

MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD # 1
HELD
NOVEMBER 25, 2008
MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE
36 BATTERY PLACE, AUDITORIUM

I. **Public Session**

A) Comments by members of the public

Daniel Squadron, (State Senator Elect)

- Looking to have more oversight of public authorities.
- ‘Block-The-Box’– there is a need for more cameras at selected intersections.
- Talking to DOT about curb cuts for better wheel chair access.
- Any questions or comments, www.DanielSquardon.org

Mark Costello, (CB1 member)

- Asked the board to support the Governors Island resolution.

Erin Drinkwater, (Congressman Nadler’s office)

- Will be on jury duty next month; call (212) 367-7350 for assistance.
- Introduced H.R. 1531 to limit President Bush’s power to use pardons.
- There are no plans to close the Peck Slip post office.

Greg Kirschenbaum, (BP Stringers office)

- Brought reappointment applications for incumbent CB members up for reappointment and any new people who would like to become members
- Politics of Food was a very successful event. Mayor Bloomberg was a guest speaker.

Leslie Koch, (GIPAC Governors Island)

- Thanked the Waterfront committee for its resolution of support.
- Arts program is being developed. There is much green space and the island invites all to come with their families

John Ricker, (Comptroller Thompson office)

- Comptroller spoke at the Crain's business breakfast about how to restore the economy.

Molly Bidol, (Assembly Member Glick)

- Forum about Mayoral control of schools held on Nov. 2nd.
- Testified before the Department of Aging against 2009-2010 budget cuts.
- Met with Safety Roads Alliance about capping the length and weight of trucks in NYC.

Tom Hall, (NYC Rescue Mission)

- Reported that the mission held a successful 10th Annual banquet for 1,000 people the previous evening. They appreciate CB1's support and they do accept clothing donations.

Mark Wilkinfeld (HHC) — Gouverneur Healthcare Services WTC program

- Discussed the hospital's services and told the board the facility is a great resource for the community and offers free physical and psychological evaluations. The hospital is located at 227 Madison Street; (212) 238-7897 / 7766. Cell: (917) 318-4557

Mary Ellen Pelzer, South Street Seaport Museum)

- 12 Fulton Street, (212) 748-8770
- Received \$1.7 million grant from LMDC.
- Museum is free every third Friday.
- A toddler program will be coming soon.
- Current exhibit is 'FDR and the Sea'.
 - President Roosevelt Exhibit has opened. It reflects his love for the sea. There are many cultural activities at the museum for children and adults.

Mela Malin, (Falun Dafa)

They meet at Washington Square Park weekly.

Ben Zgodny, (Chinese New Year)

Chinese New Year Dance Troupe at Radio City, Jan. 24 and 25.

Paul Nagel, (Councilman Gerson's office)

- Came to the meeting to counter criticism over Gerson's term limits vote. Nagle pointed out that Councilman Gerson sponsored an amendment to require a public referendum vote for term limits and that the CB1 pending resolution should be mainly addressed to the Mayor and the Speaker. Gerson has sponsored over 50 bills at the City Council and has worked on downzoning height limits in the South Street Seaport, Chinatown Enterprise Zone, environmental bills, light pollution and conservation bills. He was a major participant in the new noise code bill. Local Law 79, The Right of First Refusal bill for affordable housing tenants. Has pending bills on vendor regulations and EMS response times. Says that Alan is an effective advocate for this community.

Community Board members responded to Nagle:

- Paul Hovitz thanked Gerson for his help with schools.
- Bruce Ehrmann thanked Gerson for his help with Neighbors against Noise and especially 60 Hudson Street.
- Pat Moore thanked Gerson for help with obtaining sound-proof window for residents who live around the WTC site.
- Marc. Ameruso thanked Gerson for his support of Tribeca CERT.
- Bob Townley said Gerson has been an advocate for years, even before he became our Council Member.
- Julie Menin thanked Gerson for work in Lower Manhattan .

Kaziem Woodbury, (Downtown Alliance)

The Downtown Holiday Concert and Lighting Ceremony, to be held at Zucotti Park, Broadway and Liberty Streets, Dec. 10th, 5:30pm. It will feature the children's choir of Trinity Church. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, go to: Downtownny.com.

