

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD #1
HELD
NOVEMBER 18, 2003
MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE
36 BATTERY PLACE

The Chairperson, Madelyn Wils, called the meeting to order.

Public Session:

Elizabeth Edelstein welcomed the Board to the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and spoke about the many exhibits currently showing in the museum. Ms. Edelstein urged everyone to take advantage of the shops, the café, and the Memorial Garden, which are open to the public without an admission charge. David Marwell, the director, was also thanked for making our meeting at the museum possible.

Jen Hensley of the Alliance for Downtown New York announced that the new Downtown Connect Buses will begin running from Battery Park City to the South Street Seaport daily from 10 am to 8 pm every ten minutes, with specific stops posted at the bus stops. The service is free to everyone.

Jen also announced that registration for the Downtown Little League would be held at Manhattan Youth Resources and Recreation, 55 Warren Street.

Jimmy Gallagher, owner of the Yankee Ferry, announced his resignation from CB1 due to his selling of the boat. The new owners have promised to continue to provide the boat for low cost or for free to community organizations that have used the boat previously. Jimmy thanked everyone for the many years spent in the community.

Rustie Brooke, the Director of Operations for Wall Street Rising's Downtown Information Center, invited everyone to visit the center and take advantage of all the information on Lower Manhattan. Their web site is Downtowninfocenter.org.

Darryl Cochran, liaison for Congressman Nadler, wanted to mention that the Congressman is extremely pleased about the Massachusetts court ruling on same-sex marriages. Vermont has civil unions, as does Canada. Hopefully New York will follow suit.

Kathryn Freed announced that she would be leaving her post with Senator Marty Conner to become a Civil Court Judge. She introduced the board to her replacement, Matt Viggiano.

Bradford Sussman from MBPO advised that the upcoming meeting on Mitchell-Lama housing at Hunter College will be held on Monday, Dec. 15 from 5:30 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

Assemblymember Glick introduced her representative, Saide Dyer, to the board. Her current report includes letters sent to the HRPT on the proposed skating rink. She liked the idea but not the location. She has testified against the proposed West Street tunnel, which would cost over \$600 million to build, and would create a long-standing construction site with potential security issues. Glick also sent a letter to the *The New York Times* to say she is very disturbed about closing veterans' hospitals when vets are in need of care. She believes we have adequate resources to provide veterans proper care. She believes the ban on filming injured and dead military troop members is a terrible precedent set by the President Bush. She wrote to EDC about site 5C, emphasizing that the building should be more in scale with the surrounding neighborhood, and should consider shadows it will create across parkland.

Executive Session:

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on October 21, 2003 were unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Report:

Chairperson Wils reported on the following items:

- Liz Thompson has resigned from the Community Board and from LMCC. She has been a valuable member of this community, and of LMCC, and will be missed.
- Julie Menin has been reappointed to the board. Julie heads Wall Street Rising and had to leave board last year due to her appointment on the Redistricting Committee.
- The Wall Street Regent is closing January 1. The building is being converted to condominiums. We would like to encourage The Regent to keep the ballroom intact. This is a blow to the neighborhood.
- We are concerned about the bill put forth by Carolyn Maloney and Christopher Sheas without any discussion with the downtown community. We will do our best to have a meeting with them to discuss further.

- Vesey Street Bridge is opening on Sunday, November 22. The bridge will be a well-used addition to the area.
- State DOT will begin meeting in December with the West Street Taskforce to go over all detail work on possibilities for West Street. Chairperson Wils wanted to encourage everyone to attend the presentation tomorrow at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on West Street.
- A new Culture, Arts, and Entertainment Task Force will be chaired by Harold Reed. The taskforce's mandate will be to work along with LMDC and other groups that want to bring cultural entities into the community.

Committee Reports:

NOTE: SEE RESOLUTIONS AT END OF MINUTES

A. Executive Committee:

RE: Proposed skating rink south of Pier 40--Resolution

The resolution recommends that HRPT reconsider the proposed skating rink site. A friendly amendment was made and accepted to add to the resolution that the CB does not feel that \$2.6 million in LMDC money should be used.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results: 35 In Favor, 3 Opposed, 0 Abstained, and 0 Recused.

RE: Bus idling legislation--Resolution

A resolution was presented to commend the New York City Council for demanding stricter enforcement of the bus idling law. There was no discussion, and a hand vote was called with the following results: 35 In Favor, 3 Opposed, 0 Abstained, and 0 Recused.

RE: Lower Manhattan homeless survey--Report

There was a benchmark survey taken throughout New York City on the third week of February, 2003 to see how many people are on the street. The study will now develop trend analyses in specific neighborhoods to better understand the homeless problem.

B. Tribeca Committee:

RE: 25 N. Moore Street, liquor license application for Brandy Library Lounge LLC---Resolution

This application is for a proposed brandy lounge on the ground floor of 25 N. Moore Street. The applicant did not have all the required information, and the resolution supports the request for them to return to the board to make a full presentation at a later date.

A hand vote was called with the following results: 33 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstained, and 5 Recused.

RE: 25 Hudson Street, liquor license application for Shinobi NY LLC--Resolution

The applicant failed to appear before the Committee in person, or through an authorized representative. The resolution strongly requests that the SLA require the applicant to appear before the Tribeca Committee before taking any action on the subject application.

A hand vote was called with the following results: 33 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstained, and 5 Recused.

