

MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD # 1
HELD
OCTOBER 27, 2009
SOUTH STREET SEAPORT MUSEUM

Public Hearing (5:30 PM)

Public Hearing on Capital and Expense Budget Requests for FY 2011.

No speakers signed up for the hearing and it was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Public Session

City Council Member-Elect Margaret Chin

The Council Member-elect greeted board members and said she's looking forward to working with CB1 commencing in January 2010. She proposed that CB1 change its meeting date to avoid conflicting with CB3's meeting which also occurs on the fourth Tuesday.

Henry Korn, Attorney for 145 Hudson Street

Thanked the Tribeca committee for recommending approval of the application for a special permit for 145 Hudson Street.

Matthew Peckham, Architect for 145 Hudson Street

Also thanked the Tribeca committee for the resolution.

NYS Senator Daniel Squadron

- The Senator informed us that parent resource guides are available for the 25th Senate District
- Hosted a meeting with newly appointed S.L.A Chair Dennis Rosen.
- Anticipates conducting a town hall meeting in January.
- Launched Chinese Hotline 917-247-2348. People can call this number to request assistance from his office in the Mandarin and Cantonese dialects.

Borough President Scott Stringer

The Borough President praised Senator Daniel Squadron as a leader whom we are fortunate to have represent our District.

- Reported that we now have 2 new schools, but our search for additional space must continue due to the population growth in the area.
- Warned that while drilling into the earth near the Catskill/Delaware watershed in order to extract gas may seem appealing, it's dangerous and can affect our drinking water, most of which originates there. Urged everyone to attend his upcoming rally prior to the New York State hearing at Stuyvesant High School.
- Discussed the importance of attendance for community board members seeking reappointment.

- Reported that his efforts to reform Community Boards have been very successful and will continue.
- Reported that he held a press conference to publicize plans to expand the Urban Fellow program to other boroughs.

Councilmember Alan J. Gerson

- Reported that his office organized flu shot vaccines for seniors throughout the district, with the cooperation of the Department of Health. Advised that any individuals or senior centers having difficulty getting the vaccine should call his office, and that more information about vaccine locations would be available in mid-November. The City has made plans to vaccinate schoolchildren on weekends at school facilities.
- Presided over a City Council hearing regarding the planned WTC Performing Arts Center. Catherine McVay Hughes testified and the City’s presentation on the PAC will be made at the CB1 WTC November meeting.
- Reported on the J-51 ruling about Stuyvesant Town tenants, which may pertain to IPN residents since that development also received J-51 benefits. The Court of Appeals ruling left many questions which will need to be addressed by the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal and lower courts.
- Warned that during this budget crunch, spending will have to be carefully prioritized.
- Introduced Barbara Backer from Community Board 2, who would like to address CB1 about pending legislation to regulate tour buses.
- Reported on the opening of Poet’s House in Battery Park City.
- Thanked the board and said it has been a pleasure working with everybody.
- Emphasized the importance of service to the community and promised that he and Margaret will work together to assure a smooth transition.

Erin Drinkwater - Congressman Nadler’s Office

Announced she has enjoyed working with us, but is leaving her position at the congressman’s office to pursue another opportunity.

Judy Levine

Requested capital and expense funding for the Church Street School of Music and Art, founded in 1990 for after-school, teen, and adult programs.

Jean Grillo (Tribeca CERT)

Is conducting community outreach to emphasize the need for automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to be placed at ground level in buildings throughout the City. She welcomes support from CB1.

Dr. D. Geracimos - Downtown Hospital

Reported that the survival rate of someone having a heart attack in NYC is too low and stressed the importance of having AEDs where needed and of training for people to administer CPR.

Tom Goodkind – Board Member

Thanked Diane Lapson (IPN Tenant’s Assoc. President) for her contribution toward the Stuyvesant Town tenants’ victory

Tom Hall – New York City Rescue Mission

The Rescue Mission is located at 90 Lafayette Street and helps those in need. The community should refer anyone who is homeless or hungry.

Theresa Myrhol - New York Public Library

Thanked Alan J. Gerson for making possible the opening of the BPC branch, as well as for providing needed funding for the New Amsterdam branch.

Kevin Ryan

Announced that St John's University will hold a blood drive on Nov. 4th and would welcome donations from community residents.

Josh Williams

Announced a new community news site called DNAinfo and invited members to share any information regarding the community.

Molly Bidol - Assembly member Deborah Glick's Office

Discussed concerns regarding harassment of tenants by building owners. Announced support for providing more fruits and vegetables to school children.

Abby Spilka - Museum of Jewish Heritage

Invited the public to attend the Community Preview Day for the new Keeping History Center at the Museum on October 28.

Harold Reed- Board Member

Invited the group to attend a free dance performance on October 28 from 1:00 - 5:00 near the Whitehall terminal.

