

# FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2022 at 6:30pm via ZOOM

Steven Brown, Chairperson

**Present:** Steven Brown, chair; Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Daniela Alvarado, Richard Asche, Kristen Berger, Elizabeth Caputo, Courtney Clark Metakis, Joshua Cohen, Christian Cordova, Ken Coughlin, Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Catherine DeLazzero, Mark Diller, Beverly Donohue, Robert Espier, Sheldon Fine, Paul Fischer, Miranda Goodwin-Raab, Madelyn Innocent, Audrey Isaacs, K Karpen, Natasha Kazmi, Doug Kleiman, Blanche Lawton, Sara Lind, Ira Mitchneck, Klari Neuwelt, Michele Parker, Seema Reddy, Andrew Rigie, Richard Robbins, Madge Rosenberg, Melissa Rosenberg, Peter Samton, Susan Schwartz, Roberta Semer, Ethel Sheffer, Polly Spain, Anthony Thomas, Kristina Villarini, Benjamin Wu and Howard Yaruss. **Not Present:** Linda Alexander, Rosa Arenas, William Ortiz, Jeannette Rausch and Erana Stennett.

**CB7/M Staff:** Max Vandervliet, District Manager and Jessie Nieves, Community Associate.

The full Board of Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 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.

## Public Safety Session

### Reports from the NYPD 20<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, Central Park Precincts and FDNY

#### Captain Nori Lazarus, Executive Officer of the NYPD 24<sup>th</sup> Precinct

- We are up slightly, 3%, in the last month in crime according to CompStat. And for the year to date, up 24%.
- Burglary crimes are the reasons for the rise in both percentages. Package thefts are the most common, frequent problem. These are typically packages that are being taken from building lobbies. They often connect a few people to most of these crimes. There have been a number of arrests due to great work by patrol officers and/or detectives. Please secure your packages! If you can deliver them to other locations, that is ideal. Please do not buzz people into buildings that you do not see and know.
- There was a shooting in January at Douglass Houses. But no additional shootings since. There are NCOs and sector officers out there on the streets.

#### Mr. Keith Harris, Frederick Douglass Houses

- I spoke with Deputy Inspector Naguchi regarding the PAL Program. The PAL Program is a longstanding institution where cops of the precinct participated in enrichment programs with children (aged 12-17) in the Douglass Houses. Schools and churches are also included in these programs.
- There is a vast missing chasm of these programs between Brandeis HS at W84th and Riverside Church. If you put positive options in front of children, they will often make the right choice. It is important to give children options and alternatives as opposed to letting children wander into bad experiences.
- I oversee the coaching recess program. We are looking for venues to host some of these programs. And we are looking for funding and community resources to support these potential future outreach programs.
- I'll be here listening to the meeting and would love to continue the dialogue later.

#### Captain Willian Gallagher, Central Park Precinct

- We had a beautiful ceremony in Central Park, memorializing 8 police officers who died in the line of duty in Central Park. Some of them were recent occurrences (a death 5 years ago), and some of them passed more than a 100 years ago. It is an important opportunity to remember those who came before us, who sacrificed so much.
- We had a good 28-day period. No felony crimes in Central Park. Based on the seven major crimes, we haven't had any crimes in those categories in the past month.

## Q&A

- Steven Brown: There was a high-profile anti-Semitic incident in the district. Can we get more info on this?
  - Captain Lazarus: The incident took place in the 20<sup>th</sup> Precinct. The Hate Crimes Unit is investigating. It is disturbing. Deputy Inspector Yaguchi has made us available to visit schools to discuss hate crimes. We are responding by making sure our presence is more visible and inviting people in to discuss further. I cannot speak further on the investigation.

- Susan Schwartz: I noticed a fire in Central Park. Can you please tell us more?
  - Captain Gallagher: During the past month, an individual set a fire in the North Woods. The fire spread quickly. We have an idea who the individual is. Arson is investigated by a separate unit of the NYPD and NYFD. They are investigating. The person lit a fire in the one place in Central Park where people wouldn't be harmed. The NYFD came in and put it out immediately. It is an ongoing investigation. I don't have reports of any other intentional fires set in Central Park. There are occasional brush fires that occur.
- Peter Arndsten, Columbus/Amsterdam BID: Can Keith Harris please share his info with CB7 and the BID? We have a strong interest in supporting your activities.
- Shelley Fine: I first want to commend Keith Harris on his work. My wife's students were three of the boys who were approached in the anti-Semitic incident. The alleged perpetrators had ski masks and weapons and approached the boys. The boys were fortunately able to escape. Maybe the Safe Haven Program on the UWS should be revived. Stores and buildings who participate would receive stickers making it clear they were safe havens that people could go to in moments of need or distress. This was a serious incident that happened. Fortunately, no one was hurt! Captain Zuber and the 20<sup>th</sup> Precinct responded quickly. Basically, everything that can be done has been. Councilperson Gale Brewer also made sure everything was being handled appropriately.
- Erin Cramm: Can we please talk about the loud concert/open street events on W109th?
  - Peter Arndsten: Please get in touch with me to discuss further.
  - Max Vandervliet can coordinate the contact.
- Rich Robbins: We don't get information regularly on traffic incidents. There have been more than 200 traffic incidents in our district, with 84 injuries. What is being done to reduce this number?
  - Captain Lazarus: Traffic safety is always an important topic. Within the 24<sup>th</sup> Precinct, we are up slightly in collisions. Year to date, we are up slightly. In terms of enforcement, there are collision-prone areas (104 and Amsterdam, 96<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, 96<sup>th</sup> and Amsterdam). We concentrate enforcement on vehicles and cyclists in those areas. We are also stepping up education, city-wide. We do take concerns and requests from the community and pass those along to DOT who makes the final decision. Vision Zero is still what we aim for. We involve the whole precinct, not just the traffic officers.
- Kristen Berger: Perhaps Keith Harris can come speak to the YEL Committee. I have some ideas of places to start supporting Keith Harris's work.
- Ken Coughlin: For Captain Gallagher, I want to raise the problem of fast-moving electric vehicles on the loop in the park. I hesitate to call for enforcement. It is tricky. But eventually, there will be a tragedy.
  - Captain Gallagher: In terms of education, the electric vehicles are a brand-new change in the law, and some people are confused about the legality. Getting the word out about the legality of the vehicles is a work in progress. There needs to be more enforcement – especially with respect to these types of vehicles. I don't have any data that supports additional collisions right now. But, that may change as the weather warms up.
- Reed Perron: Is it feasible to require license plates on e-bikes?
  - CG: In order to do this, the vehicle needs a VIN number. But, these vehicles don't have VIN numbers when created. So, it is impossible to do this now. But, I hope that it can be done in the future.
- Robert Espier: What was the follow-up from NYPD on the anti-Semitic incident?
  - Shelley Fine – The mother of one of the boys called the NYPD. Officers immediately came and questioned the boys. They are now investigating. As of now, there are no reports by any by-standers or witnesses.
  - Captain Gallagher: The NYPD and the DA's Office have a diversion program. For instance, a 16-year-old kid who does something foolish may be arrested. The DA diverts the case and stops the criminal process at that time and instead puts the kid in a program of some kind. It is often effective, especially with low-level non-violent offenses. But, carrying a machete is serious issue. We have an extensive amount of NYPD Children's programs.
  - Keith Harris: There is no excuse for the conduct of the kids involved in the anti-Semitic incident. But a diversion project was successful in a similar case in the past.
- Madelyn Innocent: The Federal Government cut a lot of these youth programs. PAL is a fine program. I think things need to be a bit more creative today. Anything associated with the police can make kids a little skeptical. Maybe a chess program could be successful? Trust with people and with police needs to be rebuilt.
  - Mr. Harris: Across the board, there is an adversarial tension between citizens and police. But I think there are five areas of interest for youth: creative, artistic, social, technological, and athletic.

