

MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD # 1
HELD
MARCH 24, 2009
NYC POLICE MUSEUM
100 OLD SLIP, ROOSEVELT ROOM

Julie Menin, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Public Session:

Erin Drinkwater, Congressman Nadler's Office

- The Stimulus package passed Congress.
- \$11.8 million in Omnibus appropriations were approved for the 8th CD.
- She was told by U.S.P.S. officials that there are currently no plans to close the Peck Slip Post Office.
- The Congressman is working to have the Fire Department on Governors Island open 24/7.

Kaziem Woodbury, Downtown Alliance

- Announced a community planting day in May.

John Ricker, New York City Comptroller's Office

- Access web site to identify MTA service cuts by going to www.comptroller.nyc.gov and typing in zip code.
- Audit of DEP showed unbilled water and sewer charges.
- Opposes State's proposal to use revenue from the BPCA intended for affordable housing for the general budget.

Robin Lockwood, Children's Museum of the Arts on Governors Island

- Announced free art programs May through October.

Tom Goodkind, Board Member

- Gave out free copies of the new CD by the TriBattery Pops, the distinguished band based in Lower Manhattan.

Tom Hall, NYC Rescue Mission, 90 Lafayette Street

- Facility is at 90 Lafayette Street
- Provides meals and overnight stays for the homeless.
- Concerned about effect of the closing of the John Heuss House by the City.

Paul Goldstein, Assemblyman Silver's office

- Held School Overcrowding Task Force meeting with DOE. There are more applications than seats for 234 and 89.
- Task force will work with DOE on opening P.S. 276 for 6th grade in 2010. The Speaker has said this must happen.
- Funding for Governors Island is a priority.
- Proposed MTA fare hikes and service cuts are unacceptable.
- Is optimistic that a deal will be reached to extend rent protection at Gateway Plaza in BPC.

Donna Stern with Susan Wissmann and John Jiler, P.S. 126/MAT Library

- Thanked the Youth committee and asked for support from the full board for the resolution in support of funding for a PS 126 Library.

Alan Gerson, NYC Council 1st district

- Bill to use ultra low sulfur fuel in generators at street fairs, by tour buses, and in other instances passed the City Council.
- Working to develop improvements and reforms for SLA but the City should have oversight in this area.
- Concerned about school overcrowding and believes that Lower Manhattan students should be placed in their local schools of choice.
- Funding needed for a gym for the Millennium High School.
- Working with Speaker Silver to extend rent protections at Gateway Plaza.
- 98th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire – announced a ceremony in Washington Square Park later in the week.

Greg Kirschenbaum, Liaison--Manhattan Borough President's Office.

- The BP held an event calling for a ban on drilling around New York City's Upstate watershed.
- Big win for tenants in the Stuyvesant Town lawsuit -- apartments can not be deregulated.
- Announced the BP's Women's History Month celebration later in the month.
- CB interviews are done; letters will be going out by April 1st.

Michele Quigley, Access Community Health Center, 83 Maiden Lane

- Located at 83 Maiden Lane
- Serves people of all ages.
- (212) 895-3410

Molly Bidol, Assembly Member Glick's office

- Sign up for new email newsletter by contacting glickd@nys.us or calling (212)674-5153.
- Met with SLA on how to improve communication between the community and SLA.
- BPC library expected to be complete by 2010.
- Mayoral control survey results: 70% said DOE is not responsive to concerns, 84% want DOE to be subject to City laws.
- There should be no service cuts at the MTA.

Mary Cooley, Office of State Senator Daniel Squadron

- The Senator sent a letter to Governor Paterson urging him to restore funding for Governors Island.
- Working to prevent MTA fare hikes.
- Supports federal funding as requested by the HRPT for Pier 40 and the Tribeca and Chelsea sections of the park.

Business Session:

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on February 24, 2009 were adopted as presented.

Chairperson's Report:

Julie Menin reported on the following issues:

- At the Borough Board meeting, it was stated that the Borough President's Office would distribute to community boards recommended procedures for appointment of public members. An Executive Committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss adoption of these procedures by CB1.
- In April the LMDC is expected to issue an RFP for education grants and will report to the Youth committee about this program.
- CB1 found the site for PS 276 and should not have to share the space with other areas.

District Manager's Report:

Noah Pfefferblit reported on the following issues:

- Thanked all CB1 members who contributed to the 2009 CB1 Annual Report. The final report has been submitted to the Manhattan Borough President's Office.
- Reported that the City still plans to make very severe cuts to community board budgets. He testified against the cuts at the City Council and said that boards do not benefit from good fiscal years and should not therefore suffer during bad ones to the same extent as agencies that do.
- The CB1 staff is working on SLA issues and trying to improve SLA procedures. Staff has attended several recent meetings in this area and the office is working with Ro Sheffe on a flyer about SLA procedures to distribute to board and community members.
- Noted that the John Heuss House has discontinued its efforts to try to remain in operation. He is reaching out to the Department of Homeless Services to understand how the City intends to replace the services that have been provided by JHH.

- Noted that the Protected Rental Unit project initiated by Tom Goodkind is proceeding and should be completed in April whereupon a more detailed report about it will be given.

Committee Reports:

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

Financial District Committee

R. Sheffe

The following resolutions were approved by a vote of 42 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained and 0 recused:

- 123 Washington Street, application for on-premise liquor license for W New York Downtown Hotel – Resolution
- 57 Stone Street, application for on-premise liquor license for Vintry Wine & Whiskey Bar – Resolution
- Proposal for newsstand at northeast corner of Church and Barclay Streets – Resolution

Street permit application by Community Board #1 (Mardi Gras Festival Productions; promoter) on Friday, July 10, 2009, Broad Street between Water Street and Beaver. Closure of street during the hours of 8 AM to 7 PM; event will take place during the hours of 10 AM – 7 PM – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 38 In Favor 2 Opposed 2 Abstained 0 Recused

Presentation on Battery Park initiatives by Warrie Price, President Battery Conservancy.

- Described a pavilion with new tress, a garden and a carousel that will be made possible by a grant from the Dutch government in celebration of the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s voyage.

Combined Tribeca and Seaport/Civic Committees

P. Braus

Street permit application by Community Board #1 (Mardi Gras Festival Productions; promoter) on Friday, June 12, 2009, Lafayette Street between Walker Street and Leonard Street. Closure of street during the hours of 8 AM to 7 PM; event will take place during the hours of 10 AM – 7 PM – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 42 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Tribeca Committee

P. Braus

The following resolutions were approved by a vote of 42 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained and 0 recused:

- 99 Hudson Street, application for liquor license for Sukhami, Inc. d/b/a Tamarind Tribeca – Resolution
- 363 Greenwich Street, application for liquor license for Alfredo of Rome Tribeca LLC d/b/a/ Alfredo – Resolution
- Street permit application by Community Board #1 (Mardi Gras Festival Productions; promoter) on Friday, September 18, 2009, Church Street between Canal Street and Franklin Street. Closure of street during the hours of 8 AM to 7 PM; event will take place during the hours of 10 AM – 7 PM – Resolution
- 134 West Broadway, application for renewal of unenclosed sidewalk café for Jada Restaurant Inc. d/b/a Petite Abeille – Resolution
- 361 Greenwich Street, application for renewal of unenclosed sidewalk café for Sunflower Restaurant Association, Inc. d/b/a Flor De Sol – Resolution

Street permit application by Cercle Rouge on Tuesday, July 14, 2009, West Broadway between Beach and White Street. Closure of sidewalk during the hours of 8 am to 8 PM; event will take place during the hours of 8 AM to 8 PM – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 42 In Favor 0 Opposed 1 Abstained 0 Recused

Port Authority Work to Pave Approaches and Entrance to Holland Tunnel – Report

- There will be paving work done at the entrance to the Holland Tunnel; NJ bound vehicles will be routed to the Lincoln Tunnel.

Discussion about nightclub at 349 Broadway, Eros d/b/a/ Deco – Report

- The nightclub has not reopened since recent stabbings in and around the club. Several legal actions are underway to shut them down and it is hoped in the community that the club will not try to open again. The SLA and NYPD continue investigations, and the landlord of the building has said that he is not going to renew the lease in any case when it expires in a few months.

Landmarks Committee

B. Ehrmann

The Landmarks and Seaport/Civic Center Committees will work together on a South Street Seaport Historic District Extension task force to try to make the City historic district boundaries consistent with the State district boundaries.

9 Worth Street, LPC application for penthouse addition and replacement of windows on sixth floor – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 42 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

137 West Broadway, LPC application for handicapped access ramp and elevator and stairwell bulkhead - Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 41 In Favor 1 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

- R. Byrom, Due to problems in the past, this project needs to be monitored.

12-16 Vestry Street, LPC application for replacement of windows – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 41 In Favor 1 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee

J. Foss

Zoning Text Amendment on Privately Owned Public Plaza Design Standards Text Revisions – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 42 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Zoning Text Amendment on Inclusionary Housing Program Enhancements – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 40 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Columbia University Planning Studio – Report

- Will provide the final report with recommendations in May.

