

MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD # 1
HELD
SEPTEMBER 22, 2009
AHRC NY - 83 MAIDEN LANE

Public Session:

- Michelle Quigley (ACCESS/AHRC) – Will attend CB1 committee meetings to provide information regarding seasonal flu and swine flu vaccinations and other health services. Contact: 83 Maiden Lane, (347)351-6857, Michele.Quigley@archnyc.org
- Gary Fagin (Knickerbocker Chamber Orchestra) – Announced the Orchestra’s 2009 – 2010 season. Contact: <http://www.knickerbocker-orchestra.org>.
- Paul Goldstein – (Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver) – Discussed September 9th opening of PS 276 and the Spruce Street School, which will help alleviate Lower Manhattan school overcrowding. Noted that new legislation was passed in Albany strengthening community input into the review of liquor license applications for bars and night clubs. Ground has been broken on The East River Waterfront Esplanade and Piers Project, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2011.
- Greg Kirschenbaum – (B.P. Scott Stringer’s Office) – The BP does not agree with the Department of Education and believes more school seats are needed to relieve overcrowded class rooms. Announced a Do-Not-Block the Bus Lane camera program. The BP appeared on “Shame on You” on television to highlight rental apartment scams involving Section 8 vouchers. He also sent a letter to Lower Manhattan community boards with information regarding DOT study on parking options for chartered and commuter buses. DOT has now forwarded to us the document concerning the study on which they were working.
- Erin Drinkwater – (Congressman Nadler) – Joined other elected officials to protest the possible closures of Post Offices in NYC. There will be a nationwide hearing regarding Post Office closures tomorrow. Go to www.prc.gov to submit your comments for tomorrow’s hearing. Introduced Celine Mizrahi, a new member to the Congressman’s Office.
- Mary Cooley – (Senator Daniel Squadron) – Senate bill 5578 will create consistent standards governing the SLA and on-premises liquor licenses. September 29th at 101 Murray Street will be a Back-to-School forum. The Governor has signed legislation proposed by the Senator to make changes in the State Liquor Authority 500-foot rule. The State Senate held a successful public hearing on the need for retail diversity. Ro Sheffe testified on behalf of CB1. Senator Squadron also held a hearing with Senator Bill Perkins regarding the status of the WTC and Catherine McVay Hughes and Michael Connolly testified on behalf of CB1.
- Diane Stein (Council Member Alan Gerson’s Office) - On August 19th, held the latest installment of his public hearing regarding the WTC site. He stressed the need for a timely opening of the memorial and a real timeline for the Performing Arts Center. The Councilman’s office is working to limit loud noise on party boats in the Hudson River. These boats are chartered and depart from nearby piers.

- Ronald Kearney (Downtown Alliance) – Announced this year’s Green Around Downtown date.
- Anthony Notaro – (Board Member) – Announced the First Precinct Community Council meeting on the last Thursday of the month. The Explorers Club will be there, and there will be discussion of the problem of illegal vendors.
- Julie Bose (NYC Police Museum) – Announced upcoming family day dates with free workshops on October 2nd and 3rd. (212)480-3100. www.nycpolicemuseum.org
- Wenxiwo Li (Lower East Side Business Outreach Center) - Announced Small Business Bootcamp on October 3rd at 70 Mulberry Street. (212)571-1690 ext. 234, 248, 203.
- Molly Bidol – (Assembly Member Deborah Glick) - The Assembly Member’ office is working on noise complaints to 311. Many calls about bar and club noise are currently routed to the Police Department, which is not equipped to measure bass sound. Her office is developing recommendations to address this. Assembly Member Glick is advocating for a school to be located at 75 Morton Street.
- Jeffrey Hess – Represents the ownership of 412-415 Greenwich Street. Thanked the Tribeca committee for CB1’s resolution of support.
- Richard Butler – Fulton Street resident spoke of his concern about noise as early as 3:00 A.M. from nearby construction work. Pat Moore noted that Mr. Butler has been to the Quality of Life Committee to discuss these problems with LMCCC and encouraged him to return.
- Kristo (BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center). Announced upcoming events and seasonal opener to take place in October. Go to www.tribecapac.org

Business Session:

The July 28, 2009 minutes were adopted as presented.

