

## COMMUNITY BOARD 7/MANHATTAN

# FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Mark Diller, Chairperson

April 7, 2020 at 6:30 PM via Zoom

Community Board 7/Manhattan's Full Board met on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, via Zoom. Chair Mark Diller called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm after the Secretary confirmed the existence of a quorum.

### **Chair's Report: Mark Diller**

In lieu of a Chair's Report this month, several organizations involved in responses to or safety relating to the current Covid-19 crisis will address matters of current concern or interest.

### **Community Session:**

#### **Constance Clarke, Cantilever Opposition Group:**

Believes that the current cantilever building to be built will be a blight on the UWS. Her group would like the Board to advise Mr. Dell (the developer) that a cantilevered building is not in the best interest of our community.

#### **Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer:**

Congratulations on being the first Board to go digital. We have 72,867 active cases and 4,009 deaths in New York City today. Many businesses are repurposing to produce face shields. Health and hospitals have been phenomenal. We need PPE for everyone. Food is another big issue: FreshDirect has been doing distributions at all NYCHAs. The Department of Aging hasn't given the complete list of seniors that need food, we are asking them to do this asap. Would like to thank NY congressmen. Would like to thank Tim Wu, professor at Columbia Law school, for working with small businesses. There's a lot of good going on on the West Side, including that construction has finally stopped. There is a tracker on the Department of Buildings on what is legal and what is not (in short, affordable housing continues). Thanks WSFSSH for moving occupants who were at high risk. It would be great for Community Board to think about what's at the other end of this crisis: opening streets, relaxing challenges small business face, what does it take to get us back on our feet. NYC & Company is working on tourism: how do we help theaters, museums, etc. Reminder to fill out the census. Would love for a ticker-tape parade for the workers that have sacrificed so much.

#### **Reports by Elected Officials:**

##### **State Senator Brad Hoylman (27th District):**

Thank you everyone for your resilience and support of neighbors. We are reaching the apex. Social distancing, staying home, wearing masks are working. Our office is serving as a resource and is committed to constituent services. Last week we passed the \$177 billion budget. Increased funding for unemployment, uninsurance and sick leave. Hospitals were facing cuts that we fought back on, and we kept education funding at the same level as last year. Worked with Assemblymember Rosenthal for a ban on e-cigs. Worked on legislation to protect victims of domestic abuse. Also, glad to pass a bill legalizing surrogacy. There is a full moratorium on evictions during this state of emergency. Once the courts open, however, landlords can pursue evictions on paper (the current date for courts to open is

June 18th). Working to fight unemployment with State Senator Krueger. If you have any questions or need anything, reach out to the office (or [bradhoylman@gmail.com](mailto:bradhoylman@gmail.com)). Stay safe!

New York City Councilmember Mark Levine (7th District):

This has been our toughest week yet. There is some good news: we can start to see early signs that social distancing is beginning to yield benefits. The rate of new hospitalizations is not increasing as fast -- we might soon reach the apex. We're continuing to fight for hospitals, senior homes, and other care facilities to receive the resources they need. Covid-19 is disproportionately impacting low-income communities and people of color in our city. We haven't seen the data on this for New York, and we need data on deaths/hospitalizations based on zip code, race, income, and disability status. Our healthcare system needs to be preserved for people who are very sick (such as those with respiratory diseases who get Covid-19). The majority of people who don't need medical care. If you have fever and dry cough but are otherwise healthy, please stay at home, stay hydrated, and take over-the-counter medication. Be prepared to call a doctor if things don't get better after a few days. Only call 911 if you have an emergency (difficult breathing, chest pains) -- don't call 911 if you simply have a fever.

U.S. House Member Jerrold Nadler (10th District):

I hope everyone is healthy and taking precautions to keep that way. My office is fully functioning and can help. We recently passed a bill that provided a lot of funding to NY state and the city, set up direct cash payments for people to get through this crisis, and put a short moratorium on evictions for federally subsidized homes and federally backed mortgages. Hopefully, in the next bill, we can get the moratorium to include everybody. The bill also provides an additional \$600 a week for unemployment compensation. Most people are covered (even gig workers, contracted workers, and furlough workers). The concern is it will take a while for agencies to ramp this up because of the huge volume of claims. All student loan payments are suspended through September. \$10 million dollars total to small business. \$25 billion to transit authorities, and additional funding for Port Authority and Amtrak. Also, a lot of funding has been provided directly to hospitals. My staff can answer questions relating to the CARES act. There is a dedicated section on my website [nadler.house.gov](http://nadler.house.gov) with resources, as well as a way for constituents to contact the office for assistance.

Q: With the firing of the Inspector General, how will we ensure that the money gets where it needs to go?

A: We and Congress will have to stay on top of this.

City Council Speaker Corey Johnson (3rd District):

The three things we're doing: 1) Continuing to work as a city and as individuals to halt transmission and flatten the curve 2) Increasing the number of hospital beds and hospital capacity across the city 3) Figuring out how to provide economic relief to New Yorkers that are really struggling now. We're looking at the budget this year but also next year, and we'll be facing big budget cuts. Our North star will be protecting the most vulnerable. Hopefully, we can receive money to offset this huge loss in revenue. One of the bright spots of my day is doing these Zoom conferences. It is more important now than ever that we stay emotionally connected. We've gotten through the fiscal crisis of the '70s, 9/11, the crash in

2009, and Hurricane Sandy -- we will get through this. We need to be unified, compassionate, and kind to get through this difficult moment. Stay safe and stay emotionally connected.

Q: City's response to NYCHA and the need for oversight there?

A: There has been a failure in the Federal government in not invoking the defense production act sooner. Lack of PPE access across the city, including with NYCHA, MTA, and homeless services, etc.... I have not been involved in these conversations specifically, but I am happy to reach out to the NYCHA chair and ensure that the workers get the amount of PPE needed.

Q: How can we open our streets so physical distancing can happen in a safe way?

A: Two weeks ago asked for the institution of a summer-streets like program so that our streets and parks don't get overcrowded. We should open up city streets to allow exercise and social distancing in a way that works.

Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal (67th District):

We worked on the budget in Albany. There were a lot of cuts to health care, which I voted against. One thing we did not tackle is rent. Even though the governor put a 3-month moratorium on evictions, what happens after those three months? We need the government to step in and implement programming and relief. Unemployment is a big issue we're working on. The state is now partnering with Google to set up a newer system for people to call and pick up their unemployment checks. Gig workers and independent contractors are being left out right now. I'm working with Freelancers Union to come up with some type of program for them. Went for a walk earlier and was shocked that people weren't wearing masks or practicing social distancing. Developers can't continue construction when they've been ordered to shut down. Today, Senator Hoylman and I had a virtual conference about the Child Victims Act to extend the lookback period by another year. We need to work with nursing homes and schools. Happy Holidays.

City Council Member Helen Rosenthal (District 6):

Go to my website: [helenrosenthal.com](http://helenrosenthal.com) for email addresses and phone numbers. Also, sign up for my emails to get information on a regular basis. Working to make sure that seniors get food. We have various volunteer programs, including a building captain program (see signups on website). We also have a volunteer project for research. Another big issue we've been dealing with is stopping non-essential construction work. As Chair of the Committee on Women, with domestic violence issues rising, not convinced that the city is doing as much as it could do. Currently doing research on what other countries have done before us. Lastly, am in contact with City Hall and the Speaker's Office and am bringing up any constituent concerns. Email us at [helen@helenrosenthal.com](mailto:helen@helenrosenthal.com).

State Senator Robert Jackson (District 31):

Go to [covid19.senatorjackson.com](http://covid19.senatorjackson.com) for a whole menu of items and resources to look through. The Budget is trying to deal with unemployment. Wants to listen to what everyone is saying so I can listen more so than talk.

**Reports by Elected Officials' Representatives:**

Michael Stinson, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office:

We mourn the passing of Scott's mother, Arlene Stringer-Cuevas. Stay safe, I look forward to seeing you in person.