## Business Session

### Health & Human Services Committee, Catherine DeLazero and Sheldon Fine, Co-Chairpersons Resolution Re:

#### 1. Strategies for preventing suicide and self-injury.

**Catherine DeLazero:** Suicide can be prevented by screening, early intervention, looking into root causes, etc. We learned about this during our committee meeting with our guests from Safe Horizons. There are warning signs for suicide and self-harm and certain behaviors and moods that can be seen. In the United States, suicide is one of the leading causes of death, especially among adolescents. Rates of suicide attempts among youth have increased significantly especially among black youth, black girls, LGBTQ youth. The speakers said they know what works, but more of it needs to be done. Intervention and timely access to evidence-based care is key. NYC Well is a great linkage and crisis response resource that provides a lot of information online. NYC should invest in more timely crisis response care, as well as technology and resources for follow-up and long-term care. Public service announcements to destigmatize this issue would be very helpful. There are clear root causes and risks that lead to these kinds of behaviors that are preventable!

- Polly Spain: I attended the meeting and want to thank you for bringing this to everyone's attention. As someone who works for the DOE, I do see youth who have some of these issues of concern. What ages do youth typically suffer the trauma that can trigger these suicidal tendencies?
  - There is a lot of research that is being done now on the increased suicidality of black youth. The trauma does seem to be starting young. Black children and youth are also more likely to die by suicide after experiencing a crisis.

Vote: 37-0-2-0

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

#### Resolution Re:

2. **42 West 70th Street** (Central Park West – Columbus Avenue.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness regarding (a) restoration of the front façade by eliminating through-the-wall air conditioner grilles; (b) addition of a rooftop stair bulkhead and elevator overrun; and (c) replacement of a curved bay window on the rear façade with a unified fenestration system.

Michele Parker: Sometimes an application has parts that are not relevant to CB review, but instead go straight to LPC Staff, rather than the LPC commissioners. But this month, a couple of parts of an application normally not subject to review by us, came to our attention. On #2, Section A is not for our review. The penthouse portion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> resolution has been withdrawn.

K Karpen: There are 3 resolutions tonight – all three are townhouse renovations.

The proposed new fenestration for the rear yard, creating three separate vocabularies and configurations for the fenestration with inconsistent details, is not appropriate to the character of the Historic District.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan:

- a) **Takes no position** on the front façade proposals removed from public review;
  - b) **Approves** the creation of a stair bulkhead and elevator overrun on the roof, and **approves in principle the removal of the bay window on the rear facade**, as reasonably appropriate to the character of the Historic District; and
  - c) **Disapproves** the proposed new rear façade fenestration with inconsistent configurations and details and widened openings, as inappropriate to the character of the Historic District.
- Page Cowley: I would ask that the committee might suggest that while the Owner did not accept the option to repair the bay window, it should be noted that we would like the LPC's opinion as to whether an element like the Bay Window can be salvaged. Or else, we will lose so much neighborhood character over time.
  - Ethel Sheffer: I am not clear if Page is saying that the Bay Window is worthy of saving or not? I agree the bay window should be saved.
  - Jay Adolf: I unfortunately missed the committee meeting. I agree with Page. Can we simply, by consent, in addition to disapproving the proposed fenestration, add language that recommends or insists that the bay window be repaired/restored if feasible?
    - This friendly amendment was accepted by the Committee Chairs.
  - Ira Mitchnick: I disagree and would like to break into multiple votes certain of these applications.

Vote: 34-2-3-0

3. **51 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street** (Columbus Avenue – Central Park West). Application #LPC-22-06483 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness regarding: (a) modifying the basement and parlor floor front façade and fenestration; (b) modifying the fenestration on the existing rear yard extension and façade; and (c) expanding the penthouse.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan resolves to (a) **approve** the proposed front and rear façade changes as reasonably appropriate to the character of the Historic District, with a recommendation that the rear yard be covered in a permeable surface or semi-permeable pavers; and (b) **express no opinion** on the proposed rooftop addition which has been removed from CB7 consideration and public review.

K Karpen: Part C was withdrawn. Many years ago, the front stoop of this brownstone was removed. The renovation is to make the front façade make more sense visually from the outside and from within. In the rear, the proposal is relatively modest. The rooftop will be handled at staff level.

*Vote: 35-2-1-0*

4. **323 West 87<sup>th</sup> Street** (West End Avenue – Riverside Drive). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness regarding (a) stonework restoration and replacement of the existing transom and French doors within an arched window on the front façade at the top floor; (b) a rooftop addition with a stair bulkhead and skylight; and (c) replacement of fenestration on the rear façade and L extension at the ground and parlor floors.

The proposed rooftop addition and rear yard fenestration changes are reasonably appropriate to the character of the Historic District. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan approves the rooftop addition and rear yard fenestration as reasonably appropriate to the character of the Historic District and expresses no opinion on the front façade work removed from public hearing and public review.

K Karpen: This is a relatively shorter townhouse. The rear façade and rooftop addition are what is up for review here.

*Vote: 36-0-2-0*

#### **In-Person and Remote Task Force, Elizabeth Caputo, Chair**

##### **Resolution Re:**

5. Supporting State Senator Brad Hoylman's bill S7261

Elizabeth Caputo: Thanks to everyone for their participation on and input to this task force. There are two issues:

- How, when and if we host meetings? (full board meetings, committee meetings)
- People (board members and members of the public)

We now have a public list of task force members. Please contact me if you are interested in joining. We plan to do two to three more meetings before we pause in August. We have a specific matter that was raised at this month's meeting. The following is a resolution in support of specific legislation, drafted by Senator Brad Hoylman.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 Manhattan **supports** the adoption of S7261 and A8155, identical bills before the New York State Senate and Assembly, respectively, which would amend the Open Meetings Law to permit but not require public bodies, including Community Boards and their Committees, to meet using virtual platforms such as they have been using during the pandemic, as well as hybrid meetings taking place both via electronic means and in a physical location.

- Jay Adolf: I have a friendly amendment. I believe the resolution was not clear. The existing law already references videoconferencing. So, there is no required statutory resolution for whether video is permitted for meetings. There is no specific definition for video conferencing in the law. If not specifically defined, then common usage of a term is acceptable. So, in today's usage, the term videoconferencing would include Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Ring Central, etc. The proposed bill does not address this.
  1. The original bill says that if a public body chooses to use videoconferencing, they must notify the public so they can attend and have access to any location where a member of the body is participating remotely in the meeting – an anachronistic bit of language in the bill! This bill eliminates that requirement.
  2. This bill establishes requirements for the minutes and other associated record keeping and

transcripts for virtual meetings.

Ken Coughlin and I propose amending the resolution to clarify these two points.

- Elizabeth Caputo, the chair of the task force, has accepted this as a friendly amendment.
- Roberta Semer: What was voted on at the meeting is not what is before us now.
- Ken Coughlin: The original wording of the resolution was a bit of shorthand and not totally accurate. We are not saying that we will hold virtual meetings. This simply would give us the option to do so, if we deem appropriate, without State approval. Changing the Open Meetings Law and bringing it into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is important to do. Then we would not require the Governor to act to give us this option.
- Susan Schwartz: How does this relate to the ability of board members to vote when not in person? And, as regards attendance, how does that relate to whether an attendee's video is on during the meeting. I am deeply uncomfortable with our board voting on this as it is premature.
- Jay Adolf: Without any change in the law, public bodies can hold meetings via videoconference. However, we would have to allow the public to be present at any location. This bill doesn't say anything about voting. But under existing law, if a body chooses to hold the meeting via videoconference, the members can vote. This bill does not address whether video is on or off during a meeting and the implications of that for attendance. The Open Meetings Law applies to every public body in New York State. I think it is premature to vote on this as a result. I think it needs a more comprehensive approach.
- A thorough discussion was had by the community board members with many perspectives represented. Issues raised include:
  - Equity of access, and the privilege of the time to participate
  - The benefits of technology to enable those with physical challenges to attend
  - The benefits of more direct engagement in person with fellow members of the public and the board
- Senator Brad Hoylman: Your timing is opportune. We are now negotiating a piece of the NYS budget that would address some of these issues with virtual meetings. I plan on sending you comments and vote to Senate's Council tonight because this should be in print as early as tomorrow.

*Vote: 25-2-10-0*

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

**Vote: Unanimous**

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

- We are very happy to officially announce our new DM, Max Vandervliet!
- The Steering Committee is this upcoming Thursday because of holidays.
- There is work being done by the MBPO's office about equity especially as relates to all board members being allowed an opportunity to speak. I encourage us to be conscious of this.

