

# FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2022 at 6:30pm via ZOOM

Steven Brown, Chairperson

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

The full Board of Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, on the Zoom online platform. Chair Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm after the Secretary confirmed a quorum was present. The following discussions were had and actions taken.

## *Chair's Welcome*

Steve Brown welcomed the Board and the community to the first meeting of 2022. As always, in the Chat is a document for the community to sign up for an opportunity to register to speak to a specific issue. If you register, you are guaranteed a speaking slot. With many new elected officials, we will detour from the agenda to accommodate their availability.

In response to many requests, we are forming a Public Safety Task Force. In 6 months, we will vote on how to proceed – whether there should be a permanent task force, a separate committee or whether public safety should be folded into an existing committee. Public safety was consistently the number one issue people said they voted on. The co-chairs of the new task force will be Will Ortiz and Josh Cohen. The goal is to have a meeting by the end of the month.

## *Public Safety Session*

### **Deputy Inspector Bill Gallagher, Central Park Precinct:**

**Crime:** We have experienced some serious issues. They arrested the candy kids – two individuals from Jersey City, New Jersey who have been using the ruse of selling candy to rob people in the Park in 2 incidents in December. One had a loaded 357 firearm. This was the second time in a year that there has been a firearm arrest in Central Park. The prior year there were no firearm arrests.

**Covid:** has hit a lot of people in the NYPD including him: 21% of officers have been out with Covid. The NYPD has moved officers around from other parts of the City to meet minimum manning numbers. Though they have been hit hard, the number of officers on the street has not changed.

Traffic statistics for motorcycle/moped accidents in Central Park had been requested at a previous meeting. In 2021, there were 2 collisions (4 in 2020) and 94 summonses issued (5 in 2020), a large increase as compared to 2020.

January 10<sup>th</sup> is the 5th anniversary of the death of line of duty Detective Steven MacDonald. He preached forgiveness for the man who shot him in Central Park leaving him as a paraplegic. He is a hero to many officers.

### **Battalion Chief Anthony Pascatello for Battalion Chief Steven Spall, FDNY:**

The FDNY has launched a campaign for the public not to call 911 for Covid related issues, as it puts stress on the system. The Fire Department is down to 18% on medical leave. However, absence hasn't impacted their daily operations as they have filled in with overtime.

**Fires:** They have pleaded with the public to maintain all smoke detectors: They got through the holiday without significant problems. In 2021, there were over 100 fires from lithium-ion batteries in the City. There were two recent fatalities on the Lower East Side. He urged the public to make sure that the devices are UL approved. If they are damaged, they should not be charged indoors. There is an increase with delivery services using e-bikes. The problem is that these fires do not go out easily. The batteries can be immersed in a bucket of water. The FDNY now can use recycled glass beads to smother them. For safety, people are going to bring inside their expensive e-bikes; however, they need to be careful.

A fire at the Park 79 Hotel on West 79th Street yesterday went under control quickly. Some workers had a torch and ignited gas.

**Captain Lazarus for Deputy Inspector Naoki Yaguchi, Commanding Officer of the 24th Precinct:**

Congratulations to Deputy Inspector Gallagher on his recent promotion.

2021 crime statistics for the 24th Precinct:

- Crime overall was up 11%.
- Major factor in this increase was grand larcenies, up 36% from 2020 but down significantly from 2019. This category includes unattended property, items removed from stores and scams.
- A number of scams involving Con Ed, Computer software and the IRS contributed to this increase. We take all opportunities to spread awareness of this problem, particularly to seniors.
- Package thefts were also a problem in the holiday season.
- Shooting incidents are down from 9 in 2020 to 7 in 2021.
- The PD has seen progress around two problem areas around Wise Towers and Douglass Houses. Near Wise Towers, in 2020 there were 4 shootings and 15 shots fired. In 2021 there was 1 shooting and 7 shots fired. In Douglass Houses the numbers are about the same for 2020 and 2021. In 2022, the PD is looking to continue its increased presence around Douglass Houses. Youth Coordination Officers, whose responsibility it is to engage the youth, will also be a focus in these areas in 2022.
- There were 596 Traffic collisions in 2021, a 9% increase over 2020. Injury collisions were up 12% Motorcycle collisions were up in 2021 from 4 to 11. Enforcement has increased, with a focus on red lights and safety.
- There were 2 traffic fatalities in 2021 and one recent arrest for a vehicle leaving the scene.
- The 24th Precinct has seen similar numbers to the Central Park Precinct for absences due to Covid. Patrol strength has not been affected.

In response to a question in the chat regarding the 24th Precinct 7:00 Neighborhood Coordination Officer meetings (for Build the Block), there is a Zoom meeting for Sector Adam on 1/28; a Zoom session for Sector Boy on 2/17 and a Zoom session for Sector Charlie on 3/10.

Steve Brown then introduced FDNY Community Liaison Sandra Sanchez. She greeted the Board and announced that she has been responding to Fire related comments in the chat.

**Elected Official Report**

**Borough President Mark Levine:**

- April Adams will continue to represent the Borough President's Office before the Community Board.
- He is focused on bringing back Manhattan from Covid, a come-back that does not recreate 2019 but is stronger and fairer. He expects another week or two before the Omicron wave breaks. He has announced a 16-point plan and is working on home testing availability, opening a test site at his uptown office on 125th Street on January 5.
- He is also focused on climate change, on protecting Manhattan from the impact of climate change and on making the borough a green leader.
- He noted that CB7 has been active on health issues. He is excited to continue to work with the Board.
- Regarding the Open Meeting Law extension, he views it as higher stakes for Community Boards than for any other organizations. He understands the clock is ticking.
- Lourdes Camac, a P.S. 199 crossing guard stationed at W70th Street and West End Avenue, asked Mark Levine about his view on lowering the speed limit near schools. Mark Levine noted that he would consider lowering the speed limit below 25 miles per hour on narrow side streets, however the change would require Albany legislation. Senator Brad Hoylman is carrying a bill on this issue.

**Public Safety Session Resumed**

Steve Brown opened the session to members of the public.

- Sven Prudio noted that crime statistics have gone up and that some are unreported. Deputy Inspector Gallagher noted his concern about firearms coming from outside NY. Surrounding states have lax rules for firearms and people ship them up here. There is a need to encourage other states to have common sense rules on devices.
- Mark Levine, asked about his position on cuts to the police budget, noted that in 2020 the City faced large budget shortfalls and he had called for cuts of all agencies. Now he has called for a balanced approach requiring action on mental health and youth programming, a multi-agency approach to reducing crime.

- Megan Martin raised two issues. First, she lives near W79th Street and Broadway and feels unsafe considering daily incidents involving people who frequent the area. Second, she asked about NYPD views of the new memo from the Manhattan District Attorney defining a number of less serious crimes that will not go to prosecution. Deputy Inspector Gallagher expressed concern about the memo but had not had time to read it in full. He expects that the NYPD will come out with a formal statement. Captain Lazarus noted that her precinct enjoyed good working relations with the Manhattan DA. Police are taking guns off the street and she will keep the community updated if attention is not being given to gun crimes.
- In response to a question, Deputy Inspector Gallagher clarified that the wall on Central Park West is the boundary of his precinct. However, if there is a major issue, it goes over the radio and anyone close responds.

### *Business Session*

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** applications to the Street Activity Permit Office for multi-block street fairs in 2022

Linda Alexander introduced the 15 applications for street fairs. They are the same groups as in the past and they all contribute 5-10% of net profit to charities. The committee approved the applications 5-0-0-0. Mark Diller expressed gratitude to the committee for the work involved in preparing the resolution. Melanie Saltzman noted the inconvenience caused by buses routinely rerouted for fairs.

**After deliberation, the vote to approve was taken by a show of hands: 39-1-1-0**

Linda Alexander noted that in the next BCI Committee meeting, they would be discussing DOT's new plan for Open Restaurants and sidewalk cafes. Hopefully, the session will include business owners.

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

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

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

Barbara Adler noted that the Delacorte Theater had been renovated in 1976 and 1988. The proposed Renovation is within the footprint of the existing building, which is much deteriorated. She applauded the Parks Department and Central Park Conservancy for the plan. The renovation will cost \$77 million of which \$44 million has already been raised. The rest will be raised privately.

Board members raised the following points during the discussion:

- The scheme is sensitive. There is more paving so people will not walk on the plantings.
- While the renovation is much needed, the signage is unnecessarily large reading "Free Shakespeare in the Park" (while some tickets cost).
- While the theater operates in the summer, the selected seat colors are a fall color palette.
- The banners are large and extend out from the theater.
- The banners are removable and are present only when there is a production going on.
- The signage can be seen as a community service, making people aware of the free access. Tourists routinely ask directions and the signage will assist them.
- Signage can be viewed as part of the theatrical experience.
- Banners of the same dimension exist elsewhere in the Park.
- The question was raised whether other organizations use the theater. In the chat, it was noted that other groups including the City Center have used the Delacorte Theater.
- The schedule for construction will be made public once the logistics are in place.
- Of the Community Boards adjacent to Central Park, CB7 is the first to vote on the proposal.
- The seating colors will be visible only from the Belvedere Castle.

- The vast majority of tickets are distributed for free in all five boroughs. There are some contractual tickets that patrons can buy.
- Lighting will be increased only for reasons of safety.
- Bathrooms have not been included in the plan but there is an effort underway to address the need to upgrade them.
- Artistic decisions should not be second-guessed.
- The signage is promoting the activity of the theater; it is not advertising.
- The fact that there are long lines for the free tickets suggests that the theater is engaged in public use of the Park.

**After deliberation, the vote to approve was taken by a show of hands: 36-5-2-1.**

### **Elected Officials Reports**

**Representative Jerrold Nadler** wished everyone Happy New Year.

- Unfortunately, we are starting out the year with a spike in Covid cases caused by the Omicron variant with New York being hit especially hard. He urged everyone to get vaccinated and boosted to protect yourselves and your loved ones.
- He is pressing Congress to expand and extend pandemic-related Federal assistance programs. Last month, with Congresswoman Maloney, he introduced the Low Paycheck Protection Relief Act. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) requires businesses to spend their loan by 24 weeks after receipt on allowable expenses. This did not help businesses that had to stay closed much longer, like many in our neighborhoods. This legislation would allow businesses to shift the time of eligibility if a business was not open between April 1, 2020 and December 1, 2020 or saw a revenue reduction during that period of at least 80% from 2019. This fix will strengthen equity and ensure that more of our hard-hit businesses are eligible for loan forgiveness.
- President Biden has paused loan payments for student debt until May 1. He supports pausing them in the short term but is fighting to forgive them to help our country economically.
- Last month the House passed the Protecting Democracy Act, a historic act creating guardrails to prevent the abuse of executive power and restore Congress as a meaningful check on executive authority. Over the summer, they passed the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. The House has done its part on voting rights and Build Back Better and he is encouraging the Senate to do as well.
- In response to a question from Rich Robbins on the public nature of disagreement among Democrats in the Senate, Congressman Nadler responded that the real question is whether you can get the votes to break a filibuster on voting rights. Republican state legislators across the country are not only enacting limitations on voting, they are also changing who can count the votes to put partisans in charge of counting the votes, not non-partisans. The filibuster is the great bar. It was instituted in the 19th Century to support slavery. The Senate did a couple of times pass carve outs to the filibuster to pass the debt ceiling and continuing resolution.

### **Councilmember Gale Brewer:**

- Picking up on the discussion earlier about the District Attorney, the Midtown court is closed. She has written a letter as Borough President advocating it be open. Even though it is in Board 4, it could provide capacity to adjudicate crimes referred from Board 7.
- Congratulations to Congressman Nadler on many fronts. She was, along with Andrew Rigie, at the press conference when he talked about the payments to the restaurants. There were seven parents who were anti-vaxxers who screamed at the Congressman for not supporting an anti-vax agenda.
- The Council District office at 87th St is now open. Her newsletter this week is mostly about budget.
- She is on the nominating committee to nominate Adrienne Adams and is on the Rules committee. She is excited about the group of 31 women elected to the Council.
- To apply for expense budget funds, non-profit organizations must have their requests in by February 22nd. The date for Capital projects is March 24. The participatory Capital budget process will be continued. Those project proposals are due January 23.
- There are lots of Covid issues coming up. The Governor will share the horrific numbers in her State of the State speech. She wants to thank Assembly member Linda Rosenthal who has helped organize local City testing on January 8 and 9 at Amsterdam Houses.
- She had a call with the principals in Community School District 3. Schools varied from 50% to 72% attendance depending on the school. There are big problems with testing. One school had to send home over 150 students

today. A lot of teachers are out sick. She thinks the schools have been hurt more than any other aspect. She will be focusing in the next few months giving the schools as much support as possible.

- She appreciates that the Adams administration put out a call to reform small business regulation, all the fines and fees that challenge small businesses. The press release was well orchestrated, with comments included from many local officials.
- CB7 and one or two other areas were given the opportunity to compost. We must up the numbers if we don't want to lose the designation.
- Rat infestation is an area she will focus on. During the DeBlasio administration, many of the rat inspectors were sent over to Test and Trace. One question CB7 committees might pursue is what the status of Pest Control at the Department of Health is.
- She thanked everyone who came by the District Office to welcome her.

**Councilmember Shaun Abreu:** Thanks to the Community Board for the opportunity to speak. He was sworn in just a few days ago and this is his first official Community Board meeting.

- He has great appreciation for the role the Community Board plays as the most direct representation of the community and he knows we will be great partners over the coming years.
- Major issues for him are helping the community recover from the pandemic and assisting students by addressing after-school programs. The pandemic struck many families and small businesses. It also hurt our children, many of whom struggle with lost learning opportunities and social and emotional isolation. One can only imagine the mental health impacts. After school programs were a huge influence on his success and he wants to be sure every family has the same opportunity.
- He also looks forward to hearing CB7's priorities. His Director of Public Engagement, Emmet Sklar, will represent his office before the Board when he is not available.