Michelle Booker, Congressman Adriano Espaillat's Office:

The Congressman has put together a detailed list for small business assistance. See more information on the website: [espaillat.house.gov](http://espaillat.house.gov). The Congressman has been making sure hospital workers have supplies, has been dealing with food insecurity and senior services.

Liam Galligan, State Assemblymember Danny O'Donnell's Office:

Please reach out to us at this number: 212-866-3970 for information especially if you need help with unemployment insurance.

**Reports by Community Organizations:**

Erika Freud, West Side Campaign Against Hunger:

One of the largest emergency food pantries in NYC. Located on West 86th street between Broadway and West End Avenue. We are a supermarket-style pantry. We've adjusted our operations to be outside to maintain CDC guidelines. Our volunteer program was suspended, which put stress on our staff. We've been handing out pre-packaged food, which is not what we normally do. We've been responding to acute emergency food needs. We formed a partnership with Bellevue Hospital. We will be dropping off 1,700 bags of food per week to Covid-19 patients being discharged from hospitals. Also starting a program with Children's Aid in the Bronx for the next 8 weeks. Also working with two organizations that help undocumented workers. Would like to thank our UWS community. We've seen a \$15,000 increase in spending per week. Call to Action: donate, make connections, amplify our message, volunteer.

Website: [www.wscah.org](http://www.wscah.org)

Anna Shats, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:

This situation is rapidly changing, we will be updating our website daily with information. The safest thing for all New Yorkers to do is to stay home. Some symptoms of Covid-19: fever, cough, shortness of breath. The incubation period can go from 2-14 days after first exposure. The elderly and those with chronic illnesses are at the highest risk. People who don't show symptoms may still be able to spread Covid-19. Please wear fabric masks when you leave home. Please save surgical masks and PPEs for healthcare workers. Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, and use hand sanitizer. Make sure not to shake hands or gather in groups. Monitor your health more closely than usual. Most people don't need to seek medical care. If you have mild or moderate symptoms, stay home: you reduce the possibility of transmissions. Contact your doctor if symptoms don't go away for three or more days. Check the Department of Health website for more information and resources ([nyc.gov/health/coronavirus](http://nyc.gov/health/coronavirus)). For mental health services text WELL to 65173. For daily text message updates text COVID to 692.

Kim Watkins, President of Community Education Council (District 3):

CEC wrote a letter expressing frustrations with Remote Learning. Everyone has done an amazing job bringing the school system back to life during this transition. We are working on flexibility and stability in terms of the way we proceed. How can we utilize and adapt to frameworks that people have already gotten used to using and gotten comfortable with? These schools are doing grab-and-go meals: MLK Campus, Booker T., PS 9, and PS 163.

Christine Loughlin, Superintendent (District 3):

Thank you to everyone working day and night to ensure that there is instruction for our students. We have three regional enrichment centers for children of essential workers in District 3: PS 180, Joan of Arc Campus, and the Riverside School for Makers and Artists. There are also a number of grab-and-go schools that give schools to people (adults included) that want them. Spring Break has been canceled as an executive order from Governor Cuomo. It is important that we have recreational activities for children to do inside. Teachers and faculty will be working, but we recognize that people need a break. We got very used to working off of Zoom, and there are privacy issues, so we are now working to move to other more secure platforms. We're flying the plane as we build it. We're running into communication issues and things that are coming up. The 3-8 grade state exams, as well as regents, have been canceled for this year. There will be more guidance on that soon. School buildings will remain closed until April 29th. We will plan for the end of the year, but we'll hope for April 29th. The Department of Education is providing devices to children. We're tracking students' attendance to monitor where students are and ensure they have access to a device so that students don't fall through the cracks.

Joli Golden, NYC Census 2020

Census is important, safe, and easy. Paper questionnaires are coming in the mail now. NYC could be doing better. Now is a great time for us to do the census online or on paper. You can fill out the Census without the ID sent to you in the mail by going to [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov). The time period for when we will be going out in the field has been pushed back. Counts will still be due to the public and President by December 31st. This makes self-responses right now even more important. New York currently has only a 40% response rate, compared to the nation's 45%. Manhattan's response is 37.3%, and NYC's is 35%. Spread the word about completing the census!

Andrew Kunkes, Manhattan Borough Director of Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

Businesses are repurposing to make gowns and face protections. Parks are opening up but removing basketball rims and tennis nets. De Blasio has announced the program "Fun at Home," with fun and entertaining activities to engage teens at home during this crisis. NYC Health Care heroes is a citywide philanthropic program to support health care staff. To medical professionals out there, please volunteer for one of the 11 acute care hospitals in NYC. Thank you to everyone for the time and effort you give to the community. Happy Easter and Passover.

Julie Menin, NYC Census 2020

Make sure to fill out the Census to ensure that we receive appropriate funding for everything. In 2010, New York City has an abysmal response rate (61% compared to 76%). Now we're currently at 35%

compared to 45% national. The UWS on average is at 42%, which is better than citywide and Manhattan average, but we still have a long way to go. Please commit to calling and reaching out to 10 people you know. Subway/bus ads have been converted to digital TV/radio ads.

Sheldon Fine, West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing:

Euclid Hall (WSFSSH), most residents were moved to hotels, and meals and nurses were arranged. No one has been exposed to Covid-19 there. Would like to thank the city, our supportive workers, and members of the UWS community for supporting us.

Zachary Campbell, American Museum of Natural History:

Hope everyone is healthy. Following the Governor's Executive Order, we've halted our construction on the Gilder Center. Crews have been working to secure the site and staff will continue to monitor it. Additionally, the museum is temporarily closed to the public. Go to [amnh.org/health-safety](http://amnh.org/health-safety) for more information.

**Business Session:**

**Health and Human Services Committee, Catherine DeLazero and Sheldon Fine, Co-Chairpersons**

**Resolution Re:**

**1. The extension of the revival window under the Child Victims Act (S.7082/A.9036).**

The Resolution to SUPPORT was adopted

*Vote: 37-0-0-0*

**Transportation Committee, Meg Schmidt and Howard Yaruss, Co-Chairpersons**

**Resolution Re:**

**2. Interim Responses to the Covid-19 Crisis.**

Ken: While miles in the city are down 71%, speed camera violations are up 12%. Proposes an amendment to expand space for pedestrians because our parks are getting overcrowded and there's no reason why our streets can't serve pedestrians given low traffic (we would leave it up to DOT to determine specific streets).

Jay: Understands the impetus for trying to help workers. It's clear we're only talking about essential workers. This is probably the safest time in history for bicycle users. Can a chair explain what "infrastructure" means in this context? Skeptical about the implications of protected bike lanes being created that will never leave once created. Additionally, within the state budget is an authorization allowing the uses of e-bikes and scooters, creating a range of issues. I think this spills over into a resolution like this and warrants a lot more. I would like to separate the CitiBike part of this resolution. For this Board to try and pass a resolution promoting more Citi Bike installation is totally inappropriate. I will be voting against this resolution

Jeanette: Understands the intent of this resolution. Has been riding her bike a lot to visit her family. In order for DOT to go out and work now when they could be needed somewhere else is not in our best interest. Most people using bikes are delivering food and are not going to follow lanes when the streets are empty. Doesn't want us to come off as privileged when there are more dire things to be worked on.

Jay: This is calling for the creation of more stations?

Howard: We would be adding more bikes to stations, not creating more stations. We are making a friendly amendment.

Rich: We're not talking about adding stations. People have been riding Citi Bikes out of the district, and Citi Bike wasn't able to bring bikes back into the district for people to use (re-stocking). People aren't using public transportation, so Citi Bike is a solution. Disagrees with Jay, we should support this resolution.

Robert: No one is going out a lot to go down to Wall Street. We should sit down with the Citi Bike people to find out how we can support them. We also need to look into electric scooters.