II. **Business Session**

A) Adoption of Minutes

B) Chairperson's Report

J. Menin

- The LMDC Education Grant Program will enable all the schools in our neighborhoods to apply for a grant. The RFP is expected to be released soon.
- Speaker Silver has helped secure an interim space to help eliminate school over-crowding for children who will eventually attend the Beekman School. There will be six classrooms in the Tweed Building, "the Versailles of Kindergartens," to be used temporarily for kindergarteners, along with those committed by the Downtown Community Center.
- Chairperson Menin expects to challenge the DOE's finding that the South Street Seaport is not a suitable location for a school.
- Attended a press conference with Speaker Silver and other local politicians to collectively object to the FDIC moving out of our community. We don't want additional job losses in our community.
- Chairperson Menin will head up an LMDC Cultural Task Force and will provide us with periodic updates once it's developed. We need to keep pushing for the performing arts center and other diverse cultural programming in our community

C) District Manager's Report

N. Pfefferblit

- Reminded us all to look for our December calendar in our in-boxes as it will reflect changes due to the holidays.
- Michael Levine introduced our student assistants from the Municipal Arts Society, Juan and Karen, who developed graphics for our presentations. They will be available to us during the semester. See Michael Levine for any graphics that might enhance your presentations.

- Noah will also introduce another student, possibly in December, who will be working in the district office, and also on a special project that should please the Board.

NOTE: IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE A COPY OF A RESOLUTION SUMMARIZED IN THE MINUTES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CB 1 OFFICE AT 212 442-5050

III. Committee Reports

A) **Executive Committee**

J. Menin

Chairperson Menin is setting up a Charter Revision Task Force to address numerous issues, e.g., ULURP, term-limits, etc. She has assigned Jeff Galloway to chair the task force, which will research rules and regulations regarding controversial issues.

1) The Extension of Term Limits for New York City Elected Officials – Resolution.

At yesterday’s Executive Committee Meeting, Jeff Mihok made a motion to present a resolution opposing the Mayor’s proposal to change term-limit law. The Chairperson said that she recused herself, but other CB 1 members had a very lively debate as to whether or not we should proceed with writing a resolution calling for a referendum. Jeff Mihok’s resolution failed passage (10 – 1) at yesterday’s meeting.

However, with the assistance of Jeff Galloway, Jeff crafted new language to present the revised resolution to tonight’s full Board.

- Paul Hovitz’s position was that the Community Board should consider the Mayor’s proposal - sanctioned by Counsel Speaker Quinn, as being illegal in as much as it does pose a conflict of interest. - Community Board members and attorneys Michael Connelly and Bill Love discussed the legitimacy of the Mayor’s act.
- Noel Jefferson further suggested that because CB 1 is a community advisory board, it should not press political issues that can very well be voted on by the individual voters or decided by the Court that’s currently considering a ruling on the matter. Each voter has a right to vote for the party s/he feels is best for the job and will have the opportunity to do so on election day.
- Bruce Ehrmann countered that if we are not a political organization, then he doesn’t know what we are.
- Linda Belfer supported our right to comment.
- Ro Sheffe pointed out that the Board is clearly very divided on this issue.
- Julie Menin closed the discussion as it was clearly no less contested than it was in the Executive Committee Meeting.

BOARD VOTE: 17 FOR 16 AGAINST 2 ABSTENSIONS
The motion did not carry.

- 1) Discussion of revising the General Growth Properties resolution - Update.

The Executive Committee discussed GGP's financial state and the possibility that the company may file for bankruptcy, LPC's concern about the inappropriateness of relocating the 101-yr old Tin Building, as well as their response to the overall appropriateness of the Seaport redevelopment project. Roger Byrom said that GGP's situation has 'deteriorated badly.' and suggested that the board needs to strengthen its position on this redevelopment in the event that another developer takes over the project.

- B) **Waterfront Committee** R. Townley

- 1) Governors Island Development – Resolution.

BOARD VOTE: 35 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

- C) **Battery Park City Committee** L. Belfer

- 1) Reconstruction Plans for Route 9A/West Street (W. Thames to Chambers Street and West Thames Park). Report.

During this area's reconstruction, there will be a jogging area and also handicapped access. The traffic pattern will change according to the needs of the construction project.

- 2) Battery Park City Authority report

Community Board Advisory Role to the Battery Park City Authority in Determining Community Amenities – Resolution.

Committee members questioned whether the BPC Authority can or will include us in the process of choosing operators for public amenities before an RFP has been approved. Bill Love suggested opening up the Request For Proposal process to a larger group of candidates. Taxpayers fund many of these organizations, so we would like to have some say as to who is selected for these public spaces.

BOARD VOTE: 35 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

(6) Timetable for selection of operator for the BPC Community Center

- D) **Seaport/Civic Center Committee** P. Vigianni

- 1) World Trade Center Environmental Health Center at Gouverneur Hospital – Resolution.

Encourages the community to use the Center at Gouveneur Hospital.

BOARD VOTE: 35 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

- 2) Bus Idling – Report.

Committee requested that the Departments of Environmental Protection and Transportation return to the December meeting to discuss bus idling.

- 3) 229-231 Front Street, application for alteration of liquor license to change the hours of operation for Onda – Resolution to postpone approval for six months.

BOARD VOTE: 35 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

- 4) 225 Front Street, application for alteration of liquor license to add adjacent store as additional seating area for Barbarini – Resolution.

BOARD VOTE: 35 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

E) **Tribeca Committee** C. DeSaram

- 1) Harrison Street Project, Major Reconstruction of Greenwich, Leonard, and Harrison Streets – Report.

To be discussed in December

F) **WTC Redevelopment Committee** C. McVay Hughes

- 1) Lower Manhattan Development Corporation Update on Sustainable Design Guidelines and 130 Liberty Street – Report.

This report was held over until the December meeting resulting from a time constraint.

G) **Quality of Life Committee** P. Moore

- 1) Third in a series of discussions about legal and illegal vendor issues for possible future resolution: Discussion about supporting the Alliance for Downtown New York’s 7-point plan to control illegal vending – Resolution.

This report was held over until the December meeting due to a time constraint on this meeting.

BOARD VOTE: 35 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

H) **Youth & Education Committee** **R. Skinner**

This report was held over until the December meeting due to time constraint on this meeting.

I) **Landmarks Committee** R. Byrom

- 1) 81 Franklin Street, LPC application for rooftop addition for five-story residential building – Resolution.

BOARD VOTE: 35 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

- 2) 8 Thomas Street. LPC application approval of revisions to prior approved parapet wall – Resolution.

BOARD VOTE: 35 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

J) **Street Fair Task Force** B. Love

- 1) Discussion of Proposal from Mardi Gras Festival Productions Inc. regarding 2009 street fairs for Community Board One – Report.

This report was held over until the December meeting due to a time constraint on this meeting.

K) **Financial District Committee** R. Sheffe

- 1) Proposed traffic direction change on Broad Street between Stone and Beaver Streets – Resolution.

BOARD VOTE: 34 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

- 2) Proposal for newsstand at southwest corner of Broadway and Dey Streets – Resolution in opposition to request.

BOARD VOTE: 34 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

- 3) 80 Wall Street, application for restaurant wine and beer license for J & K Fusion Food Corp. d/b/a Niko Niko – Resolution.

BOARD VOTE: 34 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

- 4) 75 Wall Street, application for on-premises liquor license for 75 Wall Street Associates, LLC and Hyatt Corporation – Resolution.

BOARD VOTE: 34 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

- 5) 115 Broadway, application for restaurant wine and beer license for 115 Broadway Corp., d/b/a Panini & Co. – Resolution.

BOARD VOTE: 34 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

- 6) Proposed Expansion of Parking Garage at 75 West Street Presentation.
- 7) ULURP application for disposition by NYC Economic Development Corporation of commercial space in Battery Maritime Building and various other zoning actions – Resolution.

BOARD VOTE: 34 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

IV. **Old Business**

V. **New Business**

VI. **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted by: Noel E. Jefferson

Missing 8:23 – 8:33 PM