Barbara Backer, CB2

Thanked Noel E. Jefferson for her letter to the Broadsheet regarding tour buses and their loud public announcement systems and reported about CB 2's desire to have tour buses use headsets for passengers to cut down on the noise. Requested support from CB 1, elected officials, and any other concerned parties.

Salvatore Strazzullo

Introduced himself as an attorney and proposed to put up a holiday tree in Duane Park and donate toys to children.

Katherine Cannella

Requested support for the Battery Conservancy's Perimeter Project, which represents the final phase of realizing the Battery Master Plan, connecting Hudson River Park and the East River Esplanade.

Business Session

The September 22, 2009 minutes were adopted as presented.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Julie Menin reported the following:

- The Borough President's Office moved up their deadline for community board members whose terms expire in 2010 to reapply to December 31st.
- CB1 members will receive an update from the City regarding the proposed Performing Arts Center at the next WTC meeting.
- Ro Sheffe has been hospitalized with pneumonia and we hope he will have a speedy recovery.
- Rebecca Skinner will have surgery on both knees this coming week and will be stepping down from her position as chair of the Youth and Education Committee.
- One Hundred Thirty Liberty Street demolition permit has been approved by the Department of Buildings.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Noah Pfefferblit reported the following:

- Attended the Borough President's press conference on the expansion of the Urban Fellow program to other boroughs.
- Once the new website is complete, the Community Board staff will be able to maintain and update the site as needed.
- The MAS student interns have returned to assist us with graphics and other visuals at CB meetings.

Michael Levine, Director of Planning and Land Use reported the following:

- He is teaching an undergraduate class in Urban Planning at Pace University, engaging the class members in projects related to Lower Manhattan. The class has been divided into four teams which are working on the following issues: a bus management plan, locating a community center for the east side of CB1, working with small businesses on the LMDC assistance program and improving stalled construction sites. The class will report back later in the semester.

Treasurer's Report

Joel Kopel reported the following:

- Personnel Services include a \$1,710.00 budget expense.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Capital and Expense Budget Requests for FY 2011 – Resolution

Board Vote: 41 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

There was a discussion about whether the Church Street School of Art and Music should be included in the priorities as it is a non-profit organization and most other items are for City agencies and facilities. Michael Connolly thought it should be included and Jeff Galloway noted that Manhattan Youth is also included. Others argued that non-profit organizations should not be included.

Waterfront Committee

EDC came before the committee with a draft plan for the reconstruction of Pier 15. They will return in November with a final plan.

Youth & Education Committee

The New York City Police Museum's programs for youth were discussed.

Update regarding preparations for H1N1 flu – Resolution
Board Vote: 38 In Favor 4 Opposed 1 Abstained 0 Recused

Discussion about school zoning – Report

CB1's task force on zoning is being formed and will meet in coming weeks.

Discussion of Mayoral Control - Report

Several members objected to a resolution on such an important matter being brought up during a pre-meeting caucus, which did not allow for distribution of the resolution prior to the meeting so that members could read and digest it. A motion to table the resolution was introduced and passed.

Battery Park City Committee

30 West Street, wine and beer license application for Café Casano LLC d/b/a Inatteso Café Casano – Resolution
Board Vote: 42 In Favor 1 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

250 Vesey Street, liquor license application for 250 Vesey LLC – Resolution
Board Vote: 42 In Favor 1 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Funding the construction of a new pedestrian bridge crossing West Street at West Thames Street - Resolution
Board Vote: 42 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 1 Recused

West Thames Park Reconstruction – Resolution
Board Vote: 43 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Financial District Committee

The following resolutions were approved by a vote of:
Board Vote: 42 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Tourist Helicopter Flights from the Downtown Manhattan Heliport – Resolution

6 Murray Street, application for transfer of a tavern-restaurant liquor license for Dana K Jr., d/b/a KD Connelly's – Resolution

101 Maiden Lane, application for wine and beer license for Pearl Maiden Burger Inc. d/b/a Goodburger – Resolution

Letter of support for the Battery Garden Bikeway Comfort and Bicycle Station – Resolution

Proposal for newsstand at northwest corner of Church and Vesey Streets – Resolution

Request for support for revised proposal for parking garage at 15 William Street by Jay Segal, Greenberg Traurig, LLP - Report

Tribeca Committee

145 Hudson Street, application for special permit pursuant to section 74-711 of the Zoning Resolution to allow conversion of floors 7-10 to loft dwellings in a 14 story plus penthouse building in area B2 of the Tribeca Mixed Use District – Resolution

Board Vote: 41 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

The following resolutions were approved by a vote of:

