

# FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Beverly Donohue, Chair**

**June 6, 2023 at 6:30PM via Zoom**

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81123183291>

**Present:** Beverly Donohue, Chair; Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Murat Akaydin, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Alex Bell, Kristen Berger, Elizabeth Caputo, Joshua Cohen, Kevin Corte, Kenneth Coughlin, Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Mark Diller, Sheldon Fine, Jami Floyd, Sonia Garcia, Miranda Goodwin-Raab, Audrey Isaacs, Tibita Kaneene, Avi Flatto-Katz, Natasha Kazmi, Daria Kim, Doug Kleiman, Blanche Lawton, Rhonda Marshall, Ira Mitchneck, George Morillo, Klari Neuwelt, William Ortiz, Michele Parker, Seema Reddy, Kevin Reeve, Andrew Rigie, Ava Stryker-Robbins, Madge Rosenberg, Melissa Rosenberg, Benjamin Rosenfield, Peter Samton, Susan Schwartz, Roberta Semer, Ethel Sheffer, Polly Spain, Erana Stennett, Anthony Thomas, Benjamin Wu *and* Howard Yaruss. **Absent:** K Karpen, William Ortiz, Polly Spain and Erana Stennett.

**Chair's Report,** Chair Beverly Donohue officially started the meeting at 6:02PM, and made the following remarks:

- This will be our last public session before we break for the summer, returning to regular meetings in September. We all expect those meetings to be “hybrid,” taking place under the Open Meetings Law amendments adopted last year once the mayor’s declaration of emergency expires. Those amendments require an in-person quorum in order to transact business. That could be as early as June 19<sup>th</sup>, later this month. As Max will report, that could influence the brief “business only” Full Board we have scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of that meeting is to ensure that resolutions on time-sensitive applications passed by committees at June meetings can be voted on by the Board before our summer break.
- We have lost one long-time Board member: Robert Espier has left the Board due to ill health. We thank him for his many years of committed service to our community.
- The Board is welcoming nine newly-appointed members tonight to their first Full Board meeting. Max and I have encouraged them to attend committee meetings over the last few weeks and hope to have committee appointments complete by the end of June. She then introduced them, and gave each one a brief opportunity to say a few words about themselves. In alphabetical order: *(Each new member spoke briefly about themselves.)*
  - Murat Akaydin
  - Jami Floyd
  - Avi Flatto-Katz
  - Daria Kim
  - Rhonda Marshall
  - George Morillo
  - Kevin Reeve
  - Ava Stryker-Robbins
  - Benjamin Rosenfeld
- Finally, as several Board members have asked if the Chair will be running for re-election again in the fall: She added, this is a timely question to answer now so that other members can make their own decisions over the summer about whether they wish to run for office. She articulated her reasons for determining she will run again, with the following goals, and hopes to confer with members over the summer as how best to reach them:
  - Support committee co-chairs to focus on the chronic and tough issues that matter most to our community
  - Support the use of data to make our advocacy more effective
  - Encourage fieldwork and outreach to experts so we speak from deeper knowledge
  - Run efficient meetings to respect the time of members and the public and free up time to listen to our community.
  - Continue to work on the protocols that ensure civility and prevent miscommunication.
  - Encourage informal social gatherings of Board members to counteract the negative impacts of three years of virtual meetings.
  - Support new and recent members to prepare our next generation of leaders.

**District Manager's Report,** Max Vandervliet made the following remarks:

- The Open Meetings Law (OML) may not be extended again after June 19<sup>th</sup>. As there is a second full board meeting scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup> (business session only), the office is working on finding a suitable location.
- Details concerning the board event have changed. Max will be emailing board members with new details.
- Max has met with the new board members to update them about procedural items.
- Voting sheets for tonight were sent out to members, should be filled out after the meeting and returned.

