

May 2004 Minutes

Full Board May 4, 2004
West Side YMCA

Chairperson Hope Cohen called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Minutes from previous full board meeting were approved (13-0-4).

Chairperson's Report, Hope Cohen

- Introduced new Board Member Steve Strauss.
- Announced the Barry Rosenberg will take an extended leave of absence from CB7.
- Gave a brief overview of the Lincoln Center redevelopment proposal, and announced that there would be a Lincoln Center Task Force, chaired by Larry Horowitz.
- Barbara Adler presented new CB7 T-shirts, now available for purchase by CB7 Members. They will be used for the CB7 softball team uniform.
- Helen Rosenthal announced that the District Needs Statement will be presented for approval in June 2004. She requested that Committee Chairs complete their sections in May.
- Discussed Board's intention to reconsider the turf fields in Riverside Park (i.e. an item whose approval failed when considered in April 2004) . Emphasized that re-consideration would not establish a precedent in violation of Parliamentary Procedure.

District Manager's Report, Penny Ryan

- She and three other district managers testified at City Council at Council Member Brewer's hearing on the 311 system. They stressed that complex problems are more effectively resolved through Community Board offices and continued the request for 311 data.
- Crime in Precincts 20 and 24 continues to go down. Precincts are educating local businesses about the theft of unattended property, which can lead to identity theft, and with Transportation Alternatives and the BIDs are encouraging businesses that deliver to post bulletins outlining the rules for delivery bikes.
- The District Service Cabinet is surveying single room occupancy (SROs) in the District and working to offer services to immigrant residents where needed.
- The Olympic Torch will travel down the West Side on June 19th. Visit www.nyc.gov

if you wish to participate in some way.

Public Official Report Councilmember Phil Reed introduced new legislative aid, Sue Calvin, a resident of Manhattan Valley. He discussed budget negotiations with the Mayor and its impact on city services. He announced his support for turf fields in Riverside Park. He announced his candidacy for Manhattan Borough President.

Manhattan Borough President' Report

John Mullens, representing C. Virginia Fields, announced that CB7 appointments will be completed next week.

Public Speakers

Olive Freud, of Committee for Environmentally Sound Development, reported on negotiations with Riverside South regarding the closing of the 72nd Street exit ramp and the associated connection between Riverside Drive and Riverside Blvd.

Altagracia Hiraldo, of Dominican Sunday Community Services, announced a presentation on Friday, 7pm, about voter registration in Manhattan Valley.

Rafael Escano, of the City Comptroller's Office, reported that the Comptroller does not oppose tree plantings, but insists that labor standards be followed.

Joshua Bocian, of City Council Member Gale Brewer's office, spoke in favor of the turf fields in Riverside Park. He spoke in favor of the curb cut in front of PS 87. He urged denial of cabaret license for Star Nightclub. He reported on efforts to fill empty tree pits in the District. He announced that Gale Brewer will welcome the new crossing guard at 70th and West End Avenue on Wednesday, May 5th.

Marc Landis, of America Votes, announced a non-partisan effort to register voters in Pennsylvania.

Jean Green-Dorsey, West Gate Tenants Association, announced work to preserve Mitchell-Lama housing.

Business Session

Parks & Preservation Committee

Lenore Norman, Chairperson

- 1. 169 West 87th Street, St. Mathew's and St. Timothy's Church (Columbus-Amsterdam Avenues.) Application #040140 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to install a barrier free access lift and a fence at the areaway. (Approved 28-0-0-0)**
- 2. 169 West 78th Street, (Columbus-Amsterdam Avenues.) Application #044181 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to legalize the replacement of ironwork and the repainting of the façade without Landmarks Preservation Commission permits. (Approved 29-0-0-0)**
- 3. 200 West 84th Street (Columbus-Amsterdam Avenues.) Application #045685 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to legalize the installation of a canopy without Landmarks Preservation Commission permits. (Approved 30-0-1-0)**

Parks & Preservation Committee

Joint with Community Development Committee

Marlene Guy, Chairperson

- 4. Final plans for the construction of artificial turf playing fields between West 103rd and 107th Streets, Riverside Park. (Approved: 29-3-2-0).**

KC Sahl (212-408-0264), of Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) reported that fields are open from April to November, but that natural grass is often in untenably poor condition during that period. He reported that artificial turf will extend the use of the fields. He stated that no other fields are slated for artificial turf. He noted that the procedure for obtaining permits for field use will remain the same.