#### **Community Session**

##### **Keisha Sutton-James, MBPO Office**

- As you know, MPB Levine has been calling for the need for the virtual meetings options for quite some time. He also joined all five BPs for calling for a hybrid solution, and for supporting Senator Hoylman's legislation.
- Stay Healthy to Stay Open – MBP Levine's public health initiative regarding covid, encouraging boosting for vaccines, and calling for Covid safety bags that will include masks, test kits, etc., and also to have masks available at all city buildings and to have better testing data in all neighborhoods as a public health management tool.
- With regarding to CB applications, there have been a record 900 applications to serve in Manhattan. Please reach out to Eric Cuello to sign up for an interview if you are reapplying and haven't already interviewed.
- MBP Levine provided testimony regarding more funding for parks. We are calling to increase to 1% funding for Parks. This is in concert with the call for 1 million additional trees.
- Lastly, I want to thank everyone for participating in the Borough Board Meeting this month. It was a lively presentation on the proposed budget. We look forward to hearing from our community boards and receiving feedback on the budget priorities.

**Councilperson Gale Brewer**

- Congrats to Max. We love working with him.
- We are dealing with sanitation issues. The good news is that it is in the budget. It is one of the topics that will get reinstated in terms of more dollars for pick-ups and more organics pick-ups. If we don't increase pick-ups for organics, then we will lose it. So, please go to DSNY or my newsletter and sign up. It's a very personal group of city employees working on organics. Please push people to get the numbers up on this. We will also push for more pick-ups, and to change alternate side of the street to allow for more street sweeping. We are doing a walk-through of W72nd Street with Sanitation to please keep the area clean.
- We will do the same thing with vacant store fronts. The chamber of commerce got a huge grant to research vacant store fronts.
- In terms of the budget, the mayor's answer from the City Council talks about sanitation, youth programs, mental health, workforce development, etc. But there is very little money for affordable housing, homelessness, etc.
- There are numerous bills I am working on – several of which are carryovers from my time as MBPO. All of them are available on my website.
- On W103rd Street, we were able to get NYCHA to fix up enough of the foundation of the building so the DOT can come in and fix the sidewalk. It was quite complicated to get the agencies to talk to each other.
- I would like to get the community centers at NYCHA to be open for more hours. This is another item that needs to go into the budget.
- We get tons of calls about Amazon trucks. I am going to address the illegal parking of their trucks.
- West Park Presbyterian Church was just sold by the church to a developer who wants to tear it down and build condos. I will fight this and have already talked to the LPC. It is a landmark. This is a real challenge.
- The Solder and Sailors monument requires \$38-40M to restore the monument to its grandeur and to get rid of its surrounding fence.
- Participatory budgeting is going well. Many people are signing up online to participate. The last day to sign up is April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- We have given out thousands of test kits in recent days, thanks to the city.

**NYS Senator Brad Hoylman**

- We are in the final stretch with the NYS budget. It will be a timely budget, but not on time. We are headed toward voting beginning as early as Thursday. Bills are being printed now. This will determine the fate of a lot of efforts that I have been pushing. We will send details as they are available. Your concerns on the Open Meetings Law will be raised. Thankfully we have a surplus, but there are a lot of competing interests at work. The bail laws have been a source of negotiation. We will see where we end up.
- I passed a law that would outlaw tampering with mission control devices on cars. These are meant to measure car emissions.
- I am continuing to participate in a booster trial. The latest booster is targeted specifically toward omicron. If you need test kits, my office has them and can distribute them.

**Erica Overton, NYS Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal's Office**

- Echoing much of what Senator Brad Hoylman said, AM Rosenthal is hard at work on the budget. The AM send a letter to DEP regarding changes in the idling law. There will be an anti-idling roundtable in late April.
- On W73rd St, we had DOT do a lighting study, and just got results. The lights will come back on – new lights to be installed.
- The AM's bill to exempt certain resources to people who are involved in poverty programs is being proposed.

**Sophie Secor, NYS Senator José Serrano**

- We have some covid tests available. Contact us for tests.
- We passed two bills – permit farmers markets in state parks, and to create a state park passport program to connect more people to our parks.

**Emmit Sklar, NYC Councilmember Shaun Abreu's Office**

- We are excited to have some of our priorities included in the preliminary budget. : Property tax rebate for homeowners in needs, mental health services, housing priorities, help with rat abatement.

- We are working on getting the word out about fire safety, especially as relates to self-closing fire doors in large buildings.
- We had our first Green Card Wednesday. If you know someone who needs assistance with immigration issue, please contact us.
- We are working on cleaning up the Broadway Malls. Please reach out to us via a sanitation survey
- We are also running our monthly food pantry.

**Hannah Weinerman, US Representative Jerry Nadler's Office**

- In March, Congress passed the federal appropriations bill which awarded \$10.8M to NYS.
- Moore's Law was passed – expunging marijuana convictions. It is headed to Senate now.
- Student loan repayments have been suspended for another period.
- Congressman Nadler supports passage of an eviction without good cause bill.
- Folks with Medicare B can get free covid tests at pharmacies. You are eligible for 8 free covid tests per month.

**Bryce Peyre, NYS Assembly Member Richard Gottfried's Office**

- AM Gottfried was interviewed live by Erroll Lewis talking about the budget, bail reform, opposition to citing a casino in Manhattan. That interview aired at NY1 and will re-air tonight. It is also on NY1's website as well.
- Our office is continuing to monitor the Extel 66<sup>th</sup> street development site.

**Anthony Gray, NYS Senator Cordell Cleare's Office**

- The Senator's bills include:
  - increased punishment for sex trafficking.
  - allowing pregnant women to sign up for health care
- My contact info is [agray@nysenate.gov](mailto:agray@nysenate.gov)
- The office is open during regular business hours. We still have free home covid test kits. Please call or email to make an appointment.

**Grant Dennis, NYS Senator Robert Jackson's Office**

- Senator Jackson recently sat down with DOE Chancellor David Banks regarding the option of opting out of state tests for kids. If anyone is interested, please contact our office.
- My contact info is [gdennis@nysenate.gov](mailto:gdennis@nysenate.gov)
- Safeguarding employees from termination actl is intended to create a good cause standard for when employers can discharge employees.
- Tick and Lyme disease prevention program focused on educating people.
- Please visit the senator's website or call the office

**Community Members**

**Chris Giordano:** The next appeal for the 50W66 case is being heard tomorrow at 2pm.

**Tommy B, Supervising Library for Riverside NYPL Branch.** Regarding upcoming programming.

The meeting was adjourned at 940pm.

# STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

Steven Brown, Chair

**Steering Committee Members Present:** Barbara Adler, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Steven Brown, Courtney Clark Metakis, Christian Cordova, Mark Diller, Beverly Donohue, Sheldon Fine, K Karpen, Natasha Kazmi, Doug Kleiman, Blanche Lawton, Michele Parker, Seema Reddy, Susan Schwartz, Roberta Semer, Polly Spain and Howard Yaruss.

**Non-Committee Board Members:** Jay Adolf, Ken Coughlin, Page Cowley, Paul Fischer and Ethel Sheffer. **Absent:** Andrew Albert, Elizabeth Caputo, Joshua Cohen, Louisa Craddock, Catherine DeLazzerro, William Ortiz and Andrew Rigie.

The Steering Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, on the Zoom online platform. Chair Steven Brown called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm after the Secretary confirmed a quorum was present. The following discussions were had, and actions taken.

Steve Brown announced that, in hopes of having an efficient meeting, there would be no chair or district manager update. He would move directly to committee chair reports, including any agenda items for the Full Board meeting in May.

## **Committee Co-Chair Reports**

**Business and Consumer Issues:** Linda Alexander reported that the committee would be hearing from the Office of Cannabis Management followed by a Q and A session. She anticipated several items for resolutions at the Full Board. Doug Kleiman noted that the obvious question: what is the involvement of the Community Board in the decisions of the Office of Cannabis Management. Steve Brown commented that Doug has been CB7's ambassador on this issue and has taken the lead.

**Youth, Education and Libraries:** Courtney Clark Metakis stated that she was working on an agenda and that it would have something to do with youth programming. She has reached out to CSD 3 Superintendent Christine Loughlin concerning budget matters.

Addressing the issue of meeting efficiency, she added that she felt it was important to talk about placing a time limit on some board members who speak at length. She asked if there were rules on the books about how often members can speak. Steve Brown responded that the issue is one we continue to think about, The By-Laws Task Force put out recommendations on Zoom behavior. Susan Schwartz noted that there is currently in the by-laws a rule that no member can speak more than 2 times on a topic. Steve Brown encourages interested members to attend the By-Laws Task Force on April 8.

**Transportation Committee:** Howard Yaruss stated that the committee met on fare initiatives and safety on the subways. For Full Board, there will be a renewal resolution for the Taxi and Limousine Commission. Doug Kleiman added that there was a discussion on newly discounted fines for large companies for illegal parking, but there was no resolution concerning that issue on the agenda.

**Strategy and Budget:** Roberta Semer stated that there would be a meeting next week (the meeting was subsequently canceled).

**Parks and Environment:** Natasha Kazmi stated that their agenda included an update on the Harlem Meer and a temporary art installation at the Annibel Avila playground. They are planning a City Council speaker on the budget and a Riverside Park speaker. Barbara Adler commented that the Parks department was not ready yet to present again on the boat basin project. Max Vandervliet stated that he had attended a brief meeting with the new Parks Commissioner.



**Land Use Committee:** Richard Asche reported that the Committee would meet on the 20<sup>th</sup>. It was a slow period with few items pending. The agenda includes an Open Restaurant update and ongoing complaints on scaffolding.

Richard then asked whether, if we were concerned about the length of meetings, we should have every precinct present during the public safety session at every meeting. Steve Brown responded that it is 50-50 that we will be required to meet in person. From the community, there has been a very positive response to the public safety sessions. Regarding appointing a new co-chair for land use, he recommended looking at the construction of committees when new members are appointed in May.

Courtney Clark Metakis noted that the public safety session was important for the community because Precinct Community Council meetings are not broadcast.

Roberta Semer noted that there are provisions of the by-laws that limit speaking time and that the Chair can limit speakers. She suggested adding a count-down clock.

Barbara Adler agreed with Courtney that some speakers take too long. She wondered why some people read resolutions out loud when they are available online beforehand. Hearing from the police is valuable to the community and there are other ways to shorten meetings. Howard Yaruss suggested that some resolutions are pro forma and require no discussion. Steve Brown stated that there was a need for balance. If a resolution is high quality, a Board member might want to put it in the record. However, people should have read the resolution beforehand. He further noted that we would be moving at least the Full Board meeting to an in-person event.

The **Housing Committee** and the **In-person Task Force** chairs were not present so there were no reports.

**Public Safety Task Force:** Polly Spain reported that at the April 27th meeting they would have a presentation by Detective Collado of PSA6 (Police Service Area 6, part of the housing bureau) on two new initiatives coming from Mayor Adams – Advisory Council and Pop-Up Cop.

Steve Brown added that at the last meeting, they had a presentation regarding Governor Hochul's 10-point plan. With Polly, he attended a meeting for public safety chairs. Polly noted that the Governor's representative did mention the Upper West Side area and noted the plan provided support for the mentally challenged and for addressing gang activity. The Mayor is trying to figure out new ways to address these issues. The new Advisory Councils will be separate from the Community Councils. The representative expressed a willingness to partner with us.

**Health and Human Services Committee:** Shelly Fine announced that there would be a forum on food insecurity and access on April 26. He contacted the Tisch Center for Food Policy and Nutrition at Teachers College and they will send Faculty Director Dr. Pam Koch, Executive Director Pam Aboila and Food Ed Hub Director Andrew Barrett. He has been in touch with Greg Silverman from WSCAH who is excited about participating. He has sent questions to all the participants to focus their attention. In addition, they will have representatives from the Hunter College Food Policy Center and Goddard Riverside. He has arranged for a pre meeting to focus presentations so as to avoid duplication.

**Senior Task Force:** Roberta Semer stated that Larry Wood of Goddard Riverside would be speaking at the Housing Committee on Goddard's role in affordable housing. The Senior Task Force meeting on April 14 will take up the topic of accessible pedestrian signals attached to streetlights enabling the visually impaired to cross the street safely. The task force will work to identify locations where they are needed.

**Preservation Committee:** Michele Parker stated that the Committee had asked to hear the application to rescind the landmark status of West-Park Presbyterian Church at Amsterdam and 86th Street. In addition, they are going to hear three other applications. K Karpen noted that they will be setting up a separate, additional meeting on May 5 regarding the church. Hardship proceedings have been used only 19 times before the LPC. Michele noted that the church was an individual landmark, not merely included in a landmark district. Steve Brown then suggested that the extra meeting on May 5 should be a public hearing, which would be good for the community. Jay Adolf added that if the meeting on May 5 was a public hearing, the full application should be posted on the website plus relevant parts of the Landmarks statute on hardship. Ethel Sheffer echoed Jay's comments and noted CB7's responsibility to make the documents public. Mark Diller expressed that it was a good idea to call a public hearing on this topic. In 2010, CB7 voted in favor of landmark status for the church. We should also post that original resolution. Steve Brown indicated that we need a separate section on the website dedicated to this issue. Michele stated that she had been in touch with Jessie to search the files for everything on the topic of the church.

### ***New Business***

Doug Kleiman stated that there had been an arrest in the alleged hate crime at West End Avenue and W85th Street. The morning of April 7, five fires were deliberately set on the West Side. One was at the dining shed at Barney Greengrass. Mr. Greengrass was happy about the robust police response.

Doug then recounted that he had attended the funeral of Paul Herman, a prominent actor and upper west side business owner. He was eulogized by Robert DeNiro and Mike Tyson. Other attendees included Chris Walken, Mark Wahlberg, Chas Palmenteri and many more from the movie and TV world. He was a real Upper West Sider. Richard Asche returned to the issue of lengthy meetings. He stated that he did not believe that rules had to be spelled out in the by-laws. The Chair could implement rules limiting speakers. If they need to speak a second time, he could limit the time even more. For noncontroversial issues, one possibility would be to ask anyone opposed to the resolution to speak first. If no one speaks, that would encourage others not to bother speaking in favor. There are a lot of things the Chair can do to shorten meetings. The most effective thing is peer pressure. Steve Brown responded that if our next meeting is on Zoom, he will put together some best practices and announce them before the resolutions. In general, the first person to speak on a resolution should give a brief summary, maximum 5 minutes, then go around to those who wish to speak, then have a final summing up rather than answering questions as they are asked. He will be empowered by this discussion to intervene more to keep meetings efficient.

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.*

# HOUSING COMMITTEE

Louisa Craddock , Chair

April 11, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

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

**Present:** Louisa Craddock, Chair; Robert Espier, Miranda Goodwin-Raab, Ira Mitchneck, Rich Robbins and Ethel Sheffer.  
**Non-Committee Board Member:** Mark Diller, Paul Fischer and Roberta Semer. **Absent:** Kristen Berger, Madelyn Innocent, Melissa Rosenberg, Susan Schwartz, Polly Spain and Kristina Villarini. **CB7/M Staff:** Max Vandervliet, District Manager.

Presentation by Larry Wood, Director of Advocacy and Organizing, Goddard Riverside, a social services organization located on the Upper West Side. Larry concentrated on Goddard's programs that deal with homelessness and supportive housing.

He endorsed the 2009-2010 of SROs on the Upper West Side conducted for the Borough President. He has used it in different studies/situations and strongly recommended that it be updated.

He discussed Goddard Riverside programs: Manhattan Outreach Consortium, the Goddard Riverside Law Project, housing for the homeless and the larger issue of affordable housing for all. He cited urban renewal programs in the 60s and 70s, Project Reachout in 1979, the SRO Law Project in 1981 and the Building the Blessed City Platform in 2004. He also discussed a recent SRO conversion at 235 West 107<sup>th</sup> Street and a Safe Haven facility at York Avenue and East 91<sup>st</sup> Street.

## Committee Comment

Robert: what is the impact of the anticipated money from Washington to offer rent relief.

Larry: it is not enough and will not go far.

Larry: the perceived threats from the homeless are a real concern. Stressed that the Housing First model that provides permanent housing works and should be expanded.

Mark: discussed NYCHA and the Public Land Trust. Said it is vital to have NYCHA resident involvement. Residents need choice.

Ethel: discussed Regional Plan Association proposal to create infill development on NYCHA campuses. Also talked about police and Goddard outreach to homeless. Goddard has lost close relationship with police.

Roberta: A major issue is getting seniors in NYCHA to downsize from 3-bedroom units to one-bedroom units. Downsizing is rightsizing.

