



Anne Compoccia
Chairperson

COMMUNITY BOARD No. 1

CITY OF NEW YORK



Paul Goldstein
District Manager

MINUTES
OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
COMMUNITY BOARD #1
HELD
FEBRUARY 14, 1991
PARISH OF TRINITY CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
74 TRINITY PLACE - CAFETERIA 2ND FLOOR

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Anne Compoccia.

Public Hearing:

The 68-76 William St. public hearing was cancelled, and the applications were sent back to the Financial District Committee for further discussion.

Public Session:

No Speakers

Executive Session:

The minutes of the monthly meeting held January 8, 1991 were adopted as presented. Charles Gaines welcomed the Board to Trinity Church in Rev. Barbara Crafton's absence. Anne Compoccia thanked Trinity Church for allowing us to use their space.

Reports of Elected Officials:

Miriam Friedlander, City Councilmember - Congratulated the Board on a major victory in resolving outstanding issues concerning the pedestrian bridge over West St. at Chambers St. The Mayor's "Safe Streets/Safe City" program has been approved by the Governor. This will provide funding for 3500 extra police officers, youth programs and allow schools to have afterschool programs. Funds will be supplied by the continuation of the income tax surcharge, an increase in real estate taxes and a special NYC lottery. A special fund will be set up to finance educational and youth programs. The Police Commissioner's proposal would put police on foot patrol so there is an interrelationship with the neighborhood. The 1st Precinct will increase its uniformed police from 167 to 235 and civilian personnel from 27 to 30. The City Council continues to fight for the reopening of fire companies. The Fire fighters Union went to Albany to seek funds from the "Safe Streets/Safe City" program. They obtained a commitment that no more fire companies will be closed.

Tom Duane - Representative of Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman - Reported City contracts are awarded now by the Procurement Policy Board, a 5 member board appointed by the Comptroller and the Mayor. Half of the contracts are awarded without competition. The Comptroller is sponsoring a forum on Land Use, Zoning and Infrastructure on May 2nd at FIT. Tom and others continue to struggle with the MTA over the hours for the Fulton St. Station.

Committee Report:

The Board approved resolutions setting forth CB #1's comments on the first annual Citywide Statement of Needs and the Preliminary FY' 92 Capital and Expense Budget. The vote on both resolutions was 24 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

The Board approved a resolution endorsing the proposal of a Section 197-a Plan coalition comprising guidelines for the drafting and implementation of community based 197-a Plans. The vote was 25 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstentions.

Public Hearing:

Proposed pedestrian bridge over West St. at Chambers St.

David Emil - President, Battery Park City Authority - Requested favorable review of the design in order to advance the ULURP so that the bridge can be completed in time for the opening of the new Stuyvesant High School. Two major concerns have been addressed. At grade-crossing will be improved in conjunction with construction of the bridge. The hours the bridge remains open can and should be improved so it will be open until dusk during the Summer. Presently scheduled hours are 7 AM - 10 PM on school days and 9 AM - 5 PM on weekends.

Marilyn Taylor - Skidmore, Owings and Merrill - Presented the design for the pedestrian bridge which will span 250' of West St. The design includes a staircase and an elevator on either side. The staircase on the eastside will be curved. The elevators are designed to meet requirements for people with disabilities. The bridge will be 13' wide and 10' high. The floor will be wooden and the span will be enclosed by panels of glass to assure security. It is designed to be light, airy and translucent. The Stuyvesant High School construction budget will provide \$4 million of the funding; the balance will be provided by the BPCA and the City, 50% each. The City will own the bridge. Maintenance responsibilities will also be divided. The Board of Education will be responsible for the mechanical contracts; BPC will conduct daily cleaning services; and the DOT will be responsible for long term maintenance. Cameras, on the bridge for security, will be monitored inside the school.

Committee Report:

Pat Dillon voiced astonishment at seeing the resolution before the Board because the consensus of the Committee had been to draft a negative resolution, and that motion was tabled. The Borough President's Office has been given assurances of a safe-at-grade crossing. Harold Donohue seconded the resolution-which had not been voted on by the Executive Committee-arguing that the resolution applies the pressure needed to achieve community goals. The Department of Transportation is expediting its safety survey. The Department has assured that a safe at-grade crossing will be in place when the school opens. The resolution was approved by the Board; the vote was 28 in favor, 1 opposed with 1 abstention.

Youth

R. Townley

Public Comments:

Elsbeth Schell - PS 234 - Spoke in support of having a flea market because funds are needed for the school. She expressed appreciation for the rigorous,

Borough President's Report:

Lillie Carino - Representative of Borough President Ruth Messinger - Distributed a quarterly and a monthly newsletter. Applications for reappointment are being mailed to all board members. Only members whose terms expire this year must return them, unless they have moved or changed jobs during the past year. The Borough President is analyzing the budget and proposed increase in real estate taxes. The proposed Grand Prix auto race may not be held this year. The BPO's review of the Stuyvesant High School pedestrian bridge application will include the concerns of the Community Board. The MTA will conduct a public hearing on February 19th regarding service changes. These changes are represent drastic cuts in service. Both subway and bus routes will be affected.

District Manager's Report:

Paul Goldstein - Reported on the following issues:

1. Island Club - The State Liquor Authority has revoked its license.
2. Fulton St. Station - The City Planning Commission has agreed to provide funding for the conversion of the booths from Special Greenwich St. District funds.
3. Senior citizens - The two recreation programs we had have been eliminated by the Department of Aging.
4. Sanitation cuts - The "broom team", the small truck sweepers and the daily truck to the Fulton Fish Market have been cut.
5. Illegal Parking on Canal St. - A towing program has been instituted to eliminate this chronic problem.

Chairperson's Report:

Anne Compocchia - Reported she attended budget hearings and testified at a Landmarks Preservation Commission hearing in support of upholding the landmark designation of 359 Broadway. The City Council upheld the LPC's decision. The Site 5B/5C Committee has prepared a list of community needs addressing the environmental issues involved in the proposed development of this site. The Board received a letter from Carol Starmack accusing the Board of conducting secret meetings. It was suggested the individual have her name placed on the mailing list and attend the scheduled meetings, as they are all open to the public.

Committee Reports:

NOTE: SEE RESOLUTIONS AT END OF MINUTES.

Executive

A. Compocchia

Public Hearing:

Citywide Statement of Needs

No Speakers

CB #1 Comment on the FY'92 Capital and Expense Budget

No Speakers

progressive education being provided by the school and the strong leadership of the principal.

Onni Johnson - PS 234 PTA - Spoke in support of having the flea market to raise funds for enrichment programs. An RFP is being prepared for an operator of the market. She requested Community Board support.

Committee Report:

Bob Townley weighed the problems anticipated versus the revenue the flea market would generate. The vendor should have to make a commitment to maintain a security presence. There is no parking around the school and regulations are enforced.

Lloyd Merrill pointed out that the school excludes children living east of Broadway. The group will be raising funds for programs for children who live far North in the district and not for children who live very near the school. PS 234 exists because of the Community Board's past efforts.

The Board approved the committee resolution by a vote of 23 in favor, 3 opposed and 1 abstention. Some of those voting in favor did so expressing their misgivings. The Youth Committee will monitor the flea market and work toward a change in the boundaries of the school district so that it includes all children in CB #1.

The Youth Coordinator position was not eliminated, thanks in part, to testimony at hearings by the Board Chairperson and the Director of the Community Assistance Unit.

The Board approved a committee resolution opposing contract changes by the DYS by a hand vote of 26 in favor, 1 opposed and one abstention.

Washington Market

J. Stratton

Public Comments:

428-430 Washington St.

Martin Marcus, architect - Presented designs to enlarge the loft building. The owner/resident is an artist requiring additional studio space. The street facade will not be disturbed because the front parapet is high enough to allow a fifth floor to be built behind it. The expansion is not beyond the allowed zoning for a commercial building; it requires a special permit because it is an artist's studio/residence.

Committee Report:

The Board approved a committee resolution in support of the application to enlarge 428-430 Washington St. by a vote of 18 in favor, 2 opposed with 1 abstention.

Public Hearing:

137 Franklin St. (Dennise's Restaurant)

No Speakers

Committee Report:

A Committee resolution in support of the application for renewal of a permit to operate an enclosed sidewalk cafe at Dennise's Restaurant was approved. The vote was 22 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

Public Hearing:

25 Hudson St. (Les Poulets Restaurant)

Gerald Levy - Owner of Les Poulets Restaurant - Distributed a written statement of purpose. He is applying for a cabaret license so that he can improve his catering business by having music, live jazz on Friday nights.

Committee Report:

The committee is opposed to issuance of a cabaret license because it could be passed on to another owner who might attract a rowdy clientele. A cabaret license in a manufacturing area allows a variety of things. The Board approved a committee resolution opposing the application by a vote of 13 in favor, 1 opposed and 8 abstentions.

Battery Park City

L. Belfer

Public Comments:

99 Battery Park Place Application for a 421-a Partial Tax Exemption

Andrew Berkman, attorney - Explained the application and requested the Board's support.

Public Hearing:

Site 11 Battery Park City - Application for a 421-a Partial Tax Exemption

No Speakers

Committee Report:

Since both developments comply with the law, the committee recommended approval of both applications for 421-a Partial Tax Exemption. The Board approved a committee resolution in support of each application by a vote of 13 in favor, 4 opposed and 2 abstentions.

The Board approved a committee resolution opposing granting of 421-a Partial Tax Exemptions for luxury housing developments in Battery Park City, and the extension of the time limits under which such projects can qualify. The vote was 20 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

Landmarks Committee

H. Bromm for D. Hupert

Presented three committee resolutions for the Boards approval:

1. Recommending that the Landmarks Preservation Commission designate the 15 low-scale, 1830's buildings in the Stone St. area as the Stone St. Historic District.
2. Urging the Mayor to withdraw the administration's proposal to reconfigure the Landmarks Preservation Commission.
3. Endorsing the recommendations **Zoning and Historic Districts**, a study by the Municipal Art Society's Planning Center.

All three resolutions were approved by a vote of 20 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

Waterfront & Environment

K. Freed

The Board approved a committee resolution opposing the closing of Marine Fire Company #2 and the removal of the fireboat, Harvey, by a vote of 19 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions. In the event of a major fire, this would leave the West Side unprotected.

A Committee resolution calling for provision of funds to maintain the West Side piers from a special account for this purpose was approved by the board by a vote of 19 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

Parks

M. Wills

Reported on the meeting of the committee jointly with the BPC Committee to review the South Garden. An RFP for a construction manager has been issued. The Manager will issue RFP's for bidding by the trades. The design of the park does not include open space. Wrought iron fences will be installed around the edges of the park. The esplanade does not connect to Battery Park. Board members felt the artist should have appeared before the Board.

Transportation & Uniformed Services

B. Sultzer for S. Coron

Public Comments:

Florence Daniels - St. Margaret's House - Discussed the hours of the Fulton St. Subway Station. The entrance should remain open 24 hr., as originally agreed to be by the TA. The TA is proposing that the M-15 bus line end at Houston St. The bus should continue to run to South Ferry on Saturdays and Sundays to provide sufficient service to the district.

Committee Report:

Barnet Sultzer discussed the MTA's brochure entitled "Service Changes". The changes, if implemented, will be dramatic. The board approved a committee resolution addressing the proposed changes in bus and subway service by a vote of 19 in favor 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

Traffic problems exist at Liberty St. and West St. and along South End Ave. Poor placement of the pedestrian crossing markings at the intersection of Liberty St. and West St. makes it dangerous to cross when cars make a U turn rather than a left turn. Double parking on South End Ave. and vehicles going through stop signs pose dangerous situations. Existing regulations should be enforced.

Arts & Cultural Affairs

J. Dixon

Committee Report:

Reported some artists do not remove their sculptures when the time period expires. The "Bull" has not been removed. A letter will be written to the Parks Department in this regard.

The Board adopted a committee resolution approving the temporary installation of "Liberty Pavillion" in City Hall Park. The vote was 16 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

Housing

H. Donohue

The Board approved a committee resolution concerning Mitchell-Lama rent increase deliberations. The vote was 13 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstentions. The Board approved a committee resolution concerning expanded eligibility criteria for SROs. The vote was 14 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned.