



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

Chairperson's Report for May 2016

Catherine McVay Hughes

May has been another productive month throughout our District. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better for everyone. Here are some of the important issues and milestones that we have worked on with fellow board members, CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies. Thank you!

Updates

- **75 Morton Street Middle School** – Community Education Council District 2 (CEC2), the local school board, approved a final zoning proposal for the new middle school which is scheduled to open in fall 2017 at 75 Morton Street to include students now attending PS 89 and PS 276 in Battery Park City, and PS 234 in Tribeca; thank you CEC2 and School Overcrowding Task Force leadership for supporting CB1's proposal (05/05/16)
- Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) approved 77 Greenwich Street (a.k.a. 42 Trinity Place) building which contains new zoned elementary and middle school – a 35-story mixed-use project building with the new school at the base in the Financial District can now go forward with less overhang. The project needed LPC approval because it would cantilever over the Robert and Anne Dickey House, an individual landmark immediately to the south at 67 Greenwich Street. According to LPC, "the proposal was approved as modified on 3/8/16. However, no work may begin until a Certificate of Appropriateness has been issued. Upon receipt, review and approval of two signed and sealed sets of the final Department of Buildings filing drawings for the approved work, a Certificate of Appropriateness will be issued. The school occupies 8/9 stories in the building (a.k.a. 28-30 Trinity Place)."
- **Governors Island** – the President and Chief Executive of the Trust for Governors Island Leslie Koch will step down after the final section of the 172-acre Governors Island, known as the Hills, will open to the public at 10 a.m. on July 19. The Hills will be 10 acres of ridges, paths, slides and lawns that will rise seven stories over the harbor, providing panoramic views of New York City and the Statue of Liberty. Thank you Leslie Koch for overseeing the design of 40 acres of new parkland, two new ballfields, a handover of control from the state to the city, the opening of a high school (Harbor School) and \$300 million in new construction, a good two-thirds of which is invisible infrastructure
- **Lower Manhattan Department of Transportation (DOT) office which coordinated construction of 90+ projects is discontinued as of May 1** – monthly meetings and related information have ended
- **Nanny arrested for kidnapping girl in her care who was missing for 12+ hours** – thank you NYPD First Precinct, especially the Patrol, Detective and K9 Units and Detective Alistair Bascom and Detective David Okenek. (05/18/16)

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- **Water Street Text Amendment** – NYC Council held two hearings on May 3 and May 17 and the subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises is expected to vote on June 2, 2016. Also, there is no link between the proposed Water Street arcade proposal and BPCA’s South End Avenue/West Thames Street Study. Nor will the future of Water Street’s arcades impact or inform the process or outcome of the South End Avenue/ West Thames Study. Changes in or improvements to the South End Avenue/West Thames Street streetscape, if any, must, by necessity, be the result of a collaborative process involving all interested stakeholders, including residents, building/condo owners, area businesses, the City of New York, etc.
- **Creation of CB1 Resiliency Task Force which covers “Manhattan Tip”** – as follow-up from the Office of Recovery and Resiliency (ORR) update at the 05/17 Seaport Committee meeting, working with the Borough President’s office to schedule a meeting so that their office can provide some guidance to CB1 in setting up their taskforce to proceed with their phase of the Coastal Resiliency Project (“Big U”); thank you Basha Gerhards, Deputy Director of Land Use
- **Dozen cruise-ticket vendors were arrested** – last Wednesday, as reported by DNA.info “... accused of duping tourists trying to get to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island by peddling them tickets for boats that never dock at the landmarks, were part of an ongoing investigation into illegal, sometimes violent, ticket selling at The Battery, ticket sellers around Battery Park has been fueled in part by ferry companies — including Statue Cruises' parent company, Hornblower, Inc. — that rely on a network of aggressive sellers, some with violent criminal records... So far this year, 50 vendors near The Battery — not including those in the crackdown last week — have been arrested for either lying to tourists or aggressively pushing the sales, the source said. Whenever someone arrested was found with tickets on them, they always had Hornblower tickets, sometimes along with other tour company tickets, the source added. As of January 2016, police had identified 106 individual ticket sellers near The Battery: 51 were on parole for a crime, and 19 were sex offenders...”; thank NYPD to addressing CB1’s concerns (05/18/16)
- **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) withholds authorization for gelled propane fracking in NY** –a landmark victory after an effective campaign to keep New York 100% frack-free, protecting our drinking water and our health; thank you Walter Hang, Toxics Targeting (05/15/16)

Press Conferences

- **New York City Comptroller Stringer released an audit of the MTA’s Access-A-Ride program** – joined by advocates and community members (City Hall steps, 05/17/16)
- **Rally for Construction Coordination led by Senator Squadron** – joined Assembly Member Glick, NYC Council Member Chin, Manhattan Borough President Brewer, FiDi Neighborhood Association, Worth Street representatives and Jeff Ehrlich (City Hall Steps, 04/27/16)

Testimonies

- **New York City Council Budget Hearing on Resiliency and Transportation** – thank you Diana Switaj, Director of Planning (05/24/16)

- **Citywide Ferry Service** – testimony by Diana Switaj, Director of Planning (110 William Street, 05/19/16)
- **New York City Council Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises Public Hearing on Water Street Upgrades** - testimony by Michael Levine, Planning Consultant (05/17/16)

Events

- **Church Street School of Music and Art Street Fair** – joined President Lisa Ecklund-Flores and NYC Council Member Chin (Sunday, 05/22/16)
- **State Senator Daniel Squadron’s Eighth Annual 26th Senate District Community Convention** – remarks by Comptroller Stringer and Congressman Nadler and keynote speaker NYC Department of Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg, followed by small discussion groups on 14 topics (ranging from parks and open space to education to transportation to resiliency); Borough President Brewer attended (PS 125, Yung Wing School, 40 Division Street, Sunday, 05/15/16)
- **FDNY Open Houses and gave CB1 Citations** (Saturday 05/14/16):
 - **Firehouse E-7/L-1**, 100 Duane Street
 - **Firehouse E-4/L-15**, 42 South Street with Susan Cole
 - **Firehouse E-6**, 49 Beekman Street with Joe Lerner
 - **Firehouse: E-10/L-10**, 124 Liberty Street
- **Transit District 2 NYPD Meet and Greet** (train station 14th Street and 8 Avenue, 5/11/16)
- **Pen Parentis** – free monthly literary salon in Fidi, for info: <http://www.penparentis.org/> (05/10/16)
- **New York City Rescue Mission: She matters. Honor Her** – served and spoke for Mother’s Day luncheon for 400 women and children in crisis (05/07/16)
- **Liberty Park tour with PANYNJ** – joined CB1 Planning and Financial District Committee members for tour of the PANYNJ’s “rooftop garden” on top of their Vehicular Security Center (04/29/16)

Meetings

- **Manhattan Borough Board** – thank you Anthony Notaro who attended (05/19/16)
- **Make Way for Lower Manhattan** – joined CB1 Planning staff and Patrick Kennell (05/16/16)
- **Lower Manhattan School Overcrowding Taskforce Meeting** – attended by other CB1 members (5/19/16)
- **The Battery Conservancy Board** (05/17/16)
- **NYC Office of the Comptroller’s Manhattan Borough Liaison** – new liaison, Eric Holguin, to discuss CB1 concerns with CB1 staff (5/12/16)
- **World Trade Center Health Program Survivors Steering Committee Meeting** – thank you Bob Schneck (conference call, 05/03/16)

Announcements

- **9/11 Memorial’s activities to commemorate the 14th anniversary of the official end of the WTC recovery operations** – The 9/11 Memorial is hosting a week of dedicated programs and activities,

(May 23-30) to mark the 14th anniversary of the official end of the WTC recovery operations. CB1 members are welcome to attend a special ceremony in Foundation Hall taking place on May 26. The evening will begin with a public program in the Museum's auditorium at 4:00 p.m., followed by a ceremony at the Last Column in Foundation Hall, beginning at 5:30 p.m. There will also be a moment of silence to remember all those who have succumbed to 9/11-related illnesses. Please RSVP to CB1 for event on Thursday, 05/26/16

- **Hudson River Park Advisory Council Meeting** – Bob Townley, represents Community Board 1 and he is, again, Chair. They rotate through CB1, CB2 and CB3. The first meeting was held on May 16, 2016 and attended by CB1 board member and staff
- **Governors Island 2016 season opens on Saturday, May 28** – 7 days per week ferry access
- **WTC Scientific Advisory Technical Committee (STAC) meeting** – June 2, 9am-5pm at Jacob Javits Federal Building; the webpage currently provides details on the agenda, links to the policies for discussion, instructions for how to sign up to make a public comment, etc.
http://www.cdc.gov/wtc/stac_meeting.html
- **Save the Date: Construction Forum September 23** – sponsored by Manhattan Borough President Brewer, CB1 and others; thank you Pat Moore and Jeff Ehrlich; location TBC
- **Encourage CB1 Committee leadership (Chair and Co-chairs) to attend State Liquor Authority (SLA) update at Manhattan Borough Board meeting on Thursday, June 16** – 8:30am at Borough President Brewer's office, 1 Centre Street, 19th floor