Board Vote: 40 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 1 Recused

339 Greenwich Street, application for liquor license for Sarabeth's Tribeca LLC d/b/a Sarabeth's Tribeca – Resolution

24 Harrison Street, application for wine and beer license for Terroir Tribeca LLC d/b/a Terroir Tribeca – Resolution

181 Duane Street, application for change in class from wine and beer to liquor license for 181 Duane Ristorante d/b/a Max Tribeca - Resolution

249 West Broadway, application for renewal of unenclosed sidewalk cafe for Another room – Resolution

349 Greenwich Street, application for renewal of unenclosed sidewalk café for Dean's Restaurant – Resolution

355 Greenwich Street, application for renewal of unenclosed sidewalk cafe for The Harrison – Resolution

385 Greenwich Street, application for renewal of unenclosed sidewalk cafe for Ivy's Bistro - Resolution

Landmarks Committee

377 Greenwich Street – Report

56 Warren Street, LPC application for installation of bracket sign – Resolution to reject the application.

Board Vote: 19 In Favor 13 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

115 Broadway, LPC application for installation glass and steel awning – Resolution

Board Vote: 40 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee

Downtown Alliance's Greenwich South plan – Report

Liz Berger, NY Alliance presented the results of the Alliance's recent study of Greenwich South.

Street Fair Task Force

Bill Love reported that the Task Force recently met with Joe Giovanni of Mardi Gras Festival Productions to discuss our experience this year with street fairs sponsored by Community Board No. 1. A number of the locations presented challenges this year due to construction issues in Lower Manhattan. Of the seven street fairs held, three of them were held exactly as planned (two on Maiden Lane and one on Lafayette) and a fourth (on Greenwich) was one block shorter than planned but was still almost as financially successful as originally projected. One of the larger street fairs that had been planned for several blocks along Broad Street was reduced to Broad from Water to South and brought in \$4,000 less than planned. The remaining two fairs also had to be relocated from their original locations and were less successful financially than hoped for.

So the bad news was that, due to the construction issues, the seven CB1 street fairs brought in a total of \$26,000, compared with \$37,000 as originally projected and \$28,500 in 2008. The good news was that we added four new CB1 fairs this year that were held on City Parks Department property and did not involve street closures. These four "park fairs" (three of which have been held, with the last one to be held in early November) will bring in an additional \$3,000 each. Two of the park fairs have been held in Foley Square Park, and the location for the other two is the sidewalk along Broadway on the west side of City Hall Park. The Broadway location has proven to be the better of the two. So the total amount that will be raised this year from all of the fairs combined will be \$38,000, well above the \$28,500 from 2008 and also exceeding the planned total of \$37,000 for 2009.

Seaport/Civic Center Committee

277 Water Street, application for liquor license for Samsara Cafe Inc. d/b/a Samsara – Resolution
Board Vote: 40 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 1 Recused

101 Fulton Street, application for liquor license for Chipotle Mexican Grill – Resolution
10 Reade Street, application for renewal of unenclosed sidewalk cafe for Alabachiaro - Resolution
Board Vote: 40 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

WTC Redevelopment Committee

Port Authority Quarterly Construction Update – Report

Fiterman Hall is almost gone! A Community Advisory Meeting was held last week at Speaker Silver’s Office. It may be the last.

Council Member Gerson’s hearing was very informative and the information about the Performing Arts Center that was presented will now be provided at the upcoming World Trade Center Redevelopment committee meeting.

The Department of Buildings has approved the demolition permit for 130 Liberty and the work is expected to begin imminently.

The Port Authority is developing a Plan B, in the event Larry Silverstein is not in the future plans for the redevelopment of the World Trade Center site.

Fulton Street Transportation Center Construction Update – Report
Although slow, progress is being made.

Quality of Life Committee

Construction Projects in Lower Manhattan, Presentation by Robin Forst, Director of Community and Government Relations, LMCCC - Report
LMCCC is always the first presentation on the QOL agenda. All are welcome.

MTA proposal for seatless subway cars – Report
The committee discussed the proposal for seatless subway cars and will invite the MTA to an upcoming meeting to discuss this trial initiative and answer questions about it.

Community Board #1’s resolution to request notification be submitted to the Community Board office in advance of Liberty and Vesey Street Bridge, elevator, and escalator closures when possible and posted in a practical manner near the affected area – Resolution
Board Vote: 39 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Report on presentation by Shula Warren, Chief of Staff for Gale Brewer, regarding the new legislation on family leave – Report

For each 30 hours, an employee would receive 1 hour of sick time. After the City Council hearings and Borough Board vote, we'll discuss again whether to adopt a resolution. The committee members were divided and had concerns about the legislation.

Old Business

No items were presented

New Business

Hydraulic Fracturing in the New York City Watershed – Resolution

Board Vote: 40 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Proposed donation of a holiday tree to the Tribeca community to be displayed in Duane Park – Resolution

Board Vote: 16 In Favor 19 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Noel Jefferson, Secretary and Marc Ameruso, Assistant Secretary