

MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD # 1
HELD
APRIL 28, 2009
ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
101 MURRAY STREET

Julie Menin, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Public Session:

Paul Goldstein, (Assemblyman Silver's office)

- Goldman Sachs will implement new safety procedures at the building they are constructing as a result of the recent incident in which a hammer fell onto a ballfield, 20 feet from where children were playing.
- Mentioned that the Bottle Bill will be expanded.
- The state has restored \$7 million to the budget for Governors Island.
- Downtown Alliance's free bike initiative will soon be in operation.

John Ricker, (NYC Comptroller Thompson's Office)

- Identify MTA service cuts by going to www.comptroller.nyc.gov and typing in zip code.
- Asked the Governor to work with the film and TV industry to continue moviemaking in NY. The return in tax dollars is as beneficial as the employment it provides.
- Study showed that many NYC hospitals underreported 'adverse events.'
- Audit of DEP showed unbilled water and sewer charges.
- Opposes practice of using revenue from the BPCA intended for affordable housing for the general budget.

Sue Ellen Epstein, (Chambers Street Resident) and C. Rhozaffar (Neighbor)

- One Chambers Church Pizza has requested a 3:00 AM closure in its liquor license application. Urged Tribeca Committee to limit the closing time to 1:00 AM.

Jeff Ehrlich, (CB1 Public Member)

- Concerned that requested closing time of 3:00 AM for Chambers Church Pizza is too late for the neighborhood. Is asking for 1:00 AM.

Pam Fredrick, (HRPT Board of Directors)

- Introduced herself and is looking forward to working with community on such issues as Pier 40 and an estuarium at Pier 26.

Kaziem Woodbury, (Downtown Alliance)

- Community planting day on May 3rd at Wall Street Park, 10 AM.

Erin Drinkwater, (Congressman Nadler's Office)

- There is \$91 million in federal stimulus funding for infrastructure of federal buildings.
- Was displeased with the unannounced flyover of Air Force One for a photo opportunity.
- Testified in favor of the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

Diane Stein, (Councilmember Gerson's Office)

- DOT's bus parking plan was thwarted by Council Member Gerson, Julie Menin and CB 1's Tribeca Committee. DOT will return next week to discuss the planned alternative.
- City Council Lower Manhattan Committee Public Hearing on the status of World Trade Center redevelopment will take place. If anyone would like to speak, contact Tom at 212-788-9108

Gary Fagin (Knickerbockers Chamber Orchestra)

- Invitation to the next concert, Friday May 15th at Pace University. Student discount, \$15.00 will be offered to all CB 1 Members.

Greg Kirshenbaum (B.P. Scott Stringer's Office)

- Not only wrote a letter to the Commissioner of DOT., but held a rally on 4/24 opposing the West Street bus parking plan and short notice to the community.
- Legislation is being presented to promote empowerment of public school parents. Signatures are being collected online in support of this initiative empowerment.

Mary Cooley (Senator Dan Squadron's Office)

- Introduced a bill that would mandate fingerprinting illegal vendors upon arrest.
- Worked with the local community to prevent implementation of the West Street bus parking plan.
- The Senator is identifying dangerous intersections where red light cameras should be placed.

Jose Fina Sanfeliu (Fire Department) Budget Cuts

- The FDNY will close more fire houses. On May 9th, there will be a protest walk against these cuts. To show support and join the protest, the public can stand outside of Fire House 4 in the Seaport area beginning at 12:00 noon.
- Bushwick will be the first fire station on the walk.

Molly Bidol (Assembly Deborah Glick's Office)

- The Assembly Member spoke out against the DOT West Street bus parking plan.

- Legislation against transgender discrimination is pending and the Assembly Member is hoping that it will pass.
- Testified against the Department of Education's Charter School initiative. She prefers more schools, smaller classes and better training for teachers.

Steve Wygoda (Architect for Salaam Bombay)

- Restaurant is applying for a sidewalk café.
- Establishment has no open violations with the DEP.
- Presented a petition signed by 208 locals and regulars who support the outside café.

Arthur Gregory (CB 1 Public Member)

- Announced his candidacy for Council Member. www.Arthurgregory.org.

Tina Schiller and Tricia Joyce

- There is overcrowding in Tribeca schools because CB 2 is lacking approximately 1,000 school seats. By 2012, we'll be approximately 1,200 seats short if this issue is not addressed. On May 6th there will be a rally on the steps of City Hall. www.classsizematters.org.

Tommy Lin (Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum's Office)

- Introduced himself as the Public Advocate's new representative

Melinda Katz – Council Woman

- Julie Menin introduced her as a Queens representative who has worked closely with CB1 in the effort to rezone Northern Tribeca.
- Chairs the City Council Land Use Committee and is running for Comptroller's Office.
- Discussed the importance of Mayoral control of the Department of Education.

Robin Lockwood (Children's Museum of the Arts)

- Announced free art programs on Governors Island May through October.

Carmen L. Perez (Partnership Specialist NYRCC)

- Talked about efforts to make the 2010 census more accessible to more people.

Business Session:

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on March 24, 2009 were adopted as presented.

Chairperson's Report:

Julie Menin reported on the following issues:

- There was widespread dismay in the community over yesterday's incident in which an Air Force One plane made an unannounced low flight over Lower Manhattan. The lack

- Julie introduced our new Board Members, Coren Sharples, Liat Silberman, and Vera Sung.
- D.O.T.'s plan to move commuter buses from the FDR Drive to West Street between Canal and Chambers Streets will be withdrawn. Noah and Michael Levine attended a meeting with Luis Sanchez earlier in the afternoon where they began assessing alternatives. This bus issue was a great example of successful community activism.
- Discussed the impasse between the Port Authority and Larry Silverstein that is impeding development at the World Trade Center. The parties must work together to move forward with the redevelopment process.
- Bankruptcy of GGP was not a big surprise, but CB1 rightly took this possibility into consideration when voting on whether to recommend approval of the plan. Thanks to John Fratta and his team for due diligence while working on this issue. The community center issue can be brought up again once GGP, or whoever assumes control of the property, comes back to the board and is ready to move forward.

District Manager's Report:

Noah Pfefferblit reported on the following issues:

- Community Board budget proposal remains very dire. Noah has been involved in ongoing budget discussions with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Manhattan Borough President's Office and other agencies to develop viable means by which to reduce our personnel budget – by covering some of the current personnel costs with privately raised funds. Ideally, Noah plans to have all of the necessary information very soon to present the Board with a proposal for consideration.
- Noah and Michael Levine met with the Lower Manhattan Transportation Commissioner Luis Sanchez and local elected officials to discuss alternative locations for the commuter buses that are being displaced from the FDR Drive by construction. Commissioner Sanchez agreed to meet with the respective committee chairs who would be most familiar with suggested locations.
- Noah, Michael Levine, Judy Norinsky, Ro Sheffe and Peter Braus attended various meetings recently pertaining to the SLA. At one meeting, Woody Pascal, the new CEO for the State Liquor Authority (SLA), answered questions, clarified procedures and expressed interest in working closely with community boards.
- Michael Levine and Kasey LaFlam, are working on Tom Goodkind's "Protected Rental Unit Project" in CB. Board members and other volunteers are collecting information for a database that calculates the number of rent-stabilized apartment units in CB1. An e-mail to this effect was sent to all board members yesterday.

(Michael Levine reported that he and his team of CB 1 Members identified 4,600 rentals within 16 regulated buildings in CB 1).

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

Joel Kopel – Treasurer

- Discussed the proposed budget cuts, which if carried out will require board actions.

