt. Sinai works with these shelters. ThriveNYC works with Harlem Hospital to send social workers and EMTs instead of police to 911 calls. This is a pilot program.

ROBERT ESPIER: There is a close relationship between Ryan Health Center and Mt. Sinai, but Mt. Sinai is not part of the Federally Qualified Health Centers.

DR. SINGH: Mental health services are elaborate and it is difficult to make connection to the services.

AMY FIALK, PHD, LCSW, LICSW, Partner and Chief of Clinical Services at The Dorm

DR. FIALK: The Dorm provides outpatient adolescent and young adult mental health services. Some clients are scholarship students; others pay for services.

The impact of COVID has increased substance abuse 30%, increased overdosing 41%, increased people expressing signs of depression and anxiety, placed greater stress on 62% of people with eating disorders.

Nature v. Nurture: What is going on outside and around us created a drawn-out trauma. Addiction and mental illness thrive in isolation. We need to feel connections. Micro level connections are not happening; instead screen time has increased. LGBTQ families have had to use the right pronouns, making life together more uncomfortable.

Adolescents have so many pressures that the perfect storm of the pandemic created stunted social and emotional skills, lack of self-awareness, weak emotional regulation and anger management. None of these were practiced because they were at home, not at school. Without school we lose the first line of defense against depression, suicide ideation or support for a sense of identity and different perspectives. This is a time of lost opportunity for social growth. Juggling jobs and parenting stresses the whole family. To protect children they are overmanaging and not allowing children to develop their own skills.

Pre-COVID in the LGBTQ community 30% of kids had mental health problems. Many high schoolers are prone to risky sexual behavior and substance abuse. Substance abuse has increased by 13%. Mental health issues for 18-24 year olds have increased by 25%.

How excited to go back to school are young people with mental health issues? Not at all.

They feel safer in isolation. They don't want to go back to the old life.

You don't have to hit bottom before you ask for help. Get off the elevator before you are in the basement.

Schools will get more financial aid this year to help with extracurricular activities. There will be budgets for social and emotional literacy for all students as part of the regular curriculum plus 2-3 classes each week on interpersonal effectiveness.

Peer support by student interns is helpful for extra support along with support of advocates with experience in recovery. We need to challenge insurance companies who take premiums but don't reimburse for these services. Insurance companies do not want to pay for treatment at home.

Clubhouses are safe spaces needed for services to be given. Fountain House is a clubhouse.

ROBERT: The pandemic exposed these needs. We used to go to community centers for fun. Make the clubhouses fun. Youngsters learn there that other people have problems too.

CATHERINE: What is needed to create mental health services for youth? Will any of the money going to DOE go for services in the schools? Do insurance companies see no value in clubhouses?

DR. FIALK: Insurance companies want to provide the least amount of services. Schools are our best opportunity to get mental help for youth.

RESOLUTIONS ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND THE EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC

Approved 6-0-0-0 by committee members. Non committee board members 2-0-0-0

RESOLUTION ON HATE CRIMES AND VIOLENCE AGAINST THE ASIAN COMMUNITY

Approved by committee members 6-0-0-0, by non-committee board members 2-0-0-0