**Senator Brad Hoylman:**

- He was interested in our conversation about the Delacorte Theater. He carries a bill in Albany to ban the resale of charitable tickets. Many of the tickets from Shakespeare in the Park go straight to Stub Hub and other resellers and are sold for mark-ups of 100% or more. That money does not go to the 501(c)3 or the producers; it goes straight into the pocket of the resellers.
- With a child too young to be vaccinated, he relates to parents who are concerned about exposure. He carries legislation that would require that school children must be vaccinated for Covid once that is approved by the FDA and recommended by the CDC. He fought a battle in Albany several years ago to remove the religious exemption that left a glaring loophole for people opposed to vaccines to avoid getting their children vaccinated thereby endangering not only their children's lives but children and staff who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons. He wants to fix that this year.
- He carried several bills that have been signed by the Governor. The Governor will give the State of the State address in the Assembly chamber tomorrow with limited attendance because of Covid rules. Returning the State of the State to the Assembly chamber is a good sign that she intends to work collegially with the legislature.
- Several bills are pending to extend the suspension of the Open Meeting Law physical attendance requirement through April that have a very good chance of passage. He also carries a bill that would allow virtual meetings indefinitely.
- The Governor signed the Hate Crimes Review and Analysis Act that he sponsored that will require agencies to collect demographic data. We do a poor job of studying who the victims and perpetrators of hate crimes are. We need to take steps to understand these crimes better.
- The Governor also signed a bill that reforms NY evidence laws.
- He has introduced legislation to stop the flow of money to notorious criminal landlords like Steve Croman who has been imprisoned but is still able to get support from New York State chartered banks.
- On Friday, he is holding a Judiciary Committee hearing along with the Housing Committee on the Good Cause Eviction bill (S30A2) carried by Senator Salazar. Currently, if a tenant's lease expires in a non-regulated unit or if a tenant doesn't have a lease, the landlord can generally evict that tenant for any reason or no reason even if a tenant continues to pay rent, It would require that if a tenant is paying rent and obeying all the terms of the lease, they cannot be evicted. It also places a cap on how much rent can be increased. The hearing will discuss the pros and cons of the bill.

- In response to a question from Elizabeth Caputo on the status of redistricting. He noted that the lines came out from the Independent Redistricting Commission this week. Both houses will be reviewing those lines for an up-or-down vote on them. The Independent Redistricting Commission will then take the input that both houses have given and potentially present new lines. The legislature then votes up or down on those new lines. If those new lines are voted down, the process starts all over again but with the State legislature proposing lines, not the Independent Redistricting Commission.

*Business Session (Continued)*

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

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

K Karpen stated that the resolution concerns one window on the top floor of the building, which will swing inward. The appearance will be identical to what is there now.

**After deliberation, the vote to approve was taken by a show of hands: 36-2-0-0**

**4. 256 West 88<sup>th</sup> Street (Broadway – West End Avenue.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for rooftop and rear yard additions**

The Committee had voted to disapprove the application because of the height of the proposed rooftop addition and the failure to address the deficiencies in the front facade.

*After deliberation, the vote to disapprove was taken by a show of hands: 37-0-3-0*

**5. 173-175 Riverside Drive (West 89<sup>th</sup> -90<sup>th</sup> Streets). Application #LPC-22-03297 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to repair and increase the height of the historic balustrade above the roofline, and to repair or replace terra cotta, limestone and other decorative and ornamental features of the three primary facades, and repair deteriorated structures behind or surrounding windows on the primary facades.**

Michele Parker noted that the balustrade had last been repaired in 2014. A recent inspection revealed a need for a more major reconstruction. The increase in height proposed for the balustrade is mandatory to comply with the building code.

**After deliberation, the vote to approve was taken by a show of hands: 36-1-0-1**

**6. 315 Central Park West (West 91<sup>st</sup> Street.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to install a flag at the school entrance on West 91<sup>st</sup> Street near the corner of Central Park West.**

The application was presented to the full board without the Committee's recommendation. since there had not been a majority of committee members who approved or disapproved the application. Board members raised the following points during the discussion:

- Pavement of banners is covered both by the Landmarks Preservation Commission and by the Zoning Resolution
- Where a structure is fully used as a community facility, there is no limit on the size and number of banners. However, in this case, the school occupies the first two floors of a residential building.
- Presenters at Committee did not make a case for need.
- The existing signage for the school is very small plaques. Something more to celebrate a school attended by community children is appropriate.
- Under zoning, it is not permitted to put blade signs on residential buildings.
- The school could advertise itself in a more subtle way.
- In the past, CB7 agreed to banners for a dog grooming business on 84th or 85th Street; we should also do so for kids.
- CB7's vote is irrelevant, as the zoning resolution will not permit the installation.



- There are existing banners on Central Park West.

The committee displayed a rendering of the proposed banners.

One member of the public, Zuri Briscoe, parent of a student in the school, urged the Board to support the application to let the community know that the school is there.

**After deliberation, the vote to approve was taken by a show of hands: 26-10-4-0.**

### ***Elected Official Report***

**Councilmember Erik Bottcher** thanked the Community Board for the opportunity to speak.

He introduced himself as former Council Speaker Corey Johnson's chief of staff starting in 2015. Before that, he worked in the Governor's office as the Manhattan representative. He wants to be an active resource to the Board. His district overlaps CD7 only up to 63rd Street by the park.

### ***Business Session (Continued)***

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

**7. Re: West 77<sup>th</sup> and 97<sup>th</sup> Streets Greenmarket (Amsterdam-Columbus Avenues.) Application by Greenmarket/GrowNYC to the Mayor's Street Activity Permit Office for a permit to hold a greenmarket on Sunday on West 77<sup>th</sup> and Friday on 97<sup>th</sup> Streets.**

Andrew Albert stated that this item was the yearly approval of two Greenmarkets that have become an integral part of the community.

**After deliberation, the vote to approve was taken by a show of hands: 36-0-0-0**

Andrew Albert announced that the Transportation Committee meeting this month would focus on Open Restaurants and the enforcement memo from the Manhattan District Attorney.

### ***Approval of Minutes from Previous Full Board***

Ken Coughlin proposed an amendment to the prior month's minutes to accurately reflect the Board's intent. The statement on the vote for item #9 should have the following words added: "After deliberation and the adoption of a friendly amendment removing pedal-assisted e-bikes from the resolution so that it would affect only users of throttle-operated e-bikes, the resolution passed..."

**With this amendment, approval of the minutes passed by acclamation.**

Doug Kleiman thanked members of the Board for their outreach to him offering sympathy on the occasion of his father's death.

### ***Chair's Report***

Steve Brown noted that 2 committees had lacked a quorum in the last month. He stressed the importance of committee members attending their respective meetings and requested that, if they are unable to attend, they should email co-chairs in advance so they can plan to insure a quorum. Board members are responsible for attending two committee meetings and the full board meeting each month and staying from the beginning to the end of each meeting. He will review attendance issues with the Borough President's Office.

He noted that Michelle Booker, the District Manager, was out on medical leave until January 24. Members should contact Max Vandervliet in her absence.

### ***Community Session***

**Brice Peyre (representing Assemblymember Gottfried)**

- After 52 years serving in the Assembly, Dick Gottfried announced he is retiring in December.
- A lot of his bills have been signed into law:
  - A health equity bill requiring major hospitals to file an assessment when they are doing major changes to their campuses, moving or shutting down services. They will now have to provide information on disparate

impacts, how the change impacts underserved portions of the community. This is a major piece of legislation he has worked on for years.

- Two clean water bills. One will tighten lead standards in water in schools; another will increase the list of contaminants for which all water systems in New York State will have to be tested. Both bills are ones that he has worked on for years.
- On January 2nd, the Governor signed a bill to regulate pharmacy benefit managers, middlemen who have taken over huge chunks of pharmacy retail trade for prescriptions we all need.
- A bill to increase access to midwife birthing centers
- There was discussion earlier of Sammy's Law, which would allow New York City to lower speed limits in areas near schools. Assemblymember Gottfried is the Assembly sponsor of the bill. There is still work to be done. This will be a priority for him in the coming year.
- He is on top of the January 15 expiration of the suspension of the public meetings law allowing virtual meetings. Brice will report back to him on the concerns of the four Community Districts he represents.

**Zach Campbell representing the American Museum of Natural History**, providing an update on the Guilder Center.

- They are still working on some Shotcrete, the sprayed structural concrete that forms the bulk of the interior walls. That will continue through next month.
- They are also doing some weatherproofing and waterproofing on the exterior. You will notice a black coating being applied to the exterior, part of the waterproofing membrane.
- They continue to average 100-110 workers and 10 trucks per day.

**Damaris Vasquez for State Senator Cordell Cleare** introduced herself to the Board. This is her first Community Board meeting and she is looking forward to working with CB7.

**Erica Overton for Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal**

- The Assemblymember is in Albany tonight.
- The Governor signed six of Assemblymember Rosenthal's bills into law during the holidays and into last week. In total, she has signed about 21 of her bills into law during the last session
  - The Governor came to the Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center to sign the bill co-sponsored with Senator Kavanagh increasing the State housing (FHEPS) voucher for homeless families from 85% to 100% of HUD fair market value. There were 100,000 plus homeless children in New York City last year. Many families found it extremely difficult to find shelter at the 85% rate. Hopefully this law will be a critical aid for those trying to escape homelessness.
  - Another signed law, MAT Prior Authorization, expands medically assisted treatment helping individuals with Medicaid to overcome substance abuse disorder. It is considered the gold standard when treating substance abuse. People on Medicaid are frequently limited to one type of medicine or they are delayed in getting prior authorization to use gold standard drug treatment meds, which could trigger a relapse. New York removed prior authorization for those with insurance about two years ago, so this extends that benefit to Medicaid patients.
  - With Councilmember Brewer, Assemblymember Rosenthal requested a pop-up testing site on the West Side. The City agreed and there will be a site on 64th Street on January 8 and 9. With the Covid peak expected in mid-January, they will continue to advocate for more pop-ups on the West Side.
  - The Assemblymember is hosting another Mammogram Day event on February 23rd, following a successful event in December.
  - Recently, she wrote a letter to NYCHA about the November fire that occurred at one of the buildings at Amsterdam Houses. She has been in contact with FDNY. Electrical issues caused the fire and she has asked that all the electrical outlets in that building be inspected.
  - She has followed up concerning scaffolding at Amsterdam Houses and why the roof work was taking so long. The work is now scheduled to be done by May 2022.
  - They received a complaint from a constituent about the lighting in the subway entrances at W72nd Street. They requested from the MTA an inspection and a plan to fix the issue. The MTA added stronger LED fixtures in six of the stairwells.



**Grant Dennis for Senator Robert Jackson:**

Senator Jackson has had a few bills passed into law:

- S2008 requires Insurers to specify to insureds and health care providers whether an Insurer is denying a medical claim or partially approving a medical claim. This bill requires that the insurer specify which procedures they are obligated or not obligated to pay.
- S2623 requires that childcare be considered a compelling family reason for eligibility for unemployment insurance.
- Senator Jackson over the last several months has done multiple vaccine events throughout Harlem and Uptown. The goal is to set up an additional event around Lincoln Square later this month.
- His office is looking for a part time community liaison for the Upper West Side area.

**Maria Danzilo** spoke concerning the rat problem on the Upper West Side which has gotten really bad. In her area in the West 80's, dog walkers talk about streets to avoid because of the rats. She had guests staying with her who went out and ran back inside after seeing 9 rats in 10 minutes. It seems like the Upper West Side is getting the brunt of this problem. She viewed the issue as related to garbage not being picked up timely. She inquired which committee she could attend that would shine a brighter light on the issue and received the response that the Parks and Environment Committee had focused on the rat issue and would continue to do so.

**Cynthia Tibbs:** Earlier this evening when FDNY was talking about the fire on 79<sup>th</sup> Street, nothing was mentioned about the extreme fire that happened at Wise Towers in which 8 people were hurt with 7 of them hospitalized. Three of them were in serious condition along with one firefighter. We have expressed to this Board many times that this conversion with PRC Management has not been handled correctly. Except for Gale Brewer, no one has reached out to find out the cause of the fire, the status of the residents or any assistance that could be given. She had hoped that someone from CB7 would have reached out to them, as the fire coverage was in the media. They would like the Board's support on this matter.

Steven Brown thanked Cynthia Tibbs for her point of view. The Board provides an opportunity for the public to speak directly to the Fire Department as they were here earlier in the session. He did see her comments in the chat. The Board's role is to make it possible for the public to raise issues directly to agency personnel that can help them.

Cynthia responded asking whether the Board didn't think they should have reached out to inquire as to the status of the injured tenants. Steve Brown expressed concern for the tenants but disagreed with her comment, stating that the Board creates an infrastructure for her to speak and cares about all four of the fires that happened in the district in the last month.

**James Payne, Pastor of Mission and Justice with the church formerly known as Trinity Grace Church, now known as Vineyard Manhattan**

The church has been here on the Upper West Side for over 10 years and is now at PS 163. He commented as follows: One of the five core values of Community Board 7 is quality of life defined as: to value the availability and continuous improvement of resources, infrastructure, public space, programs, services, and economic, socio-cultural, and educational opportunities that foster safe and active healthy living for all. Ironically, I am following Cynthia Tibbs comment, not only concerning the fire but also the quality of life that our brothers and sisters are facing in our NYCHA communities because of PRC. I wanted to call attention to remembering the quality-of-life principle that guides our community board. I look forward to being an advocate for NYCHA. I don't live in NYCHA, but parishioners in my church do live in Wise Towers, Wise Hostos and Frederick Douglass Houses. I look forward to advocating for them with your Housing Committee and other committees as well.

Natasha Kazmi announced that Maria Danzilo and anyone else concerned with the rat problem should listen to the Parks and Environment Committee call for November 15 which was dedicated to rat problems and sanitation issues. The public outreach was extensive at the time and the results of that outreach have been submitted to all relevant City agencies. The committee's work on this issue is on-going.

**Erana Stennett** commented that the way Cynthia Tibbs was treated on this call was insensitive. She asked the Community Board to seriously consider a protocol when a fire breaks out for the District Manager or the staff to check in on community

members and ask them how they are doing. She stated that it was not too much to ask of a Community Board representing the community to respond with a telephone call and not chastise those who ask why we did not reach out to them.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15PM.