The Resolution to SUPPORT was adopted

*Vote: 20-9-8-0*

**Business & Consumer Issues Committee, Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons**  
**Resolutions Re:**

**3. *New applications to the SLA for two-year liquor licenses:***

- **993 Columbus Avenue** (West 109th Street) Shwing! LLC, d/b/a Freda's Cuisine.
- **152 Columbus Avenue** (West 66th Street) Jankyboyz LLC, d/b/a Jack's Wife Freda.
- **226 West 79th Street** (Broadway - WEA) Lotus West Corp, d/b/a Manhattan Cricket Club of NYC. Live and Recorded Music; Patron Dancing.

The Resolution to APPROVE was adopted

*Vote: 37-0-0-0*

**4. *Renewal Unenclosed Sidewalk Cafés:***

- **313 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 75th Street.) Renewal application #1471902-DCA to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Baby Oliver, LLC, d/b/a Piccolo Cafe, for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 9 tables and 18 seats.
- **416 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 80th Street.) Renewal application #2055672-DCA to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Ain Jupiter, LLC, d/b/a La Sirena UWS, for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 5 tables and 10 seats.

The Resolution to APPROVE was adopted

*Vote: 37-0-0-0*

***Sidewalk Cafe Renewal/Modifications:***

5. **450 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 81 st – 82 nd Streets.) Renewal modification application #2035604-DCA to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Gumbull, LLC, d/b/a The Dead Poet, for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 5 tables and 11 seats.

The Resolution to APPROVE was adopted

*Vote: 37-0-0-0*

***Renewal Enclosed Sidewalk Café:***

6. **441 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 81 st Street.) Renewal application ULURP#N180434-ECM/DCA#1283643-DCA to the Department of Consumer Affairs by JPS Ventures, Inc., d/b/a St. James Gate, for a four-year consent to operate an enclosed sidewalk café with 5 tables and 16 seats.

The Resolution to APPROVE was adopted

*Vote: 37-0-0-0*

***New Unenclosed Sidewalk Cafes:***

7. **311 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 75th Street.) New application #1475-2020-ASWC to the Department of Consumer Affairs by SweetGreen New York, LLC, d/b/a Sweet Green, for a four-year consent to operate an

unenclosed sidewalk café with 12 tables and 26 seats.

The Resolution to APPROVE was adopted

*Vote: 37-0-0-0*

8. **510 Columbus Avenue** (West 74th – 75th Street.) New application #2289-2020-ASWC to the Department of Consumer Affairs by Motorinio 3 Inc., dba Motorino, for a four-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk

café with 4 tables and 12 seats.

The Resolution to APPROVE was adopted

*Vote: 36-0-0-1*

9. **50 West 72nd Street** (Columbus Avenue.) New application #2064-2020-ASWC to the Department of Consumer Affairs by CPW Rest Corp., d/b/a Lilly's Cocktail & Wine Bar, for a four-year consent to operate an

unenclosed sidewalk café with 8 tables and 16 seats.

The Resolution to DISAPPROVE was adopted

*Vote: 37-0-0-0*

**Preservation Committee, K Karpen and Michele Parker, Co-Chairpersons**

**Resolutions Re:**

10. **119 West 69th Street** (Columbus Avenue – Broadway.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a one-story rear yard addition on the 3 rd floor on top of an existing extension.

The Resolution to APPROVE was adopted

Vote: 36-1-0-0

11. **240 West 73 rd Street** (Broadway – West End Avenue.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for new entry canopy/façade restoration, rooftop equipment/parapet extension/mechanical screening and new retail public entry.

The Resolution to APPROVE was adopted

Vote: 36-1-0-0

12. **117 West 79th Street** (Columbus Avenue.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for an accessible lift.

The Resolution to APPROVE was adopted

Vote: 37-0-0-0

13. **311 West 90th Street** (Riverside Drive – West End Avenue.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation

Commission for new metalwork and glass front doors.

The Resolution to APPROVE was adopted

Vote: 35-2-0-0

14. **42 West 94th Street** (Columbus Avenue – Central Park West.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation

Commission for rear yard and rooftop additions.

Darnley Stewart, Property Manager of 31-35 West 94th Street: Concerned that Columbia Prep and Columbia Grammar have already infringed a lot, and that this will infringe on natural light even more.

Rich: This looks like a concerningly large extension that is inappropriate for row houses like this.

Encourages everyone to vote against it. Just because it isn't visible from the street doesn't mean it's appropriate for the neighborhood.

Page: We need to keep some sense of the original configuration on this unusual block. Encourages people to not support this.

Darnley Stewart: Construction on the roof will affect natural light, encourages to vote against this.

The Resolution to APPROVE was not adopted

Vote: 16-14-7-0

*Directed by the City Charter mandate that Community Boards review matters prior to consideration by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Preservation Committee reviews the "appropriateness" of proposed changes to individually designated landmarks as well as to properties listed within the Upper West Side's Historic Districts.*

#### **New Business:**

Rich: The DOE has banned the use of Zoom just after schools have gotten used to using it and making it run smoothly. Although there have been privacy issues, we should ask DOE to address privacy issues

with Zoom but keep using it and not force everyone to transition to a new system after getting used to this one. Proposes a new resolution to support this.

Christian: Agrees that this is an issue and we should not be banning Zoom, but we also have to take into account that we were hacked and that there are security issues. DOE is already working with Zoom to solve privacy issues though.

Julian: As a student, has been using Zoom. School has just gotten used to Zoom, and to do this now would set us back and prevent students from receiving online lessons and make us restart from scratch. Security flaws need to be addressed, but we should continue using Zoom.

Robert: This is not good for all children who are used to Zoom and now won't be able to use it even though it's the best platform out there. It is immoral to disenfranchise children's education even in the short term.

Elizabeth: The WiFi issue is bigger for our neighborhood. Whatever we pass in our resolution, we can't forget about the people in our neighborhood who are most vulnerable and have gotten an iPad or Chromebook but can't connect to the internet

Shelly: Does e-coaching with teachers in classrooms. It was a steep learning curve and to pull the rug from under them now is sad.

Christian: All students have Chromebooks or iPads, Chromebooks don't have WiFi built-in, only iPads do.

Louisa: What is this specific resolution?

Rich: DOE banned Zoom over the weekend. We want to state that we understand there are some issues, but Zoom has allowed learning to happen in an amazing way and we shouldn't disrupt that. Zoom should work with the DOE to solve privacy issues.

Ira: There's a reasonable chance that Zoom will correct this, so can we focus on asking them to do that. This puts us in line with the CEC.

Robert: We should call for funds for the local CECs to fight against hackers and security threats.

Mark: Rich, should the resolution be to write a letter with these issues in it?

Rich: Sure.

#### 15. [Insert Resolution]

The Resolution to SUPPORT was passed

*Vote: 28-0-9-0*

Open Community Forum / Discussion

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**Present:** Mark Diller, Barbara Adler, Jay Adolf, Andrew Albert, Linda Alexander, Richard Asche, Steven Brown, Elizabeth Caputo, Cindy Cardinal, Joshua T. Cohen, Christian Cordova, Kenneth Coughlin, Page Cowley, Louisa Craddock, Catherine DeLazzero, Robert Espier, Lolita Ferrin, Sheldon Fine, Julian Giordano, Madelyn Innocent, K Karpen, Natasha Kazmi, Doug Kleiman, Sara Lind, Douglas McGowan, Ira Mitchneck, Klari Neuwelt, Jennifer Nitzky, William Ortiz, Michele Parker, Jeannette Rausch, Seema Reddy, Andrew Rigie, Richard Robbins, Madge Rosenberg, Melissa K. Rosenberg, Katie Rosman, Peter Samton, Meg Schmitt, Susan Schwartz, Roberta Semer, Ethel Sheffer and Howard Yaruss.

**Excused Absence:** Paul Fischer, Amy L. Hyman, Audrey Isaacs, Blanche E. Lawton, Erika Mouynes and Polly Spain.

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Mark Diller, Chair

April 21, 2020 6:30 PM

Meeting began at 6:33 PM.