James Dowell, of Riverside Park Fund, spoke in favor of artificial turf. He argued that sports are essential for child development.

William Crain, of City College, spoke against the use of artificial turf in the park. He discussed the importance of natural settings for children. He urged everyone to protect the natural environment rather than pave it over.

Manhattan Borough Commissioner Bill Castro, of DPR, asked for support for renovation of fields with artificial turf, which are safer and more sustainable for sports.

Tatiana Hoover, President of West Side Little League, urged support for the artificial turf.

Eddy Collins, of West Side Soccer League, and several youth presented their support for the artificial turf.

Michael Orbison, of West Side Soccer League, spoke in favor of the turf.

Marc Freedman, of West Side Soccer League, noted that the choice between "turf or dirt" should go for turf.

Marty Plevel noted that artificial turf is safer than grass.

William Goldstein, Little League player, stated that playing on dirt causes more injuries than turf.

Will Fisher, Little League player, noted that dirt gets dusty, uneven, and harmful.

Nadine Kellogg, of West Side Soccer League and school administrator, noted that dirt field is not a good place to learn about nature.

Peter Goldberger, of West Side Soccer League, noted that turf will not replace grass, but dirt.

Mark Swinney, West Side Little League coach, stated that his organization will not allow league competitions on the current fields because of their poor conditions.

Clark Kee, of West Side Soccer League, stated that bumpy fields cause safety problems.

Eddy Jennings, Jr, West Side Soccer League goalie, said that artificial turf allows for more fair play based on player skill, not field luck.

PJ Nacron, of West Side Soccer League, said the artificial turf is safer.

Woody Freiman, of West Side Soccer League, noted that the surface is not a carpeting, but a spongy surface.

Community Development Committee

Marlene Guy, Chairperson

5. Department of Education's 3rd Grade Retention Policy.

After a brief Board discussion, Eric Nelson moved to table the resolution. Barbara Keleman seconded. (Resolution was tabled 27-6-1)

Strategy & Budget Committee

Helen Rosenthal, Chairperson

6. Neighborhood Development Area. Poverty designation within CB7 has been limited to West 97th-110th Streets to the exclusion of Amsterdam Houses and other "pockets of poverty." Budget allocation has been reduced (approximately 50%) to reflect the new designation. Committee voted earlier to approve the resolution 4-0-0-0. (Approved 29-0-0-0).

Commerce Committee

George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Chairperson

7. Application to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Green Mountain Productions, LLC for

a cabaret license at Star Nightclub, 100 West 72nd Street (246 Columbus Avenue.) (Resolution to disapprove application was approved 27-1-0-1)

Denise O'Donnell, Attorney for Star Nightclub, stated that the tenant has worked with the community and the landlord to address concerns. She noted that the tenant has hired additional security guards and new promoters, and is starting a non-alcoholic Saturday night program for teens.

Stab Viceman, promoter for Star Nightclub, discussed the Saturday night program for May through July.

Barbara Keleman moved to send the issue back to Committee. Tom Vitullo-Martin seconded. (Disapproved by majority)

Beth Lincks, 100 W. 72nd, reported about noise, traffic, and blocked sidewalks.

Eric Diefenbach, President of 100 W. 72nd Condo, presented complaints from residents of 20 buildings surrounding the club.

Cynthia White, 155 W. 71st, said the community has lost trust in the club.