#### Items of General Interest from the Chat:

##### From Mark Diller to Everyone 07:21 PM

- Link to the DA's memo: <https://www.manhattanda.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Day-One-Letter-Policies-1.03.2022.pdf>

##### From Gale Brewer to Everyone 07:40 PM

- <https://us11.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=bf27f3da34498cc55bd5e1da4&id=1fd07ef6f9> Can sign up for newsletter - Council Member Gale Brewer. Office is now open 563 Columbus Ave 10024 [gbrewer@council.nyc.gov](mailto:gbrewer@council.nyc.gov) 212 873 0282 Budget deadlines are very soon.

##### From Gale Brewer to Everyone 07:52 PM

- <https://www.participate.nyc.gov/processes/ccdistrict6/f/139/> Participatory Budgeting for Council Member Brewer was posted 1.3.2022 and projects are due Jan. 23. Groups / individuals have already submitted

##### From Rosalind Barbour to All Panelists 08:06 PM

- Rosalind here from The Public. The Public operates the theater through a license agreement with the Parks Department which restricts its use for certain purposes that benefit the people of the City of New York. Wanted to offer that context!

##### From Phillip Ellison to All Panelists 08:09 PM

- NYC PUBLIC ADVOCATE'S STATEMENT ON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND STAFFING SHORTAGES  
<https://www.pubadvocate.nyc.gov/press/nyc-public-advocates-statement-school-attendance-and-staffing-shortages/>
- NYC PUBLIC ADVOCATE ADVANCES TRULY AFFORDABLE, SAFE, EQUITABLE HOUSING POLICIES  
<https://www.pubadvocate.nyc.gov/press/nyc-public-advocate-advances-truly-affordable-safe-equitable-housing-policies/>

##### From Phillip Ellison to All Panelists 08:13 PM

- Public Advocate Williams released the annual Worst Landlord Watchlist, which spotlights the most egregiously negligent landlords in the city. The Public Advocate highlighted the city's past failures to hold bad landlords accountable under Mayor de Blasio – and history as the worst landlord itself through NYCHA.  
<https://www.pubadvocate.nyc.gov/press/nyc-public-advocate-unveils-2021-worst-landlord-watchlist/>

##### From Tevin Williams | Sen. Brad Hoylman to All Panelists 08:46 PM

- Good Evening everyone! Here is Senator Hoylman's Board Report to Community Board 7. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at 212-633-8052 or [tvwillia@nysenate.gov](mailto:tvwillia@nysenate.gov)  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/15DGEMuYRsv89EXUTBMRWNE\\_nliNe5GGs/edit?usp=sharing&oid=106885352774759409806&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15DGEMuYRsv89EXUTBMRWNE_nliNe5GGs/edit?usp=sharing&oid=106885352774759409806&rtpof=true&sd=true)

##### From George Damalas to Everyone 08:57 PM

- Hello Everyone, My name is George Damalas from Senator Jose M. Serrano's office. Below is our most recent community update – <https://mادميمي.com/p/3822531?fact=52667-166031776-9630578442-ecb90168741298d19fd5585198725a98b54fb02e> Feel free to give us a call at 2128285829 or email us at [serrano@nysenate.gov](mailto:serrano@nysenate.gov) if you have any questions or concerns

Good evening and happy new year everyone. Jacques Brunvil on behalf of the Manhattan DA. I have a hard cut off at 9pm but I have taken note of earlier comments related to policy updates from our office. You can email me at [brunvilj@dany.nyc.gov](mailto:brunvilj@dany.nyc.gov) with any additional concerns or questions. Thank you.

**From damarys vazquez to Everyone (9:23 PM)**

- <https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/cordell-cleare/contact>  
163 West 125th Street, Harlem State Office Bldg., Suite 912, New York, NY 10027
- Phone: 212-222-7315, Fax: 212-678-0001

**From B Peyre (AM Gottfried) to Everyone (9:48 PM)**

- Office of Assembly Member Dick Gottfried, 212-807-7900, [gottfriedr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:gottfriedr@nyassembly.gov),  
<https://www.facebook.com/RichardNGottfried>, Twitter @DickGottfried, Community Board 7 Liaison: Brice  
Peyre, [peyrebr@nyassembly.gov](mailto:peyrebr@nyassembly.gov)
- Gottfried Statement Announcing His Retirement After 52 Years in Assembly:  
<https://conta.cc/3Jaaajt>
- Gottfried Health Equity Bill Signed into Law:  
<https://conta.cc/3z7pylb>
- Gottfried Statement on New Clean Water Laws He Introduced:  
<https://conta.cc/3EpkhGz>
- Governor Hochul's Press Release on New Law on Pharmacy Benefit Managers Sponsored by Gottfried:  
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-signs-landmark-legislation-bringing-transparency-and-comprehensive-regulatory>
- Governor Hochul's Statement on New Gottfried Law Boosting Access to Midwife-Led Birthing Centers:  
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-signs-legislation-enhance-patient-experience-midwifery-birth-centers>

# HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Louisa Craddock and Melissa Rosenberg, Co-Chairpersons  
January 10, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

*The meeting was called to order at 6:30.*

**Present:** Louisa Craddock and Melissa Rosenberg, Co-Chairpersons; Robert Espier Ayala, Kristen Berger, Miranda Goodwin-Raab, Madelyn Innocent, Ira Mitchneck, Rich Robbins, Susan Schwartz, Ethel Sheffer and Polly Spain. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Linda Alexander, Mark Diller, Doug Kleiman and Roberta Semer. **CB7 Staff:** Max Vandervliet, Assistant District Manager.

**Presentation by GridRewards/Logical Buildings, Jeff Hendler**

David Klatt, SVP, Operations/Analytics, [dklatt@logicalbuildings.com](mailto:dklatt@logicalbuildings.com)

Jeff Hendler, CEO, [hendler@logicalbuildings.com](mailto:hendler@logicalbuildings.com)

973-600-3731 / 845-659-4248

GridRewards is an organization partnering with ConEd to promote energy equity, conserve the use of electricity during peak hours and lower costs for the consumer.

Why now?

- Con Ed has gradually been rolling out new smart meters that can provide advanced usage data not available before.
- Con Ed can now track real-time energy usage and carbon footprint and costs.
- Program will pay small energy users to use less energy at peak demand times via a free GridRewards app.
- Peaks – hot days in summer; Con Ed desperate to lower usage instead of using dirtier sources
- Thousands of small energy users
- Creates a virtual power plant
- This is brand new info that is newly unlocked due to smart meters
- Used to have a human read your meter or estimate – no longer
- Provides incentive to users to lower bill by offering financial rewards.
- Can create large local environmental impact
- GridRewards is a partner with WE ACT, NAC and others that allow donations of rewards to nonprofits

Questions

Mark – can solar and wind users benefit?

David – yes.

Polly – are there concrete ways to reduce usage in the app?

David – yes, includes suggestions that are specific to the day and time.

Is this mainly for commercial or residential users?

David – the majority of users are residential; currently 10k users.

Miranda – are there any security concerns on providing user data?

David – it is totally anonymous; we did 2 years of cyber security work with ConEd.

Do you sell the data?

David – no.

Is the GridRewards app free?

David – yes - the money comes from grid operators.

Melissa- Can NYCHA take advantage of this?

David – speaking with NYCHA soon. If buildings pay a ConEd bill, they have access to grid rewards.

Louisa – can NYCHA residents sign up?

David- depends on how buildings are metered by Con Ed – submeters or a master meter. Residents don't pay ConEd directly. Buildings are eligible, so there may be mechanisms for sharing with grid rewards.

Polly – Co-chair of environmental justice working group. This needs to be explored further. Meeting with energy management. A great plan and would save costs and lots of NYCHA residents could benefit.

David – talking with Katya Spicer (NYCHA). Also part of a NYSERDA (NYS Energy Research and Development Authority) program for real-time energy management. Recommended NYCHA outreach because any devices installed will be subsidized by NYSERDA.

Is NYSERDA a nonprofit?

Melissa –no, it is a government agency that is funded by utility companies.

Louisa – is there a minimum size of buildings?

David – no.

Melissa – how are you getting the word out to folks who can benefit?

David – doing anything and everything.

Louisa – are there any materials that we can share?

David – have them to share.

Linda – was supposed to have posted already.

Jeff – we have many digital materials.

Doug – if you live in a private building and landlord sub-meters electric, is there any benefit back to tenants?

David – building would sign-up and notify residents when and how to reduce. Whole building would get paid.

Doug – so co-op could make a decision. But renters may not see benefit.

David – it is tricky if rental building is master-metered and not sub-metered.

Melissa – only works if behaviorally and tenants are induced to reduce use by being paid.

David – works through nudges. Have some ability to automate the system .

Linda Alexander – all about energy equity. Gives opportunity to everyone to save on bills which will rise due to energy prices. Rewards with monetary rewards. I saved \$60/month. Helps everyone slow climate change. Also easy to use.

Melissa – thank you. We can help try to spread the word.

Peter Arnstedt, Columbus Amsterdam BID – Have worked with NYSERDA to spread info to commercial and residential tenants. How can we work with you on this?

David – happy to meet offline.

Linda- will share contact info.

### **Discussion on residential conversions of hotels and older in UWS**

Louisa opened by posing question to the committee of: What is the role of the CB?

- Robert – sent info last night about a community planning internship in 2009-2010 that analyzed UWS single-room occupancy buildings. Gale said she would look into it.  
Program is the Community Fellow internship run by the Fund for the City of New York. Applications are closed for this term. Could approach other schools to ask for a student to work on UWS conversions.
- Melissa – can we take a step back to talk about what our goal is?
- Louisa – do we want to act as a middleman and put developers in touch with sites? Or just learn more? Problematic that we don't know what's going on in district. What should we be doing?
- Roberta – how do we want program to work? Also, fellows cost money. Need to figure out what we're trying to figure out. Had a fellow several years ago who did a database that can be updated.
- Ethel – you introduced all of this by saying that there are 59 hotels in CB7. What is the source? Data may not be up to date. Excelsior Hotel about to be converted into residential use. CB7 has some money in treasury that was set-aside for studies for George Janes. There may still be some money. Could be a small sub-committee that could define what we want to know. Many ways to obtain academic services. There is the whole Beta system that can assist community boards. Are there unoccupied buildings we would want to be converted? Need to set a timeframe to answer these questions.
- Louisa – could try for unpaid interns?
- Melissa – not allowed by city any more
- Roberta- money is allocated for something else.
- Ethel - could be moved
- Robert- we're not developers. Could think and be part of process. We can think and write and this is the role we should prepare ourselves for.
- Louisa – Project FIND is developing the Park Hotel on West 79th Street. We hope they will speak at our February meeting. And Project Renewal. What are they doing? Would love to have HPD back to talk about their current projects.
- Robert – can ask nonprofit developers what they are planning. We don't know what's going on.

- Ira – working on 108<sup>th</sup> Street major issue was finding a temp site for construction period. Became a major issue. Hard for nonprofits to function and obtain these vacant spaces and compete with private buyers.
- Melissa – agree, major issue that nonprofits couldn't buy hotels during pandemic.
- Doug – topline issue is creating more affordable housing in our neighborhood. People in RE world regularly look to buy. There are orgs that have funding for partnerships with nonprofits to achieve goals. There also are zoning issues. Experience is that public-private works well. Like with Mitchell-Lamas. Hard for nonprofits to compete with REITs, but they have to answer to shareholders.
- Melissa - my two cents, in SOTS, Gov. Hochul included something on hotel conversions. That's a concrete proposal to facilitate by overcoming roadblocks. Also CM Rivera had legislation on this.
- Miranda – what are economic incentives for participation? Where does money come from? Tax breaks?
- Melissa – HPD provides funding. Using existing term sheets, so funding depends on what population they are serving.
- Ethel – new HPD commissioner/Chief Housing Officer very aware of these types of plans. Looked at this at CHPC. Could be new sources of money. HPD can use a lot of focusing. So hard to even get information from them on projects here. 4-5 members should sit and develop five focus areas or priorities, would be helpful. Would be helpful to have a working group – what data do we need, what do we want to know, then move towards how to answer. We all know that affordable housing of all kinds is sorely needed.
- Melissa – I like this idea.
- Robert – Agree. This should be an ongoing process. Miranda's question was useful. There is substantial support from government through tax credits. Very sophisticated. Might be worth having a panel to discuss and explain.
- Melissa – ANHD could potentially be asked did this at CB1.
- Melissa – like this idea of a subcommittee. Do we need to formalize?
- Louisa – we should do this.
- Ethel – Miranda should join, Doug has expertise. Set a timeframe for 3 goals to set agenda and to figure out what help we need. And go back to guy from Furman (Noah Kazis). Guy from Furman kept saying how hard it is. But this is still worth doing.
- Melissa – happy to circulate email so folks can indicate interest. WG should have an end date. Maybe 3 months.
- Ethel- struck by importance of NYCHA and think many issues need to be discussed. Crucial for our community. Needs to be a big topic.

### **New business**

Melissa alerted committee that February meeting will be joint with HHS to get an update from Project FIND

Melissa also discussed a March discussion on NYCHA

Miranda – wanted to address Erana's email about fire. See Cynthia Tibbs is present, and we should let our neighbors be heard.

Ira – there are some great nonprofits in the neighborhood. We should engage them and get their ideas. Shouldn't be us saying what they should do.

Melissa – agree it could be great to invite providers like WSFSSH, Project FIND, Goddard.

### **Public comments**

Maria Danzilo – not hearing about opportunity for community input on conversion of hotels into housing. Was controversial when Ruth Messinger was BP and still contentious. Be aware of not blindsiding community. Hotels are important for small businesses in neighborhood and there are many other reasons.

Cynthia Tibbs – I think I said all that was needed at the full board meeting. Hope in the future that you do dialogue and engage more proactively than reactively. You could have flagged inability for grid app to benefit residents. Need to go to residents and Polly to discuss further.

Doug – CB does care and is very sorry about what happened. In light of the Bronx fire, which was devastating, there will probably be changes made to safety and building standards. Tragedy should bring positive changes to fire safety. Worth discussing how we respond to disasters. Is there anything that we can do right now?