1. Discussion of alternatives for voting during online Full Board meetings
  - Mark: Based on Christian's Proposal: Still do the Full Board roll call vote at the end, but starting at 8 PM, we do a vote count of the people who have to leave early so that their votes are still counted.
  - Roberta: This is a good idea. One vote at the end makes it a smoother meeting.
  - Rich: Do our bylaws require attendance at an entire meeting to be able to vote?
  - Barbara: City bylaws require that you be present for the majority of the meeting to vote. We put this in our bylaws just so people could see it.
  - Louisa: Perhaps we should adjust our bylaws to include what a "majority" of the meeting is.
  - Mark: I think we should go with what Christian proposal and look at this further on if issues arise.
  - Susan: At last night's P&E committee there wasn't an issue with conducting a vote after each resolution.
  - Mark: There's a difference in terms of the number of people.
  - Susan: Secretaries can work together to do this.
  - Michele: If we allow people to leave after the majority of a meeting does this become a quorum issue? I don't like that.
  - Christian: It's cumbersome to count the vote resolution-by-resolution. Voting at the end is a reasonable adjustment to count the votes given the situation.
  - Julian: While Susan's suggestion of counting votes by peoples' hands after every resolution can work well for committee meetings, because of the size of full board meetings and the fact that some people join by phone call, the easiest and most practical way to count votes is with a roll call at the end and Christian's suggestion of check-ins for people who are leaving early.
  - Rich: I asked Noel about BetaNYC about digital voting options. I looked into one of them, and it would email all the Board members with a password to log in and vote on each resolution. We should look into this.
  - Doug: I like the idea that Christian proposed because it seems to cover everyone. It's in the spirit of fairness and practicality. Have we determined if there's any polling function that could work on Zoom?
  - Mark: Polling doesn't work on Zoom, because in our current "webinar" format it, you can only poll the attendees and not the panelists.
  - Doug: We also don't know when the halfway point of the meeting is until the meeting is over.
  - Jay: Christian's suggestion sounds like a practical solution. If we come up with another digital vote-taking platform, it should be tested and tried out beforehand.
  - Klari: All we have now on the agenda is two very short resolutions, so right now this proposal works for us and we may be overthinking it for now. Splitting the count between secretaries isn't practical. Relying on our recording of the meeting is how we will determine what happened at the meeting isn't practical. We need to be transparent in front of each other and our community.
  - Mark: In addition to the two P&E resolutions Klari mentioned there will be one Preservation resolution added on later.

2. Discussion of Board and Committee Leadership Issues

- Mark: I shared with everyone a letter I received from a group of Board members. It raised very important issues worthy of our discussion. My hope for this meeting is that we focus on ways to run our processes and run our Board better in the future. There was a concern raised in the letter and other instances of using an emergency situation to add things to an agenda at the last minute or put an agenda together at the last minute. My idea is that we should be treating emergencies as a lot rarer as they have been in the past. One of the things I recommend to committee chairs is to follow YEL's format where they have a section at the end of each meeting devoted to discussing next month's agenda. This isn't entirely relevant to all committees (i.e. BCI), but this allows for agendas to be in place in advance enough to be advertised. There is also concern about drafting resolutions, and whether the ones on the Full Board agenda are the same ones that appeared in committee. Drafts of resolution can be shared with the committee in advance of the Full Board. There was a concern raised about the "balance" of the Transportation committee. In terms of membership balance, I've spoken with the Transportation committee Chairs about this and we strive to keep a balanced membership. If there are new members of the Board who would like to join the Transportation committee, I will make sure that they feel comfortable expressing their opinions and joining it. Not in the letter, there was a suggestion that membership in an outside organization was in conflict with leadership/membership on our Board. I called the Conflict of Interest Board yesterday and re-confirmed that membership in an outside organization is not a disqualifier for membership/leadership. In fact, there's an expectation that members of the Board are a part of outside organizations.
- Jay: When I chaired the Preservation committee, I had to deal with people who had private/economic issues in terms of what came before the Board. That turned out to be relatively easy. My attitude has been that membership in an organization should never be disqualified from membership on the Board. Our Bylaws up to 2012/2013 required that anyone who had a policy-making position on an entity that had opined publically about an issue had an obligation to disclose their position. It did not disqualify them from discussing or voting on the issue. I will preface this by saying that none of this is personal. My feeling is that everybody on the Board has an absolute right to be a member of an advocacy group and to express advocate-like opinions on issues and to vote. The question going forward is to what positions on the Board should a member of a policy-making organization whose views are so directly opposed to other opinions in the community be allowed to hold. Membership in an organization should be a factor in determining appointments to a committee and more importantly to the chair of a committee. I urge you to re-evaluate the existing situations and to use that consideration high on your list moving forward.
- Shelly: When a resolution is proposed, hopefully, it can be in advance, but if it comes up as a result of a meeting, the "therefore be it resolved" parts must at least be what was voted on at the original meeting. If an agenda item is not there but came up, it should be under new businesses, and there shouldn't be a resolution on it unless it is a pressing issue for the committee. The item should continue to be discussed at the next meeting, but with the relevant people present. The Chairperson should make an attempt to bring two sides to a meeting and to the agenda. For every issue, there should be an attempt to bring as many people with opposing views as well as experts with data and experience in the field to the table.

- Melissa: It feels subjective, arbitrary, and unevenly applied that we should focus on the outside affiliations of people when appointing them to a committee or to be Chair. I feel this should not be in the bylaws.
- Barbara: I think there's a leadership issue on this committee. I think the Chairs should be thinking about the entire community when making the agenda for each month. We're not talking about mass transit issues, dangerous intersections, and bike infractions. In new business, I have brought up issues that I want to discuss, such as when I brought up illegal placards that people place in their cars, which wasn't put on the agenda for the following month. There was a situation where somebody on our Board went to the trouble to make a presentation about bike infractions when police were scheduled to speak on the same issue. I saw the presentation and the YouTube of that meeting. This is when Andrew Albert was co-chair of the committee (before Mark was Chair of the Full Board). This person began to give her presentation when Howard told her she would have to give her presentation in the new business section at the end of the meeting. What has happened over the last several months has been extremely humiliating. Years ago, I was co-chair of the transportation committee with Andrew Albert. We considered ourselves primarily with things having to do with dangerous intersections and stop signs and other things we found were really important to be added to the community and that is just not done now.
- Mark: I'll speak at the end of the comments but we should all endeavor to speak to each other as colleagues. Also, I found the tone of the letter that was circulated was respectful and I appreciate that.
- Linda: It's been apparent for some time that there's been an imbalance in this committee, with 4/9 members being a part of Transportation Alternatives and being intimidating. In addition, you've got all the parts of resolutions put in at the end like a guerilla maneuver. I understand that the Chairs have admonished their members because they changed their votes at Full Board. This is a democratic process, and nobody has the right to intimidate anyone. I think that it has to be a more balanced approach to Transportation. I like your approach Mark and would like to see more balanced people on this committee.
- Rich: I'm intrigued that you (Mark) found the letter respectful. I agree with the authors of the letter that we have a broken problem with publishing the agendas and setting the agendas, but this is a problem across committees. I don't know who's setting the agenda, but we're not notifying the public and we end up wasting months and months of meetings because we never end up voting on things. Specifically, the letter directly accused me of a "lack of transparency." This accusation is completely false. I first came across this issue a few days before the meeting in an article from the Borough President, and I emailed Howard, Meg, and Mark saying that we should add this to the agenda and publicize it. Howard immediately emailed this to Penny, and when I later found out that Penny hadn't published it to the website, I followed up with her. We had made the effort to get it on the agenda, and calling it a "guerilla maneuver" is outrageous. The letter also said that "Though initially there were about 20 board members on the call, most of them left before a committee member introduced a resolution as new business at the end of the meeting". Zoom keeps a direct log of the meeting. 19 Board members attended that meeting, and all members were there when the item was brought up except Cindy, Jay, and Roberta. I can't speak for membership on behalf of everyone else, but my entire affiliation with TA has been donating a small amount of money and participating in a bike ride last year. I find this McCarthyist "blacklisting" alarming. The letter also calls TA a lobbying group, but it's a

501(c)(3), meaning it's prohibited from lobbying. Many other chairs and members of our committees are involved in the leadership of other outside organizations. Ultimately, 10 people on the board (20%) signed this letter, only 3 of whom were even on the committee.

- Christian: I want to echo that being a member of a special interest group cannot disqualify from being a member of the board or a committee. We do have problems in terms of agendas that need to be fixed, and we need to change how we go about that. It was unfortunate that Rich's resolution was not publicized on the agenda before the meeting, which meant we couldn't vote on it that night. In terms of the balance of issues brought up at the Transportation committee, there's an argument to be made that it appears to be bike-centric. I think the Chair needs to determine whether this is because of conflict of interest or simply an accident or coincidence. On the point that Shelly brought up things brought up as New Business, I agree that they must be voted on at the next meeting.
- Ken: The committee clearly reflects the Full Board. I totaled up the Full Board for the last 6 months of Full Board meetings (Oct-Mar). On the 13 controversial resolutions, the vote was 367 for and 57 against. The problem here is a minority of a Board not happy with how the majority of the Board has been voting. We're all appointed to this CB because we're civically engaged. Gale has agreed with this.
- Jeanette: I saw the letter and didn't feel totally comfortable signing it because I have not participated in enough Transportation committee meetings. I work with TA and DOT all the time and have managed a number of bikeways. While I support bikes and ride a bike, I've been disappointed with the resolutions and feel that the way they've been written and presented at the Full Board makes it hard for me to vote for them even if I agree with them. When we hear the response from the public and how they think we're anti-car and anti-public, that makes me pause and think 'We should look at this'. I don't know if that means changing the composition of the committee, but I think that we have a result here that isn't representing all of us. I assume that this isn't intentional, but I do think that we should look at the results of the actions.
- Elizabeth: I did not sign on to the letter. I think our priorities on the committee have shifted and need to shift given what's going in our community at the time. All I ask of the Chairs is that they focus on the issues impacting our streets and community now. I'd like to see a focus on the MTA because we need to make sure mass transit is our number one priority. In terms of process, when I was Chair of the Board from 2013-2016, we always tried to have agendas in advance. I think we need to do a better job of having things on the agenda sooner rather than later.
- Louisa: I think a lot of these issues could be dealt with by more structure. Putting together agendas in advance with the whole committee working on it. You cannot judge people by what they are, but admire their qualities and let them proceed and there will be a balance.
- Doug: I'm so glad that we're talking about this because I think it's been welling up. I'm also grateful for the way Mark set the tone of this meeting. There is a little bit of imbalance and orchestration. This is a compliment to TA - that's what democracy's about. I do think there's an imbalance. I've heard a lot of concerns about bikes that are not behaving themselves, and we don't talk enough about that. Nobody should be disqualified by being a member of an organization. I try my best to be as objective as I can. We should all look in our own hearts and minds and think about these issues in earnest.
- Steven: I got very concerned in terms of the agenda items, and started to go to Transportation Committee meetings (maybe 4 in the last 6 months). I ride a bike, but I'm not an anti-car person, and I'm a process person. I was concerned about the processes I saw, specifically with the

agenda items. There seemed to be an incredible skew towards pro-bike and anti-car issues. I went back one year on every item that we voted on. There were roughly 33 votes on Transportation issues. More than 20 times, we were voted on something that was viewed as pro-bike or anti-car. We voted 14 times on something that would directly have a minimum of one parking spot gone. And 11 of those times we were voting to remove a parking spot. TA's mission is to "reclaim city streets from automobiles." We've removed more parking spots this year than the past 9 years I've been on the Board. It's also interesting what we didn't vote on. We voted on an issue for mass transit once in the last year. I was one of the people who saw the letter and didn't sign it because I wanted to express my thoughts differently. I think the majority of the people on our Board feel uncomfortable with the direction of the Transportation committee. I want to be clear factually speaking that nobody is saying you're not allowed to be a part of an exterior organization and on a committee, it's more about if they should be in a leadership position. I'm surprised that the first resolution that goes forward with everything going is about expanding bikes. My question to Mark: is there a way we can make this a more democratic process and not put the onus on you. I do feel very strongly that the majority of Board members and the community feel this way.

- Mark: I take advice from a lot of people in confidentiality because the decision is ultimately on me and I don't want to place responsibility on them that shouldn't. I'm not terribly concerned with whether it's a minority/majority of the Board that thinks the process is unfair. If just one of you thinks that, I take concern and want to make sure the process is fair.
- Cindy: Agree with what Jeanette, Elizabeth, Shelly, and Steven have said. I think there are some issues with trust on this committee and I don't like the tone because it doesn't feel collegial. I would like there to be more balanced and more trust.
- Roberta: On certain issues, we create great passion, and the Transportation Committee is one of those. People should communicate more effectively with the Chairs of the committees if they're having problems. I think we're facing some very serious issues right now with the lockdown. Not everyone will go back to work right away, so the public transportation forms are going to be critical to getting back to work. With the warm weather coming, the parks are overcrowded, so I think maybe we should open streets at different times of the day so people can be socially distanced.
- Christian: I just wanted to add that nobody feels like they're not being heard if they have an issue they want to bring to the agenda. If you have an issue you feel passionate about, you have to bring it to the Chair so it can be put on the agenda. If the chair doesn't want to add it to the agenda, that's an issue to bring to Mark's attention.
- Ken: I think a lot of the reason that this is so controversial is that what we're putting forward is potentially upsetting the status quo and change is always difficult. We're talking about rethinking how we use our streets. If you disagree with what's put forward you can vote against it at the Full Board.
- Jay: I'm grateful to Steven for much of what he said. I said earlier that membership in advocacy organizations should not be disqualified for membership, but it should be a factor in Chair selections. It's disingenuous to not acknowledge that the issue of bikes and cars in transportation is not a fairly unique issue.
- Doug: my experience being on the Board is one of collegiality. Thank you, Ken and Steven, for sharing the data. I'm also concerned about perception. I'm concerned about trust and credibility within our Board and in our community, and I don't want people to be disengaged because they

don't think they'll be heard. We should always be asking ourselves if we're being objective/subjective to the extent that we can be. Let's get past this so we can move on to addressing this crisis.

- Meg: I've been on the Board for just about a year and have been serving on HHS and Transportation. In early 2020 I became a co-chair of the Transportation committee. Part of my interest in Chairing was about systems, accountability, etc. I think we've made some steps toward trying to institute accountability measures. We started ending meetings by giving updates that had been discussed at previous Board meetings. I was dealing with health issues in March and am now getting back on the scene. In terms of membership, I appreciate that we have had new members added to the committee, and Howard and I are happy with that and don't want the committee to be an echo chamber. I think in terms of agenda-setting, Howard and I want to work on communication and transparency and challenges specific to Transportation and also shared with others (like the website). I've observed as co-chair that we get agenda items from committee members as well as from the District Office. We are very much open to committee members approaching us with items for the agenda. In February/March I reached out to people to hear their thoughts and get feedback from them on how to improve the committee. Sometimes there's an assumption of intentionality and nefariousness, but I think there's a willingness to improve. In terms of vote changes from the committee to Full Board. We recognize that people may change their vote at Full Board, but we also would like people to express their concerns at the committee so that we can make changes to the resolution there -- we want the committee to be a place where people feel comfortable doing that.
  - Howard: I agree with so much has been said tonight and so much of what was said in the letter. There's a problem with the way agendas are put together. I listen to ideas from committee members and put them on the agenda. I hope a more formal, better process comes out of this. The way you get an item on the agenda is by emailing or calling me or Meg -- you have to speak up. My goal is that (1) people speak up and (2) we as a Community Board come up with a better process for agenda-setting that everyone is more comfortable with.
  - Mark: I'm not going to make changes in committee leadership at this time. I think it's a slippery slope. I'm going to be increasingly in your face if I don't see agenda items by the Friday before Full Board. In the next week and a half, I need our committee chairs to work on this. When you bring an issue to an agenda, it will have a different reception if you're willing to help bring that to fruition. In terms of balance, is anybody wants to be put on Transportation, email me and let me know and we'll have a conversation about that. We'll be getting new Board members probably around May 1st.
3. Need to settle and publish agendas in advance of Committee and Full Board meetings
    - See above
  4. Concerns regarding drafting resolutions both before and after Committee discussions and votes
    - See above
  5. Review of May Full Board Agenda
    - Mark: At the joint Transportation/BCI/HHS meeting last week there was a proposal for an additional meeting to discuss street closures. I have already drafted a cover letter for the resolution regarding temporary responses to Covid-19. I will circulate the letter to all of you in which I say in the streets access part of it that we request that the DOT tell us where a good place for street closures be based on the measures we provided, which include ambulances and food deliveries being able to get through, and not overburdening the NYPD. Please make

comments but without specific language changes. We won't be meeting about this next week. Are there any other issues that may require meeting management at the Full Board?