**Approval of Minutes,** Minutes from the last Full Board meeting of May 2, 2023 were approved.

**VOTE: 27-0-9-0.**

## Community Session

- **Elected Officials, etc.** *(Please refer to YouTube starting at 29mins., 20 secs. for individual remarks).*

1. Eleni De Siervo, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
  2. Tricia Shimamura, Office of the Manhattan Borough President
  3. Ankeith, Office of Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell
  4. Gwen Saffron, Office of NY Public Advocate's Office
  5. Sareve Lawson, Office of District Attorney Alvin Bragg
  6. Peter Arndtsen, Executive Director, Columbus Amsterdam BID
  7. Natalie Naculich, Office of Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal
  8. Emma Johnson, Office of Assembly Member Tony Simone
  9. Jennifer Zarr, St. Agnes Library
  10. Milo Gringlas, Office of Council Member Shaun Abreau
  11. Erica Overton, Chief of Staff for Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal
  12. Council Member Gale Brewer
- **Public speakers:** *(Please refer to our YouTube starting at 1 hour, 17 mins for individual remarks).*
    1. Sheldon Fine (CB7 member)
    2. Normando Matos, 81<sup>st</sup> St. Block Association
    3. Bennett Reinhardt, supports W. 59<sup>th</sup> St. women's shelter
    4. Allison Torsiglieri, supports W. 59<sup>th</sup> St. women's shelter
    5. Rick Titone supports W.59<sup>th</sup> St. women's shelter
    6. Winifred Armstrong, recent award winner, longtime resident
    7. Susan Peters, concerned about, concerned about jumbo 5G towers
    8. Anne Keme, supports the for W.59<sup>th</sup> St. women's shelter
    9. Theodora Scarano, Environmental Health Trust, concerned about 5G towers
    10. Debby Hirschman, Exec. Director West Park Presbyterian Church

**Business Session** *(began at 1 hr. 47mins. for our YouTube viewing)*

**Land Use Committee, Richard Asche and Kevin Corte, Co-Chairpersons**

1. **Re: Proposed Zoning Resolution Text Amendments.** Designed to Ease Compliance with Local Law 97 (Administrative Code 28-320-321).

**Background**

Local Law 97, enacted in 2019, imposes increasingly strict limits on the discharge of greenhouse gases, with a goal of 40% reduction by 2030 and 80% reduction by 2050. The law applies to most existing or new buildings exceeding 25,000 square feet in floor area. (Rent regulated, city owned and housing authority buildings are subject to lesser restrictions relating to energy efficiency).

The current Zoning Resolution contains numerous provisions which act as impediments to building owners' compliance with Local Law 97, and the Department of City Planning, at the request of the Mayor, has proposed numerous amendments which remove burdens to compliance and which seek to reduce carbon emissions by providing for accommodation for electric vehicles, centralized carbon storage, and reduction in energy use. The proposed amendments are a part of the Mayor's City of Yes Program. (City of Yes also addresses economic and housing opportunities, but the current proposed amendments relate only to achieving carbon neutrality).

All of the proposed amendments are permissive, not mandatory, and intended to ease compliance by building owners with Local Law 97.

The proposed amendments do not change the current law providing for Landmark Commission review of landmark buildings or buildings in historic districts, which will still be subject to the test of appropriateness.

**The proposed amendments would:**

1. Expand rooftop solar coverage: at present, buildings are limited to 25% of roof-tops (with a 10-foot setback from the building line) for installation of solar panels. The proposed amendment would allow 100% coverage, up to 15 feet in height, except on required setbacks;
2. Allow construction of solar canopies over outdoor parking lots;
3. Allow the use of renewable energy in all zoning districts;
4. Allow battery-based energy storage units in all districts, using technology pre-approved by FDNY. In residential districts a special permit would be required, subject to approval by DOB and FDNY. In residential districts, facilities up to 10,000 square feet would be permitted as of right, and in excess of 10,000 square feet would require BSA approval.
5. Create simplified procedure and height limit flexibility to expedite onshore wind installations;
6. Exempt from zoning floor area, up to eight inches of exterior insulation necessary to bring buildings up to code;

7. Allow roof top installation of electric heat pumps, as a replacement for boilers, as a permitted obstruction. In R6-10 districts, for buildings lower than 120 feet maximum coverage would be 30% of roof area, up to 15' in height. In R-6-10 districts, for buildings taller than 120, coverage would be up to a maximum of 50%, with a maximum height of 55'.
8. Decarbonize vehicles to achieve zero vehicle carbon emissions by 2035:
  - a. Allow off-street charging stations as of right in commercial and manufacturing districts, and limited charging stations in residential districts;
  - b. Allow 20% of garage parking spaces to be shared with the public, either for vehicle charging or car-sharing
  - c. Streamline car sharing and car rental rules; and
  - d. Update parking rules, and allow for bicycle parking;
9. Decarbonize waste disposal by:
  - a. reducing volume of stormwater and organic waste:
  - b. allowing porous paving of sidewalks;
  - c. Allowing high performance tree beds (rain gardens);
  - d. Clarifying and simplifying process of applying for rooftop gardens.
10. Allow small scale composting facilities in residential districts, and larger composting facilities in manufacturing districts.
11. Allow a 5% FAR bonus for buildings which exceed certain thresholds for heat retention by 20% for opaque exterior surfaces, and 10% for all exterior surfaces.

Based upon the foregoing, it is

RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan, **approves** the amendments to the Zoning Resolution proposed as part of the City of Yes program relating to the City's goal of decarbonization.

**VOTE: 38-0-3-0.**

#### **Business & Consumer Issues Committee, Josh Cohen and Benjamin Wu, Co-Chairpersons**

*(Note that resolutions #2-8 were bundled and voted all at once.)*

**2. Re: 975 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 59<sup>th</sup> Street).

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** new and Temporary Retail Permit application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by 975 Amsterdam, Inc. d/b/a Spice.

**VOTE: 37-1-0-0.**

**3. Re: 113 West 60<sup>th</sup> Street** (Columbus Avenue).

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** new and Temporary Retail Permit application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by Aramark Educational Services, LLC. d/b/a TBD.

**VOTE: 37-1-0-0.**

**4. Re: 1 Heckscher Fields, Central Park** (65<sup>th</sup> Street.)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** new and Temporary Retail Permit application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by TMK Central Park Kiosk, LLC d/b/a The Migrant Kitchen.

**VOTE: 37-1-0-0.**

**5. Re: 433 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 81<sup>st</sup> Street.)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** new Application & Temporary Retail Permit application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by B. Byruch on behalf of an entity to be determined d/b/a Pig & Khao.

**VOTE: 37-1-0-0.**

**6. Re: 480 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 83<sup>rd</sup> Street.)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** new Application & Temporary Retail Permit application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by 232 W 14<sup>th</sup> St Restaurant, Corp. d/b/a To Be Determined.

**VOTE: 37-1-0-0.**

**7. Re: 410 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 79<sup>th</sup> – 80<sup>th</sup> Streets.)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** class Change Application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by Public Market, Inc. & Sushi Nonaka, Inc. d/b/a oka & Sushi Nonaka. Upgrade to a full liquor license from a beer and wine license.

*Committee: 6-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Member: 2-0-0-0.*

**VOTE: 37-1-0-0.**

**8. Re: 476 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 83<sup>rd</sup> Street.)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** alteration Application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by 476 Amsterdam, LLC d/b/a Fred's. A high-end cocktail lounge will be added to Fred's as a component of the alteration.

**VOTE: 37-1-0-0.**

**9. Re: 517 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 85<sup>th</sup> Street.)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** alteration Application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by Tiki Chicki, LLC d/b/a Tiki Chick. The ground floor layout will be reconfigured as a component of the alteration.

**VOTE: 39-3-0-0.**

**10. Re: DOT Open Streets Programming.**

The following facts and concerns were considered in arriving at our conclusion:

- In 2020, DOT initiated Open Streets as a temporary program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to provide safe socially distanced outdoor space for recreation, dining, and other activities.
- Over the next two years, Open Streets evolved from a pandemic management tool to a public space management tool that prioritizes pedestrians and cyclists. Within the CB7 district such programming was reviewed and discussed at BCI committee meetings, but never involved a formal resolution based on community input.
- In April 2023, as the pandemic was declared officially over, DOT proposed amendments to Traffic Rules for Open Streets, including addition of Section 4-21 concerning notification to the public, community organizations, affected City Council member, Community Board, and Borough President. and accessibility and public conduct requirements for the operation and management of open streets.
- On April 26, 2023, the public comment period for the proposed DOT amendments closed with 165 comments submitted, the majority critical of Open Streets. The comments can be reviewed at <https://rules.cityofnewyork.us/rule/open-streets-program>.
- The full text of DOT's proposed changes can be viewed at <https://rules.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/DOT-Proposed-Permanent-Open-Streets-Program-Rules-Certifications-Updated.pdf>
- Open Streets is the only program to occur within the CB7 district that does not require community input and a resolution from CB7; DOT is not changing this. The proposed language will only require a 30-day notification period without requiring input from the community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/ Manhattan **strongly requests** that DOT require community input and resulting community board review prior to the implementation of an Open Streets program.