Susan Wanus, 115 W. 71st, discussed damage to the block, insults, and noise.

Joanne Villani, 100 W. 72nd, discussed lack of control of crowds leaving the club.

Allison Arevalo, 160 W. 72nd, reported being awakened by a brawl outside the club and being chased by club customers.

Tom O'Brien, 155 W. 71st, reported that after the crowds leave at 4:30 am, car alarms still sound.

Marty Algaze, 50 W. 72nd, reported that the club has male strippers on Friday nights.

William Apfel, 100 W. 72nd, noted that the police are not able to help consistently with problems.

Ann Marie Stall, 132 W. 72nd, discussed the people coming into the neighborhood to visit the club. She reported seeing people engaged in sex in her building entrance and patrons throwing bottles at cabs.

Joyce Pinchback, 100 W. 72nd, reported years of problems in the space. She stated that a club is an inappropriate business for the neighborhood.

Robert Skloff, 100 W. 72nd, invited Board Members to visit him at 3:30 am on any Friday or Saturday night to verify the problems reported.

Land Use Committee

Richard Asche, Chairperson

8. 699/717 West End Avenue (West 94th-95th Streets). Application #813-63-BZ to the Board of Standards & Appeals by Howard Zipser for Central Parking Corporation to amend the existing garage permit to include 125 existing parking spaces. (Approved 27-1-0-0).

Land Use Committee

Joint with Transportation Committee

9. ULURP N040202ZRY Community Facilities Zoning Text Change. Proposal by the NYC Department of Planning and the NYC Council Land Use Committee to modify the Zoning Resolution with regard to community facilities. (Approved 22-1-4-1)

Chairperson Richard Asche modified the resolution as follows: "Accordingly, CB7 RESOLVES that: In connection with the proposed text amendment to the Zoning Resolution (ULURP #N040202ZRY) affecting community facilities, 1) the community facility use of sites in R7-2 zone be limited to the bonusable area; 2) the availability of an exemption from the prohibition on building in required rear yards for schools, day care centers, houses of worship, colleges and universities, and hospitals or health care facilities be made subject to special permit, and not as of right; 3) 50% of the right of any rear yard extension be below average grade level; and 4) that DCP reconsider its proposal for mandated off-street parking for houses of worship in view of the inappropriateness of such a requirement for Orthodox and Conservative synagogues."

Thus, the final text is:

The New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) has proposed a zoning text amendment respecting community facilities. For the most part, the amendment concerns low density areas of the city, primarily outside of Manhattan. Unfortunately, the text change fails to address issues of importance within Community Board 7, including a substantial FAR bonus for community facilities and an exemption to the rear yard requirements in R7-2 zones for schools and hospitals.

Community Board 7 believes that the existence of a FAR bonus for community facilities development will place undue pressure on housing stock, particularly

in R7-2 districts. In R7-2 zones, community facility uses should not replace residential uses, but should instead supplement residential uses, limited to the bonusable FAR.

Community Board 7 also believes that encroachment into rear yards in R7-2 zones by schools may not always be in the best interest of the surrounding community. All encroachments should be by special permit. Moreover, 23 feet is excessively high; at least half of that allowable height should be below the average grade of the curb.

Accordingly, Community Board 7/Manhattan RESOLVES that:

In connection with the proposed text amendment to the Zoning Resolution (ULURP #N040202ZRY) affecting community facilities,

- 1) the community facility use of sites in R7-2 zone be limited to the bonusable area;
- 2) the availability of an exemption from the prohibition on building in required rear yards for schools, day care centers, houses of worship, colleges and universities, and hospitals or health care facilities be made subject to special permit, and not as of right;
- 3) 50% of the right of any rear yard extension be below average grade level; and
- 4) that DCP reconsider its proposal for mandated off-street parking for houses of worship in view of the inappropriateness of such a requirement for Orthodox and Conservative synagogues.

There was Board discussion of item #4, but ultimately the text was unchanged in that regard.