- Klari: I think the biggest issue with our last Full Board meeting was that we had our very valued elected officials talking without time limits and wanting to tell us all of the great things they've been doing. In all of those 2 hours with those folks, maybe only 1% of that was stuff we didn't already know. And then we had a very lengthy and complicated agenda. Although it's probably a lot less important for our next Full Board meeting, I was thinking that we focus on our business session first and then the comment section afterward.
- Mark: At our last Full Board I had a lot of CBOs speak which took up more time than I would've liked. I won't be taking the mic away from Jerry Nadler, but I will discuss with the elected officials' representatives about brevity.
- Klari: I suggest that we move the business section to the beginning of the meeting and the public session, at least for this next Full Board meeting.
- Jay: I agree with Klari 100%. If there's some way we can eliminate 2 hours of reports and it means doing Board business first, I support it.
- Elizabeth: If it's a representative from an Office, we should limit to one minute and/or have them submit their materials electronically. I'm concerned about the elected officials that show up to our meeting and talk about the same legislative items especially at this time of year.
- Jennifer: I agree with the length of time that everyone's allowed to talk. I don't think it's necessary to make the community members wait through our entire business section before hearing from electeds. Everything is online now - there's no reason that electeds can't condense what they're speaking about and give a link to more information.
- Cindy: I normally agree that we should have elected officials go first, but because it's online I think it's less important.
- Barbara: The people who have resolutions toward the end of the meeting are given very little focus.
- Steven: If the elected official is there in person, maybe we let them go first but make representatives go at the end or send resources digitally.
- Mark: I take it seriously that one of our functions is to give our neighbors an opportunity to hear from their leaders. Elizabeth urged elected officials to talk about things that are relevant to the neighborhood when she was Chair. I will try to bring Elizabeth's ideas of focus to the conversation. I am willing to move the business section up and have the public session follow it. Let's give it a try, and let me know how it works
- Klari: The next meeting is different because we only have a few agenda items. I don't think we need to see this approach of business section first as happening longer than one meeting.
- Shelly: When I was Chair, we had 150 people show up for the first issue on the agenda. I applaud the suggestions.
- Mark: There have been a number of issues around organizations that need help regarding food insecurity, notably from WSSFH, WSCAH, and the Lincoln Neighborhood Center (part of Goddard Riverside), as well as NYCHA, which the Food Bank of NY is supporting. The idea I have is for a public forum or the public session of the Full Board to discuss how people can help these organizations and connect them to organizations. What do you all think?
- Roberta: Goddard Riverside and several schools in the district are providing free food. I can send a list of places where people can get food.

- Mark: The question I'm posing is that there are many people who want to be able to do something useful, and how can we connect those people to organizations they can help.
  - Roberta: They are groups that need volunteers (like Amsterdam houses).
  - Jay: I think if we have a forum and invite organizations we'll be there for 2.5 hours. There's got to be a more mechanical, public way of getting this information out.
  - Mark: What about using our email blast to solicit donations for these organizations.
  - Jay: Absolutely.
  - Mark: Raise your hand if you disagree or have other thoughts [no one raised their hands]
6. Discussion of drafting resolutions both before and after Committee votes
- See above
7. District Needs Statement
- Mark: I recommend that we not leave this until July 31st. This year I think it's important we think both short and long term and have a section in each DNS devoted to what we've learned/should do better regarding the Covid-19 crisis.
8. New business
- Linda: We're hosting our BCI webinar focused on small business with a great panel including Andrew and Doug. The purpose of this is to offer granular detail and to help our local businesses. We'll be sending out the link shortly. The date is Thursday the 30th of April from 12:30 to 1:30 PM.
  - Jay: Will that be recorded?
  - Mark: Yes, it's on YouTube like the rest of our meetings.
  - Mark: Make sure to complete your Census forms - I urge you to fill it out if you haven't already.
  - Page: Are we having a Land Use meeting this month or not?
  - Mark: I will follow up and see if it makes sense to have a meeting.
  - Jeanette: I've noticed that our streets are getting quite dirty because they haven't been cleaned recently, I don't know what committee would address this?
  - Shelly: I saw street cleaners on Broadway the other day.
  - Linda: I've also seen them on Amsterdam Avenue. There's also a problem on sidewalks due to the general malaise of the community and world right now.
  - Jeanette: They're cleaning the avenues because metered parking is in effect but not the side streets because alternate side parking is still in effect.

*Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM*

## PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

K Karpen and Michele Parker, Co-Chairpersons

April 2, 2020 6:30 PM

*The Preservation Committee met on Thursday, April 2, 2020 via the ZOOM platform. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by CB7 Chair Mark Diller and co-chairs K Karpen and Michele Parker. K Karpen explained the format of the meeting and reminded Committee, Board, the applicants, and public attendees that the Community Board is an advisory board and that the Preservation Committee reviews the “appropriateness” of proposed changes to individually designated landmarks as well as to properties listed within the Upper West Side’s Historic Districts*

The following discussions were had and actions taken as follows:

**1. Re: 311 West 90<sup>th</sup> Street (Riverside Drive – West End Avenue.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to install a new metalwork and glass main front entry door and install a new basement level entry door underneath the stoop.**

Frank Bostelmann, of Frank Bostelmann Architecture, Architect for the project, presented for the applicant. This building is a Renaissance Revival rowhouse designed by Thomas J. Sheridan and built in 1890-1891. It is currently a private residence and the owners have approvals by LPC on other parts of the project (to wit: restoration of the façade to the original historic level of detailing, installation of window guards at basement level to match the historic window guards and installation of a new handrail on the front stoop with more detailed profile to bring the building back to its historic 1940’s design). The existing main entry door is a double door that applicants wish to replace with a single wrought iron and glass door. The basement level entry door is currently a single wrought iron door that applicants wish to replace with either a single wooden door or a single wrought iron and glass door.

The resolution is premised on the following:

The applicant is trying to bring the front of the building back to its historical 1940’s design using, in part, the façades of about 7 similar buildings on West 90<sup>th</sup> Street, all built at the same time, as design precedent.

The applicant agrees with the Committee that the sconces that will be placed on each side of the main entry door and the door handles will be historically appropriate to the building.

The applicant presented two design options for the basement level entry door with the goal of enclosing the area now open to the elements and supported their application with similar design precedents in the neighborhood area. As each option, replace the wrought iron door with a wooden door or replace the wrought iron door with glass behind it, is reasonably appropriate to the Upper West Side Historic District, the committee recommends either design.

There was no Community comment on this application.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan resolves **to approve** that part of the application as presented for the main entry door from a double door to a single wrought iron and glass door with the proviso that the door handle be historically appropriate to the building, as appropriate to the historical character of the Historic District, and also resolves **to approve either change to the basement level entry door, as proposed**, to be appropriate to the historical character of the Historic District.

*Committee: 6-2-0-0. Non-Committee Vote: 2-0-0-0.*

**2. 12 West 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, Apt 27B, 28B & 29B (Central Park West – Columbus Avenue.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to install Two (2) new masonry openings at the 28th floor on the building’s East Façade for new French doors to existing terrace and Two (2) new masonry openings at the 29th floor on the building’s East Façade for new double hung windows matching the Landmarks Master Plan for the building.**

Michael Ingui, architect from Baxt/Ingui Architects, PC., presented for the applicant. This is the Oliver Cromwell Building. These new openings are designed to match the existing arrangement on the West Façade of the building, belonging to Apt. 27-29A. The new openings are also designed to fit within the existing masonry design of the façade.