Cynthia – FDNY was back there (Wise Towers) this week. Fire was reignited. Only one elevator works. Tenants tried to flee. PRC put out fire, so deemed unfounded. Mismanagement from new entity is out of control. PRC ripped down FDNY



summonses a week before the fire. Working on it now. Took another fire for action. Critical of TRC public-private partnership.

Doug – I hope citations exist. Want to try to advocate, especially if management company is not working out. Sounds like people should be arrested for covering up citations.

Pastor James Payne – I want to speak to advocacy, as a pastor in the community. That works with Wise Towers. Advocacy begins in inclusion. There are 8 TA presidents in Wise community. Only Cynthia has shared her voice this evening. Believe I heard an allusion to a subcommittee but cannot have this committee.

([james@vineyardmanhattan.org](mailto:james@vineyardmanhattan.org))

Melissa – I appreciate your feedback. It has been an ongoing conversation. Definitely on our radar.

Miranda – maybe a working group could be a vehicle.

Melissa – don't disagree. Just a larger conversation that Steve Brown would want to be involve in.

Shelly – just spent 8 hours working with victims of Bronx fire. Saw how people can come together to support neighbors and each other. One of the issues in supporting people on the West Side particularly NYCHA, is lack of structure. Can include the CB, but traditionally led by DM, who had contact with agency and communicated. Major job of DM. Not just Board, it was with electeds. CB can have resolution, but it is not actionable. These are greater issues. I'm thinking about how to support neighbors and leadership, need to do something more comprehensive. District Office needs to collect info and support neighbors. If we can support issues that are not just emergent and are serious, we need electeds involved and at the table with NYCHA.

Melissa – would love to move on that. Had paused due to turnover in electeds.

Louisa – There is a new administration and many new electeds. Let's talk with Steven Brown.

Rich – many of us pained by what happened at last Tuesday's meeting. We do a horrendous job of helping community members who most need our support., NYCHA. More than a housing issue should be a top priority for the Board. Need to tie in electeds, especially Gale. Not just Housing. Did have a taskforce that at least recognized main issues. If anything comes from last Tuesday, need to help those most in need.

Melissa – Feel like this should be a topic for Steering. Needs to be a larger issue.

Rich – agree, could be at steering. And then a larger issue.

Peter – CB has been effective with having CABs, like one at 107<sup>th</sup> Street. Was dismantled by DHS and HELP USA. That is something the CB has done well. Especially if hotel conversions are focused on affordable housing and would help community response. What happened in the 70s was terrible and could have been avoided through a CAB. There are a number of hotels in the neighborhood that are under the radar.

Lourdes Camacho – I'm a tenant of Amsterdam Houses. When Nick on the committee, wrote to Linda, Gale, all electeds about mother's downsizing. Do appreciate the work being done. Sorry to Cynthia for what's going on at Wise. Worse since PRC took over.

Doug – there are some questions about defining public safety, should definitely add to public safety.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:20.*

# TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Andrew Albert and Howard Yaruss, Co-Chairpersons

January 11, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

*Meeting came to order 6:30pm ET. Chaired by Howard Yaruss and Andrew Albert, Co-Chairs*

*Full Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdDkxpXbWTY>*

**Present:** Andrew Albert and Howard Yaruss, co-chairperson; Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Elizabeth Caputo, Ken Coughlin, Doug Kleinman, Sara Lind, William Ortiz, Roberta Semer and Erana Stennett. **Chair:** Steve Brown. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Josh Cohen, Christian Cordova, Mark Diller, Courtney Clark Metakis and Rich Robbins.

## AGENDA ITEMS/VOTES/DISCUSSION

**1) 70 Lincoln Center Plaza aka 165 West 65th Street (Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue.) Petition for a renewal of a Revocable Consent EIN#13-1847137 to the Department of Transportation to continue to maintain and use 4 levels of an underground garage under and along the North Sidewalk**

Comments: Owned by Lincoln Center since the 1980s. Part of the garage should be under RC from the City and that is what 70 Lincoln Plaza requested.

*Vote: 8-0-0-0. Non-Committee Vote:5-0-0-0.*

**2) Petition (EIN#20-4029558) for a new revocable consent for a proposed stoop and fenced-in areaway on the north sidewalk of West 84th Street 319 West 84th Street (at West End Avenue and Riverside Drive) discussion and potential resolution.**

Comments: one of 7 row houses from the late 1800s. Client would like to place the stoop back and have areaway match the rest of the row houses. Andrew asked if it would narrow the sidewalk, in line with other houses. Howard asked if had been signed off my Landmarks. Mark clarified and provided information, and Ken addressed the Edgar Allan Poe Street renaming and potential confusion. Erana asked a procedural question which Andrew answered.

*Vote: 9-0-0-0. Non-Committee Vote: 6-0-0-0.*

### **3) Permanent Open Restaurant Program discussion and Text Amendments**

Discussion about how CBs want to be part of the process by which DOT comes up with planning on outdoor seating. Heard an update from DOT – who will clarify with an update, CB7 would like to be a part of the process if possible.

Discussion ensued about DOT replacing DCA on matters related to outdoor seating, and committee feels it should be consulted on appropriateness of design and usage, along with BCI and other CB7 committees, with a February resolution in store. Comments from Jay, Erana, Rich, Christian, Barbara, Doug, Josh - on enclosed sidewalk cafes and rules and why are they different from the current sidewalk structures, should we proceed on taking positions. How far in advance to restaurants request in advance requests for cafes? How about inspections on the structures? How will these structures be made permanent? Colleen Chattergoon responds from DOT and will come back with more information in February. Committee discusses plans on how to make sure CB7 includes committees (Land Use, BCI, Transportation, possibly Preservation) in this discussion. Further discussion about seats in the roadway, seats in the sidewalk, the Emergency Program, outdoor seating on private (not NYC) property, etc and what permits required there. Consensus is that safety is first but business, land use also needs considered. Many cafes have been compliant and request that those establishments in compliance should be referenced.

### **4) Bicycle and pedestrian access to all bridge's discussion and potential resolution**

Howard introduced a conversation about traversing bridges into Manhattan and throughout the City. Andrew asked about bills from the Governor about amending Public Authorities law to consider/allow bike and pedestrian access, to guide MTA councils on how to accommodate bikes at MTA stations and parking, and bridge usage. Ken, Andrew, Erana addressed

numerous issues throughout the conversation about how to handle bike and pedestrian access at different bridges across the borough. Asked about bike locks and places to expand.

**5) Conversation on New York District Attorney's decisions on Fare Evasion; Subway Safety Discussion**

Important committee conversation (starting at 47:00 going until 1:50:00) amongst the committee and community about recent Manhattan DA comments about how fare evasion and larger subway safety issues. Nicole Gelinas joined and presented data and presentation (attached). Community discussion about paying fares, equity issues, how the Community Board can relay public information. Community members including Erica Gerson and Maria Danzilo weighed in on safety issues. Committee members addressed policy issues associated with how safety issues can be enforced, referenced prosecutorial discretion, transit equity, and other themes.

**6) New Business:**

DOT/Colleen commented on how informative the monthly meeting has been this month. Colleen also addressed the Rotunda project and plans to come to come to Transportation and Parks committees in February.

*Meeting adjourned at approx. 8:25pm ET.*

# BUSINESS & CONSUMER ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons

January 12, 2022 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 Linda Alexander.*

**Present:** Linda Alexander, Christian Cordova, Joshua Cohen, Paul Fischer, Miranda Goodwin-Raab, Madelyn Innocent, Doug Kleiman, Andrew Rigie, Erana Stennett and Benjamin Wu. **Non-Committee Members Present:** Louisa Craddock.  
**Absent:** Paul Ficher.

## ***New Application to the SLA for two-year liquor license:***

### **1. 100 Riverside Boulevard (West 64<sup>th</sup> – 65<sup>th</sup> Streets.) Mister Kim's Lounge, LLC d/b/a To Be Determined.**

Presenting for the Applicant: Andy Kim, [AndyK@NestSeekers.com](mailto:AndyK@NestSeekers.com); Terrence R. Flynn, Jr., Flynn & Flynn, P.L.L.C., [TRFlynnjr@gmail.com](mailto:TRFlynnjr@gmail.com);

- **Withdrawn**

Comments:

- Withdrawn

### **2. 242 West 76<sup>th</sup> Street (Broadway – West End Avenue.) 242 West 76<sup>th</sup> Hotel Corp d/b/a The Wallace.**

Presenting for the Applicant: Niv Amodai, owner, [Niv@EmpireHospitalityGroup.com](mailto:Niv@EmpireHospitalityGroup.com); Max Bookman, Esq., Pesetsky and Bookman, P.C., [Max@PB.law](mailto:Max@PB.law);

- Phil Dorn [phil@PB.law](mailto:phil@PB.law) and Niv Amadai. are applicants for a lobby bar in the Wallace Hotel on the first floor and lower lever only. Hours of operation will be from Noon through 1a.m. 7 days/week. There will be recorded background music in the lobby and live music only for the lower level

Comments:

- Linda Alexander asked about the number of seats in the lobby bar: **There will be 55, situated in a lounge format.**
- Doug Kleiman asked about the number of seats on the lower level seats. Applicant replied occupancy is limited to **74 people.**
- The size of the grade level space, including front desk, lobby and lounge is approximately **1,800 square feet.**
- Erana Stennett asked whether the lounges will be limited to hotel guests and the applicants replied it is **open to the public.** She additionally asked about parking, pointing out a public bar could encourage street blockages. **The applicants replied they had made arrangements for discounted parking at two nearby garages.**

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

Committee VOTE: 9-0-0-0. Non-Committee VOTE: 3-0-2-0.

### **3. 2330 Broadway (West 84<sup>th</sup> – 85<sup>th</sup> Streets.) GWC-Broadway 85<sup>th</sup> Inc. d/b/a To Be Determined.**

Presenting for the Applicant: Tyler Swiggett, developer/owner, [Tyler.Swiggett@Hines.com](mailto:Tyler.Swiggett@Hines.com); Michael Paleudis, Esq., [MJP@PaleudisLaw.com](mailto:MJP@PaleudisLaw.com); [denise.falco@sunrisesenior.com](mailto:denise.falco@sunrisesenior.com) Caitlin.rogers@sunrisesenior.com

- Senior living development on 85<sup>th</sup> and Broadway is applying for a full liquor license for residents and their guests in the facility's private dining room.
- Complimentary beer and wine service will be provided with the meals to residents.
- Only open to residents. Not to the public
- Hours of operation: 7a.m. to 7p.m.

Comments:

- Linda Alexander asked about the size of the dining room: **136 seats/28 tables +/-**
- Doug Kleiman asked for specifics regarding the application: **Residents are each provided on complimentary beverage with the meal with an option to purchase additional beverages.**

- Robert Espier asked about medical restrictions.
- Larry Wood, Director, Goddard Riverside supports the application..

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

Committee VOTE: 9-0-0-0. Non-Committee VOTE: 5-0-0-0.

4. **953 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 107<sup>th</sup> Street.) TSR 953, Corp. d/b/a Tropical Sensation.

Presenting for the Applicant: Joseline Ramirez, President, [JoselineR@gmail.com](mailto:JoselineR@gmail.com); Alejandro Loveras, [Alejandro.Loveras@gmail.com](mailto:Alejandro.Loveras@gmail.com);

- Long established restaurant was directed to form a new entity, including new EIN, corporate name, etc. Same ownership but had to apply for new Liquor License
- Restaurant has recorded music only.
- Hours of Operation?

Comments:

- Peter Arndsten, Columbus-Amsterdam BID, supported the restaurant and added it is a great place with good food and worth a visit. He endorsed the ownership, too

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

Committee VOTE: 10-0-0-0. Non-Committee VOTE: 5-0-0-0.

5. Review of Open Restaurants Program.

Restaurant owners/managers, retail owners, and residents are invited to share their experiences with outdoor dining venues in New York City, for the purpose of relaying their insights and concerns to relevant staff at the Office of the Mayor, Department of Transportation, and City Council Member-elect Gale Brewer.

Comments:

- Christian Cordova: In the past, street seating fell under the auspices of DCA. But because of the restructuring with D.O.T. at the helm, he feels CBs will not have much to say about this in the future.
- Andrew Rigie: Works for NYC Hospitality Alliance. Does not represent any individual restaurants, He said the details have yet to be defined, but added:
  - City council needs to approve (or decline) the text amendment to change the zoning resolution
  - City council will need to introduce legislation. Broad parameters. If this passes and is signed into law, The DOT will oversee the Open Restaurants Program.
  - CBs would have the ability to comment. The public would also have the ability to comment.
  - Timeline to be finalized by the 3rdQ of this year. Board and committee and submit comments on what we think it should look like or wait until the guidelines are put out and comment then.
- Linda Alexander said CB7 should be proactive, as well as responsive, and that the CB's should each should provide ideas to DOT before the plans are drawn.
- Monica Blum, Lincoln Square BID, hopes there is a coordination with all the stakeholders for which DOT is responsible.
- Nicole Paynter, Columbus Avenue BID, supports the Open Restaurant plan and added it has been a lifeline for many restaurants. Her board has issues with the position of the bike lanes on Columbus Avenue, particularly for patrons navigating to from the street seating.
- Peter Arndtsen, Columbus-Avenue BID is in full support of the Open Restaurants and agreed it is a "huge lifeline." Guidelines have varied. Inspectors have different interpretations of what is permissible and what is not. He added there are still many issues that need to be worked through, e.g., bikes, pedestrians, trash, rats, and more.