Transportation Committee

Andrew Albert, Chairperson

10. Request by PS 87 for support of the application by the Department of Parks and Recreation to the Department of Buildings for a curb cut on West 77th Street, east of Amsterdam Avenue, to provide access to the playground for snow removal and maintenance. (Approved 28-0-0-0)

Mark Diller, School Leadership Team PS 87, described conditions around the school during and after snow. The curb cut would allow snow plow access so the playground can be used in snowy conditions. He also noted that any parking spaces lost on West 77th Street could be replaced with spaces on West 78th Street.

11. 254 West 87th Street (Broadway-West End Avenue.) Request by the West Side MRI for a one-space "No Parking" zone on the south side of West 87th Street. (Disapproved 3-19-4-0)

12. Request by Columbia University to the Department of Transportation for a protected left turn on southbound Broadway at West 110th Street. (Approved 28-0-0-0)

13. 423 Amsterdam Avenue (West 80th-81st Street.) Renewal application to the Department of Consumer Affairs by BSWR, Corp. d/b/a Sarabeth's Kitchen,

for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 5 tables and 10 seats. (Approved 24-1-2-0)

14. 695 Amsterdam Avenue (West 93rd-94th Streets.) Renewal application #B01527 to NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission by New Family Radio Dispatch, Inc. at 695 Amsterdam Avenue for a For Hire Base Station license. (Approved 25-2-0-0)

Present: Hope Cohen, Barbara Adler, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Sheldon Fine, Deborah Gobble-Lewine, Jean Green-Dorsey, Guillermo Gonzalez, Douglas Griebel, Phyllis Gunther, Marlene Guy, David Harris, Lawrence Horowitz, John Howell, Ulma Jones, Barbara Katzander, Barbara Keleman, Marc Landis, William Meyers, Eric Nelson, Klari Neuwelt, Lenore Norman, Sharon Parker-Frazier, Oscar Rios, Michael Roberts, Helen Rosenthal, Ethel Sheffer, Charles Simon, Elizabeth Starkey, Patricia Stevens, Steve Strauss, Barbara Van Buren, Thomas Vitullo-Martin, D. Maria Watson, Melanie Wymore, George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero,

Absent: Annette Averette, Janet Alvarez, Peter Bailey, Dan Cohen, Georgette Gittens, Robert Herrmann, Betty Katz, Melanie Radley, Hector Santana, Jr., Dan Zweig.

On Leave: Barry Rosenberg, Joyce Johnson

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Wymore.

Steering

Minutes will be uploaded as they become available.

Community Development

Marlene Guy, Chairperson

May 10, 2004

1. Discussion of the committee's sections of the District Needs Statement for Fiscal Year 2006.

Marlene Guy called the meeting to order. The committee reviewed the current District Needs Statement. The following recommendations were made:

A. Youth: Day Care and Head Start

- Include Amsterdam Houses and Manhattan Valley
- Determine available slots and request funding for students

B. Youth: Services

- Should be in conjunction with the Commerce Committee
- Roni Wattman will explore whether the third bullet re: adult group renting public school space should be continued

C. Youth: Employment

- Substitute "Department of Youth and Community Development" for "Administration for Children's Services"

- Should be in conjunction with the Commerce Committee

D. Education

- CD7 is part (change from "become")

E. Playground

- Refer to Parks Committee focus on the programmatic aspects of personnel

F. Library

- Focus on internet access in libraries with the City Council's Technology Committee

Tasks:

Sharon Parker-Frazier and Roni Wattman will investigate the available "slots" in area day care programs. The Citizen's Committee on Children would be a good resource.

Shelly Fine will investigate the progress of after-school programs by contacting Lester Young of the Department of Education whose mandate it is to develop an after-school program in every school. Shelly will check to see how the Department of Youth and Community Development is working with DOE in this area.

Marlene will speak to the libraries and to Councilmember Brewer, Chair of the Technology Committee to determine their needs.