The resolution is based upon the following facts:

The Committee agreed to hear the application at this time, rather than in May, because the applicant agreed to post its Notice at several other locations until May 5, 2020. The Committee suggested the applicant post at buildings across the street and other buildings in the vicinity and the applicant agreed to send a list of the posted locations to the CB7 board office.

These changes can not be viewed at street level.

There was no public comment to this application.

These changes are part of a Master Plan for the building.

Also included in the scope of work but not subject to review for the Certificate of Appropriateness are the following:

1. Partition changes throughout (as noted in plans).
2. Replacement and relocation of plumbing fixtures on all floors.
3. New staircase in existing location.
4. Upgrade existing central air conditioning.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan resolves **to approve the application as submitted** as appropriate to the character of the Historic District, and in keeping with its Master Plan.

*Committee: 7-0-1-0. Non-committee Vote: 2-0-0-0.*

### 3. **117 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street** (Columbus Avenue.) **Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for an accessible lift.**

Christa Waring, of CTA ARCHITECTS P.C., made the presentation for the applicants. The building is being converted to low income elderly housing. This project consists of the installation of an accessible lift at the exterior (south east) of the building. One existing window opening will be extended into a door and the lift mechanics will be mostly concealed within the existing areaaway. The main entrance is currently accessed by a flight of stairs at the exterior. The lift is expected to be the primary access to the building for the elderly community of residents and is an integral component to the rehabilitation of the building. The architects worked closely with LPC staff and presented their alternative plans (to wit: a ramp on the south west of the building or a chair lift at the location of the main entrance staircase) which LPC staff said either did not meet accessibility code at the landing level (the ramp) or used too much sidewalk space at the base (chair lift).

The resolution is based upon the following facts:

The applicant's building is being converted to low income house and currently does not meet the ADA standards for entry into the building.

Those using it will enter the building on the lobby floor, like those using the stairs.

The door leading to the building from the staircase will be changed from two doors to a single door. The applicant agreed that the door color to the lift will be similar to the main entrance door.

The public spoke favorably of this application. Stephanie from the 79<sup>th</sup> Street Block Association approves of this application and Nancy Kieracos was enthusiastic about the project as a whole.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Preservation Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan resolves **to approve the application as submitted** as appropriate to the Historic District, with the strong recommendation that the door to the lift be consistent in design and color with the new main entrance door.

*Committee: 8-0-0-0. Non-committee: 2-0-0-0.*

Attendance at this meeting, by role call, were:

**Present:** Jay Adolph, Susan Schwartz, Doug McGowan, Josh Cohen, Madge Rosenberg, K. Karpen, Michele Parker and Peter Samton. **Chair:** Mark Diller. **Non-committee Board members:** Doug Kleinman. **Applicants:** Frank Bostelmann, Michael Ingui and Christa Waring. *Several members of the public were also present.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.*

## Parks & Environment Committee

April 20, 2020

Committee Members present: Co-chair Klari Neuwelt (“KN”), co-chair. Elizabeth Caputo (“EC”), co-chair. Ken Coughlin (“KC”), Cindy Cardinal, Natasha Kazmi (“NK”), Douglas McGowan (“DM”), Jennifer Nitzky, Susan Schwartz (“SS”)

Non-Committee Members Present: Mark Diller (“MD”), board chair. Doug Kleiman (“DK”)

(All participants took part in the meeting virtually, using the Zoom platform.)

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm by co-chair Elizabeth Caputo.

KN began the meeting by announcing that the proposed Broadway Mall art installation, which was supposed to be on the meeting’s agenda, had to be postponed because the sculptures are being manufactured in Italy, which, like us, is in the midst of the pandemic.

### 1. Presentations by the Central Park Conservancy on:

- **Reconstruction of Conservatory Garden, 5th Avenue between E. 104th-106th Streets.**
- **Dairy Access Path, mid-park, near 65th Street: addition of a ramp and regrading the path to**

**the Dairy Visitor Center to achieve accessibility.**

Both projects were presented by Bob Rumsey, studio director at Central Park Conservancy, with assistance from Grey Elam, a Conservancy landscape architect and planner.

### **Reconstruction of Conservatory Garden**

The garden is the only formal garden in Central Park. It was built in 1936 and there have been no major restorations since the late 1960s. The garden is comprised of (moving south to north), an English Garden, an Italian Garden, and a French Garden.

The work will primarily be “in-kind restoration,” meaning no design changes and the use of existing materials. Currently, the paths and walls are cracked, the brick in the walls needs repointing, and most of the granite steps need resetting and repointing. The wisteria pergola requires structural stabilization and refurbishing.

The pavement and curbs, retaining walls, stairs and the pergola will all be restored. There will also be two principal design modifications: the perimeter path, which is currently concrete, will be returned to its original bluestone, and accessibility improvements will be added to the French Garden.

The second of these modifications is the most significant design change, as it will involve turning the existing four sets of stairs leading to the French Garden’s fountain into fully accessible ramps with handrails. To accomplish ADA compliance, the existing wall will be extended back towards the upper path.

There also have been drainage problems over the years affecting the garden’s fence. The fence will be restored and placed on a concrete pedestal, and water will be guided into swales and a new underground drainage structure.

Committee/board member questions:

KC: When will construction start, how long will it take, what's the cost and how will it be funded? A. The current plan is for construction to begin in fall 2020. The project will take about two years to complete. Construction will be phased so that the garden will never be shut down in its entirety; parts will remain open at all times. It is privately funded and will cost \$10 million.

EC: This is great, but we shouldn't spend too much time on it; we should be focusing on projects on CB7's side of the park.

DK: Has the funding been fully committed, given the emergency situation? A. The project has been funded.

DM: Question about protection of bluestone walks during construction. A. If have to, will protect it with materials on top of it.

KN: Pergola repairs will involve cutting back the wisteria? A. Yes, but it grows back fast.

Was this a Robert Moses project? A. Yes

Disagrees with EC; we have focused on many Central Park projects that aren't in our immediate neighborhood.

SS: Is the balcony overlooking the Italian garden accessible? A. No, unfortunately there's no way to do it.

Question from Julia Qing Reaves, community member: Why will it be a two-year project? Why can't the garden be closed for a short period of time to complete construction faster? A. It's a substantial project. The drainage repairs, in particular, will take a significant amount of time.

KN: To what extent will you have to tear out horticulture in order to do the work? A. Some hedges in the English Garden will have to be replaced, which was needed anyway. That's really it.

Resolution to approve the planned reconstruction of the Conservatory Garden:

Committee members: 8-0-0-0

Non-committee board members: 2-0-0-0

KN: What is the next step? A. The plans were submitted to Landmarks Preservation Commission and they will be submitted to the Public Design Commission on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

KC: Was the \$10 million for this project specifically intended for this project? A. Yes.

Community member Julia Qing Reaves asked whether there is still a possibility that Central Park will be used as a graveyard for Covid-19 victims. EC says no.

### **The Dairy accessibility improvements**

The existing path connecting the Dairy and the approaching crosswalk is not quite accessible. The plan is to retain the 14-foot-wide foot path, which will be moved about a foot or so to the south and repaved, and add a five-foot-wide ADA-compliant ramp to path's north side, with handrails on both sides of the ramp. A cut granite stone curb will separate the two paths. No trees will be affected although a few bushes will have to be replanted. The crosswalk at the Closed East Drive will be realigned to meet the new paths.

The other significant change will involve replacing the existing asphalt hex pavers in the Dairy's entry area with brick, with was the original paving material. The brick will be placed in a herringbone pattern, and the bluestone banding will be replaced in kind.