- Erana Stennett said there is a lot we can share with DOT but is concerned they have already decided what the guidelines are going to be. She advocated for a joint conversation with Transportation and Land Use committees. She also felt it might be better to wait and react, along with receiving more input from residents and retailers in the area.
- Louisa Craddock reiterated she once worked for City Planning and was responsible for part of the legislation on sidewalk cafés. She felt the original program was important when indoor seating was not allowed. But was adamant that curbside/street dining is no longer needed. She also believes DOT is not going to come to any of the CBs for input. This will be here until Covid is over. She sees no benefits to curbside dining, and feels they contribute to vermin and are not really safe. She said we would all be fine with just “normal” unenclosed sidewalk cafes.
- Andrew Rigie reminded the group the issue is not just about the UWS and CB7: There are five boroughs, some of which have not been able to take advantage of sidewalk seating in the past but with the new program can provide service to their communities and, hopefully, stay in business. He says the Open Restaurant program brings more life to the street and believes the CBs will not be cut out completely from the process.
- Anthony Thomas seconded what Andrew said. He applauds the program and what has happened and the opportunity to stay in business.
- Doug Kleiman said there is a need for street dining because indoor dining has demonstrably dropped off. He says people are still nervous about indoor dining because of the pandemic.
- CM Gale Brewer pointed out there are many challenges for implementation and added restaurants are still not doing well. She wants the streetscape to do well and the outdoor dining provides that opportunity. The city has done a poor job of oversight and added if the city cannot do this, we can't have the outdoor space. But overall, she likes the concept.
- Joselin Ramirez, owner of Tropical Sensation Restaurant said DOT inspectors have been inconsistent. She feels to many are unprepared and sometimes act in punitive manners to the disadvantage of struggling businesses.
- Josh Cohen, CB7 member and restaurant owner, agreed but added there are some “bad actors” in the restaurant business who are making it harder for those owners who conform to the rules.
- Jay Adolf agreed with Louisa and does not like the street shelters. He believes there was a reason for the program during the emergency, but the emergency is over. He added there has been a long standing “agreement” to not allow enclosed sidewalk cafes and opined there is no difference between roadway seating and enclosed sidewalk cafes.
- Robert Espier was initially supportive of the open restaurant program but the ensuing rat problem has diminished his enthusiasm. He was also concerned with obstruction of fire trucks because of the positioning of the curbside seating shelters.
- Andrew Rigie said we are talking in circles. We need to comment on what the permanent will be and what it will look like.
- Jay Adolf believes it is a joint committee, then full board issue. Everyone agreed.
- Miranda Goodwin-Raab wanted to discuss propane and why it has been banned from streetside shelters. She feels restaurant owners who invested in them last year before the ban are at a loss.
- Doug Kleiman agrees CB7 should be both proactive and reactive. He pointed out such cogent considerations as safety, accessibility, and sanitation. He also added there are roadway seating venues that are blocking residential entrances. He feels CB7 and BCI committee should be voting on the merits of the program.
- Linda Alexander pointed out that it has been a long-standing policy of CB7 to not approve new enclosed sidewalk cafés, with few exceptions. But the CB hears renewals for existing and active enclosed sidewalk cafes. She also added that the street enclosures should not be conflated with enclosed sidewalk cafes, which are actual extensions of the on-site, grade-level footprint.
- Peter Arndsten opined there are no set rules. Moving forward he believes we need to accommodate each other. Adding that we should develop rules that have some ability to work with. Will be important for the future of this neighborhood.



6. New Business.

Comments:

- Doug Kleiman said CB7 should be prepared to review Cannabis licenses. BCI will likely be the committee reviewing the applications and understand the new state laws.
- Erana Stennett added that perhaps BCI could request the formation of a Cannabis subcommittee.
- Andrew Rigie concurred the new Cannabis law is a reality, and the issues should be addressed now. Smoking cannabis has become comparable to enjoying a glass of wine. We need to discover the role the CB will have with consumption and distribution moving forward.
- Miranda Goodwin-Raab reiterated her issues regarding propane tanks for outdoor dining.
- Andrew Rigie said a bill has been introduced allowing the use of propane tanks in outdoor seating. In addition, there could be an executive order enabling the use of propane for outdoor seating in the future.

*The meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.*

# SENIOR TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2022

Roberta Semer Chair

**Present:** Louisa Craddock, Madelyn Innocent, K Karpen Madge Rosenberg, Roberta Semer, Cindy Cardinal, Mark Jennings (Project Find), Lisa Beth Miller and Margaret Walters (Lighthouse Guild), Daniel Leinweber (Mt Sinai), Aaron Rooney (Goddard Riverside), Robin Strashun (Search and Care), Paula Seefeldt (LILY) and Sheri Lerner (JCC)

**Also present:** Council Member Gale Brewer, Elected representatives: Tevin Williams, Hannah Weinerman and Emmitt Sklar.

*Meeting called to order at 10 am on zoom*

1. Forums for Seniors in the spring: Mark, Lisa, Margaret and Roberta have started to work on plans.
2. Resource Guide: Roberta asked all members to provide information. Gale Brewer offered to partner with the Task Force
3. Lighthouse Guild: Margaret and Lisa spoke about the remarkable tech and low tech available for people. Lisa Miller can be reached at 646-847-4615 for questions about services provided by the Lighthouse
4. Search and Care: Robin reported that it is their 50th anniversary of providing in home services, social work, financial planning, technical support, help with pets among other services
5. The JCC: Shari spoke about the programs for older adults including: caring calls, helping people with covid, classes, etc
6. LILY: Pauls said that their services are virtual in January due to the surge in Covid cases. They do phone calls, they are working with Legal Volunteers to provide legal assistance
7. WSCAH: K reported that they are trying to do food deliveries directly to recipients. They are working with DoorDash to distribute the food. Some of their funding is from United Way and Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital. Dan offered to connect them with the appropriate people at Mt Sinai
8. Mt Sinai: Dan works with the emergency medicine departments at 8 hospitals and 5 urgent care centers. Patient education is a big component of their program - Mt Sinai Today is on their web site [Health@MtSinai.org](http://Health@MtSinai.org)
9. Project Find: Mark said all the senior centers have received their contracts. Hamilton has some in-person classes. They are providing programs with Alvin Alley. They are working with Grow NYC and Ryan Health Center to help seniors have health food. Members of Blessed Sacrament are helping escort seniors to shop.
10. Goddard Riverside: Aaron Rooney spoke about the variety of services they provide: food security, health and wellness, household security, financial assistance, many programs are virtual
11. Hannah Weinerman said that Congressman Nadler's office is able to offer some help to seniors during the tax season
12. City Council Member Gale Brewer they send out newsletters every Monday and Thursday, they are continuing the Housing Clinics once a month virtually, they are able to provide testing kits and masks to non-for-profits, she is working with the Bodegas to stop the proliferation of mega-e-commerce to provide groceries in 15 minutes, she made budget requests for additional funding to keep open senior centers in NYCHA developments in the evenings and weekends, concerned about patients being discharged without adequate planning for both their safety and physical needs, she will continue to work with GrowNYC to provide at a limited cost fresh fruits and vegetables for seniors in the spring. Our district needs to be an age friendly district, we need housing for seniors - hotels could be used for this. We need money for broadband and tech support. Gale's office number is 212-873-0282

*Next Meeting is Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 10 am on Zoom*

# PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**K Karpen and Michele Parker, Co-Chairpersons**  
**January 13, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM**

***Present:** Michele Parker and K Karpen, Co-Chairpersons; Jay Adolf, Josh Cohen, Page Cowley, Mark Diller, Klari Neuwelt, Madge Rosenberg, Peter Samton and Susan Schwartz. Non-Committee Board Members: Robert Espier, Doug Kleiman and Richard Robbins.*

## **Re: 61 West 86<sup>th</sup> Street aka 541 Columbus Avenue. Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to replace storefront infill.**

Presenting Anastasios Gannopolis: Presenting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Before landmarks had a chance to review.

Landmarks comments:

- Show the curb (Columbus) on the drawing
- Are they going to incorporate from the existing Brownstone on 86<sup>th</sup> and on Columbus so it is continuous?
- Mimic the transom that was there previous and along the whole store front

Page – the drawing does not fit the character of the neighborhood. There needs to be a sample of what is going to look like. The white looks “3<sup>rd</sup> Ave”. Looks like the entrance is on the corner. Changing from existing or (original) design. Doorway needs to be rectilinear.

Robert – Will the transoms have design or be just plain? Up to the tenant.

Klari – This is not the most prominent architecture of CB7. The things that are said can be done; we don’t see. There is a lot of detail that we are not looking at. There is a lot going on... to ambiguous.

Daniel Gollhofer – Consider self to be liberal, but it seems to be the rendering needs to be more accurate as to what is going to be built.

Mark D – Approve, but with conditions: The cornice line to go all the way around. To get rid of the chamfer door and replace with what is like what is there now. The sign band needs to be unified.

Peter – The rendering really does not work.

Doug – Why can’t there be a chamfer door?

Page – There is a column that holds up the building, so the entrance is pushed in. This is typically how it has been done. There is a chance here to strip off what is there and go with what it was before.

*Motion to **disapprove**, Committee 9-0-0-0. Non-Committee 2-0-0-1.*

## **Re: 315 West 103<sup>rd</sup> St. (Riverside – West End Ave)**

Richard Robbins (Making it clear as a resident and NOT a CB member)

- 2009 before landmarked. Previous owner got to build 2 stories up and 15 ft back. DOB issued stop work order in 2017. In 2015 it became landmarked. Needed LPC approval. DOB issued notice to revoke the permit but issued permit to weatherproof. 2016-17, new owners built 6 story. LPC said it was a temp wall, but there were new windows and doors. How can there be permanent windows and doors on a temp wall.
- Does LPC consider the wall to be temp?
- What point does the wall become permanent. How long can this keep happening?
- Is this a path to bypass LPC approval?

Klari – Have electeds been involved? Rich – yes... they have been involved, but more recently he has been reluctant to go to them because of being on the board

Jay –

- The original expansion was done before designation of historical district. LPC has nothing to do with it. Done as of right based on rules at the time
- Under the current rules, staff can approve changes in a rear façade. If the façade is not facing a Thorofare. Not a rear yard addition, just a change.
- Even where it can be approved by staff, and not visible by public, if the original was brick or stucco it needs to be replaced in kind
- There is a temp CoO. No permanent because there has not been final inspection (this is speculation)
- This may be the end of the line... if just may be something we can’t give any input (advisory)

Page – Been looking at the construction. slow and sketchy. Looking at zoning. Never got to the bottom of what these issues were. More DOB than landmarks. The files on this may have been “lost”. This is insidious. Rich should get a metal for monitoring this.... There should be a letter to LPC.

# STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2021, at 6:30pm

Steven Brown, Chair

**Present:** Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Richard Asche, Steven Brown, Elizabeth Caputo, Courtney Clark Metakis, Joshua Cohen, Christian Cordova, Ken Coughlin, Louisa Craddock, Catherine DeLazzero, Mark Diller, Beverly Donohue, Sheldon Fine, K Karpen, Natasha Kazmi, Doug Kleiman, Blanche Lawton, William Ortiz, Seema Reddy, Andrew Rigie, Melissa Rosenberg, Roberta Semer, Polly Spain and Howard Yaruss. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Ethel Sheffer, Kristina Villarini and Benjamin Wu. **Absent:** Linda Alexander, Michele Parker and Susan Schwartz.

The Steering Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Tuesday, January 18, 2021, on the Zoom online platform. Chair Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm after the Secretary confirmed a quorum was present. The following discussions were had, and actions taken.

## Chair Update

Steven Brown, Chair

The goal is to finish this meeting within an hour, to respect people's time. I have three items to report:

1. I sent an email to all board members formally letting people know that the Open Meetings Law has been extended. Details to follow.
2. I am pleased to announce that the Manhattan District Attorney, Alvin Bragg, will be presenting at our next full board meeting. Originally, the DA was approached to present at the Transportation Committee. But, now he will present to the full board at the Safety portion of our meeting.
3. I want to update on a task force. There will be 3 co-chairs for the Public Safety Task Force: Polly Spain, Josh Cohen, and Will Ortiz. They will be meeting this week and come back to us with more information.
  - Natasha Kazmi: For the DA's presentation, could questions be taken in advance? It could get chaotic otherwise.
    - Steven Brown: That is a great idea for Board members to submit their questions in advance.
  - Richard Asche: I would suggest that the NYPD representatives defer their presentations this one month in favor of giving more time to the DA. That would be a better use of everyone's time if the NYPD precinct commanders are willing.
    - Steven: Let me think about that and get back to you. It's a good suggestion.
  - Jay Adolf: The DA's statement has provoked a lot of discussion. Can we prevail upon the office to circulate to the board members a copy of the statement/directive so that we save time and avoid misinterpretations?
    - Steven Brown: The office can circulate this link to the members. The statement was released to the public though. Perhaps Max can help with this.
    - Ken Coughlin: I just put the [link](#) to the statement in the chat.
    - (From the Chat) Mark Diller: [Here](#) is another statement by DA Bragg.

## Committee Chair Reports

### Shelley Fine, Health & Human Services Committee (HHS)

This month, we have two important topics relevant to the whole community:

1. Mount Sinai will report on what is going on with covid now; and
2. The NYFD will do a presentation on fire safety.

I urge everyone to attend and bring others! We can save lives by getting this information out. I don't believe there will be a need for resolutions. But there may be information to be posted on the website.

### Christian Cordova, Business & Consumer Issues Committee

We had three new liquor license applications that were approved. We also had a conversation about Outdoor Dining. The consensus was to wait for the City to provide rules/guidelines before we comment.

**Melissa Rosenberg, Housing Committee**

We had a presentation about energy savings during surges. We also discussed putting together a working group to discuss goals for the Housing Committee going forward. We also discussed the recent fires at Wise Towers and the Brownstones. Perhaps getting electeds together with the committee and the public to address this would be helpful?

**Richard Asche, Land Use Committee**

We are meeting tomorrow night. We do not have any resolutions expected. We will be discussing the status of the Open Restaurants proposal and what if anything we should say about it, and if so, when. Perhaps for same reasons as BCI, we may not discuss the specific guidelines, but discuss the procedure for how the guidelines are arrived at.

**Barbara Adler, Parks & Environment Committee**

Our meeting is delayed due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Our first item is about Theodore Roosevelt Park Association, Friends of Theodore Roosevelt Park, and the Bull Moose Dog Run. There is a conflict about the dogs and the noise issues. The NYC Parks Department and the stakeholders need to agree on a solution for moving forward. Our second item will be Elizabeth Caputo presenting on COP26. We may have 1 resolution.