Eddir Amador from Gale Brewer's office pointed out the zoning and regulatory obstacles to SRO conversions.

## Community Comment

Cynthia Tibbs: Must talk with NYCHA directly. NYCHA is not warehousing units; often uninhabitable. \$350 million is not enough. Kick your game up.

Peter Arndtsen: Many SROs need a certificate of no harassment before being sold and/or developed. Enforcement is necessary. If harassment occurs, can wait three years and apply again.

There is no room in transitional housing and a bottleneck in supportive housing. Not enough staff. Wants to know where beds might be available. Larry recommends faith-based shelters. Emphasizes that Goddard doesn't operate shelters; they do transitional housing.

Sean Shannon: lives on West 94<sup>th</sup> Street between WEA and Riverside Drive with two SROs, one shelter and an apartment hotel on street. Complained about noise, drinking, smoking, graffiti, and a lack of response to complaints. Max asked him to contact him to try to resolve the issues.

Larry stated that preserving affordable housing is Goddard's mission and pointed out that it is better to have long-term permanent tenants.

Larry discussed the HONDA (Housing Our Neighbors with Dignity) Act which promotes housing rather than shelters through hotel/SRO conversions. Modest amount of funding. He said that converting SROs rather than hotels is easier because they are set up as dwelling units. He said that Community Advisory Boards can be effective but mainly during the construction period. Depends upon the focus of the community.

Louisa thanked Larry for his time, experience and knowledge and willingness to share it with us.

*The meeting ended at 8:15pm.*

# TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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

**April 12, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM**

**Present:** Andrew Albert and Howard Yaruss, Co-Chairs; Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Elizabeth Caputo, Ken Coughlin, Doug Kleiman, Sara Lind, William Ortiz and Erena Stennet. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Mark Diller, Rich Robbins and Susan Schwartz. **CB7 Staff:** Max Vandervliet, DM; and Jessie Nieves, CA.

**1. 72 West 109<sup>th</sup> Street (Columbus Avenue.) Renewal Application #B02228 to NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission by Special Radio Dispatcher, Corp., for a renewal of their For Hire Base Station License.**

Daniel Pena attended for the applicant, no changes to the operation, renewal was posted in neighborhood

VOTE: *Committee: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 2-0-0-0.*

**2. New business.**

- Discussion of shooting on the subway this morning
- Karen Arenson of West 76<sup>th</sup> Street asked a question about EV charging stations. Colleen Chattergoon from DOT gave her information to connect
- Ken Coughlin raised the issue of a Mitzvah-mobile blocking the CPW bike lane and lack of physical protection for CPW bike lane
- Discussion of the gas tax holiday and how it will hurt the MTA
- Peter Arndtsen gives notice of the Open Street event “Car-Free Earth Day Celebration” on Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> on Amsterdam Ave between West 106<sup>th</sup> -110<sup>th</sup> Streets.
- Christina Bowe brings up a pedestrian issue on north side of 96<sup>th</sup> St and CPW right outside the park - vehicles coming from 96<sup>th</sup> making a left turn onto CPW going north. Colleen Chattergoon asks for a resolution or letter asking for LPI, split-phase signal, and possibly a fully protected left at this intersection. Chairs agree to send a letter on this based on previous resolutions of these issues.
- Howard Yaruss raises issue of double-parked trucks on CPW/Columbus/Amsterdam because of no loading zones; asks for update on our loading zones resolution. Elizabeth Caputo suggests a separate meeting on the issue of Columbus Ave, perhaps as a joint meeting with BCI. Rich proposes adding enforcement as a topic of discussion.
- Discussion of publicity of meetings so that the public knows what we’re discussing.

# BUSINESS & CONSUMER ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

### **1. 100 Riverside Blvd (West 64<sup>th</sup> – 65<sup>th</sup> Streets.) Andy Kim or Entity to be Formed.**

Presenting for the Applicant: Andy Kim, [AndyK@NestSeekers.com](mailto:AndyK@NestSeekers.com) (Attorney Terrence R. Flynn, Jr, [TRFlynnJr@gmail.com](mailto:TRFlynnJr@gmail.com) was not present.)

- Proposed hours of operation are Monday through Friday 5:00PM to 10:00PM; Saturday through Sunday from 3:00PM to 9:00PM. The establishment will be a private members-only club that will be connected to the UWS Nest Seekers real estate brokerage office.

Comments:

- Linda Alexander asked what the criteria would be for membership and the applicant responded they were still in the process of determining same and concurrently applying for 501c3, not-for-profit status.
- Doug Kleiman and Roberta Semer asked about the entity structure, which will be a not-for-profit.
- Seema Reddy and Anthony Thomas both said they would be more comfortable voting on the application when the membership criteria are developed and presented. The location of the proposed club is in a zone that only permits community-based facilities, so concern was expressed regarding a private club's possible exclusions to the community-at-large.

*After due deliberation a motion was made to **Table** the application to a future meeting, and it was adopted*

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

### **2. 247 West 72<sup>nd</sup> Street (Broadway – West End Avenue.) Thank You God, LLC d/b/a Kebab Aur Sharab.**

Presenting for the Applicant: Salil Mehta, [SalilMehta@laut.nyc.com](mailto:SalilMehta@laut.nyc.com); Kathleen E. Negri Sathopoulos, Esq., [NegriEsq@aol.com](mailto:NegriEsq@aol.com);

- Proposed hours of operation are 5:00PM to 2:00AM, seven-days/week. Background music only. Unlicensed space previously operated as a bakery. The new restaurant will have 18 indoor tables with 36 seats; and a separate bar with seating for 12. The restaurant will serve Northern Indian-style kebabs.

Comments:

- Several committee members expressed support for the applicant and praised his other restaurant in the district, Wau, on Amsterdam Avenue.

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

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

## ***New and Temporary Retail Permit:***

### **3. 2 West 69<sup>th</sup> Street (Central Park). New and Temporary Retail Permit application to the SLA for two-year liquor license by APQ Mineral Springs NY, LLC d/b/a Le Pain Quotidien.**

Presenting for the Applicant: Ryan Kilgariff, [Ryan.kilgariff@LePainQuotidien.us](mailto:Ryan.kilgariff@LePainQuotidien.us)

- This is a new license but the same operator of establishment that is reopening. The restaurant will be nearly identical to old operations and will operate from 7:00AM to 9:00PM, seven days/week.

Comments:

- Linda Alexander praised the business as a great amenity to Central Park.

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

*VOTE Committee: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 2-0-0-0.*

**Class Change:**

4. **489 Columbus Avenue** (West 83<sup>rd</sup> – 84<sup>th</sup> Streets). **Class Change application to the SLA for two-year liquor licenses by Shivhari, Inc. d/b/a Ashoka.**

Presenting for the Applicant: Gauri Shan Kar, President, Henry Warokomski, [LILaw492@aol.com](mailto:LILaw492@aol.com);

- Applicant did not appear.

*After due deliberation the resolution to **disapprove** without prejudice was adopted.*

*VOTE Committee: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 2-0-0-0.*

5. **Presentation by Pascale Bernard** ([Pascale.Bernard@ocm.ny.gov](mailto:Pascale.Bernard@ocm.ny.gov)) and **Phillip Rumsey, Office of Cannabis Management**, regarding the comprehensive regulatory framework.

- The speakers introduced themselves and Doug Kleiman welcomed them and explained that the community has many questions about the cannabis law since it was legalized one year ago. Pascale Bernard explained OCM is a new agency, and the office was established six months ago and is still being built out. She explained that many of the regulations are still being developed so she may not have answers to all questions yet. OCM then presented a Power Point about the regulatory framework and cannabis law. She explained that the framework is rooted in public health, social justice, and economic development. Pascale Bernard strongly encouraged community members to comment on the proposed regulations that will be released soon. There will be a 60-day comment period on the proposed regulations.