**Note that a motion was made by Ken Coughlin to send this to the Transportation Committee, with no vote on it tonight. The motion was voted on and failed.**

**Motion VOTE: 10/31/1/0**

**Resolution VOTE: 33/6/0/0**

*With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 9:26 PM.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barbara Adler & Linda Alexander, Co-secretaries

# PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**K Karpen and Madge Rosenberg, Co-Chairpersons**

**June 8, 2023 at 6:30pm via Zoom**

The Meeting can be viewed in its entirety on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9V24v6V78w>

The Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met on Thursday, June 8, 2023, via the Zoom online platform. The meeting was called to order promptly at 6:30 pm by Preservation Co-Chair Madge Rosenberg assisted by Committee Member Michele Parker. Preservation Committee members Jay Adolf, Klari Neuwelt, Peter Samton, and Mark Diller participated. Also present from CB7 were Jami Floyd, Doug Kleiman (Vice Chair), Daria Kim, Ira Mitchneck, Kevin Reevey, Roberta Semer and Yasiel Nieves of the District Office.

The following discussions were had and actions taken.

1. **140 West 81<sup>st</sup> Street** (Columbus – Amsterdam Avenues). **Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness to coat the front façade’s rock-faced brickwork with a potassium silicate coating (Keim S119).**

The subject building is 3-story plus basement church building constructed ca. 1893 in the Romanesque Revival style by architects Thom & Wilson. It is included in the Upper West Side – Central Park West Historic District. The front façade is composed of buff (unglazed) brick with a rusticated appearance with decorative elements constructed out of limestone, brick and marble. The building features a peaked roof in the front.

Presentation by: Sando Thordarson and Axelle Zemouli, architects.

- The renovation and adaptive reuse of this building has been the subject of separate Certificates of Appropriateness and LPC Staff Level approvals dating back to the beginning of the project.
- The front façade includes decorative elements surrounding window openings and doorways and other framing effects.
- The current application concerns efforts to address the pronounced discoloration of the front façade, particularly the buff/unglazed rusticated brick that forms the lion’s share of the surface of the front façade.
- The buff bricks have been materially discolored. The original color was a color similar to limestone or sandstone; over time the bricks have taken on a mottled, yellow-black splotchy appearance.
- The applicant, working with a conservationist and the representative of the manufacturer, propose to clean the façade and then apply a product that is referred to as a stain but which functions as a coating that bonds to the brick and preserves the brick’s integrity and its appearance.
- The coating selected is from the Keim manufacturer, and is known as Keim Mineral Stain S119.
- The coating is permanent once applied. It is a silica-based compound that bonds to anything it touches.
- After testing, the applicant proposes a 1:1 ratio of the coating and the bonding agent. They also tested a 1:2 ratio, which produced a more translucent effect that is inconsistent with the façade appearance.
- One of the advantages of this product is that while it bonds with the brick, it does not harm the brick or cause it to spall or crumble.
- The use of a permanent coating is what occasioned the need for a public hearing.
- The restoration of the façade will also include cleaning and treatment of the decorative elements punctuating the façade, which will be the subject of Staff-level approvals.

## **Committee Comments and Questions:**

Klari:

- Prefers the 1:1 ratio instead of the translucent appearance.
- Q: Is the application reversible?
- A: No – a permanent application.

Michele:

- Q: Calendared at LPC?
- A: Originally on the LPC calendar for June 13<sup>th</sup> -- now postponed.

Daria:

- Q: How does the coating age? How will its appearance change over time?
- A: The appearance will become slightly darker over time – hence a preference for the slightly lighter shade of the 1:1 ratio.

Jay

- Preference for the 1:1 ratio's appearance.

Mark:

- Concern that the cleaning and coating of the brick will create a monochromatic appearance with the decorative elements – question whether over time that matching appearance will change.
- A: Do not expect extreme change in appearance, and will only require typical upkeep of brick and surrounding materials.
- A: Also the discoloration over the past decades is likely not to be repeated because of changes in air quality and reductions in pollution.

Madge:

- Q: Appearance of bricks with coating tested?
- A: Applicant has treated small areas with tests – slides reflect change in appearance.

Doug:

- Q: How will the coating be applied?
- A: Applied with a brush in a liberal application

Klari:

- Strong resemblance to the original condition. Overcomes a natural wariness of coatings.

#### **RESOLUTION:**

Approve the application as presented, with a strong recommendation to use the 1:1 ratio of the Keim Mineral Stain S119.