Chairperson’s Report:

Chairwoman Julie Menin reported the following:

- Introduced new CB1 Staff Member, Yume Kitasei, selected from 250 applicants to work in the CB 1 Office, to board members.
- Rebecca Skinner will step down as Chair of the Youth and Education Committee, which will now be co-chaired by Ann DeFalco and Paul Hovitz. Noted that Rebecca was an outstanding Chair.
- Noted that CB 1 is the only community board to have gained 2 new schools within a year but we need still more facilities both short and longer term. Ann DeFalco interjected that the Youth and Education Committee has identified possible locations for needed new schools.
- WTC Redevelopment – CB 1 was asked to sign onto a letter to urge Governor Paterson to move forward on the WTC. Notwithstanding some opposition to including Mayor Bloomberg’s name in this letter, it passed with 2 opposing votes.

District Manager’s Report:

District Manager Noah Pfefferblit reported the following:

- Welcomed Yume Kitasei, Princeton University graduate and Battery Park City resident with a background in government. Yume will generally assume Judy Norinsky's former CB 1 Office responsibilities.
- The CB 1 Street Fairs season has ended – construction and development forced some events to relocate. The Street Fair Task Force will meet under Bill Love's leadership to assess the results of these street fairs in October,
- Reported about the ground breaking for DeLury Park, funded by Lower Manhattan Development Corp., slated to open next spring. The 8,800 square foot park, purchased for \$2.6 Million from will result in the current concrete plaza being bumped out further into the Fulton and Gold Sts. intersection.
- Attended the new Museum of Chinese in America, located on Centre Street. Located in CB2 but telling the story of Chinatown which includes part of CB1. The facility was designed by Maya Lin in conjunction with Bill Bialosky, a Lower Manhattan community leader.
- Matt Viggiano has been appointed by the Borough President's Office to an Urban Fellowship at CB1 for the coming academic year.
- There will be an open house on Thursday for Poets House, in Battery Park City in the base of the Riverhouse condo building. To retain its quirky eclectic ambiance, the new facility, which has a rent-free lease through 2069, will retain its old reupholstered furniture.

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

Youth & Education Committee

New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver – Report

- Speaker Silver hosted our last committee meeting. John White from the Board of Education was present. He noted that zoning for planned new CB1 schools is not yet set and discussed the possibility of placing the schools in Seaport, Tribeca, BPC, and the Financial District.

School zoning - Update

- A middle school zoned for CB1 should be within CB1, not outside of it. Jeff Mihok expressed concern about local activities that our children miss out on because of the distance they must travel to get to and from their middle schools (5 miles away in some cases).
- Rebecca expressed her pleasure at having worked with the team she had while chairing this committee.
- Paul Hovitz applauded Rebecca for her hard work and diligence while chairing the Youth & Education Committee and the entire board expressed its appreciation as well.
- Encouraged group to refer to the Community Education Council (CEC) website for any questions and updates.

- Tom Goodkind asked how the CEC communicates with us and Rebecca responded and said we would need to coordinate with the CEC to ensure meaningful input into the rezoning process.

Battery Park City Committee:

Issues covered by Leticia Remauro, Vice President for Community Relations, Battery Park City Authority - Report

- Run 4 Knowledge for Friday, 25 September, between 3:00 – 9:00 PM will be limited to Warren Street between North End Avenue and West Street, (Wagner Park to Rockefeller Park's gazebo) – Resolution.

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

West Thames Street working group – Report

DOT agreed to make additional changes and therefore, the resolution, as previously drafted, has been taken off the table. At a meeting the previous evening there was discussion of consequences from the design including the demolition of Tire Swing Park. The current plan includes removal of the park's wooden play equipment and some mature trees, to make way for a new playground with more modern equipment and water features. Ideally, D.O.T. hopes to maintain as much of the original park as possible. Also included in the new plan will be a dog run, community gardens and playing lawns. Anyone wishing to weigh in on this plan was advised to attend the next BPC working group meeting where the final decision would be made.