Youth & Education Committee

- Rebecca Skinner’s husband, Arthur Liebowitz, was described in the New York Times as a “Super Doctor.”
- **Center for Arts Education (CAE) – Report**
Request for support by the CAE was discussed and will be voted on by the committee next month. Literature and letter will be circulated among members in preparation for the vote.
- **The Tweed School – Report**
N. Harris, Principal, Spruce Street School and T. Ruyter, Principal, IS/PS 276 shared insights about their careers and their staunch advocacy for the needs of individual schools. Both principals belong to a local parent e-mail blog and have begun meeting with parents.
- **Community Education Council – Report**
The council agreed unanimously to support Manhattan Borough President Stringer’s proposal for meaningful involvement by public school parents in school governance.
- **The School Governance Law and Mayoral Control Resolution – Report**
The committee supported Dennis Gault’s amendment (acting on Chairperson Julie Menin’s suggestion) to change the language of this resolution from a negative to a neutral structure. Ann De Falco requested an opportunity to edit the language so that the resolution would retain its intended strength. She returned later in the meeting with a reworded resolution. The Therefore Be It Resolved clause was changed to wording that was more neutral regarding Mayoral control and emphasized the changes that the board wanted to increase parental involvement and meaningful checks and balances in school governance.
- **Manhattan Youth Lower Manhattan Family Fund - Report**
Reported on the status of the fund.

Empowering Community Education Councils – Resolution

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

School governance law and mayoral control – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 34 In Favor 4 Opposed 1 Abstained 0 Recused

Parent Commission Recommendations – Resolution

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

Financial District Committee

19 South William Street, application for on-premise liquor license for Misaki Corp. d/b/a Kokura – Resolution

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

142 Fulton Street, application for wine and beer liquor license for S&J Tomato Inc. – Resolution

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

123 Washington Street, application for on-premises liquor license for W New York Downtown Hotel, for 1st and 2nd floor restaurants – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 36 In Favor 1 Opposed 0 Abstained 1 Recused

Catherine McVay Hughes asked Oscar Brecher, Director of the Moinian Group (license applicant – not restaurant operator) to meet regularly with the Financial District Committee to provide updates. Tishman manages this job.

Street activity permit applications for a street fair by Suspenders Restaurant from May 09 to October 09 on weekends and holidays only on Thames Street between Trinity Place and Broadway – Resolution

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

LMDC Small Firm Assistance Program – Resolution

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

Tribeca Committee

The following resolutions were approved by a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained and 0 recused:

- 130 Franklin Street, application for wine and beer license for Pecan LLC, d/b/a Pecan
- 6 Varick Street AKA 130 Franklin Street, application for liquor license for Lena, Inc.
- 374 Greenwich Street, application for wine and beer license for Tribeca Sushi, Inc.
- 317-319 Greenwich Street, application for unenclosed sidewalk café for Salaam Bombay
- 413 Greenwich Street, application for unenclosed sidewalk café for Il Mattone

301 Church Street, application for renewal of unenclosed sidewalk café for Bread in Tribeca – Resolutions

154 Church Street, application for wine and beer license for Chambers Church Pizza d/b/a Dona Bella – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 29 In Favor 5 Opposed 2 Abstained 0 Recused

Relocation by Department of Transportation of commuter bus parking spaces currently under the FDR Drive to locations along West Street south of Canal Street – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: TABLED

Landmarks Committee

49 White Street, LPC application for replacement of fence – Resolution

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

39 White Street application for penthouse addition – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 35 In Favor 1 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Noho/Soho/Tribeca East/African Burial Ground, application to install flood mitigation measures – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 36 In Favor 0 Opposed 1 Abstained 0 Recused

South Street Seaport Historic District Extension – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 36 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 1 Recused

Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee

Sea Level Rising Task Force – Report

The Regional Director of the Sea Level Rising Task Force presented information on hurricane flood zones for the 5 boroughs. She highlighted the possible effects of continued rising water levels due to global warming. For information on measures the city is taking, a representative from the Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management will speak at our next meeting. All are welcome.

Proposed Gas Drilling Near Upstate Reservoirs – Report

The proposed natural gas drilling, close to the Catskill/Delaware watershed, which supplies most of New York City’s water, poses great risk to the water supply of New York City and the health of all who drink the water. The hydraulic fracturing process pumps millions of gallons of water

and chemicals into the ground. CB 2 has already passed a resolution calling on the State to prohibit hydraulic fracturing. We expect to have a resolution to present to the Board in May.