**VOTE:** *Committee: 6-0-0-0; Non-Committee Board Members: 7-0-0-0.*

## **2. 165 West 86<sup>th</sup> Street – West Park Presbyterian Church (Amsterdam Avenue). Application LPC LPC-22-09135 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a certificate of appropriateness to demolish the building, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 25-309(b)(2), on the grounds of hardship.**

Introduction – Michele Parker

- LPC will convene a public hearing on Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> concerning this application.
- CB7 recently received voluminous supplemental and expanded materials from the applicant. CB7 has not received materials from the representatives of The Center at West Park, which has opposed the application.
- After two public hearings at LPC in 2022, the LPC determined to engage its own engineering and architectural experts to conduct its own analysis of the claims of hardship relating to the cost of restoring and repairing the building.
- CB7 was advised by LPC that it is not yet ready to share the report or analyses of its expert(s).
- There is no opportunity to bring any new resolution before CB7's full Board for a vote prior to the next hearing.
- Hence the Preservation will discuss the matters, with no resolution contemplated. The Committee or its individual members could consider a letter of comment.

### **Committee Discussion**

Jami:

- Q: How long has this application been pending?
- A: Application filed in 2022; building was designated an individual landmark ca. 2010.

Jay:

- Surprised that the parties are not present to discuss new materials.
- LPC's hardship determination will turn on the financial aspects of the restoration and repair of the building. While the estimates of those costs vary wildly, they are considerable.
- Even if demolition is permitted by LPC, the applicant cannot proceed with demolition for 180 days during which an alternative purchaser must be sought.

- City should provide funds to rescue landmark buildings that are at risk of being compromised or becoming unsafe. The correct parallel is the Mayor's recent allocation of \$6M to rescue an recently designated landmark entitled "Colored School No. 4."

Mark:

- The Committee should not attempt a letter of comment because (a) it will be read as a position of the Board when there is no time or opportunity to create one; (b) there is incomplete information about the positions and evidence supporting the views of the various experts opining on this matter; and (c) analyzing the cost estimates must include parsing what each expert considers the appropriate level of repair or restoration – there may be a difference between the cost to restore to mint condition and to repair to a serviceable condition or points in between.
- Individuals are of course privileged to attend and testify or submit letters in their individual capacity.
- Many of the arguments made by the applicant are exactly the same as those offered by the Church in opposition to designation in 2010.

Klari:

- Agree that there is nothing that the Committee could or should do under these circumstances in the absence of complete updated information.

Doug:

- This application has been highly polarizing. Rally scheduled for Saturday.
- Toured the building during 2022 and did not find it to be in as dire condition as claimed by the applicant.
- Huge variation in cost estimates.
- Choice should not be all-or-nothing.
- City cannot fund repairs to a Church, but can to a not-for-profit.
- This proposal involves luxury apartments, not affordable housing.

Peter:

- Church has been in disrepair for more than 25 years.
- Proposal offered 5-7 years ago to demolish just the Parish House and to build a residential building on the footprint of the Parish House, with a cantilever over the sanctuary building to expand the size and number of apartments that can be built.
- A feasible middle ground.

Roberta:

- The light and air from the scale and appearance of the building contributes to a sense of neighborhood that an apartment building cannot replicate.
- City agencies should be more transparent about materials and responses to Community Board resolutions and initiatives.

Madge:

- We cannot respond to the latest learning since it has not been shared with us.

Jay:

- The standard for a hardship application is a 6% return on investment that is wholly inappropriate and inapplicable to a hardship application on behalf of a religious or not-for-profit organization.
- City Council should take action to exempt such organizations from these types of applications.

Doug:

- Agrees that the 6% ROI standard is irrelevant to this type of application.
- Absence of active parishioners is also irrelevant to the deliberations over the application to permit demolition.

Adjourned at 8:25 pm

# TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Andrew Albert and Mark N. Diller, Co-Chairperson**

**June 13, 2023 at 6:30 PM via Zoom**

The Meeting can be viewed in its entirety on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eF98VfxPTqo>

**Present: Committee Members** Andrew Albert and Mark N. Diller, Co-Chairs; Jay Adolf, Alex Bell, Elizabeth Caputo, Ken Coughlin, Doug Kleiman, Sara Lind, William Ortiz, Andrew Rigie, Erana Stennett, and Howard Yaruss.