Financial District Committee

The following resolutions were approved by a vote of 40 In Favor, 0 opposed 0 and 0 recused.

RE: 123 Washington Street, application for restaurant liquor license for BLT Grill NYC LLC – Resolution

RE: 114 Liberty Street, application for restaurant wine and beer license for AIM Pizza Corp. d/b/a Pronto Pizza – Resolution

RE: Whitehall Ferry Terminal, application for on-premise tavern-restaurant liquor license for O'Brien's Terminal Tavern – Resolution

RE: 104 John Street, application for restaurant wine and beer license for Lau & Cheung LLC – Resolution

Three million dollars remains in funds for grants for small businesses, but there is no more money to conduct outreach. HUD's requirements are so onerous that we must think creatively about how to get the word out to potential applicants. Few local merchants seem to know about the availability of these funds.

Albert Capsouto suggested the application is so daunting that there should be an LMDC, or other point person who would help the applicant to complete it and move it forward.

Tribeca Committee

The following resolutions were approved by a vote of 40 In Favor, 0 opposed 0 and 0 recused.

RE: 412-414 Greenwich Street, BSA variance to allow construction of 6 story plus penthouse building with residential, ground floor retail and accessory parking uses and 401 Washington Street, CPC authorization to permit loft dwellings in six story plus penthouse building in Area B-2 of the Special Tribeca Mixed Use District 412-414 Greenwich Street, BSA variance to allow construction of 6 story plus – Resolution

RE: 6 Harrison Street, application for alteration of liquor license for Brown & Waltuck Rest Inc. d/b/a Chanterelle and application for liquor license the Victus Group LLC d/b/a Chanterelle – Resolution

RE: 305 Church Street, application for liquor license for Stuzzicheria Inc. – Resolution

RE: 313 Church Street, application for liquor license for 313 Restaurant LLC – Resolution

RE: 106 Duane Street, application for wine license for Beignet, Inc. – Resolution

RE: 458 Greenwich Street, application for alteration to liquor license for Sublime Porte LLC, d/b/a Turks & Frogs Tribeca - Resolution

RE: 241 West Broadway, renewal of unenclosed sidewalk café for 241 W Broadway Café Inc d/b/a Circle Rouge – Resolution

Salaam Bombay Restaurant Exhaust System – Report

Complaints from the neighbors continue. Restaurateur informed us that an engineer was to come to his restaurant the day after committee met. He will return with more substantial information in October.

Landmarks Committee

The following resolutions were approved by a vote of 40 In Favor, 0 Opposed and 0 recused.

RE: 109 Washington Street – Resolution

RE: 41 Park Row, application by Pace University for installation of flags - Resolution

RE: 87 Lafayette Street, application for new entrance and canopy – Resolution

RE: 416 Broadway, application for legalization of violations for rooftop structures and amendment to storefront design - Resolution in opposition

RE: 120 Broadway, application to legalize installation of rooftop cooling tower – Resolution in opposition

Personnel Committee

The team worked tirelessly and diligently to select a candidate for the CB1 Community Liaison position. Roger thanked them all. Additionally, there is additional funding from our street fairs that should enable us to also hire a part-time additional worker! Noah will work with the Mayor's Office of Contract Services and the Borough President's Office and other agencies to push this RFP through.

Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee

421-A Application for 200-300 North End Avenue – Report

There is a caveat for new development in the BPC area. Two new buildings, next to the BPC ball field will be developed. They are applying for a tax abatement that involves creation of affordable housing.

Special Street Co-Naming Task Force

Policy regarding street co-naming in CB1 – Report This meeting was postponed.