Education:

The committee will review the current District Needs Statement on education and make modifications and recommendations. The Committee will hold a special meeting on Monday, May 24th to work on this part of the Needs Statement.

2. Discussion of Department of Education's third-grade retention policy.

Consensus of the Committee is that a letter should be sent to the Mayor regarding the 3rd Grade Promotion/Retention Policy reflecting the resolution developed by the Committee.

Committee Members Present: Marlene Guy, Shelly Fine, Georgette Gittens, Sharon Parker-Frazier. Committee Members Absent: Willie Gonzalez.
Committee Members on Leave: Joyce Johnson.

Transportation

Minutes will be uploaded as they become available.

Commerce

George Zeppenfeldt-Cestero, Chairperson

May 12, 2004

12-month Agenda Plan

Hold monthly committee meetings off-site at business locations within Community Board 7's geographic area. Marc Landis to outreach to establishments (banks and restaurants) located north of 96th street including Nacho (Broadway), Quintessential Amsterdam between 88-89th street) and Indian Oven, Broadway-Amsterdam and 84th street.

Wednesday, June 9th Commerce meeting at WABC-TV (to be confirmed)

Wednesday, July 14th Commerce meeting at Commerce Bank, Broadway & 68th Street

Wednesday, September 8th Commerce meeting at Time Warner Center at Columbus Circle

Outreach to community businesses in order to increase attendance at monthly meetings. (The CB7 booth at the Sunday, May 16th Amsterdam Avenue Festival will be our first organized effort on behalf of the Commerce Committee and Board.)

Develop a mechanism for linking retail businesses with City agencies and the services they provide to local businesses. This may take the form of a book or pamphlet sponsored by a bank

Convene meeting on Wednesday, June 9th, at WABC-TV (to be confirmed) of Amsterdam Avenue bar owners to discuss quality of life issues as they relate to both their business development and residential quality of life concerns

Postponement of discussion on current street fairs regulations until expiration of one-year mayoral moratorium

Explore the creation of a small business incubator (s) concept within CB7.

Efforts will be made to identify corporate partners to underwrite the incubator. We will also look into discounted services from products and/or services.

Contact will be made by GZ to Cmsr Bob Walsh's office to identify the process and resources need for an incubator startup.

Promote and communicate employment opportunities available at local businesses to community's residents and serve as an employment clearinghouse for job seekers, including possible posting of positions on CB7's website; Announce student summer job opportunities (paid) and internships (paid/unpaid) for students; Discuss with CB7 staff the feasibility on posting positions on CB7 website.

Determine the process for identifying new retail establishments entering CB7 in order to initiate workforce development discussions with these new retail establishments as well as with national chains. The goal is to identify their workforce needs and match them with a pool of community candidates. To this end, Commerce will convene a meeting of the community representatives of national/local chain stores, jointly sponsored by the Office of Gale Brewer, to discuss community social responsibilities and the formation of strategic partnerships by those businesses in CB7. In order to identify new store openings, Marc Landis offered the following sources as the first to know of new store openings:

1). Broker announcement of store rental on storefront window

2). Lawyers providing real estate services

3). Landlords

Identify demographic data on the business community in CB7. This may be partially obtained from existing business organizations such as the Westside Chamber of Commerce, Business Improvement Districts, (Lincoln Square, Columbus Avenue, and Columbus-Amsterdam), and the Freelancers Unions (representing home-based

business and consultants) with additional data from a proposed business-sponsored survey. Marc Landis will see if Councilmember Brewer's office can make suggestions as to corporate sponsors.

Advocate on behalf of consumer issues within CB7 in areas such as the refusal by merchants to accept debit cards; implementation of arbitrary minimum purchase requirement practices by retail businesses, and review of fees associated with debit versus credit card users. The Commerce Committee will look at consumer issues such as:

Truth in-advertising, in-store pricing, full-disclosure of promotional products, and no-sales tax if paid in-cash arrangements

Department of Consumer Affairs distribution of consumer rights information to retail businesses

Review of retail establishments' policies regarding same prices for similar services for males/females and adults/children. (e.g., prices for dry cleaning of similar clothes and manicure prices for adults versus children)

Analyze the impact resulting from the proliferation of national chain retail establishments on established small businesses; additional areas to examine may include customer service, consumer protection, consumer complaint process, group purchasing plans and senior discount programs

Commerce will convene a meeting of the representatives of the national retail and financial services organizations (i.e., Federal Express, Mail Boxes, Etc., UPS, Duane Reade, Starbucks)

Examine commercial vacancy rates and certain lease provisions such as the crediting of interest from commercial rent deposits. (Member, Marc Landis, informed the Committee that interest payments are not required on commercial leases.) Commercial vacancy rates should be one of the issues addressed in a Westside small business survey.

Promote and expand the Safe Haven decal program that designates screened retail business sites as safe locations for students and/or the elderly

CommerceMay12minutes

Parks and Preservation

Lenore Norman, Chairperson

May 13, 2004 7:00 PM

1. Discussion with FLORAL and the Riverside Park Fund of status of the new dog run at West 72nd Street in Riverside Park.

Presenter: Nicole Yadav, FLORAL co-chair

Discussion: FLORAL was asked to present update on fundraising for renovation of the dog run. 72% of the necessary funds have been raised to date. 25 proposals are out to corporations. Volunteers are approaching local businesses. It has been less than a year and it is hard to estimate how much longer it will take.

Lenore Norman stated the perception is that it is taking much longer than expected and asked if any events are planned to raise money. Events can often take a lot of time and not raise a lot of money. We are not denigrating the efforts so far but a year is a considerable amount of time. Asked to give some reassurance about time.

Randy Vaughn, Owner of the Chatsworth. Will write a check if the run can be moved to near basketball court.

Richard Seader, Resident of the Chatsworth. Last year when the run was approved FLORAL said they raised \$80,000 – now they say they have \$72,000. They now say it will cost less. Their figures keep changing. Put a reasonable timeline in place.

John Hart. Objections to the run are esthetic.

Jim Dowell, Director, Riverside Park Fund. The Fund is conduit for FLORAL and confirms that the monies are in place. This plan has been approved by CB7. Mr. Dowell shares concern about the pace of the fund raising. The constituency has supported this plan and cannot be expected to give more. Now corporations and businesses must be approached.

Ms. Norman: Is there a way to begin work on the permanent run without all of the monies in place? Asked to revisit phasing the project.

Resolution/Outcome: Jim Dowell and FLORAL will come back to the committee in June with a plan of action.

2. 25 Central Park West, The Century (West 62nd-63rd Streets.) Application #043018 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to enlarge exterior balcony doors in two apartments.

Presenter: Graydon Yearick, Architect

Discussion: Application on apartment 18K is to alter terrace doors by creating a larger door with two side windows made of steel to match other terrace doors. The application for apartment 17N is to lengthen in the terrace door to accommodate the drop living room. It requires breaking through the façade of the building.

Resolution:

WHEREAS, the proposed alteration to the door on apartment 18K is an improvement over the present one; and

WHEREAS, it now matches other terrace doors in the building;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan approves application #043018 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to enlarge exterior balcony doors in apartment 18K at 25 Central Park West.

Committee: 4-0-0-0.

Resolution:

WHEREAS, the alteration to the terrace door in 17N will alter the rhythm of the building; and

WHEREAS, the proposal might set a precedent for future alterations;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan disapproves application #043018 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to enlarge the exterior balcony doors in apartment 17N at 25 Central Park West.

Committee: 2-2-0-0. Public Member: 0-1-0-0.

The resolution was not adopted.

3. 35 West 76th Street (Central Park West-Columbus Avenue). Application #045724 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to alter the façade and construct rooftop and rear yard additions.