- Elizabeth Caputo: We have all been affected by Covid. The World Economic Forum, where I have worked for the past 8 years, is working on the climate change issue locally and globally. I will talk more about what is happening in cities around the world on this issue.
- Mark Diller: Barbara and I visited the dog run previously. There was an issue with the size of gravel. Will the Parks Department be prepared to discuss this?
  - Barbara Adler: I do not think this is an issue anymore. However, a Parks Department representative will attend the meeting.

**K Karpen, Preservation Committee**

We had a light month. There will be 1 resolution regarding a building on West 86<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbus Ave. We did also have a discussion on a topic that Rich Robbins brought to us about a brownstone that had two floors added on top of it before the extension of the Historic District. We are working with LPC on that, but there may not be much to do at this point. Lastly, the Delacorte Theater proposal will go to LPC a week from today.

**Howard Yaruss, Transportation Committee**

We have five agenda items. The first two are a consent to continue an underground garage at Lincoln Center, and also a consent regarding a brownstone stoop in the neighborhood. We talked about the Open Restaurant program but concluded that we need to wait until we have something to comment on. We discussed the need to have pedestrian and bicycle access to all bridges and tunnels in the City. DOT is aware of this. MTA must also be made aware. Finally, we had a spirited discussion on the DA's policy of not prosecuting fare evasion and driving without a license.

- Andrew Alpert: Nicole from the Manhattan Institute (MI) also spoke about DA Bragg's memo. It was a spirited discussion!
- Steven Brown: The speaker was very well received.
- Elizabeth Caputo: Could we post the slides that the speaker used? The data was very useful.
- Ken Coughlin: I would oppose posting the slides. They were skewed and highly tendentious, with a strong agenda.
- Louisa Craddock: The MI is a very conservative organization. I would be hesitant about endorsing something that is put out by them until we review and analyze it very carefully. Putting it up on our website would be a form of endorsement.
- Natasha Kazmi: If someone presented to the public at the CB, then we should not withhold the slides. They should be posted regardless of their political affiliation.
- Courtney Clark Metakis: The information is already out there. The political leanings are not relevant here.
- Steven Brown: I will consult with the Executive Committee and make a decision.
- Richard Asche: It is not commonplace for us to put committee presentation on our website. But if it is factual, then I don't see any harm to it. Perhaps a rebuttal can also be posted on the website, if needed.
- Howard Yaruss: I invited Nicole. She was appearing in her personal capacity, not representing her organization. I wanted to make that clear.

### **Blanche Lawton, Youth, Education, & Libraries (YEL)**

I am extending an invitation to attend our Thursday meeting. We are having the managing librarians and staff present and discuss with us some of the programs and activities they have developed during and since covid. I think we underestimate the role of the libraries in our communities. They will discuss the Adult Learning classes, social work intern program, services to teens, etc. I think you will find it surprising. I am not sure we will have a resolution this meeting. We have been pushing for the lower floor of the Bloomingdale Library to be opened to the public. It would be a costly endeavor, but given the importance of libraries, it may be the right time to push this again. I know it is in our District Needs Statement (DNS).

### **Roberta Semer, Strategy & Budget Committee**

Our DNS is complete and up on our website. This year we followed DCP's request. We will be meeting with each committee to discuss how we are moving forward this year. We will be doing a different process than have been done in past years. We were asked specific questions about specific items. So, having long lengthy reports was not as useful to us. We will come up with a protocol and will present it at the February Committee meetings.

- Beverly Donohue: We realized that we were among the last community boards not posting our DNS in the DCP format. So, we can streamline the process a bit.

### **Susan Schwartz, By-Laws Task Force**

Steven Brown: The task force has scheduled a meeting for this month. Susan couldn't attend tonight.

### **Elizabeth Caputo, Future Meetings Task Force**

For the UWS resident (on W72nd St.) who lost her life due to subway violence, it is tragic! There is a vigil going on for her right now. A lot of these issues are pressing right now. We want to commit ourselves in a non-partisan way to improve safety for all New Yorkers. In terms of the task force, things are constantly changing! How should we think about meetings going forward? It is a bigger question that the task force is thinking about now. We would like to have some comments ready by the February board meeting.

### **Roberta Semer, Seniors Task Force**

We had our meeting and are working on a directory with Councilperson Gale Brewer's office. Gale came to the meeting and had some ideas. We have a variety of agencies and representatives who attend. So, we are able sometimes to make a connection between stakeholders that gets things done. We are working on two things: 1) a directory for seniors; and 2) a zoom program for seniors on housing.

### **Public Safety Task Force**

Polly Spain: I am excited. We have a great group of 10 members who stepped up to join the task force. It's a tough and important issue. Public safety impacts all of us and our quality of life.

William Ortiz: I am excited about getting started with the task force.

Josh Cohen: Looking forward to working with everyone and getting started.

### **Old Business**

No Old Business.

### **New Business**

Melissa Rosenberg: The Fulton Houses Task Force at CB4 was a very successful group. Louisa and I spoke about how be more effective given the large issues facing Housing in our district. The Fulton Houses Task Force is an interesting potential model for us. They convened a series of meetings along with electeds, especially in response to a RAD conversion program. They were able to get engagement and NYCHA to the table. They concluded by issuing a report with recommendations that they then worked with the administration to implement.

- Steven Brown: What is the key issue here? NYCHA? Collaboration? We have a public safety task force and used to have a NYCHA task force. How would this work? Can you please share the report produced by Fulton Houses Task Force?
- Melissa Rosenberg: What are the quality of life issues, physical needs of NYCHA, and how do we address them – especially as relates to the conversions that are potentially happening?



- Louisa Craddock: One of the ways to get things done is to get electeds involved. The Fulton CB (CB4) acted to facilitate getting electeds, NYCHA administration, and tenant representatives all to the table at once to get things done. We can be facilitators and act to move the needle.
- Polly Spain: I commend CB members for reaching out to Cynthia Tibbs at the Brownstones. Out of dialogue and tragedy, she saw that there are people who care. Now is the time to build that bridge and move forward.
- Roberta Semer: Fulton House was a model in that they didn't want to become part of the RAD program. While they didn't solve the NYCHA problems, they did keep out of the RAD program. If we do something like this, we must do it carefully as we have three different building complexes, and each has different needs and problems, and approach conversions differently.

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.*

# LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Richard Asche and Jeannette Rausch, Co-Chairpersons

January 19, 2022 at 6:30pm via ZOOM

*The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.*

**Present:** Richard M. Asche, Co-Chair; Daniela Alvarado, Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Sheldon Fine, Klari Neuwelt, Seema Reddy, Melissa Rosenberg, Peter Samton and Ethel Sheffer. **Non-Community Board Members:** Andrew Albert, Mark Diller, Doug Kleinman and Roberto Semer. **CB7 Staff:** Max Vandervliet. **Absent:** Jeannette Rausch and Andrew Rigie.

The following topics were discussed:

1. **The open restaurant text amendment:** Richard Asche reported that neither the text agreement nor the Administrative Code provides for review of open restaurant applications to be located on the roadways, as distinct from the sidewalks. By contrast, the Administrative Code §25-225 provides for community boards' review and a public hearing with respect to sidewalk restaurant applications. It was the consensus of the Committee that denying community boards and members of the community a voice determining the appropriateness of roadway restaurants was inappropriate and unacceptable.

Several members of the Committee noted that New York is a diverse city with 59 community board districts, with differing priorities, traffic patterns and density. It was the consensus that allowing the community board the ability to express at a public hearing perceived issues with respect to the specific applications to be advantageous both to the community and to the applicant restaurants.

After discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed that elected officials could be made aware of the board's position on this time and that a letter should be sent from the board Chair and the chairs of BCI, Transportation and Landmarks, setting forth the board's position. It was further agreed that the board should take no position at present on the substance of any purported guidelines for indoor restaurants, but that the letter should reflect issues of concern which support the view that community input is important. These issues included:

- Safety issues concerning bicycle lanes placed between a roadway restaurant and the sidewalk;
- Vermin infestation;
- Esthetic concerns;
- Noise; and
- Access of emergency vehicles and traffic congestion.

It was agreed that Richard Asche should draft a proposed letter and circulate it for approval, first to the Board Chair, then to the Chairs of BCI and Transportation.

Following the meeting, a letter was circulated to committee members and approved by consensus of the Committee.

2. **West Park Church:** The Committee was alerted that the Presbyterian church which owns the West Park Church on the northeast corner of Amsterdam Avenue and 86<sup>th</sup> Street was planning either to sell the property to a developer or demolish the church, which would require approval by the Landmark Commission. The Committee believed that this issue was best handled by the Preservation Committee.

3. **6-16 West 77<sup>th</sup> Street penthouse:** The Committee was informed that the owner of the penthouse has submitted new plans which reduced the height of the penthouse by approximately one foot. The Committee was of the view that this matter should be referred to the Preservation Committee.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.*

RMA

# YOUTH, EDUCATION & LIBRARIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Blanche Lawton and Courtney Clark Metakis, Co-Chairpersons

January 20, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

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

**Present:** Courtney Clark Metakis, Blanche Lawton, Kristen Berger, Catherine DeLazzerro, Beverly Donahue, Mark Diller, Paul Fischer, Audrey Isaacs and Seema Reddy. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Roberta Semer. **Absent:** Rosa Arenas, Ira Mitchneck and Benjamin Wu.

Blanche Lawton gave brief overview of district Libraries and noted that Libraries do so much more than just loan books. In CB7 we have: Riverside (60<sup>th</sup> & Amsterdam), St. Agnes (Amsterdam & 82<sup>nd</sup> St), Bloomingdale (100<sup>th</sup> St between Columbus and Amsterdam) and The Library of Performing arts at Lincoln Center (is located within CB7 but not officially a CB7 library).

## 2. Presentation by Staffs of local Libraries with reports on tailored programs and outreach to diversified populations

- **Bloomingdale Library: Yajaira Mejia & Sam Scala**

Yajaira stated by thanking CB7 and its ongoing support and advocacy for the library. She said that they are excited to be back after being paused during the pandemic and are seeing more people every month. So much so they are starting to worry about getting too crowded. Ms. Mejia outlined some of the libraries Programing.

Programing includes:

- NYPL Afterschool- A Homework Help program for elementary school children, offered M-Th 3-6pm. This is a very popular program. The library is requesting an additional tutor, from the NYPL education department, to help meet demand.
- Pediatric Vaccine Clinic: The Bloomingdale Branch served as a clinic on Saturday over the past weeks. This program is scheduled to end on 1/22/22
- Single Stop- Free Tax Perp service available Tues 7 Saturdays Feb 3- April 15<sup>th</sup> by appointment only

Teen Space Programming (Sam Scala, Teen Information Assistant at Bloomingdale)

The teen space has been a huge success thanks to beautiful recent renovations and addition of this space. Teens use it in the afternoon as a hang out space and it has youth who turn up regularly. Some youths were able to use the space during the day while their classrooms experienced COVID closures.

They have hosted visits from 3 area middle schools, 1 area High School brough students for a session on using the databases.

Programs:

- Trivia Program- very popular, they have been able to offer this remotely during the current COVID wave
- Teen Advisory Group
- Free Book Fridays: give books away 1 Friday/month
- College & Career Pathways Program- Youth can enroll in the iCan Program and meet 1:1 for counselling with a librarian for resume and application help.
- Teen Book review- Students can earn community service credits by filling out book reviews

- **St. Agnes Library: Jennifer Zarr & Sara West**

Jennifer Zarr explained that the branch reopened in July 2021 and they have been phasing in programming.

- Tech Help Program- they work with digital grandparents; it is generally college students helping seniors and is very popular.
- Builder Labs- a school aged program.
- While the branch was closed during the pandemic, they offered many of their programs virtually and have been able to extend that in many cases to build on the demand for these virtual programs.

- Schools have not yet resumed visiting the library as regularly as they did pre-pandemic. They were able to work with a number of area schools virtually during the pandemic and in the current school year the librarians have been able to go to schools a few times.

- **Riverside Library: Tommy Buttaccio**

The library is pleased to be open, and Mr. Buttaccio outlined some of their current programming.

- Comic Chat
- Dungeons and Dragons Club (virtually)
- Book Club (Adult)
- Practice SAT: 1/29/22 with Princeton Review
- Childrens Story Time- will begin again in person weekly

Board members questions:

- Mark Diller, asked how and if one can donate books. Jennifer Zarr said St. Agnes branch hopes to resume their book sale after they can safely get volunteers in to help. Yajaira Mejia said that the Bloomingdale branch had a successful book drive in December.
- Courtney Clark Metakis, asked if Riverside branch will be adding a Teen center, noting the numerous High Schools in the area. Tommy Buttaccio answered that they would like it and we should “stay tuned”

**3. Update on YEL** Courtney Clark Metakis updated us on the requests and work from the December YEL meeting with the School Construction Authority (SCA). The SCA has been added to the district service cabinet meetings so they can continue to brief the board on work in the district. They have additionally added CB7 to their 2-week look ahead and project updates. Courtney continues to be in contact with parent leader about the state of scaffolding on district schools and the YEL is still looking at bring a question around school construction to the Comptroller.

**4. New Business, No New business.**

*Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm  
Submitted by K.Berger*

# HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Catherine DeLazzero and Sheldon Fine, Co-Chairpersons

January 25, 2022 at 7:00 PM via ZOOM

**Present:** Sheldon Fine and Catherine DeLazzero, Co-Chairpersons; Robert Espier. Audrey Isaacs, Madge Rosenberg, Sara Lind and Rich Robbins. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Mark Diller Paul Fischer, Doug Kleiman and Ira Mitchneck.

**CB7 Staff:** Maxwell Vandervliet, Assistant District Manager. **Absent:** Rosa Arenas. **Community Members Present:** 29.