Battery Park City Committee

L. Belfer

Update about working group discussion with representatives of NYSDOT about plans for configuring Thames Park and the dog run – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 42 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Report on discussion with Goldman Sachs about future of the Vesey Street Pedestrian Bridge

- Will revisit in April; the underpass will not be complete until 2012; the pedestrian bridge will be extended east to Washington Street because of truck traffic coming in and out of the WTC construction site.

Update about traffic problems at W. Thames and Battery Place

- Drivers are traversing this intersection as part of the route used to avoid traffic on West Street. After studying the intersection, DOT reported that a stop light is not needed;

Proposed zoning text amendment to permit four curb cuts—for a total of 50 feet—on the south side of the Visionaire – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 42 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Report on issues covered by Leticia Remauro, Vice President for Community Relations, Battery Park City Authority

Inatesso Café Casano at 38 West Street, wine and beer liquor license application – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 41 In Favor 1 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Report on discussion about permanent solution to problems with emergency exits and ADA compliance at WFC.

- They should stop blocking doors in violation of ADA regulations.

Proposed street closure on Sunday, May 9, 2009, at the south end of River Terrace near North End Avenue by Mercy Corps – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 41 In Favor 1 Opposed 1 Abstained 0 Recused

Seaport/Civic Center Committee

J. Fratta

Fulton Street Reconstruction Project – Report

- Phase II of the project is going to begin shortly and goes from Gold to South Streets.

MTA Flood Mitigation Project – Report

- The MTA is installing ugly sidewalk fixtures in an effort to prevent flooding into the subway. These were strongly disliked when installed in Tribeca.

The following resolutions were approved by a vote of 40 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained and 0 recused:

- South Street Seaport – Pier 17, application for liquor license for Water Taxi Beach South Street Seaport LLC – Resolution
- 90 Baxter Street, application for renewal of unenclosed sidewalk café for Jaya Malaysian Restaurant – Resolution
- Street permit application by the Southbridge Adult Senior Center (Mardi Gras Festival Productions; promoter) on Friday, September 4, 2009 location and street closure hours to be determined – Resolution
- Street permit application by Community Board #1 (Mardi Gras Festival Productions; promoter) on Friday, October 16, 2009, location and street closure hours to be determined – Resolution

Fulton Street Vendors- Resolution

- Take out first TBIR.

BOARD VOTE: 20 In Favor 12 Opposed 3 Abstained 0 Recused

City Hall Park Northeast Lawn Turf Installation – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 35 In Favor 3 Opposed 2 Abstained 0 Recused

WTC Redevelopment Committee

M. Connolly

The following resolutions were approved by a vote of 40 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained and 0 recused:

- Fulton Street Transit Center – Resolution
- Federal 9/11 Health Care Bill – Resolution
- Take out second WHEREAS.
- 130 Liberty Street – Resolution

Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, Small Firm Assistance Program – Report

- There is a grant of up to \$25,000 for businesses below Canal Street, applications available on the website.

Quality of Life Committee

P. Moore

Support for Visiting Neighbors, an organization that serves senior citizens in Lower Manhattan – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 39 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Update about Construction Projects in Lower Manhattan

Representatives of LMCCC attend every month to update us on construction projects.

Report on discussion about diversity of food at Greenmarkets in CD#1

Greenmarket representatives agreed to consider longer seasons for various locations and a greater diversity of food.

Vendor issues – Report

- Deferred

Youth & Education Committee

R. Skinner

Presentation on Assemblymember Deborah Glick's Mayoral Control Survey – Report

- Previously discussed.

Update from School Overcrowding Task Force

- Previously discussed.

Status of school zoning guidelines for Spruce Street School and PS/IS 276 – Report

- The Committee has received some initial answers from Department of Education representatives to questions about the zoning process that will take place for the new schools scheduled to open in Lower Manhattan.

Request for support for funding for a library at PS 126 – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 39 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Report about Millennium High School program priorities

- Robert Rhodes, the Principal of the High School, appeared before the Committee to describe his effort to identify a location and funding for a gymnasium and to sustain funding cuts at the school in a way that will not severely impact the students.

Governance of public education in New York City - Report

- This matter was postponed for next month at which time the committee will consider a resolution on school governance and Mayoral control.

Discussion of possible move of Greenwich Village Middle School to P.S./I.S. 276 – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 36 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Old Business:

No old business was conducted.

New Business:

Bruce Ehrmann, CB1 member

Proposed a resolution demanding that the City not close the John Heuss House, which currently serves homeless people in Lower Manhattan.

BOARD VOTE: 39 In Favor 0 Opposed 3 Abstained 0 Recused

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: Marc Ameruso, Assistant Secretary