The Department of City Planning Grocery Study – Report

City Planning has concluded that according to the department’s criteria, Community District One has enough supermarkets and does not need any more.

City Land Use Review Process – Report

Extensive research has revealed numerous cities in which money gained from agreements on development proposals went into the cities’ general fund and not back into the communities. The committee is continuing its research to identify a precedent whereby money gained from a ULURP must be reinvested in an affected community.

Kasey LaFlam, our outgoing Urban Fellow, has outlined a proposal for her successor to conduct a community facilities study that would examine existing community infrastructure and cross compare it with what we feel would meet expected demands on our population. We need to be proactive because otherwise city agencies determine our needs based more on an archaic cookie-cutter method rather than by consulting the community in a more meaningful way.

Battery Park City Committee

Goldman Sachs and the Future of the Vesey Street Pedestrian Bridge – Report

Discussions continue regarding the West Street crossings. The Goldman Sachs Memorandum of Understanding called for the Vesey Street bridge to come down by the end of March 2009, upon completion of construction projects in the vicinity. Construction delays have prevented this from occurring, and Goldman would like to speed up overall construction in the area so that the bridge can come down. The Vesey Street Bridge will enable safe West Street crossings until completion of the promenade, now projected to be completed in 2014.

The following resolutions were approved by a vote of 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained and 0 recused:

Proposed street closure on Saturday, September 26 and Sunday September 27, 2009, Vesey Street between North End Avenue and West Street by the Tunnel to Tower Run

311 Kosher Deli LLC at 311 South End Avenue, wine and beer liquor license application

Application for Unenclosed Sidewalk Cafe for Frank Casano, d/b/a Osteria Casano LLC at 28 West Street

Application for Unenclosed Sidewalk Cafe for Frank Casano, d/b/a Café Casano LLC at 38 West Street

Request by Liberty View Condominium requesting approval to designate a loading zone in front of the service entrance of 99 Battery Place, which is on Third Place between Battery Place and Little West Street - Resolutions

Seaport/Civic Center Committee

111 South Street, application for liquor license for L & J Marketplace Inc, d/b/a Fish Market Restaurant – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 36 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 1 Recused

Street permit application by Children’s Day at the South Street Seaport on Saturday, June 13, 2009 on South Street between John Street and Beekman Street – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 36 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 1 Recused

WTC Redevelopment Committee

The following resolutions were approved by a vote of 29 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained and 0 recused:

Report on update by Port Authority and Silverstein Properties
WTC East-West Pedestrian Connector - Resolutions

Quality of Life Committee

The Rector Street Bridge – Report

The bridge will remain open for 10 weeks. It will then close again for 6-8 weeks while the NYSDOT makes structural changes to accommodate Route 9A construction changes to the roadway and the BPCA makes surface repairs.

Cyber Crime and Children – Report

The committee discussed cyber crime and the need to monitor what children are doing on the Internet.

Census 2010 – Report

The Committee heard from a representative of the U.S. Census. The Census is important so that critical services be directed to populations that need them. It is important for everyone to answer the census.

The Resuce Mission – Report

Tom Hall, Development Director of tThe Rescue Mission, America’s First Rescue Mission (NYCRM) was founded in 1872. Mr. Hall said the mission provides spiritual hope, food, clothing and shelter to people in crisis in New York City. Three hundred rescue missions throughout the country have been modeled on this Mission, which is located within our District and needs our financial support.

Update about Construction Projects in Lower Manhattan
Representatives of LMCCC attend every month to update us on construction projects.

Report on discussion about diversity of food at Greenmarkets in CD#1 –
Greenmarket representatives agreed to consider longer seasons for various locations and a greater diversity of food.

Vendor issues – Report - Deferred

Old Business:

No old business was conducted.

New Business:

No new business was conducted

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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