

**COMMUNITY BOARD 7/MANHATTAN**  
**FEBRUARY 2023 RESOLUTIONS**

**Health & Human Services Committee, Sheldon Fine and Sonia Garcia, Chair**

**1. Re: Manhattan School for Children's Proposal for an Inclusive Playground on the JOA Campus.**

*Committee to provide the resolution.*

*Committee: 8-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 5-0-0-0.*

**2. Re: Manhattan DA Investing \$9 million for Mental Health for those who are Arrested.**

*Committee to provide the resolution.*

*Committee: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 5-0-0-0.*

**Parks & Environment Committee, Natasha Kazmi and Susan Schwartz, Co-Chairpersons**

**3. Re: Reconstruction of step ramps in Riverside Park at West 105<sup>th</sup> Street.**

WHEREAS, the site of the project concerns the two staircases located at West 105th Street inside Riverside Park and adjacent to the seasonal concessionaire *Ellington in the Park* (the "Site"), and

WHEREAS, the goal of the project is to reconstruct the two deteriorated step ramps by reusing the existing granite risers and replacing the existing bluestone pavers in-kind, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the project, in part, is to rectify trip hazards and irregular conditions that pose safety risks at the Site, and

WHEREAS, some portions of the Site's foundation will be replaced, an ADA-compliant center handrail and a guardrail on the western-side cheekwalls will be installed, and

WHEREAS, the existing trench drains on the staircase will be removed, and

WHEREAS, construction will be phased to keep one stair open at all times, and the concessionaire and restrooms will continue to operate throughout, seasonally,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 / Manhattan enthusiastically approves this restoration, which is true to the historic character of Riverside Park. We believe this project is much needed to improve the condition of the Site and the safety of visitors' experience in this area.

*Committee: 6-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Members: 9-0-0-0.*

**4. Re: MBPO's "Million More Trees" initiative.**

WHEREAS, in February 2022, the five borough presidents of New York City unanimously called on Mayor Eric Adams to provide funding to plant one million new trees by 2030; and

WHEREAS, New York City currently has roughly 7 million trees, in comparison to its 8.8 million residents; and

WHEREAS, trees improve the liveability of the city by helping clean the air of pollutants, cooling city streets, absorbing stormwater, serving as refuge for wildlife, promoting human health and well-being and, of course, adding beauty; and

WHEREAS, tree planting and cover throughout the City is also an issue of equity and environmental justice. Some neighborhoods have long enjoyed the benefits of extensive tree coverage, while communities of color and those with lower incomes remain under-planted and under-covered; and

WHEREAS, there isn't sufficient budget for the long-term care of trees, or for tree stewardship training of individuals; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Gale Brewer's office has prioritized the condition and health of trees in District 6. The office conducted a comprehensive tree survey in the spring of 2022, in which 5,248 trees were studied. Results of the survey were shared with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Transportation. In addition, last year, Greening Broadway, a project to fund the installation of 35 trees and tree guards on the sidewalks along Broadway, won \$250,000 of participatory budgeting funding; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 / Manhattan supports the call from the five borough presidents of New York City to the Mayor to provide funding to plant one million new trees by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 / Manhattan calls on the City to invest in urban forestry/tree stewardship programs focused on both youth and non-youth participants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 / Manhattan calls on the City to invest the funds for this project equitably, so that under-planted and under-covered neighborhoods can also start to enjoy the benefits of tree coverage, particularly communities of color and low-income communities that lack extensive tree cover, and neighborhoods with high incidences of asthma and other respiratory illness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 / Manhattan calls on the City to honor the Mayor's pledge to spend 1% of the municipal budget on the City's parks. This funding should be independent of The One Million More Trees Initiative.

*Committee vote to be provided.*

**Business & Consumer Issues Committee, Christian Cordova and Benjamin Wu, Co-Chairpersons**

***New and Temporary Retail Permit application***

**5. Re: 953 Amsterdam Avenue (West 106<sup>th</sup> – 107<sup>th</sup> Streets.)**

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 TSR 953, Corp d/b/a Tropical Sensation.

*Committee: 4-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Member: 1-0-0-0.*

**6. Re: 425 Amsterdam Avenue (West 80<sup>th</sup> – 81<sup>st</sup> Streets.)**

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 entity to be formed by Martin Whelan and Randy Adams d/b/a TBD.

*Committee: 5-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Member: 1-0-0-0.*

***Alteration Application***

**7. Re: 668B-670A Amsterdam Avenue (West 93rd Street.)**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** Alteration application to the SLA for a two-year liquor license by Talia's Restaurant Group, LLC d/b/a Talia's Steakhouse.

*Committee: 5-0-0-0. Non-Committee Board Member: 1-0-0-0.*

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

**8. Re: 45 West 81<sup>st</sup> Street (Columbus Avenue – Central Park West.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a certificate of appropriateness for a one-story rooftop addition.**

This resolution is based on the following facts:

The building was designed by Sugarman & Hess and built in 1922. It has a distinctive double pediment on its primary (south) façade, facing Theodore Roosevelt Park and the Museum of Natural History. The building has operated primarily as a transient hotel and is being converted to condominiums. The applicant proposes a full-width penthouse addition at the sixteenth-floor front façade, with a ten-foot setback on the front and no setbacks on the east or west. The front façade would be almost entirely glass windows surrounded by dark gray metal frames, and the east and west facades would be solid matte lighter gray metal. The penthouse addition would be visible from the park and museum across 81<sup>st</sup> Street, and from Columbus Avenue.

Preservation Committee members expressed various concerns about the application, including the public visibility of the proposed addition, its height, the narrowness of the ten-foot setback, the width of the addition (full width on the east and west), and the degree to which the proposed design clashes with the existing architecture. They also suggested that the glass be bird-safe and that the penthouse roof be a "green roof" (that is, covered with live plants).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the application as presented, as minimally appropriate to the historic architecture of the building and of the Historic District, with a strong recommendation that the glass be bird-proof (whether or not required by Code) and that the penthouse roof be a "green roof".

*Committee: 4-3-0-0. Non-Committee Board members: 4-0-0-0.*

**9. Re 392 Columbus Avenue (West 79<sup>th</sup> Street.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a certificate of appropriateness for storefront alterations which includes the installation of windows, signage, lighting, and awnings.**

This resolution is based on the following facts:

This is a corner commercial space that has been a restaurant for decades. The new tenant/applicant is Wafels & Dinges, a Belgian waffle company that has been operating from food trucks in various locations. The three new awnings would be sunflower yellow (referencing the Belgian flag), and there would be new exterior lighting, new operable windows with signage below, and an additional partially illuminated sign. The Columbus Avenue BID supports the application.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** the application as presented, as reasonably appropriate to the historic architecture of the building and of the Historic District.

*Committee: 6-0-1-0. Non-Committee Board members: 3-0-0-0.*