RE: 345 Greenwich Street beer and wine license application for Viet Café resolution.

This application is for a restaurant located on ground floor of a residential building. The residents from the building came to the committee meeting to raise concerns about noise and quality-of-life since the last establishment, formerly La Peru, caused problems for the residents. Measures to be taken by the applicant to ensure residential quality-of-life are included in the resolution.

A hand vote was called with the following results: 33 In Favor, 1 Opposed, 0 Abstained, and 4 Recused.

RE: Proposed newsstand at the northeast corner of Chambers Street and West Broadway--Resolution.

A 4' x 10 1/2' newsstand is proposed for the north side of Chambers Street east of Broadway near the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Although The Committee believes that the newsstand is well-designed, the location is wrong since the area is very congested with pedestrian traffic.

A hand vote was called with the following results: 36 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstained, and 0 Recused.

RE: The NY Industrial Retention Network Proposal Report.

Board 2 and Board 3 have discussed this initiative, however, Community Board 1 has different priorities for LMDC money and has tabled discussion until more information is gathered.

C. Landmarks Committee:

RE: 110 Hudson Street, application to install a metal canopy--Resolution

The applicant did not appear before the committee, and therefore the resolution urges the LPC to hold over this application until the applicant does so.

A hand vote was called with the following results: 38 In Favor, 3 Opposed, 0 Abstained, and 0 Recused.

RE: John Street – Maiden Lane Historic District--Report.

The application has already gone to the State to receive historic status. HPC will make a further presentation.

RE: 130 Duane Street, concerns of community with development--Resolution

Residents and local community groups appeared at several CB meetings to voice their concern over the proposed development slated for the open lot at 130 Duane Street.

Maria Donovan, resident of the American Thread Building. The area is considered to be historically significant. When the residents were informed of the Hersha/Chang Development, they had concerns about the plans to build another budget hotel across from their building. She wants to speak out against this developer, and wants to halt the Duane and Thomas Street project in order to avoid another 320 Pearl St. disaster. She wants to obtain agreement and monitoring of this development for reassurance that the integrity of the building and safety can be met. She is asking elected officials to actively support this.

Jean Grillo also voiced concern about the developer and his inability to follow the approved designs. The block association opposes this developer due to the past experiences the community has had with him. She supports resolution.

Havry Malivowski, a resident and owner of 130 Duane Street, supports resolution.

Kathryn Freed adds that Senator Connor is supporting this resolution. Connor, Wils, and Gerson will ask the building department to meet with community, developers, and the architect to review the plans for the building, since no one has seen the plans.

Anthony Notaro believes the resolution should be have stronger wording. Bruce Ehrmann feels that that the Board's response is strong enough.

Bernie D'Orazio questioned how this building was previously reviewed and processed by CB1. Answer: the Board has asked the Buildings Department to monitor this architect and developer. LPC approved the building with change of use. This is as of right with Landmarks approval. Some believe the building is out of character in the area. Roger Byrom explains the resolution as saying, "please watch out for this project by LPC."

The resolution urges the LPC to monitor this developer and architect closely in conjunction with the Department of Buildings until the project is completed.

A hand vote was called with the following results: 30 In Favor, 2 Opposed, 1 Abstained, and 0 Recused.

C. Waterfront Committee:

RE: Downtown Boathouse temporary dock--Resolution.

The Downtown Boathouse brought a proposal for a temporary floating dock to be used during the restoration of Pier 26. The Committee recommended that the HRPT approved their request.

A hand vote was called with the following results: 33 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstained, and 0 Recused.

RE: Proposed marina for the area south of Pier 25--Report

There was a rumor that the HRPT was proposing a 200-300--boat marina in the small area south of Pier 25. Connie Fishman of HRPT came to the committee meeting to discuss the marina, but did not have a lot of information to share. The committee was not pleased with the thought of a proposed marina in the area.

RE: Eastside Waterfront Task Force--Report

The Eastside Waterfront Plan has been expanded to include part of the waterfront in Community Board 3 up to the East River Park. The new park would be developed from Battery Park East up to the beginning of the East River Park.

D. Battery Park City Committee:

RE: Chamber Street pedestrian bridge elevators--Report.

The elevators are “out of service” more often than not, and there are a lot of complaints. The BPCA came to the meeting and agrees that there is a problem. They are having an audit done of Otis Elevators to see what they have done, and why there are so many problems. BPCA agrees they need to make improvements.

RE: Battery Park City traffic concerns--Report.

The Committee asked that DOT conduct a study of Battery Park City- particularly in the southern aspect, looking at new signage and crosswalks. They will review their findings and come back to the committee for a report.

RE: New playground at Kowsky Plaza--Report.

Construction started, and is scheduled to be finished by Spring 2004. The design shows a tot-lot design, new and enlarged from that of the former park. Residents gave the Authority input and feel confident about the park.

E. Financial Committee:

RE: 110-112 Liberty Street, liquor license application--Resolution.

The applicant did not show up, and so the committee recommends that the SLA not approve the liquor license.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results: 34 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstained, and 0 Recused.

RE: Relocation of Bowling Green Post Office--Report

The Post Office lease is over at the end of 2004, and they are looking at new leases. The Wall Street/Pine Street Post Office is also looking to relocate when their lease is up in 2006 as well. The Post Office will continue to have a presence in the area.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair.