

COMMUNITY BOARD ONE MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, December 16, 2008

TIME: 6:00 PM

PLACE: Downtown Community Center
120 Warren Street
Ground Floor between West Street and Greenwich Street

A G E N D A

I. Public Session

A) Comments by members of the public

- Michael Weinlein, (FDNY Borough Commander)
Described Mayor Bloomberg's plan to close some firehouses, reduce night operations and cancel the new FDNY class due to budget cuts.
Said the proposed changes could increase response times.
Several board members expressed concerns about these proposals and about Governors Island being left vulnerable due to the proposed elimination of the fire-fighting unit there.
- John Ricker, (Comptroller Thompson's office)
Comptroller Thompson has joined a lawsuit to overturn Mayor Bloomberg's term-limits extension that recently passed in the City Council.
Has started clinics to help New Yorkers with foreclosure problems.
Millions of dollars in savings have been generated from the Comptroller's audits.
- Kaziem Woodbury, (Downtown Alliance)
Christmas Tree Chipping Event - January 10th, 10-2:pm.
- Mary Cooley, (State Senator-Elect Daniel Squadron' office)
Announced that the senator is in Albany working on the budget.
There will be a swearing-in ceremony coming up soon, all are invited.
Contact information: (646)472-5712
- Molly Bidol, (Assembly Member Glick's office)
DFTA should rethink senior center RFP.
DOE 5-year capital plan does not address overcrowding.
Complaints about motorized vehicles on sidewalks.
- Greg Kirschenbaum, (Borough President Stringer's office)
DOE 5-year capital plan does not address overcrowding.
MTA proposed fare hike for Access-a-ride from \$2 to \$4 would be a burden for people on fixed incomes.
Sent a letter to DOT requesting a traffic light or some improvements at the Duane and Greenwich Street intersection.
- Marc Ameruso, (CB1 member)
Promoted the Marine Corps Toys-for-Tots program, leaving flyers on the back table listing various locations throughout the City where unwrapped toys could be dropped off for Christmas and the Holidays.
- Paul Nagle, (Councilman Gerson's office)

The Councilman is very concerned about the proposed FDNY elimination of a local engine company at night and the cut to FDNY services on Governors Island.

II. Business Session

A) Adoption of Minutes

Attendance corrections;
Tom Goodkind was present at BPC.
Jeffrey Mihok was present at Youth committee.

BOARD VOTE: Unanimous

B) Chairperson's Report J. Menin

- CB1's Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee will consider possible improvements that can be made by a New York City Charter Revision Commission to be appointed by the Mayor. CB1 will in this way take a proactive approach.
- The CB1 Landmarks Committee has had low attendance. Volunteers are needed to serve on this committee or people will be reassigned from other committees.
- 130 Liberty Street will be the subject at an upcoming hearing by the City Council Committee on Lower Manhattan Redevelopment. CB1 will testify.
- City budget cuts are being proposed across the board to all City agencies, including community boards.
- The future of the General Growth Properties Seaport project is uncertain as General Growth has put the development up for sale.

C) District Manager's Report N. Pfefferblit

- Things are not looking good with the latest round of City budget cuts. The City has proposed to cut the CB budget by 5% and then an additional 2%. The cuts would mean that by July 1, 2009 it would be impossible for CB1 to cover its personnel costs using City personnel funds.
- The MTA has proposed service reductions that would eliminate train service from 11 pm to 6:00am on the N, R, and W lines. The MTA has scheduled a public hearing on its service reductions and fare increases and CB1 plans to testify.
- The attendance problem at CB1 committees is not confined to the Landmarks Committee. Other committees are also having difficulty with quorums and better attendance is needed.
- Beginning with the January meeting, the minutes will no longer be distributed in paper at meetings. In order to save money and be helpful to the environment, minutes will be distributed by email unless special requests are received.

III. Committee Reports

A) **Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee**

J. Galloway

1) Citywide Zoning Text Amendment: Zoning for Bicycle Parking – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 32 In Favor 3 Opposed 4 Abstained 0 Recused

2) 421-a Tax Abatement Applications – Report

201 Pearl Street; 189 units.

40 Gold Street; 14 stories, 56 units.

\$2750. to \$4950. affordable housing units.

(Both of these are As-of-Right)

Planning committee process:

When should the Planning Committee weigh in on issues required to be reviewed by the

community board? Should it be the Planning Committee or the geographic committees or combined committees? J. Galloway, J. Foss, and M. Levine will review applications to determine how to proceed. In addition, these topics will also be run by the committee chairs before a final determination is made.

- 3) Columbia University Graduate Planning Studio – Greenwich Street South/Financial District Planning Needs and Opportunities Study – Report
The Columbia University Studio Class will begin an intensive three-month study with recommendations in January.
- 4) Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee Mission Statement – Report
The committee continues to develop a mission statement.
- 5) Proposed Changes to City Uniform Land Use Review Process – Report
The ULURP process is one of the few tools that communities have for public input. It needs to be strengthened.
- 6) Charter Revision Task Force - Report
We need more community involvement, not less. The task force will assess the proposed changes to the New York City Charter by the Charter Revision Commission that will be appointed.

B) Waterfront Committee

R. Townley

- 1) Phase One of East River Waterfront Esplanade Plan Implementation Plan, Economic Development Corporation – Resolution

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

C) Battery Park City Committee

L. Belfer

- 1) NYSDOT and Brookfield have agreed to come to the January BPC meeting to discuss bridge jurisdiction issues, and DOT will discuss Thames Park and the dog run plans – Announcement
There continue to be problems with the elevators on Vesey and Liberty Streets and these will be discussed with Brookefield and NYSDOT.
- 2) Discussion about letter to Milstein Properties regarding the lack of a response to CB1 request for a safety plan for 200 & 300 North End Avenue – Resolution

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

- 3) Issues reported on by Hector Calderon, Battery Park City Authority Director of Affirmative Action (filling in for Leticia Remauro) – Report

A. Ongoing projects in BPC

- Goldman Walkway
Discussed concerns about dangers to pedestrians caused by bicyclists who do not dismount.
- Site 23/24 - community center
Discussed status of RFP that has been issued.
- Ballfields
There are concerns about the safety of the youth who will use the fields during the construction by Milstein Properties
- River House public amenity space

- Visionaire
 - Pier A
The BPCA has taken over operations of the Pier.
 - Site 2B
Plans to build the school are moving forward. R. Skinner confirmed that money for a school at site 2B is locked in.
- B. Pedestrian crossings
DOT will be at the committee next month to discuss this.
- C. PEP reports
- D. New projects or those done by parties other than BPCA
- E. Timetable for selection of operator for the BPC community center and discussion of language in final RFP
- G. Discussion about community's role in the RFP process

D) Seaport/Civic Center Committee J. Fratta

- 1) 32 Cliff Street, application for liquor license for The Iron Horse NYC – Resolution

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

- 2) 22 Peck Slip, application for renewal of unenclosed side café for Peck Slip Restaurant Corp, d/b/a Meades – Resolution

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

- 3) Proposed street closure on Sunday, October 4, 2009, John Street , Fulton Street and Water Street by the Association of Indians in America Inc. – Resolution

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

- 4) Chatham Square Redesign – Resolution

J. Fratta, These changes are in CB3 but will affect CB1.

J. Menin, CB 1 and 3 are opposed to the changes.

J. Fratta, The people in Chinatown are outraged about this re-construction plan and the traffic tie-ups it will cause.

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

- 4) Chinatown Working Group – Resolution

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

E) East Side Community Center Task Force J. Fratta

- 1) Update on Seaport Community Programs – Report

General Growth Properties met with the task force to describe community programs.

There have been many press reports about GGP's precarious financial circumstances.

F) WTC Redevelopment Committee C. McVay Hughes

- 1) Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center – Update

The LMCCC updated the Committee about progress on major construction projects in Lower Manhattan.

2) Fiterman Hall – Update

The project is moving forward as a result of an agreement between the State and City to provide the funding needed to complete the work. Demolition should be complete in 4 to 6 months.

3) Lower Manhattan Development Corporation – Update

There will be a CAC meeting on Friday at 10 am in Speakers Silver’s office.

G) Quality of Life Committee

A. Capsouto

1) Update on Construction Projects in Lower Manhattan – There was no report this month

2) Presentation on the DOT bus bulb program – Report

A. Capsouto, discussed problems with the DOT bus bulbs below Canal Street;

Broadway and Walker

There is a problem when four buses idle.

Also the railing is 50 feet long.

There are issues with the bikes on the sidewalk.

J. Galloway: The bus bulbs have worsened traffic flow.

M. James: The bus bulbs cause more buses to idle.

U. Perkins: There is also a problem on the East side with idling buses.

E. Williams: Traffic on Broadway should be reduced.

J. Fratta: The community knows best and can tell that DOT is making it harder for people to drive.

M. Ameruso: Since Mayor Bloomberg lost the Congestion Pricing battle he is transforming the City into an obstacle course for all drivers of vehicles.

3) Tabling of discussion on City Council bill to allow 16-17-year-olds to serve on community boards – Announcement

Discussion tabled.

4) Discussion about request for counter-terrorism officers to respond to quality of life issues – Report
Board member Anthony Notaro had a meeting with Chief Toler of Manhattan South, who said that counter-terrorism officers may call in violations but may not leave their posts

5) Request by Borough President Scott Stringer to ask MTA to refrain from raising Access-A-Ride fare – Report and Petition

All are encouraged to sign a petition to be sent to the MTA urging that the Access-A-Ride fare not be raised.

H) Youth & Education Committee

R. Skinner

1) Murray Bergtraum High School – Report

Barbara Esmillia, the Principal of Murray Bergtraum High School, presented at the Youth Committee meeting and brought a very large contingent of students, faculty and administrators from the High School. She made a presentation that helped committee members and others present understand the high school and its place in the community. It was agreed that the presentation would be the start of a new and improved relationship between the school and the community.

2) Update on Speaker Silver’s School Overcrowding task force – Report

The Department of Education has agreed to place six classrooms in Tweed Court House beginning with the coming school year. These will be used as incubator spaces for kindergarten students who will attend the two new schools under construction in Lower Manhattan.

3) School rezoning – Report

The Committee has been in contact with the DOE to set up a question–and–answer session regarding school rezoning in Lower Manhattan. The Committee has developed some questions and is arranging for a representative from the DOE to attend an upcoming meeting to respond to them. This will likely occur at the March Committee meeting.

I) **Landmarks Committee**

R. Byrom

1) 27-A Harrison Street, LPC application for modification of shutters – Resolution

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

2) 137 Duane Street, LPC application for alterations to windows on sixth floor – Resolution

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

3) 78-80 Leonard Street, LPC application for two story rooftop addition to existing six-story building – Resolution

H. Miller: (applicant) presented proposal for a two story addition.

J. Ehrlich: approved of the modern design.

A. Capsouto: inquired about the location of the mechanicals.

R. Byrom: responded that the mechanicals are not visible.

M. James: asked about the sturdiness of the structure.

P. Sipos: does not like the design because it not contextual.

A. Tannenbaum: thinks overly modern design will set a bad precedent.

D. Lapson: said that although it is not visible from the street it is visible from somewhere.

M. Ameruso: agreed with A. Tannenbaum and also did not like the materials. Would like to see a mock-up.

BOARD VOTE: 32 In Favor 5 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

4) 48 Wall Street, LPC application for installation of exterior banner for Museum of American Finance-Resolution

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

R. Byrom, - MTA Flood Mitigation Repor

The Landmarks Committee will continue to discuss implementation of the plan in the Tribeca Historic District with MTA.

J) **Financial District Committee**

R. Sheffe

1) 20 Maiden Lane , application for on-premise liquor license for Maiden Hotel LLC d/b/a Hotel Reserve – Resolution

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

2) 195 Broadway, application for on-premise liquor license for Omnicom Media Group – Resolution

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

3) Street permit application by the Downtown Independent Democrats (Clearview Festival Productions;

promoter) on Friday, April 24, 2009, Maiden Lane between Water Street and South Street. Closure of street during the hours of 8 AM to 7 PM; event will take place during the hours of 11 AM – 6 PM – Resolution

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

- 4) Street permit application by the Downtown Visiting Neighbors (Clearview Festival Productions; promoter) on Friday, September 25, 2009, Murray Street between Broadway and Church Street. Closure of street during the hours of 8 AM to 7 PM; event will take place during the hours of 11 AM – 6 PM – Resolution

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

- 5) 94½ Greenwich Street, renewal of liquor license for JGF Food Inc. d/b/a Cordato's – Following a lengthy discussion at a caucus prior to the meeting, the Committee decided not to pass a resolution on this renewal application. There are violations pending at the SLA and the Committee did not wish to take a position regarding the establishment until these are resolved.

- Note: Marc Ameruso, Noah Pfefferblit and Ro Sheffe attended a meeting at the Borough President's Office with the State Liquor Authority and have prepared a document about the new SLA rules and regulations that will include the SLA's recommendations about language to be used when writing a resolution. This document is currently being reviewed by the SLA to ensure accuracy.

K. Tribeca Committee

C. DeSaram

- 1) Harrison Street Project (HWMWTCA7A)

A two-year major curb-to-curb road, sewer, gas, electric, and water main reconstruction project on Greenwich Street (Canal & Hubert), Leonard Street (Hudson & West Broadway), and Harrison Street (West & Hudson) has begun.

-Marc Ameruso noted the cobblestones on Greenwich Street will be replaced as the CB has requested for many years in its annual budget request submissions.

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

WTC Redevelopment Committee

C. McVay Hughes

- 1) World Trade Center Medical Programs

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

Youth & Education Committee

R. Skinner

- 1) Capital Plan for the Department of Education

In the 5th WHEREAS spell out CEQR: City Environmental Quality Review.

BOARD VOTE: 37 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

VI. Adjournment

Approximately 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted:

Marc Ameruso

Assistant Secretary