



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

Chairperson's Report for February 2015

Catherine McVay Hughes

It has been another extremely busy month for Community Board 1 since the January monthly meeting held on February 5th due to the forecasted blizzard. Together we continue to make our neighborhood better and stronger than ever. I would like to report on the important issues and milestones that we have worked through with fellow board members, the CB1 staff, elected officials and government agencies. Thank you everyone!

Updates

- **Letter to NYC Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on Mayor de Blasio's Preliminary Budget FY 2016** – another letter will be sent reiterating CB1's request for siting a new K-8 school (similar to 2015), but with updated information on residential units projected to come online; thank you Diana Switaj and Jeff Po for their research
- **Creation of New Park in Financial District** near exit ramp of the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel (formerly known as Edgar Plaza and renamed as Elizabeth H. Berger Plaza) – NYCDOT has completed its studies. Parks Department design is pending approval from Commissioner Mitchell Silver. CB 1 asked City to fund the project for past 8 years in its Capital Budget. NYC Council member Chin just allocated capital funds; hope to see plans soon that will transform a forlorn area in the Financial District
- **BPCA Ballfields** – an agreement was reached between Downtown Little League and BPCA for Spring 2015, but situation moving forward needs to be worked out by broader community discussion and long range planning (02/17/15)
- CB1's Resolution on Howard Hughes Corporation's application for appropriateness for 10 items for the **South Street Seaport** from January 2015 board meeting (held on February 5) was submitted to Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC); date for LPC Application Hearing TBD. Thank you Diana Switaj, Michael Levine, Roger Bryrom and Bruce Ehrman
- Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) announced \$40 million (up to \$12mm in Lower Manhattan) to establish a **network of resilient community-run, neighborhood-based recovery centers** where local residents may access ongoing services, as well as gather and obtain information post-disaster. GOSR will make on-site capital improvements to harden existing community facilities, and fund community-based organizations to expand recovery services. The piloted program is the result of extensive community engagement and planning as completed through GOSR's grassroots NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program; Interested facility operators and community-based organizations have until March 11, 2015 to formally respond to GOSR's NY Rising Community Center Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA): <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/procurement-opportunities>; informational webinar is on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, to RSVP: NYRisingNOFA@stormrecovery.ny.gov (02/10/15)

- **137 Centre Street** – NYC EDC released an RFP for the building; preference will be given for proposal that has space for a Universal Pre-K for 70 students (4 classrooms). NYCEDC supports the City’s agenda for environmentally sustainable and energy efficient development and building design. Accordingly, as part of their Proposals, Respondents must include a narrative describing how the Project will fulfill these goals and how the Respondent intends to obtain at least minimal “LEED Silver” certification(s) for the Project from the U.S. Green Building Council. Respondents are also encouraged to explore incorporating Passive House principles in their Proposals; <http://www.nycedc.com/press-release/nycedc-announces-request-proposals-revitalize-137-centre-street-lower-manhattan> (02/16/2015)
- Professor Michael Levine’s **Pace University Class** did a survey for both the Financial and Tribeca Districts and his current two classes will be doing a survey for both the Seaport/Civic Center and Battery Park City – thank you Professor Levine and Pace students; these results will be incorporated into CB1’s Annual District Needs FY 2017 which is submitted August 2015
- NYC DOT will not be able to conduct a **parking study** for either the Financial District or Seaport/Civic Center as they did for Tribeca because they currently do not have the resources to do so. In addition, NYC DOT stated that with Broadway 1 under construction along with other building projects, the data collected would not be accurate for us to analyze at this time, but that they would forward the request to their parking unit for analysis in the future; luckily, Professor Michael Levine’s Pace University summer class will be assigned to do this work, thank you
- **Pier 15** broken windows – NYC EDC is currently behind schedule on replacing the broken windows which they had hoped to have complete by January 2015 because the windows are difficult to order since they are special (some replacements are in, but not all) and due to bad weather (for installation, it must be higher than 40 degrees for glue to work) (02/10/15)
- **Dey Street Newsstand** license application 5515-2014ANWS – Department of Consumer Affairs is waiting for Public Design Commission (PDC) Review; at PDC’s request, CB1’s testimony was submitted electronically, then item was withdrawn from their February 2 agenda; newsstand now calendared on their Monday, March 2 agenda