**Chair:** Beverly Donohue. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Barbara Adler, Jami Floyd, Kevin Reevey, Roberta Semer, and Susan Schwartz. **Board Office:** Max Vandervliet (District Manager) and Jessie Nieves

**Absent: N/A**

*The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by co-chairs Andrew Albert and Mark Diller.*

The following matters were discussed and actions taken.

**Re: Secondary Street Naming of the Southwest Corner of West 95th Street and Central Park West in honor of Catherine “Katy” Ferguson.**

Presentation by

- Keyarra Bell-Flynn, Administrative Officer and DEIA Coordinator, the Alexander Robertson School (“ARS”)
- Thia Reggio, Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of New York City
- Derrick McQueen, and
- Brinton Parson, Head of School of ARS

Catherine “Katy” Ferguson

- Katy Ferguson was born into slavery in 1779. Her mother was sold away from her when Katy was 8.
- At the age of 10, at great personal peril, she found her way to New York City and eventually secured her own freedom from slavery through an arrangement with a congregant at the Second Presbyterian Church in New York City (the “Congregation”). The Congregation was active in the abolitionist movement at the time.
- Katy Ferguson was the first woman of color to join the Congregation. Though she never learned to read or write, she used scripture stories and invited other learned individuals into her home to help educate young children on religious and secular matters, and in so doing created the first Sunday School in New York City.
- After the untimely death of her husband and children due to cholera, she brought into her home and educational programs vulnerable children from alms houses, the streets, and negligent parents. She raised many of these children herself, and placed the others in suitable homes.
- ARS is the current name of the school founded by the Congregation that was so ably served by “Aunt Katy” during her lifetime. Katy Ferguson was a seminal influence on the mission of ARS from its early days, and continues to be a source of inspiration and pride to both ARS and the Congregation.
- Upon her untimely death in 1854 due to cholera, W.E.B. DuBois included Katy Ferguson alongside Sojourner Truth, Phyllis WHeatley and Harriet Tubman as among “the most notable colored [sic] women of importance.”
- Catherine “Katy” Ferguson’s remarkable personal story, her groundbreaking work in serving vulnerable children of all faiths and races, and her contributions to the Congregation and ARS, more than amply satisfy the criteria for a secondary street co-naming.

Committee and Community Questions and Comments included the following:

- Desire that “Aunt Katy’s” story be told in full, which requires more than a street sign. Seeking a plaque or other means of sharing more than her name for the benefit of the public and history.
- The Katy Ferguson Literacy Initiative under the aegis of ARS and the Congregation recently donated over 300 books to literacy efforts at the nearby NYCHA Frederick Douglass Houses.
- This street renaming will prompt inquiry into this remarkable person’s life story and work, countering the pernicious trend to obscure or omit the contributions of African Americans to our shared history and school curriculums.
- Seeking ways to revive the online collection of the life stories of individuals who have been the subject of secondary street renamings in our District.

Resolution:

To recommend that the Southwest Corner of Central Park West and West 95th street be secondarily named “Catherine ‘Katy’ Ferguson Way.”

After deliberation, the resolution was adopted.

Vote - Committee: 9-0-1-0; Non-Committee Board Members: 6-0-0-0.

**MTA UPDATES** - presentation by Co-Chair Andrew Albert

- The recently adopted New York State Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 included significant increased financial support for New York City transit.
- Among the initiatives and programs funded through the FY 24 budget were:
  - The upcoming subway and bus fare increase will be at 4% instead of 5.5% as originally projected.
  - Frequency of service will be increased both for weekday and weekend service, including on the G, J and M lines, as well as on the 1, 6, C and M lines. In some instances, expected waiting times for transit service will be cut in half.
  - City Tickets for reduced fare use of mass transit is being expanded to additional neighborhoods and stations.
  - OMNY fare-capping will be available for any 7-day period with the sufficient number of paid rides, regardless of whether the first qualifying paid ride was on a Monday.
- Congestion Pricing will permit the City and State to collateralize bonds for future renovations and capital projects, including making approximately 95% of all subway stations accessible to people with disabilities by the middle of the Century.
- MTA Website includes the dates, times and locations of upcoming opportunities for public testimony on the proposed fare increases.

**24 Precinct Safety Report** - presentation by Community Affairs Officer Nilda Quezada

- The 24 Precinct has been implementing pedestrian safety operations.
- One focus of such operations has been writing summonses and, in some cases, confiscating non-street-legal and/or unregistered mopeds, dirt bikes, electronic bikes, and similar vehicles.
- The Precinct has also renewed with the warmer weather the frequency of operations by the safety team to write summonses to motorists for conduct that threatens or frightens pedestrians, including summonses for talking on the phone while driving; running red lights; failures to yield, and similar conduct.
- After a pedestrian death such as what occurred recently at West 106th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, the Precinct typically steps up enforcement for at least 72 hours aimed at reinforcing the need for safer conduct on the roads.
- While unlicensed and irresponsibly ridden dirt bikes, mopeds, ebikes and other two-wheeled vehicles are engaging in dangerous behavior, NYPD will not chase such riders as that could lead to more erratic driving that increases the threat to pedestrians. These operations will be increased in the warmer weather when more of these bikes and vehicles are found on our streets.
- Enforcement efforts against cars failing to yield, making turns and driving in the wrong direction increase during the summer months when the weather is more pleasant and crowds abound.

**Committee Comment**

- Concern for food trucks and other vehicles parking or standing for extended periods in the Central Park West protected bike lane. Repeat offenders should be towed.
- Concern for increases in delivery worker hourly wage, pegged to performance criteria. The concern is that the additional financial incentives will encourage delivery workers to ride even faster and in a more unsafe manner.

**Discussion of District Needs Statement and Statement of Budget Priorities**

Overview presentation by Roberta Semer:

- The approach to the DNS follows the categories for comments and narrative established in the online portal for the DNS established by the Department of City Planning.
- The submissions must be brief and to the point.
- The agency responses to the previous year's budget priorities revealed that undefined or broad categories for needs to be funded were often overlooked because they were too broad in scope. CB7 would be better served by choosing a smaller universe of more easily defined specific needs.

Discussion of the DNS and Budget Priorities from FY23:

- Colleen Chattergoon (NYC DoT) reinforced the need for specific locations in recognized unsafe areas rather than sweeping calls for unlimited funds for inter-related safety improvements. Better to seek well-defined safety improvements at a handful of specifically named locations.

Previous Year DNS and Budget Priorities:

- DNS should include a brief summary of street-safety-related resolutions adopted by CB7 as to which no response or action has resulted.

Next Steps:

- Committee to mark-up and circulate draft additions, deletions and revisions of the items of note for the DNS and Budget Priorities.

*The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.*

# BUSINESS & CONSUMER ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Joshua Cohen and Benjamin Wu, Co-Chairpersons**

**June 14, 2023 at 6:30 PM via Zoom**

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

**Present:** Joshua Cohen and Benjamin Wu, Co-Chairs; Barbara Adler, Doug Kleiman, Andrew Rigie, Linda Alexander and Anthony Thomas. **Chair:** Beverly Donohue. **Non-Committee Board Member:** Daria Kim. **Board Office:** Max Vandervliet

*Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.*

## **1. Re: 891 Amsterdam Avenue (West 104th Street). Temporary Retail Permit and Class Change Application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by American Youth Hostels, Inc.**

- Panelists are: Donald Bernstein, Aaron Chaffee, Isabel Cruz
  - They are a not-for-profit 501(c)3 that operates many hostels and have been operating in this current location since 1990. They have had a members club license to serve guests of the hostel beer and wine.
  - The hostel has an event space so they want to get a class change and obtain a catering license because the space has 140 seat room and has another space with 95 seats where they can host birthday parties, weddings, meetings, etc.
  - They will operate from 8am to 1am but most events will not go that late and their patio will close by 11pm.

AFTER DUE DELIBERATION, the resolution to approve 891 Amsterdam Avenue (West 104th Street). Temporary Retail Permit and Class Change Application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by American Youth Hostels, Inc. was adopted.

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

## **2. New Business.**

- **Minimum pay rate for app-based restaurant delivery workers:**
  - Andrew Rigie provided an overview of the regulatory framework for the new minimum pay standards for app-based restaurant delivery workers and general conversation ensued.
  - Chairperson Beverly Donohue stated that the topic of e-bikes and the minimum pay standards for app-based restaurant delivery workers was briefly discussed at the Transportation Committee. It was recommended that a committee meeting with Transportation and BCI be co-hosted with expert presenters to explain the implications of this new law and discuss related matters.

*The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.*

# YOUTH, EDUCATION & LIBRARIES COMMITTEE *joint with*

Kristen Berger, Chairperson

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES MEETING

Andrew Albert and Mark Diller, Co-Chairpersons

June 15, 2023 at 6:30 PM via Zoom

The Meeting can be viewed in its entirety on <https://www.youtube.com/live/W-4GwwDIJQM?feature=share>

**Present:** Kristen Berger, Chair; Alex Bell, Audrey Isaacs, Blanche Lawton, Ira Mitchneck, Michele Parker and Seema Reddy, Ken Coughlin, Doug Kleiman. **Transportation Committee:** Andrew Albert and Mark Diller, Co-Chairs; and William Ortiz. **Chair:** Beverly Donohue. **Non-Committee Board Members:** Barabara Adler, Daria Kim and Ava Stryker-Robbins. **Board Office:** Max Vandervliet.

*Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.*

### Introduction to Joint Meeting

#### Discussion of School Curb Use

Research by Alex Bell (YES & Transportation committee member) on use of curb space by schools.

**Summary:** The Upper Westside of Manhattan is home to many schools which means every school day thousands of students and teachers travel to school in the district. The DOT provides 191 reserved parking spots for faculty of private and public schools in the district and 360 spots for pickup and dropoff. Teachers struggle to find parking, and receive tickets for parking with placards in non-parking spots or on school property. Vehicles picking and dropping off, such as school buses, cannot fit in the standing zones and block traffic on side streets. The process to request a spot is not well understood. The spots that are allocated are unequally so, with some private and public schools having multiple faculty and standing spots vs none for others.

[Upper Westside School Parking and Standing](#)

Shared survey of D3 schools and parking concerns- Qualitative survey sent out to all schools within CB7 by CB7 office, received 4 replies. Replies indicated a desire for more parking for school staff and busses. [Responses to School Parking Survey \(rev. 5.2.2023\)](#)

Committee members commended Alex Bell on his thorough research of the problem and the provision of data.

Committee members asked for clarity on how loading zones and staff parking becomes designated. A. Bell shared that in conversation with both DOT and DOE, neither agency has a defined process, and spots are designated infrequently. M. Diller noted that when construction displaces permitted parking, the permitted spots seem to not be restored after construction.

Spaces relative to need. A number of committee members asked if space needs for no parking could be determined in relation to student need for bussing from a given school, and/or relative to the amount of street frontage a school occupies. Discussion on variable needs of schools depending on how many students in each school require bussing (not all students are bussed to school). That data would be helpful in this conversation. Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) has the number of students requiring bussing in each school. A. Bell said no current system in place and has drafted the resolutions to recommend such.

Audry Isaacs noted, as DOE employee, the demand for staff parking and the greater needs of some staff members who may live further from transportation. B. Lawton questioned if permitted spots are for teachers only or for all staff, the need has been raised to CB 7 in the past.

Committee members noted the use of off-street parking around schools. I. Mitchneck commented that schools seem to do this with no apparent authority from higher up- DOE, DOT, etc.

A number of committee members were concerned about how the use of curb space for no-standing and staff parking interacts with other needed curb uses, including bicycles, sanitation, parking, and traffic. A. Bell modified the draft resolution to reflect the need to be included in these wider curb-use discussions.

K.Coughlin and A. Albert both stated that they, in keeping with past decisions of the Transportation Committee, want to encourage school staff, like all commuters to use public transportation rather than encouraging parking.

K.Berger stated she would not support anything that may encourage permits for school staff parking.

K.Coughlin and W.Ortiz stated that schools should also look at adding adequate bike racks by buildings. K.Berger commented that some High Schools have them, and some even have skateboard storage inside the schools.

- *After due deliberation, the resolution to increase equity in “no standing” spots for CB7 schools was adopted.*
  - *Committee: 15-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members 4-0-0-0*
- *After due deliberation, the resolution to increase equity in authorized school faculty parking spots in CB7 schools was adopted.*
  - *Committee: 6-3-3-0. Non-Committee Board Members 3-0-1-0*

*The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.*

*\*\* Please note, meeting minutes will be forthcoming. \*\**

---

## **PARKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Natasha Kazmi and Susan Schwartz, Co-Chairpersons  
June 5, 2023 at 6:30 PM via Zoom

---

## **HOUSING COMMITTEE**

Louisa Craddock and Tibita Kaneene, Co-Chairpersons

*Joint with* **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Sheldon Fine and Sonia Garcia, Co-Chairpersons  
June 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM via Zoom