## Update on Covid from the Mount Sinai Hospital System

**Brad Korn**, Director of Community Affairs of the Mount Sinai Hospital System introduced

Dr. Bernard Camins, Dr. Krystina Woods – Infectious Disease Doctors and Epidemiologists at Mt. Sinai

### Dr. Krystina Woods:

- Big part of job is educating public on infection.
- Agenda is giving people the right information to make decisions.
- In hospitals on West side, they saw COVID numbers picking up in December, beginning of Omicron wave, followed by hospitalizations.
  - Conversations about whether people are in hospital because of COVID, or if they just happened to test positive
  - Still seeing people who are there for COVID
  - Frustrating/disappointing because there are vaccines available. Tough to see people coming in as sick as people were in the beginning.
  - People who are vaccinated / boosted are not coming in for COVID. They are seeing those people in for other reasons who are asymptomatic but test positive

### Dr. Bernard Camins

- Has been advising Met Opera for COVID protocols
- Brooklyn, Queens hit harder, as fewer people are vaccinated. Not as bad as Staten Island.
- Mt. Sinai is seeing more of the immunocompromised.
- Omicron did hit a lot of people. If you get infected and survive, it gives you some immunity. It may not protect you as much for reinfection, but it does give you some immunity to protect you from severe illness.
- Hard to say if we will get another variant of coronavirus. But even if we do, people who have been previously infected will have some type of immunity.

Shelly Question: How soon after exposure do you get infected?

Dr. Woods: Omicron is only ~85% of all cases. You should get tested 2-3 days after exposure.

Robert Question: What recommendations do you have for travel?

Dr. Camins: I am traveling in February and March. I am prepared that I could get infected. Wearing a mask indoors does prevent transmission. Restaurants are still high risk, but we look at the number of cases. Recommends traveling to countries with higher rates of vaccination, especially as there are risks of closures and hospitals overrun in countries with lower levels.

Doug Kleiman Question: Can Omicron be transmitted through eyes?

Dr. Camins: There is some risk, such as if someone coughs on you, but it is low.

Madge Question: Are you better off getting Omicron to get it over with if you are vaxxed / boosted?

Dr. Camins: I wouldn't recommend having a COVID party like we did for chicken pox. There is data that if you were vaccinated, and got infected, you get sort of super immunity, so it does improve your immune system. Here's the caveat – the Omicron and Delta variants are not very similar – there's a lot of differences in the spike Protein which is the receptor

that causes the infection. We are seeing people who just got infected with Delta a few days getting infected with Omicron and we are looking at a case that is potentially the reverse.

Madge Question: Can someone who was infected in March 2020 who is vaccinated still get infected?

Dr. Woods: People who had the original coronavirus and then went on to get vaccinated after had extremely high levels of antibodies.

Catherine Question: What is the biggest challenge hospitals are facing?

Dr. Camins: If I had a superpower, I would have everyone vaccinated. People with other issues (heart attacks, strokes, etc.) can't get attention because of unvaccinated people. Spain and Portugal are looking much better because they are nearly 98% vaccinated.

Catherine Question: If you are asymptomatic, does that mean there is no harm, especially if you are high risk from other ailments?

Dr. Woods: Thoughts that COVID itself – even if mild or asymptomatic can leave people with some long COVID symptoms that are a result of sort of inflammation in the body. (All data that preexisted Omicron.)

Dr. Camins: You could still potentially be contagious. There's some data to show that vaccinated people actually are less contagious and unvaccinated people.

Dr. Woods: Everybody's risk tolerance is different.

Rich Question: With your saying that 85% are fully vaxxed, how many people are left who are unvaxxed and don't have prior infection?

Dr. Camins: 15% are unvaccinated among adults. Not counted in this are kids. A number of new cases of Omicron surge are 18-34s. And only 50% of kids 5-17 are vaccinated, yet we're sending them out into the community. We're seeing older people with lots of risk factors, or those for whom the vaccine is not very effective because their immune system is weakened.

Rich Question: Are you seeing many elderly who are boosted? Should elderly avoid any risk?

Dr. Camins: While the risk is higher as you get older, it's really is approaching seasonal flu. There will never be zero deaths from respiratory viruses right like flu. COVID is almost like getting the flu – a higher proportion of older adults will unfortunately go to the hospital and potentially even die from the disease, but when the positivity rate goes down below 5%, they can venture out, or in the springtime when it goes below 1%.

Rich Question: At what point does this become like the common cold or the flu, where people still go about their lives even if they are infected? We don't screen all people flying to the US for the flu.

Dr. Woods: One issue is that <5s can't get vaccinated. But <6 months can't get vaccinated for flu, and we tolerate some level of risk for them, but it's up to families to protect them. I think it's going to get to a place where we don't lock ourselves away every flu season. I think we're going to get there with this where we're going to realize that with, with the vaccines and with the treatments that we have which are getting better, that this is going to be something we're going to be able to manage and live with. I think we're getting close.

Dr. Woods: For vaccine skeptics who say that the vaccine isn't FDA approved, many take vitamins even though they aren't FDA approved. A friend also told her she didn't want to put anything in her body, even though she did botox pretty regularly. Dr. Woods pointed out that Botox is a toxin that she put in her head – this got the friend to get vaccinated.

**Shelly Introduced Fire Safety - Captain Joseph Delligatti of the FDNY Fire Safety Education Unit and Sandra Sanchez, Assistant Director, FDNY Community Affairs**

It all starts with prevention.

Space heaters need to their own dedicated outlet. They should automatically turn off if they tip over. Also they should have a timer so they can't run for 3 days.

Smoke detectors are important.

Be careful with candles

- Don't leave near plans, which can dry out
- Don't leave unattended
- Make sure it's in a sturdy holder
- Use battery operated candles

Don't leave things on your stove unattended. Use a kitchen timer.

If you purchase an extinguisher, Make sure it's an ABC extinguisher.

With cigarettes, don't smoke while you are laying down, especially if you are drinking or taking medication that makes you drowsy.

Don't smoke in same room as someone who takes oxygen.

SOUND THE ALARM program – 877-RED-CROSS (leave off the last S)

They'll show up with a little white van and install smoke detectors.

10-year lithium batteries. It'll chirp once when it's time to change the entire smoke detector.

Cynthia Tibbs, Tenants Association President of the West Side Urban Renewal Brownstones, expressed concerns that there aren't smoke alarms in the staircases in the W.S.U.R. Brownstones and requested help. Captain Delligatti said he would have the local firehouse do an inspection, and then send in a referral to DOB. Then it's up to DOB to implement FDNY's suggestions. Sandra Sanchez from FDNY said they are working on it. CB7's Assistant District Manager Maxwell said he reached out to HPD and is waiting to hear back.

Captain Delligatti – With most fires, it's not the fire but the smoke that kills people.

Don't shelter in place. Open apartment doors slowly to check for smoke or flames.

Important to have self-closing doors to contain fires.

Ira - FDNY issues certificate of fitness. Monthly inspections of sprinkler systems. Brownstones are supposed to have people have the certificates of fitness. Larger buildings are required to have a certificate of fitness for the fire standpipe.

Don't hide in a closet in a fire – you'll be at risk of smoke.

Do not open a hot door – find another way to get out.

**Stop, drop and roll**

**Stay low and go**

**Don't hide; go outside**



# PARKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Barbara Adler and Natasha Kazmi, Co-Chairpersons

January 26, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

**Present:** Barbara Adler and Natasha Kazmi, Co-chairs; Elizabeth Caputo, Daniela Alvarado, Ken Coughlin, Polly Spain and Susan Schwartz. **Non-Committee Board Member:** Linda Alexander. **Absent:** William Ortiz

## 1. Discussion regarding issues in Theodore Roosevelt Park stemming from barking dogs in Bull Moose Dog Run and dogs trespassing on lawns.

Community discussion of issues in Theodore Roosevelt Park related to dogs in Bull Moose Dog run and also in green space and lawn.

Barbara introduced the discussion and framed the issue, addressing Theodore Roosevelt Park and its history, and its public-private partnership with the Museum of Natural History. Steve Anderson, Peter Wright, Linda Alexander, 81<sup>st</sup> Street neighbors and patrons of Bull Moose Dog Run spoke and presented slides and information related to the dog run and raised two critical issues: 1) the noise impacting the community related to the dog run and 2) dog owners not following the rules about entering the green spaces within the Park that are prohibited to dogs. Conversation also ensued about the \$300,000 figure and how City Councilmember Brewer would be involved. The presentation is available at the 27:14 min mark located here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFA5I44kdg4&t=8s>

William Castro, Manhattan Parks Commissioner, joined the meeting to discuss enforcement and options 1) focused on replacing surface and looking at a new surface, said it would take some time and is looking for money available – pointed to both the City and how the Councilmember could help fund this 2) on PEP and how to include officers both in daytime and evening, putting them on extra hours to address late-night instances ) 3) engage the dog run – Commissioner specifically asked how to bring dog owners together to address leadership and educating everyone in a friendly way to control dogs and keep them from barking. He wants to schedule a meeting or reach out with dog run to have a series of discussions about the barking issue. Castro also addressed the issue of a wall and its potential effectiveness and costs.

Comments from Board members and community included those about safety, ticketing and enforcement, dog waste enforcement, educating parkgoers about the current parks rules via signage, fencing, and solutions for reducing noise.

Barbara Adler then presented a resolution, requested by Commissioner Castro, which was discussed by committee and board members before a vote, as follows:

WHEREAS, Bull Moose dog run, located in Theodore Roosevelt Park near West 81<sup>st</sup> Street and adjacent to the American Museum of Natural History's 20-foot garage wall, has created a major disturbance from sound bouncing off the garage wall since the late 1990s, when it was first built. Many of the residents along West 81<sup>st</sup> Street whose windows face the park have been negatively impacted by constant barking at all times of the day and night. In addition, over the past few years, many dog owners have elected to not use the Dog Run and instead illegally trespass with their dogs on closed lawns inside and around the perimeters of the park.

And Whereas, Friends of Roosevelt Park (the Friends) which has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Museum, since 2005, explored various ways to solve the noise issues for those living on West 81<sup>st</sup> Street in many different ways including the following plan developed by Cerami Associates, one of the country's leading acoustic engineering firms and noise specialists, whom the Friends of Roosevelt Park retained in 2020. Their advice was the following efforts would not make a meaningful difference, after testing the decibel level from several apartments on West, 81<sup>st</sup> Street. Those efforts included:

- Planting dense trees or bushes in front of the garage wall
- Planting a row of evergreen trees in front of the fence surrounding the dog run
- Installing an Acoustic Fence (Acousti©), an absorptive material that could be installed on the fence

AND WHEREAS, The Friends hired Cerami Associates a second time to recommend a solution that would work to achieve the minus 10 decibel level necessary to bring barking dog noises within acceptable noise levels:

- Recommending a 10-foot transparent barrier on the low fence that encloses the run, at a cost including the pilings of \$304,000, funding of which was promised by Council Member Gale Brewer, when she was still our Borough President.

Friends offered to screen this transparent barrier by planting evergreen trees the entire length, but the NYC Parks Department (Parks) thought this would not be approved in a landmark park by either Landmarks Preservation Commission or the Public Design Commission, both of whom would have to give approval.

Finally, Parks suggested that Bull Moose Dog Run, which is currently open all night, be closed at 9PM and reopened in the morning at 7AM by a uniformed Parks Enforcement Officer or another park employee.

AND WHEREAS, Compounding the noise situation, in the past year or so, people with dogs have taken to not using the dog run at all, and instead have started trespassing various lawned areas of the park closest to W.81<sup>st</sup> Street by cutting the temporary fence that's been placed there. This has exacerbated the noise issues to an unbearable level for those living adjacent to the park.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Community Board 7/Manhattan calls upon the Department of Parks and Recreation to immediately close Bull Moose Dog Run nightly at 9PM and reopen it again each following morning at 7AM, as is done in many other parks and playgrounds around Manhattan.

**AND FURTHER,** that a concerted effort be made be and immediately implemented either by PEP Officers (Parks Enforcement Control) or by the NYPD. If this is not achievable, then we call upon the Museum to install permanent unbreachable fencing around the lawns currently being abused.

*Vote: 5-1-1-0. Non-Committee Vote:3-0-0-0.*

## **2. Presentation and discussion on COP26 regarding Climate Change, and how we can help on the neighborhood level, led by Elizabeth Caputo.**

Elizabeth Caputo, CB7 P&E Member and former Chair, discussed her work at the World Economic Forum and current efforts to bridge global and local issues on climate and sustainability, including how COP26 could impact US Cities, and referenced and read from recent reports about these issues. Discussion focused on neighborhood issues where CB7 can continue to play a role: environmental justice, green buildings, tree canopies, electric vehicles among other topics. Polly Spain and Ken Coughlin provided input. Result of discussion was for Elizabeth to work with committee to ensure committee's agenda includes environment issues on agenda at least once per quarter and posting of links to relevant global cities work addressing issues related to CB7 district. Follow up to come from Elizabeth, Polly, Ken, and others.

*Meeting adjourned at approx. 8:15pm*

## BYLAWS TASK FORCE MINUTES MINUTES

January 27, 2022 at 10am

Susan Schwartz, Chairperson

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

**Present:** Susan Schwartz (SS), chair; Barbara Adler (BA), Jay Adolf (JA) and Natasha Kazmi (NK). r

**Non-Task Force Member:** Ken Coughlin and Richard Robbins.

We continued to modify the MBPO Bylaws template, beginning on page 11 Section III G Full Board Meeting Procedures to page 15 Section IV B Election of Officers. We also discussed getting input from the Full Board about areas of concern in the Bylaws and agreed to solicit input by email.

### Next Steps

1. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 17, 2022 from 10-11A.
2. Susan will send a draft of the email to the Full Board for Task Force review and then it will be sent to the Full Board for input.
3. We will begin our next meeting's discussion on Page 15 Section IV B Election of Officers.

# DISTRICT SERVICE CABINET MEETING MINUTES

Maxwell Vandervliet, Assistant District Manager

January 25, 2022 at 2:00 PM via ZOOM

*The District Service Cabinet of Community Board 7/Manhattan met via the Videoconferencing application Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by Assistant District Manager Maxwell Vandervliet.*

## INTRODUCTIONS

### • Future DSC Meeting Dates

- Requests have been made to have the same dates moving forward, preferably in the morning. I suggest the last Tuesday of the month, but we are open to flexibility based on the feedback received.
  - Verna- Please look into the meeting dates of other CBs, currently CB4 and CB10 changed their dates and time.

Max- will send out a doodle poll or some sort of collaborative polling piece so we can have a date that works for everyone and stick to that date moving forward. I will also reach out to other District Managers to see what their DSC meeting is dates and time.

## AGENCY UPDATES/ REPORTS

### • Wesley Hamilton, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation for Riverside Park

- Currently under winter operations and preparing for the upcoming snowstorm. Also, looking forward to spring.

**Q.** April- Who do we contact with icy conditions within parks? We received complaint about icy stairs and playgrounds.

**A.** Wesley- For most NYC Parks related snow issues One could use the 311 mobile app, 311 website or call 311. You can send them to me as well and can direct them to the appropriate NYC Parks Manager (or Parks representative). For Snow removal, We prioritize our labor efforts to our Park Perimeter sidewalks; crosswalks Staircases, ramps, fire hydrants and transportation related Park sites such as bus stops, greenway , through fares before clearing our interior paths or sites (ie: playgrounds).

### • Joshua Adams, School Construction Authority

- **Project at P.S. 165**, complaints received regarding garbage and rodent infestation concerns. SCA has a rat mitigating company setting bates/traps and testing in the school premises. Reported issued isn't coming from their project but neighboring properties excessive garbage at:

- 214 West 109<sup>th</sup>, 242 West 109<sup>th</sup> and 239 West 108<sup>th</sup> Street

**Q.** Joshua- Can DSNY investigate these complaints?

**A.** Marissa- please send info to forward to district.

Additionally, every Saturday isn't on their work schedule, but we do try to work them. These past Friday and Saturdays have been very windy and cold, due to safety, we don't have workers up on the roof. We don't want working materials flying off, we do have safety material in place shedding, netting, scaffolding, etc.

- **Project at P.S. 333**

**Q.** Max- Is the proposed Saturday work finalized or is there opportunity to change that? Also, when is it starting?

**A.** Joshua- Work is starting on January 29<sup>th</sup>. We got confirmation for all three principals from the school to help move the work along. We are attempting to work on a time frame to host a meeting with the PTA/PA's, community and neighbors yet setting it for this week would be too soon. We are aiming for next week but need to set up a time.

- Max, our position is important to get these issues on time, but we have a lot of residents that might have concerns with Saturday work. I will follow-up on that e-mail, and we can schedule something as soon as possible.

### • Katherine Zapata, Office of Emergency Management

- Annual Symposium on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am, if you are interested in presenting or know anyone that's a great speaker, please inform us.

- Topic this year is "The rise of Community during Emergency"

- Proposals open for "Strengthening Communities" Program, please feel free to reach out by Jan 28<sup>th</sup>
- Severe weather website is <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/severeweather/index.page>
- For any general information concerning the community please make sure you and constituencies either follow NotifyNYC or [NYC.gov/notifynyc](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/notifynyc/) for NYC official information in reference to emergency alerts and any city services.
- For additional questions feel free to email us at [intergov@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:intergov@oem.nyc.gov)

- **Colleen Chattergoon, Department of Transportation**

- Ydanis Rodriguez was appointed Commissioner of the Department of Transportation.
- We are working closely with Community Board's and Elected Officials on our Safety Improvement projects that are planned for this year
  - CB7 focused on the Rotunda project, we currently have a call with the Bridges Division and plan to reach out and meet jointly with the Transportation and Parks & Environment Committees with updates next month.
- We've been busy getting together the milling and paving schedule. If you know of any streets that's in need of milling and paving, please email location to check eligibility to be added to this year's schedule or if it's already on the schedule I can confirm.

**Q.** Max- We've received complaints regarding a removed lamppost on 110 West 70<sup>th</sup> (Bdwy – Col Ave) which hasn't been restored since late Summer. I did see a thread where you followed up in October. We would like to know where that stands or if an additional inspection should be made.

**A.** Colleen- I will follow-up with you on that once I reach out to the Street Lighting division. Usually when there is a missing lamppost it means the base has corroded which requires a new foundation to go in, which usually takes a few months to resolve.

- Nicole Paynter: Super in my district had reached out and I believe it was fully resolved.

- Colleen: I will confirm that.

**Q.** Erica- We're still getting complaints about the stretch of work happening along West 70<sup>th</sup> - 72<sup>nd</sup> Streets on WEA. Due to the manhole fire, they're conducting underground electrical work and I'm not sure what the other portion is. They are working late and getting an after-hour variance permits. Is there anyway DOT can go out and make sure all the planks and metal plates are harnessed?

**A.** Colleen- Whenever there's constructing and metal plates it's likely to shift due to heavy traffic in the area. Con Ed can go out and there and secure as often as they can, but it will continue to happen. I can have someone inspect the area and have Con Ed go out and secure the plates.

- **Kimberly Williams, Con Ed**

- Regarding the work being done on W 70<sup>th</sup> -72<sup>nd</sup> Street
  - Apologies because I don't believe anyone was really given notice. There was a transmission emergency last week and it's likely for them to catch/find the leak they most likely worked overnight which is protocol. Usually by the time a notification goes out. It's done. Once found they might work an additional night or two to clean up and then resume their regular schedule.
- Updates on work happening within CB7:
  - WEA
    - West 63-66<sup>th</sup>, work is still ongoing and proposed to complete by the end of March. We did receive a complaint about the plates and a crew project manager ensured the crews will re-access the plates and make sure that's taken care of.
    - West 69<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> Streets, there's two on-going projects.
      - They are currently between W 70<sup>th</sup> – 72<sup>nd</sup> Streets The project manager understands communities' concerns and they started backfilling in smaller stretches than they typically would in a good effort to address those concerns.
    - West 70<sup>th</sup>, we are waiting for a schedule to fix the smoking manhole and electrical issue that happened. Last week Friday those plates were completely re-accessed.
  - West 83<sup>rd</sup> Street (Central Park West – Riverside Dr)
    - Gas main replacement going through June with a shorter time frame proposed to mid-March. We are working on the Street.
  - West 84<sup>th</sup> Street and 76<sup>th</sup> Streets (Amsterdam Ave)
    - EV Charging stations, this work was postponed, and locations changed last year.

All these jobs had work notices sent to CBs, if you are not getting the work notification and would like to get them, please email me. Also, please update info to be added to the emergency list for upcoming heatwaves or major storms that may impact underground system.

**Q.** Monica- latest update is we are waiting for one feeder cable to be pulled at the Southeast corner of W 64<sup>th</sup> Street, it's dead. Once that's done the catch basin work can be completed. This has been going on for over a year now. It's important that this feeder cable gets pulled asap. The contractor is almost finish, they are ready to put down

asphalt. This is causing terrible traffic back up (W 64<sup>th</sup> & BDWY) and this is where our restaurants are located. If the contractor can't finish, they will need to demobilize and come back which will create havoc. Please follow up and get this feeder pulled asap.

**A:** Kimberly- Please send an e-mail and I will follow up. I typically don't report on City projects.

- **Verna, Department for the Aging**

- The distribution of 10,000 free laptops. Priority given to older adults who live alone, do not have an internet-enabled, do not have electronic device, are participants in the senior centers and are interested in virtual programming. Tablets include free internet data from now until June 30, 2022. For more information on the free tablets for older adults, please call 212-244-6469.

- **Sandra Sanchez, Fire Department of NY**

- Our fire safety tip for the month, "Use of Space Heaters."
  - We want to be mindful heaters are not to be used 24/7 and need a moment to cool off. They shouldn't be connected to extension or power strip. If you leave the room or are sleeping it should be off.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> an escape plan should be implemented and be mindful to close the door.

Max- CB7/M will be hosting a H&HS Committee tonight that will include fire safety link will be shared in the chat

- **Tirso Taverz Department of Buildings**

- No reports or service updates but I am available to address any issues if needed.

**Q.** April – Are there any department-wide updates about how DOB plans to handle this extensive sidewalk shed and scaffolding that have been up 10-15 plus years?

**A.** Tirso- The department has been looking into drones to scan the façade that may cut the time of having the sidewalk sheds and scaffoldings up. Currently they are required by law due to public safety and the building owners are responsible to do the work on the façade. There is talk that they are trying to help streamline the inspection but if a building is found unsafe those scaffolding and sidewalk shed must go up immediately.

- **Marissa Yanni, Department of Sanitation**

- Sanitation Collection is on schedule, no major updates.
- Due to the expected snow on Friday and Sunday collection will be suspended. Depending on cleanup it might extend into Sunday and Monday.
  - Clean protocol- Start with spreaders, then plows, bike lanes, crosswalks and Bus stops.
  - Manhattan Snow Plan:  
[https://dsny.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-2022-Snow-Plans\\_Manhattan\\_Final.pdf](https://dsny.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-2022-Snow-Plans_Manhattan_Final.pdf)

**Q.** Max- Consensus, did things go well with the snowstorm a week or two ago? We didn't receive any complaints.

**A.** Marissa- No complaints were received. The only issue that was raised was bike lanes. Bike Lanes are done after the streets due to a limit of our personnel.

**Q.** Joshua- My understanding is where a sign states street cleaning occurs is covered by the DSNY, but in front of schools there's only a no parking sign except school staff. Does DSNY clean in front of those special parking or is it up to the school

**A.** Marissa each block is different, up to the CB which block receives asp. I will need to get back to you. I believe so, as long as the street has asp we do it, unless you see a street that doesn't have a asp sign. Schools usually don't have a sign in front of it. Yet it shouldn't matter if there's a school there.

- Joshua- The only reason I brought it up is because I was informed no trucks have come by to do any street cleaning in front of the school
- Marissa- If cars aren't moving, we can't get street sweepers down there. DOT website gives you a map with all the street signs that are in the city and references if a street specifically is asp, <https://nycdotsigns.net/>
- Colleen- If a street is missing an asp, it would be best that this goes to the CB and follow-up with a resolution, and we would coordinate with DSNY to install the signage based on sanitations schedule and the area.
- Joshua – I understand school are opened early and those blocks are probably full of cars by the time DSNY arrive.

- **April Adams, Manhattan Borough President Office**
  - Mark Levine is the new Manhattan Borough President Office
  - Staff has changed, if you need assistance e-mail me and I will point you to the right person
  - CB Application Processed opened, please encourage people to apply
  - Mark Levine, recently signed along with Manhattan City Delegation calling for MTA to begin pilot installation of platform screen doors in at least one station in Manhattan and then do a study to see if there can be a broader system-wide rollout. We are advocating for bigger safety measures on the subway
  
- **Pauline Ferrante, Health & Mental Hygiene**
  - Federal government will be mailing at home test kits. One order per residential address which would impact multi-family homes. Four kits per order, once a month per residential address.
  - Transmission is still high please get your booster. For testing and vaccination, we highly recommend using a city run site to receive your incentive and avoid any service fee. Inspectors across the agency are being utilized for “Key to NYC Enforcement”. If you are going into an establishment you need to show proof of vaccination if you are 5 and older.
  
- **Humberto Galarza, Department of Environment**
  - 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest. Entries for second through twelfth grade students attending public, independent, charter, home-schooled, etc. in NYC. Entries will be accepted online until March 4, 2022. Teachers, parents, and students can visit [nyc.gov/dep/artandpoetry](http://nyc.gov/dep/artandpoetry) to view the contest guidelines. Feel free to share, if anyone has any questions or concern, feel free to reach out.
  - Service Request Stats, as of December 2021:
    - Top 311 complaint are:
      - Noise Construction before after hours with 91 calls
      - Noise construction equipment with 46 calls
      - Dirty Water with 43 calls
        - Assume comes from construction, doesn’t necessarily mean it’s a city-related construction. Contractors do use fire hydrants consistently which can change the pressure and move the sediments within the water.
  - Construction on Broadway and West 64<sup>th</sup>
    - Permit to work through the holiday was approved.
      - Monica- we are at the final stretch and only outstanding task is pulling the feeder cable which will take about 2-3 days to complete. We can’t allow them to demobilize, Con Ed must deal with this. DEP has been great; we have a weekly call! This issue effects all the restaurants in that corner.
      - April- anything MBPO can do to help?
      - Kimberly, Gus is away and it’s as high as it could go.

**Q.** MV- Multiple report of potentially illegal smokestack at 250 West 78<sup>th</sup> Street, I would like to bring to your attention to inspect or provide input soon. I have pictures that I can share. It looks very tenuous.

**A.** Humberto- It’s something I could look into with Tirso (DOB)  
Tirso Taverez, I will also have DOB look into it
  
- **Brice Peyre, AM Gottfried**
  - Liaison with Gottfried since 2014. We cover the Southeast corner of CB7, it runs up to West 70<sup>th</sup> Street. That Corridor between CPW and Columbus, essentially a part of Lincoln Center.
  - I would like to remain updated on project on West 64<sup>th</sup> Street and BDWY.
  
- **Grant Dennis, Senator Jackson**
  - Bill of the Week S6089, requires landlord to make sure their properties are in compliance with NY property maintenance code. Bill requires inspections of non-fireproof buildings every three years and any violations found need to be fix within six months, if they aren’t the landlord will be fined \$100 per day until the violation is resolved.
  - Senator Jackson is the chair of the Civil Service and Pension Committee of the NYS Senate
  - Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) has been re-opened. For issues with rental relief, we recommend that you apply to this process.



**CB7 Staff:** Maxwell Vandervliet, ADM and Yassiel Nieves, CA. **Agencies Present:** April Adams, MBPO; Joshua Adams, SCA; Tirso Alvarez, DOB; Verna Arthur, DFTA; Ariel Bi, DCP; Colleen Chattergoon, DOT; Humberto Galarza, DEP; Pauline Ferrante, DOH&M; Matt Genrich and Wesley Hamilton, DP&R; Marissa Yanni, DSNY; Katherine Zapata and Brian Fagnoli, CEM; Sandra Sanchez, FDNY; Kimberly Williams, ConEd; Monica Blum, Ralph Memoli and Phil Gordon, Lincoln Square BID; and Nicole Paynter, Columbus Ave BID. **Elected Officials:** Grant Dennis, Senator Jackson; Tevin Williams, Senator Hoylman; Erica Overton, AM Linda Rosenthal; and Brice Peyre, AM Gottfried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.