Seaport/Civic Center Committee

South Street Seaport - 8/22/09 Incident – Report

John Fratta met with Seaport officials and toured the Atlantic, the party boat on which a fight erupted that led to a fatal shooting during the summer. He reported new safety measures that are now in place, including that no boats will be allowed to dock on Pier 17 after midnight. The Seaport manager, Janell Vaughan, assured John that boat owners and the First Precinct would take additional steps to make sure a similar incident does not recur. The stabbing is still being discussed with the NYPD.

Fulton Street Reconstruction Project – Traffic and Safety Issues – Report

Traffic and safety issues are at the forefront of concerns involved with this project. Stop signs and the lack thereof are important issues that are being looked into and will be reported on at the next meeting.

The following resolutions were approved by a vote of 40 In Favor, 0 opposed 0 and 0 recused.

RE: Delury Square Park Zoning Text Amendment – Resolution

RE: 25 Peck Slip, application for liquor license for Lei Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a Lei Restaurant – Resolution

RE: 89 South Street – Pier 17, application for extension of seasonal liquor license for Water Taxi Beach South Street Seaport – Resolution

RE: Chinatown Working Group - Guiding Principles (See attachment) - Resolution

The Working Group’s proposed five Guiding Principles to continue this wonderful work were presented by Michael E. Levine.

WTC Redevelopment Committee

RE: 9/11 Health Issues – Resolution

Four thousand people have attended the WTC Health Clinic. If one was a firefighter before 9/11, the records include his/her prior conditions.

We are learning of more and more first responders who are ill from the 9/11 incident. Many people go to their own private doctor and are not being included in the health registry. It’s so important that we’re able to gather the information needed so that the registry is accurate and comprehensive.

It is important for everyone who needs them to get flu shots this year.

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

Quality of Life Committee

Reported on:

Construction Projects in Lower Manhattan by Robin Forst, Director of Community and Government Relations, LMCCC – Update

Council Member Dan Garodnick - Intro. 1015 to regulate stalled construction sites – Resolution

RE: Daniel Garodnick’s intro 1015 to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, regarding safety and security of construction sites, at which permitted work has been suspended, with the additional qualifications – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 39 In Favor 0 Opposed 1 Abstained 0 Recused

Amended as follows:

Community Board #1 supports the New York City Council bill Int. No.1015 to amend the administrative code of the City of New York to enable the Commissioner of the Department of Buildings to reinstate work permits of suspended construction sites provided that:

1. The waiver granted to developers is subject to a time limit of three years;
2. A distinction is made in the law between sites that are potentially dangerous -- such as “holes in the ground,” and construction partially finished above-ground -- and sites that have been safely secured, especially paved-over foundation lots completed before tax abatements expired in 2008 -- such that the latter are excluded from the program;
3. Those developers who do not participate in the program are forced to return to the Community Board for approval; and

The success of the program shall be re-evaluated after its implementation by the City Council at a future date to be specified.

H1N1 Community Engagement Meeting – Report

H1N1 – roughly 50% of the people have signs of illness. Hand washing is very important! If you have symptoms, stay at home! Noah has invited DOH to attend upcoming CB1 committee meetings and we’re awaiting their response. A CDC had a conference that Ruth Ohman attended. There was a lot of dissention at the conference she attended about the safety of the vaccines. Albert was at Downtown Hospital recently and urges us to stop referring to this flu as the “swine flu,” but by its name: H1N1. Go to: www.nyc.gov/flu to get more information regarding the flu.

Waterfront Committee

Governor’s Island is controlled by the State–created Governor’s Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC). The committee considered a request by the City to transfer governance to it. Speaker Sliver has not made a decision on this request. Paul Goldberg interjected that the Speaker has assigned 2 representatives to sit on GIPEC and although we won’t take a position on City governance, we do lobby for the interests of the city in its current arrangement.

RE: Evelyn Hill, Inc., application for liquor license for Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island - Resolution

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

RE: Water Taxi Beach Governors Island LLC, application for extension of seasonal liquor License for Governors Island - Resolution

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

RE: Governor’s Island Progress – Resolution

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

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: Marc Ameruso, Assistant Secretary