Comments:

- Mark Diller explained that CB7 approved a resolution concerning the promotion of flavored tobacco products to children and he asked how the cannabis law will prevent promotion of the product to children. The response was that the process is still being developed but the law already allows THC infused gummies, foods, and other products that are for adults only but may appear attractive to children.
- Linda Alexander asked if applicants for cannabis licenses will be required to come to the Community Board when applying. The response was that NYS liquor license process will guide how the state develops the regulation and review process for cannabis license related applications.
- Anthony Thomas asked if there is demographic information about the areas where the dispensaries will be located to address concerns about license saturation in certain communities.
- Doug Kleiman stated that he hoped the Community Board is not circumvented in the cannabis licensing process.
- Jacob Schrader a community member, asked about including landlords in enforcement actions for knowingly leasing property to an unlicensed cannabis seller. OCM will take the question back to their colleagues to consider such action.
- Steve Anderson from the West 81<sup>st</sup> Street Block Association expressed concerns about how locations will be selected for dispensaries and how residents and local organizations will provide input and influence the process.
- Peter Arndsten from the Columbus Amsterdam BID said that there are smoke shops in his district having late night parties and he would like to work with OCM to address the issue.

**6. Open Streets program, Presentation by Nicole Paynter, Columbus Avenue Business Improvement District.**

Comments:

- Columbus Avenue BID director Nicole Paynter presented a Power Point about their proposed Open Streets program that will be on Sundays from May 15<sup>th</sup> to October 30<sup>th</sup> and run from 68<sup>th</sup> to 77<sup>th</sup> Streets. Nicole presented survey data the BID collected showing significant support for the program and highlighted the different types of events and activations that occurred last year and will occur this year, which include ways local businesses and organizations will participate. The BID is making changes to the Open Street based on data and community feedback from last years' experience, which includes shorter hours, working with DOT to add a traffic guard to direct traffic, additional signage and more community outreach. The BID is adding an employee to help manage the Open Street. Kyle Gorman and Colleen Chattergoon from DOT explained they are excited to see this Open Street return. DOT approved this Open Street but they welcome additional feedback to continue to enhance the program.
- Linda Alexander expressed her support for the program and pointed out she was the BID's former communications consultant for 20 years and had recently been asked to draft a media release for this year's program.
- Linda Alexander read CB7 member Natasha Kazmi's comments into the record. Natasha could not attend the meeting, but wanted to express her disapproval.
- Andrew Rigie expressed support for the program and was glad the BID is taking community feedback into consideration and addressing resident concerns.
- Peter Arndsten from the Columbus Amsterdam BID expressed support and wished the Columbus Avenue BID luck with the traffic agent and asked if they experienced issues with ATVs last year, which Paynter responded they had not.
- Dale Brown, President of the West 79<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association, expressed her opposition to the Open Street program in the proposed location, saying the program is dangerous for pedestrians and motorists. She is concerned about traffic in surrounding streets, garbage, and other matters.
- Steve Anderson of the West 81<sup>st</sup> Street Block Association expressed similar concerns as Dale but was also upset about the process, and that DOT had approved the program without consulting his block association. He would like to have a meeting with all the stakeholders. DOT agreed to meet to discuss.
- Mark Diller wants to ensure local business matters are addressed such as accepting deliveries and not having businesses from other areas unfairly compete in the Open Street similar to what happens during certain street fairs, which it was explained will not under this program.
- Linda Alexander alleviated Diller's concerns by pointing out only Columbus Avenue brick-and-mortar vendors will be allowed to be the commercial participants.
- Peter Arndsten added DOT has worked well with his BID and the police precinct on his Open Streets program and explained how important the Open Streets program has been for local businesses.
- Nicole Paynter additionally responded to the concerns raised and said she is committed to communication and working with the community to have a successful Open Streets program.
- Christian Cordova thanked the speakers and was happy to hear the openness of everyone to work together.
- D.O.T. is taking the initiative to set up a Zoom meeting with the various stakeholders, week of 4.18.22

**7. New Business.**

None.

*The meeting ended at 8:40PM.*

# SENIOR TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2022 at 10:00AM via ZOOM

Roberta Semer, Chair

**Present:** Roberta Semer, Chair; Cindy Cardinal, K Karpen, Madge Rosenberg, Conor Callahan and Ellen Amstutz (DOROT), Jennifer Cinclair (JCC), Mark Jennings (Project Find) Daniel Leinweber (Mt Sinai), Paula Seefeldt (LILY), Robin Strashun (Search and Care), Margaret Walters (Lighthouse Guild). Ed Amador, Emmit Sklar Tevin Willians and Hannah Weinerman.

**CB7/M Staff:** Max VanderVliet,

- I. Mark Jennings reported on plans for the spring forums a three-part series. Housing 101 Tips for Obtaining, Keeping and Thriving, It was decided to hold these forums in June on three consecutive Wednesdays from 2 to 3:30.
  1. June 8<sup>th</sup>. **Obtaining Housing:** Kaitlin Anderson of LiveOn will present types of housing available with information about lotteries etc. Mark will find someone from HPD or from their Ambassador Housing Connect program to explain how to navigate the lotteries and applications.
  2. June 15<sup>th</sup>, **Maintaining Housing:** someone from the Human Rights Commission to explain the rights of seniors to ensure their home is accessible, Kim Lerner from LiveOn to discuss SCRIE and DRIE and other programs to assist with finances, and Trish McGill from HomeBase to discuss eviction protection.
  3. June 22<sup>th</sup>, **Thriving:** Lighthouse Guild, DOROT and Search and Care will highlight programs and services that help seniors thrive. Additionally, the organizations that are part of the Senior Task Force will have materials. Gale Brewer's office and CB7 are working on a resource booklet for seniors which will be available both online and in print.

The planning group will continue to work on the forums, logistics and publicity. Lighthouse Guild has offered to help create the flyer for the three events.

## II. Reports from the member organizations:

- Ellen Amstutz reported that DOROT is beginning to start in-home Face to Face visits, they hope to start using the auditorium for programs this summer.
- Jennifer Cinclair said the JCC is planning their spring and summer programs, they will continue to have some virtual and some in person (50-50).
- Daniel Leinweber reported that Mt Sinai has opened a Children's Emergency Room at Mt Sinai location on 98th and Fifth Avenue. They are also planning to open an Emergency Room for Seniors.
- Maggie Walters said that Lighthouse Guild has been seeing clients in person. They have a new inter generation grant to provide tech support by young people.
- K Karpen spoke about the rising costs of food. WSCAH is continuing to get food to where people live.

**Next Senior Task Force Meeting: Thursday, May 12 at 10 am**



# PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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

**April 14, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM**

**Present:** Michele Parker, Co-Chair; Jay Adolf, Page Cowley, Mark Diller, Klari Neuwelt Madge Rosenberg, Peter Samton and Susan Schwartz. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Ira Mitchneck. **Absent:** Josh Cohen and K Karpen.

*Co-Chair Michele Parker called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.*

## **1. 229 West 71<sup>st</sup> Street (Broadway – West End Avenue). Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness to add a fifth full floor and partial rooftop addition, and a full-width, full-height rear addition, and replace the front and rear facades, cladding and fenestration.**

Mary Dierickx, Preservation Consultant, and Gary Weisman, Architect, presented.

The building, originally a 16' wide four-story rowhouse built in 1884, was very substantially altered in the late 1940's and afterward. Essentially no original features of the exterior remain. The building was listed in the LPC Designation Report for the Historic District as "No Style". It is currently a two-family residence. The application is to remove the front and rear cladding, raise the height to six stories (with a setback at the front), raise the front entry, add a rear addition, replace all fenestration with wide central multi-pane windows units, and install shallow balconies with metal railings. The building would remain a two-family residence.

Aside from some other comments, committee members variously expressed concerns about two aspects of the proposal. First, some members expressed concern that the proposed windows had too many small panes. Second, several members of the committee expressed concern that the "stone" facing at the first two stories at the front of the building should be genuine limestone, rather than cast stone, as was being considered by the applicant.

Neighbors Paul Gleicher and Lisa Sharkey spoke in favor of the project, including in favor of the proposed windows. Neighbor Kara Kelly asked about noise, vibrations and pollution from the proposed construction.

The committee voted to approve the application as appropriate to the Historic District, with a recommendation that genuine limestone be used at the front façade, and that the applicant revisit the design of the multi-pane windows at the front of the building. *Committee members: 6-0-2-0. Non-Committee Board members: 1-0-0-0.*

## **2. 330 West 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, Apt. 7B (Riverside Blvd. – West End Avenue). Application #LPC-22-08221 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness for window replacements.**

Prior to the discussion, Klari Neuwelt said that she intended not to vote on this item because she is a resident of the building in question, though she believed that she does not actually have conflict of interest.

Barbara Hoffman, the owner of the subject coop apartment, presented. She explained that LPC had approved an application by Panorama Windows to replace the existing front façade windows in her apartment and two other apartments in the building with three-over-one double hung windows. She further stated that she had Panorama's and the coop's agreement that her windows, which are currently one-over-ones, could be replaced with one-over-ones as part of the Panorama project if LPC approved one-over-ones in her case. She stated that LPC's requirement that replacement windows on the façade be three-over-one was inconsistent with the original windows, which she stated had been six-over-one, as stated in the Designation Report. She also presented a photo of the existing front façade of the building, showing a wide variety of different replacement window styles.

After discussion, the committee voted to approve the application as appropriate to the Historic District, noting that it was not completely clear what the original window configuration had been, and given the wide variety of replacement windows currently on the front façade. *Committee members: 4-3-0-1.*

*The meeting was adjourned at about 8:30 p.m.*

Minutes by Klari Neuwelt

# BYLAWS TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

**Susan Schwartz, Chair**

**April 8<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup> of 2022**

**Present:** Susan Schwartz, Chair; Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf and Natasha Kazmi. **Non-Task Force Members:** Mark Diller, Beverly Donohue and Richard Robbins. **Absent:** Michele Parker. **CB7/M Staff:** District Manager Max Vandervliet

*Meetings on Zoom were called to order at 10 AM and adjourned at 11:20A on Friday April 8, 2022 and called to order at 9 AM and adjourned at 9:30 AM on April 14, 2022.*

We concluded our revisions of the MBPO Bylaws template and discussed additional issues, including:

- No meetings in July or August
- Maintaining 6-year term limit for Standing Committee Co-Chairs
- Standing Committees dissolved only with a majority vote at Steering
- Two Vice Chairs or one
- Treasurer
- Elections

At the conclusion of the April 14, 2022 meeting, the task force voted unanimously to approve the final draft of the Bylaws and agreed to present the document at the May Full Board meeting and then again at the June Full Board meeting with a resolution for a vote of approval.

Vote to **approve** updated Bylaws at the April 14, 2022 meeting:

*Task Force: 4-0-0-0. Non-Task Force Members: 0-0-0-0*

Task Force Members present: 4

Task Force Members not present: 1

## **Next Steps**

1. Present the updated draft of the Bylaws at the May Full Board meeting.
2. Present the updated draft of the Bylaws for approval at the June Full Board meeting.

# PARKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Barbara Adler and Natasha Kazmi, Co-Chairpersons

April 18, 2022 at 6:30PM via ZOOM

The Meeting can be viewed in its entirety on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wA7r6aW-Cw4>

**Present:** Barbara Adler, Natasha Kazmi, Ken Coughlin, Susan Schwartz and William Ortiz.

**Non-Committee Board Members:** Mark Diller, Paul Fischer and Roberta Semer. **Absent:** Polly Spain and Daniela Alvaro.

Natasha announced that Earth Month local events have been listed on the CB7.

1. Anibal Aviles Playground: Proposal for a temporary art installation for Spring of 2022, coordinated by El Taller Latino Americano and the Friends of Anibal Aviles Playground: was made by Daniel Cohen and Jennifer Pliego from El Taller Latino Americano. The artwork, which will appear on the schoolyard fence inside and out, will follow the 'Good Neighbors' show that is currently on. Several compliments for the exhibits were made, and a number of questions were answered by Jennifer.

2. Edward Amador Director of Communication for Council Member Brewer's Office met with us to discuss Parks funding priorities. A meeting will be set up with Leo Bullaro, Brewer's budget director, to discuss our priorities. Some priorities of Brewer's, which were mentioned by Amador include making playgrounds accessible to all after-school hours; bathroom renovation within the parks; Soldiers and Sailors monument reconstruction (\$35M), stop non-essential noise over the city by helicopters; supporting 1% commitment of the city budget to parks.

Amador also mentioned that Gale Brewer has a new bill being proposed, called the Core Act, and another (along with James Gennaro) to create a Dept. of Sustainability and Climate change.

Roberta mentioned that in order to make sure funding goes to the right place we should have a list of what's been done and what's in the works.

Susan mentioned that there are fewer birds in the park, and they speculate the helicopters are affecting them. Mark mentioned we have supported limiting helicopters in past resolutions: H.R.389 - Safe and Quiet Skies Act of 2021 - Ban of non-essential flights over national parks.

3. Upcoming events in Riverside Park: Whitney Deardon, Director of Public Programming for the Riverside Park Conservancy. Ms. Deardon gave a short presentation on the special events taking place in Riverside Park from May through September, from 59<sup>th</sup> Street to 181<sup>st</sup> Streets: all part of the Summer in the City's 250+ events. These include: movies, concerts, health and wellness, children's events, dance parties, full day festivals, educational workshops, and more!

New events include Art en Plein Air, Forest Bathing, Trivia and Game Night, STEM programs for kids. Returning Favorites include Pier I Picture Show, Silent Disco, Horticulture Tours with RPC Zone Gardeners, and Full Day Festivals. For more information, go to: [nyc.gov/wyags/soh](http://nyc.gov/wyags/soh); [soh@riversideparknyc.org](mailto:soh@riversideparknyc.org); 212-870-3089

4. Discussion and potential approval of draft letter to Mayor Adams regarding his promised 1% budget to our city Parks: The committee reviewed the letter and all thought it was good, with a few minor changes. It was determined that no vote was needed, and so the letter will be sent to board members and to the Mayor.

## 5. New Business:

- Peter Arndsten announced that the Bloomingdale Neighborhood History's next event will be a presentation by Margaret Bracken, Landscape Architect for Riverside Park, on "More than Cherries: The Flowering Trees of Riverside Park." [upperwestsidehistory.org](http://upperwestsidehistory.org).
- Susan asked for adding a cellular site to the Ramble in Central Park, as currently there is no service there and it is a secluded area of the park. Barbara heartily endorsed this, and Roberta suggested adding it to our capital priorities list.
- Matt Genrich was asked if the patrol efforts by PEP officers were working on keeping dogs off the lawns instead of using Bull Moose Dog Run. The answer is that it has been quite successful.

*The meeting adjourned at 7:35PM*

*Respectfully submitted by William Ortiz*

# LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Richard Asche, Chair

April 20, 2022

**Present:** Richard Asche, Chair; Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Sheldon Fine, Klari Neuwelt, Seema Reddy, Peter Samton and Ethel Sheffer. **Non-Committee Board Member:** Paul Fisher and Roberta Semer.

**CB7/M Staff:** Maxwell Vandervliet, District Manager. **Absent:** Daniela Alvarado, Miranda Goodwin-Raab, Jeannette Rausch, Andrew Rigie and Melissa Rosenberg.

*The chair called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. No resolutions were presented at the meeting. Rather the purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues of interest to the committee and procedural ways of addressing the issues.*

The following issues were discussed:

Open Restaurants: Richard Asche reported that no action had been taken on the committee's draft letter to elected officials concerning pending Open Restaurants legislation. It was the consensus of the committee that if a letter could not be sent by the Board Chair, members of the committee would consider sending a letter as individuals. Richard agreed to discuss the status of the letter with the Board chair.

West Park Church: The committee discussed the pending application by the West Park Church (Amsterdam and 86th Street) to decertify its building as a landmark. The committee agreed that the issue was best handled by the preservation committee. Page Cowley noted that a land use issue might arise because the proposed replacement building would rise 17 stories at the eastern lot-line, blocking lot line windows in the adjoining apartment house. It was pointed out that as a matter of zoning law, the developer has the right to build to the lot line and the neighbors have no right to lot line windows. Richard stated that while the proposed new building is as of right, the economic and other harm to the neighbors might be a valid consideration in the board's decision to approve or disapprove the application.

The committee also discussed in general terms the basis for the application- economic hardship. Richard noted that it is impossible to discern from the application and exhibits which proposed repairs are necessary to bring the building into code compliance, and which are desirable but not legally required. Page noted that she had consulted engineers who advised her that the estimate of by the Church (approximately \$50 million) was grossly excessive. At this time, no committee action is required.

Surveys: Ethel Sheffer suggested that the committee undertake a review of a sample of 10 or 15 blocks in the community board area to catalog street-front vacancies, types of services, sidewalk and roadway uses, and other items bearing on the quality of living of residents.