Press Conferences

- NYC Council Member Chin is introducing **legislation to require a recurring NYC DOT study of the effect of truck routes and tolling policies on pedestrian and cyclist safety** – thank you Jeff Ehrlich for representing CB1 (steps of City Hall, 01/12/2105)
- **Residence Inn Marriot World Trade Center Ribbon Cutting Celebration** – thank you Ro Scheffe for representing CB1 (170 Broadway at Maiden Lane, 01/12/2105)

Event

- **NYS Citizen Preparedness Training Program** – co-sponsored by Governor Cuomo, Borough President Brewer, Senator Squadron, Assembly Member Glick, Council Member Chin and CB 1 (Pace University, 01/20/2015)

Meetings

- **Hudson River Park Trust Advisory Council** called by CB2 Chair Tobi Bergman – attended with Bob Townley; stable and consistent leadership team, year to year; stable participation of council membership, meeting to meeting (02/20/15)
- **Manhattan Borough Board Meeting** (02/19/15)
- **James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Renewal Bill** Conference Call Update – with Congressman Nadler’s office and others; will need bi-partisan support to pass bill (02/18/2015)
- **Sightseeing Buses** Meeting convened by Borough President Brewer – attended with other CBs, Business Improvement Districts, Senator Squadron and others; pertaining to the operation, regulation, and enforcement of sightseeing buses in Manhattan; follow up to an earlier meeting held on 09/03/15; since that initial meeting, staff at Departments of NYC Consumer Affairs, Transportation, and Police have been actively working together; requested that air quality is reviewed and that NYC DOT’s website on bus stops/parking be updated from August 2011; thank you Borough President Brewer for leading this effort (02/17/15)
- **Sandy resiliency funding** follow-up meeting – with Senator Squadron, NYC Council Member Chin, Downtown Alliance, Dan Zarrilli, Marco Pasanella and others; CB1 urged the City to address unmet needs to fund a comprehensive design, engineering and feasibility study that protects our most vulnerable edges along the waterfront and to make CB1 a top priority in the next round of Federal funding projects; City said that they are working on various options (City Hall, 02/06/2015)
 - Mayor de Blasio Released NPCC 2015 Report, Providing Climate Projections Through 2100 for the First Time; Projections for sea level rise in New York City show an increase between 11 inches and 21 inches by the 2050s, between 18 inches and 39 inches by the 2080s, and between 22 inches and 50 inches by 2100, with a worse case projection of up to six feet by 2100. (02/17/2015)

Announcements

- Blueprint to Success M/W/DBE **Contractor Training Program** that provides in-depth and individualized technical assistance to certified M/W/DBE construction firms; Information Session Thursday, February 26, 2015, RSVP to: Claudia Flores at cflores@edc.nyc, <http://www.nycedc.com/opportunities/opportunity-mwdb/blueprint-success>
- Governor Cuomo announced launch of \$40 million NY prize MICROGRID COMPETITION: New and improved microgrids will bolster community access to safe and reliable energy. The objective of NY Prize is to promote the design and build of community grids that improve local electrical distribution system performance and resiliency in both a normal operating configuration as well as during times of electrical grid outages – and empower community leaders, encourage broad private and public sector participation including local distribution utilities, local governments and third parties, protect vulnerable populations and provide tools to build a cleaner, more reliable energy system; Feasibility Assessment Proposals accepted now through May 15, 2015, <http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/microgrid> (02/11/2015)
- Please submit any suggestions that you have for phone booth relocations that you would like to relocate to CB1 by Thursday, February 26, 2015: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doitt/html/cable/linknyc.shtml>