Presenter: Sik Lam and John Woell, architects.

Discussion: Application is to 1) replace existing door, ironwork and window with new portico and small iron balcony and new areaway. Not restoring the stoop. Other buildings on block have similar architectural features. Paving will be bluestone. 2) Remove existing 2-story addition in rear to build a full size addition. Materials: putty stucco and painted steel casement windows. 3) Add a penthouse which is 20 feet back from the facade of the building and is not visible from the public thoroughfare. Material: putty stucco.

Joe Bolanos, President, West 76th Park Block Assoc. Issues regarding construction of this building. Renovator is a developer and is indifferent to inconvenience and safety issues. Is there an engineer's report to assure safety? Structural issues should be brought to Buildings Dept.

Mr. Woell: A structural engineer worked on this plan. Was unaware of lack of supervision at construction site. Mr. Bolanos was advised to call the board office.

Lawrence Cohen, Chair of CPW Preservation Comm. Complimented architects. Building was dilapidated. Not totally happy about the rear addition but it is as-of-right. No objection to the renovations.

Resolution:

WHEREAS, the renovation of the ground floor is restoring some of the original architectural features and is appropriate to the building; and

WHEREAS, the rear yard addition is less intrusive in the rear yard area; and

WHEREAS, the roof top addition is not visible from the public way;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan approves application #045724 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to alter the façade and construct rooftop and rear yard additions at 35 West 76th Street.

Committee: 4-0-0-0. Public Member: 1-0-0-0.

Present: Lenore Norman, William Meyers, Michael Roberts, Patricia Stevens. Public Member: Michelle Kiddwell. Absent: Phyllis Gunther, John Howell, Betty Katz, Klari Neuwelt.

Strategy and Budget

Helen Rosenthal, Chairperson

May 17, 2004, 7pm

1. Minutes from the April 19th, 2004 meeting were approved.

2. Status of the District Needs Statement:

Land Use: Hope will send to Helen and Penny ASAP

Community Devlpmt: David working with Marlene

Health: Need David and Elizabeth to report status to committee

Parks: Fine

Transportation: Hope will follow-up with Andrew

Commerce: Melanie will follow up with George

The draft DNS is due to Helen/Penny on May 27th. It will be distributed for review at the June 1 Full Board Meeting. The final DNS will be voted on at the July CB7 Full Board meeting.

3. Helen and Melanie reported on the meeting with Councilwoman Gale Brewer. Minutes from this meeting will be distributed.

4. No new information about the After School Program status; Peter and Elizabeth will discuss their findings at the next meeting.

5. New Business: Helen will ask David to speak with Barbara about putting information about a new NORC site in the updated DNS.

6. New Business: Penny included the OMB response to our budget priorities in our packet and we will review these responses and prepare our responses for the next meeting.

7. New Business idea: establish a quid pro quo from businesses that CB7 approves for sidewalk café's. We will research and discuss this issue further at our next meeting.

8. Penny provided the dates of the fall meeting budget consultations.

Members Present: Melanie Wymore, Helen Rosenthal, Hope Cohen, Peter Arndtsen. Members Absent: Hector Santana, Janet Alvarez, Elizabeth Starkey, David Harris, Bob Herrmann. Honorary Members Present: Riley Wymore and Rowyn Wymore.

Favorite Quote: Helen: "Riley, can you take the minutes?"

Riley: "I don't have a watch."

Health and Human Services

Barbara Van Buren, Chairperson

5/18/04

The meeting was opened by the Chair.

Agenda: Leaders of some of Board 7's programs for older residents were asked to come to a roundtable, where they could discuss gaps in service for the elderly, as an assist to the Board's mandate to report on District Needs and Budget Priorities. It was recognized that important services were being provided in the agencies, but what we were doing tonight was looking at those gaps which had to be filled in.

Present: Amy Berg, SPOP

Terry Da Silva WEME , St Matthew and Timothy

Cynthia Dial Project FIND

Tamar Landes DOROT

Maggie Nachlin St Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital

Ruth Ellen Simmonds One Stop

Erika Teutsch Goddard Riverside

Although everyone was familiar with each other's programs, most had not had the chance to meet each other before.

The major concern, expressed by all participants, was the isolation of so many of the older members of the community, and their lack of awareness of the resources available to them in the community. The agencies felt they were doing a good job with those who came to them, although all could use more resources, but none had the ability to do extensive out-reach, to insure that all in the community knew there was a place they could get help when it was needed. As people get older, there is an increasing need for services. It was thought this should be addressed in a systemic way, and that it was not a task that the non-profits could currently undertake. The new City 311 system was seen as a model to look at, - where individuals could be connected to agencies which could provide the services they need, - case management, referrals, access to entitlements, housing information, health resources, telephone reassurance. It would be appropriate for the Division for the Aging, (DFTA), to work on something like this, but in view of its limited range of activities, it was not thought this would be done. A single point of entry was seen as important to insure that needed services are accessed.

(Since the Committee meeting, it has been learned that the City Council Technology Committee has expressed interest in something like this. It has also been suggested that a pilot project in CB 7 might identify the potential and possibility of such a service).

Services to NORCS (naturally occurring retirement communities) were discussed, and it was felt that while they provided important services to the limited number of people they served, funding requirements made it unlikely that the people who would need the services most could be included. Building owners are required to contribute to the NORC budgets, and the residents need to work together to develop programs. It has been suggested that the definition of a NORC be revisited, and that it might apply to a community rather than a complex of buildings. Currently people living across the street from a full service NORC are not eligible to receive help from them.

DFTA was discussed, and its limited foci. The plans to convert the daily Meals on Wheels program in the Bronx to a once-a-week delivery of frozen meals is seen as a prelude to doing this throughout the City, and went against the concerns of programs that there be regular interaction with the clients, and an ability to intervene early when there are problems.

DFTA's focus on meals rather than a more total approach to its constituents, was seen as a problem. Actually, in that area, the agency does not seem aware of cost changes, or the need for up-grading of equipment, as there has not been changes in contracts for the last five years. This also applies to salaries,

where there has been no change for five years. This is making it difficult to keep experienced workers.

There was concern that despite increases among older residents in rates of alcohol and drug addiction, and in the numbers identified as HIV positive, there has been little attention to the multiple problems this creates. This could be looked at more closely with the health and substance abuse programs in the community.

Housing is an increasing problem. Seniors on a fixed income are not in a position to compete for the market level housing proliferating on the West Side. It was suggested that all new developers of market rate housing be required to set aside a certain percentage of units for low-income residents. This is required by law in other areas, and should be looked at for New York. This will be discussed with the Land Use Committee. There are some buildings in New York that do set aside 20% of the units for low-income housing, However, this benefit does not run with the life of the building, but ends after twenty years unless the original tenant is still there. This should be changed so that the number of affordable housing units is not regularly reduced.

Safeguards which had protected seniors in their existing housing seem threatened, and there are fewer resources for people to turn to when threatened with eviction.

The changes in Medicare were touched on, and it was agreed that offering participants their choice of 73 different options, where costs and medications were not uniform, and where the provider could change prices and medications at any time, but the recipient could not move around to get the best buy, did not seem like a benefit. Many people are telling those who ask, not to sign up for anything at this time.

It was agreed that the members of the group would be glad to flesh out some of their concerns into budget issues for consideration by the Board at the time Budget priorities are set, and that they would formulate questions that could be asked about the agencies when the Board has meetings with them. This would particularly relate to DFTA.

Committee Member Present: Barbara Van Buren. Committee Members Absent: Annette Avertte, Deborah Gobble-Lewine, Jean Green-Dorsey, Barbara Keleman.

Land Use

Minutes will be uploaded as they become available.