Shelly Fine suggested that the survey includes list of sites which could house affordable units, including underbuilt lots, SRO's, hotels, and candidates for voluntary inclusionary housing or development rights transfers.

Louisa Craddock pointed out that an excellent survey on SROs on the Upper West Side had been produced for the Borough President's office in 2010 by a graduate intern from the Fund for the City of New York. She suggested that it should be expanded to reflect current concerns.

Roberta Semer suggested that the committee review rules pertaining to transfer of development rights.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the committee that Louisa Craddock, Ethel and Richard, confer on a strategy to retain the services of an intern, such as the board has utilized in the past.

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

# HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Sheldon Fine and Catherine DeLazzerro, Co-Chairs**

**April 26, 2022 at 7:00pm via ZOOM**

**Present:** Sheldon Fine, Co-chair; Robert Espier, Audrey Isaacs, Rich Robbins, Madge Rosenberg, Kristina Villarini. **Non-Committee Board Member:** Mark Diller. **Absent:** Catherine DeLazzerro, Rosa Arenas and Sara Lind.

## **Re: FOOD INSECURITY**

SHELDON FINE quoted from the CB 7 2023 District Needs Statement:

25% people in district 7 are food insecure, defined as people missing meals resulting from an insufficient amount of food to maintain health. During the pandemic there was a gap of 4 million meals, up from 3 million pre- pandemic. Because schools were closed, children were not given meals on weekends.

Fewer healthy meals result in higher health care costs.

Although the cost of food is going up, funding is not increasing.

Shelly introduced,

**Dr. Sara Abiola - Executive Director: Tisch Center for Food, Education and Policy and Associate Research Professor, Department of Health and Behavioral Studies at Teachers College, Columbia University**

- Food security, defined by the UN, means getting adequate food with enough nutrition for a person to live a healthy life. Uncertain or limited amounts of food make households insecure resulting in skipped meals or inadequate meals. 1.4 million NYC residents are food insecure.
- Hunger is a byproduct of sustained food insecurity.
- In NYC 4/2020 city spent \$25 million on food pantries and \$50 million on getting food.
- In 8/2020 The Pandemic Food Reserve Emergency Distribution Program (PFRED) gave food directly to pantries and community organizations as short-term relief. Now a more integrated food program is needed. PFRED is giving \$27 million for tech upgrades.
- Since the pandemic - Black and poor neighborhoods still have higher food insecurity.
- March, 2021- 40% African Americans and people in low income areas were still food insecure, and now prices have increased.
- Health status & ability to access food: households with children and people with disabilities have greater insecurity.

## **PROPOSALS**

- Make pandemic response long term. Strengthen and coordinate all agencies into a single food security agency with interagency collaboration including departments of: Housing, Development. This needs funding and will require evaluation.
- Maximizes enrollment in SNAP, not just during the emergency. Make it more easily available. This too needs increased funding.
- Improve nutrition in all programs and make them culturally inclusive.
- We need a preparedness plan to respond for future crises.
- Better surveillance is needed, with data at the city level and the neighborhood level. It should be monitored over time.
- Improve conditions for food workers including comprehensive workforce development
- Support community organizations, getting the most comprehensive picture including faith based organizations. Make sure they are part of the conversation.

MARK DILLER

GET FOOD PROGRAM -

The last 100 yards of delivery is done by volunteers at Douglass. Many of the volunteers are not young people. How can the mechanism be better arranged long term?

RESOLUTION FROM SHELLY (attached)

*Committee Members Approved: 5-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members Approved: 1-0-0-0.*

Next, Shelly introduced,

**Greg Silverman, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director, West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH)**

- WSCAH started the customer choice pantry. Now it offers wrap around services include housing services and sign up for SNAP. Fresh produce makes up 50% of their offerings. Their organizational partners include NY Presbyterian, which helps them focus on prevention, Henry Street Settlement House, and CAMBA in Brooklyn. They have 65 community partners in the five boroughs. With Presbyterian they are evaluating health outcomes and have found a decrease in BMI correlates with an increased percentage of fruits and vegetables.
- Bring food to people. Many seniors could not come to 86th Street during the pandemic. WSCAH reached out and did sign-ups virtually and delivered food to their homes.
- They have a strong volunteer base.  
**WSCAH Never missed a day during pandemic.** They went from feeding 2200 households to 8000 during pandemic
- They advocated for a bigger part for agencies like WSCAH and allies for food access, on innovative capacity working groups. They led advocacy statewide, including making sure food workers had vaccines available.
- GETFOOD methods are not dignified. New York City can do better. Customers want convenience, like Text-messaging choices. WSCAH signed a 20-year lease on a 15,000'square foot warehouse in Washington Heights. The Pantry at West 86th St. will remain a pantry primarily for West Siders.
- Private funders include the UJA and Robin Hood foundation.
- They need more money for evaluation and believe Medicare should pay for food. Strong evaluation is necessary by academic agencies. They will derive best practices from these evaluations.
- Requests for emergency food is not going down.

Shelly asked Greg to send him funding requests for the DNS and Budget Priorities- nitty gritty - specific requests. We will determine which buckets - city agencies - get the requests.

RICH ROBBINS:

Public school parents of all incomes get school food cards. If they don't need them, should they donate it to WSCAH?  
Greg: We need clean mechanism for funds. They should use the money on the card and make a \$ donation to WSCAH.

Rich - relative cost of food: how does your cost structure compare with food stores?

Greg: produce comes from City Harvest, Food Bank. They give through city & state contracts. EFRAT provides food. We buy 35% of our food but we needed to buy 50% during the pandemic. For Hunts Point Market companies, WSCAH picking up the food is cheaper than their trash removal for produce that does not have enough shelf-life to go to market.

Any restrictions with government funding? State grants have restrictions to buy NYS products. We pay a little more, but the food is locally sourced. 75% of produce had to come from NYS. Unfortunately, little shelf-stable low-fat milk is produced in NYS.

....

Shelly asked: May agenda - any ideas? We must keep in mind that we need to have as a focus, to work on the DNS.

## DISTRICT SERVICE CABINET MEETING MINUTES

Maxwell Vandervliet, District Manager

April 27, 2022 at 10:30 AM via ZOOM

*\*\* Please note, due to this meeting occurring late in the month,  
meeting minutes will be forthcoming. \*\**

# YOUTH, EDUCATION & LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Blanche Lawton and Courtney Clark Metakis, Co-Chairpersons**

**April 28, 2022 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM**

**Present:** Blanche Lawton and Courtney Clark Metakis, co-chairs; Kristen Berger, Mark Diller, Beverly Donahue, Ira Mitchneck and Seema Reddy. **Non-Committee Board Member:** Doug Kleiman. **CB7/M Staff:** Maxwell Vandervliet, District Manager.

## **1- Presentation of Youth Opportunities for middle and high school children**

Keith Harris presently is a coach at the E3 afterschool program located at PS165. He both coaches and mentors' children in this program. He was raised in Douglas Houses and credits many of the programs available at that time to making a significant contribution to his development. He discussed that many of the programs that were available at that time either no longer are in operation or are targeted at younger age groups. He was supported in his presentation by officers from the 24 Precinct (Deputy Inspector Naoki Yaguchi and Officers Eric Rosado and James Ruiz) and local student Susana Herrera. Mr. Harris described locations that were available in his youth and programs that he sees as offering great opportunity for engagement and successful implementation. Many of these can use spaces available in many community facility spaces but are not available for a range of reasons.

Mr. Harris said that successful programs need to appeal to both age groups and run year-round. There needs both the availability and reason to encourage attendance and to retain participation. Tech, media, art and career readiness programs support seasonal outdoor programs but require space.

The Committee and Mr. Harris spoke about a range of strategies to make potential spaces available and identify new spaces not previously used for youth-oriented programs. This discussion can be on-going.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Precinct discussed a willingness and interest to engage to the betterment of the community and to improve relations with the community that they serve. Currently, outreach programs are limited, and PAL is not active, but opportunities can be developed, and the Precinct is interested in activating them.

## **2- Future Programs**

Next month's program will be off schedule, occurring on May 26. Christine Loughlin, District Superintendent of CSD 3, will discuss current and future programs as well as other issues of interest to the Committee and the Community.