KN: Timing, funding, etc.? A. These landscape changes are part of a larger Dairy restoration project, and this part will happen towards end of that larger project. This landscape portion will cost about \$1 million and is privately funded. The intent is to start the project as soon as the Conservancy is able to begin construction projects again. It will take about a year to complete.

KN: We don't recall reviewing the earlier building portion of the project. A. (Elam) The building portion has already gone through public review and will start quite soon.

KC: Why weren't we part of the public review for the building portion? A. (Rumsey) I We honestly can't say. (Elam): We will get back to you tomorrow with a fuller response.

Was the herringbone pattern original? A. Don't know for sure but we think it's likely.

DM: The current path is too steep? A. Yes, just slightly too much for accessibility standards.

How high will the railings be? He is concerned about use as a skateboard ramp. A. 34-38 inches. Haven't had a major issue with such railings elsewhere in the park.

KN: What is the Closed East Drive? A. The road that connects 59<sup>th</sup> Street and the East Drive.

MD: Is five feet too narrow for two to pass each other? Was consideration given to making it wider?

A. The Arsenal path is also five feet, and two can pass. Here, most people will use the wider path.

We would have liked to go wider, but trees limited how far we could push it. Five feet is the minimum travel-way width.

Community member Daniel Atha: Encourages the use of native plants in the landscape that can feed birds.

Community member Julia Qing Reaves: Thank you for a well-thought-out plan.

Resolution to approve the proposed Dairy accessibility improvements:

Committee members: 8-0-0-0

Non-committee board members: 2-0-0-0

We also learned during discussion that the Mandarin duck, which had been frequenting The Pond for several months starting in late 2018, has apparently left the area.

Rumsey also updated the committee on two other Central Park-related projects, neither of which requires CB7's approval.

**Robert Blenheim Playground at East 100<sup>th</sup> Street.** The Conservancy will be replacing a large piece of play equipment, some parts of which no longer meet ADA requirement. The safety surface and asphalt paving will also be replaced, although the playground's swings will remain the same. The surrounding fence will be lowered to a height of 4' 5".

The project's cost will be \$1 million. It will be bid late this summer or fall, and will be a six-month project, at most.

KN: Has the Conservancy been affected by the citywide construction ban due to the pandemic? A. Yes. All construction in the park has stopped. The major project was the Bandshell, and the Dairy construction was imminent.

DM: Will the age ranges at the playground remain the same? A. Yes, ages 2-5. It will be privately funded.

Community member Ira Gershenhorn: What will happen to the old play structure? A. We've asked the Parks Department about that. It may be able to use some of the pieces from it.

**Reconstruction of the sidewalk along the perimeter of the park's east side (Fifth Avenue) from East 85 to 90<sup>th</sup> Streets.** This is a continuation of similar work being done on sections along the park's western perimeter along Central Park West. It involves in-kind replacement of the paving between the perimeter wall and the street curb. The central walk consists of hex pavers with a flush concrete curb on both sides. To create accessibility at bus stops, the existing hex pavers will be replaced with a smoother version of the granite block used to surround the walkway, and the smoother granite blocks will also be used to create accessibility to all the benches. The salvage block that remains will be reset in kind.

The Conservancy hopes to put this project out to bid in late spring or early summer. It's a nine- to 12-month project, costing about \$3 million, and will be phased one city block at a time.

EC: With the dramatic reduction in transit use as a result of the crisis, are any changes foreseen? A. No, not as far as we know.

Any data on number of users? A. No. The project is about increasing pedestrian safety.

Community member Julia Qing Reaves: Asks about the boundary of CB7's jurisdiction versus other CBs. KN answers.

KN asks Elam about the response of other boards to these resolutions. A. Have gone to all boards except CB5 and all have unanimously supported.

Community member Daniel Atha: Is concerned about the American elms along the park's east side. Will the workers be taking any extra precautions to protect their roots? A. (Rumsey) Yes, absolutely. Vehicles are allowed only in the middle of the path or they must use protection boards if rolling over the pavers. And we are constantly monitoring.

**Updates on committee discussions:**

MD gave an update on the Lasker pool and rink project. The Public Design Commission approved the project. Now, if necessary as an advocacy tool, there is a draft op-ed piece to further support it, signed by the chairs of the CBs that opined on it. MD drafted the letter, which the other chairs edited. We don't yet know where it would be submitted.

Reconstruction of the Rotunda in Riverside Park: MD asked CB7 District Manager Penny Ryan to look into whether the project's funding is in jeopardy in the light of the City's looming budget deficit and the just-announced \$2 billion in budget cuts. She got a reply shortly before tonight's meeting, saying that this hasn't been decided yet. MD observed that this was not a full-throated statement that the

project will not be affected, so officials may be telegraphing that there could be some cuts to the project's budget. The City will keep us informed.

KN: Is the \$2 billion sliced off the City's budget taken from capital or expense items? MD: Debt service on bonds for capital projects is expense so they may be rationalizing the amount of debt they want to carry forward as an expense.

On another matter, EC asked committee members for ideas on how we can best represent parks and environmental issues during this crisis -- things we can take the lead on. For example, what's happening with trash in the neighborhood with so many residents leaving town? We have a bully pulpit to be able to contribute.

KN: Win Armstrong inquired whether anyone had ideas about composting, which the City has suspended, even at greenmarkets.

MD: If you hear about any alternatives for composting, please share.

NK: Asked about the reopening of the grassy areas around American Museum of Natural History. Suggests that it would be good to open these areas early given the crowding in the parks.

Matt Genrich, Department of Parks and Recreation: The last two years the lawns were open to the end of September. Haven't talked about whether they will open early, or not at all, this year. He can get back to us. A lot of people on the lawns could increase compaction.

DK: Are there creative ways in parks to give people visual guidelines of what six feet is? Perhaps marking lawns with something like chalk, non-permanent paint, or balloons?

SS: There are such signs near the Reservoir.

Genrich: The Parks Department has social distancing signage, used primarily in Central Park. If you are seeing areas where there are social distancing problems, call 311. The City is using those calls to pinpoint problem areas.

KC: Said that he's heard that the FEMA-funded repair to the rip-rap along the Cherry Walk is on hold. Suggests perhaps now there's an opportunity for the FEMA repair and the much-needed repairs to the path pavement to take place at the same time, reducing the time that the Cherry Walk would have to be closed to users.

MD proposes writing a letter to the Parks Department asking whether this is now possible. It is agreed to write such a letter.

EC: Let's as a committee prioritize what's most important for our community at this time and push for it. Would be a useful time allotment for our May meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

## Health & Human Services Committee

Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm

### 1) Domestic Violence during the Covid -19 Crisis

**Catherine introduced the topic and the two panelists;**

We had two panelists - Azaleea, Director of Legal Services of the NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault and Madhuri Shukla, Legislative Director from City Councilmember Helen Rosenthal's Office.

We engaged in a discussion of the suspected increase in domestic violence cases due to the sheltering at home policies of our City, during the Covid-19 crisis. The following was some of what we learned.

#### Domestic Violence

- There has been a decrease in reported cases of domestic abuse thus far in this crisis.
- Both the Alliance and the Councilmember suspect that there is an increase, but with domestic spouses and partners isolated in close quarters there may be a reluctance to attempt to make a call.
- There is currently no New York City texting option for reporting.
- Safe Horizons is available 24/7 to respond to emergencies regarding domestic violence.
- The 24-hour hotline for [Safe Horizon](#), a non-profit serving individuals in New York City is: 1-800-621-4673.
- They are also available for free counseling and advocacy :  
**Phone;** 212.514.SAFE(7233) **Email:** [survivorsupport@svfreenyc.org](mailto:survivorsupport@svfreenyc.org)
- **The Alliance** also provides free and confidential [legal services](#):  
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm by appointment.

Visit the [full page](#) for more information, including client eligibility guidelines

**For Legal**

**Services:** **Phone:** 212-229-0345 x326 **Email:** [legalsupport@svfreenyc.org](mailto:legalsupport@svfreenyc.org)

Survivor Rights in the Emergency Department

As a survivor of a sexual assault, you have several rights. If you wish, your volunteer advocate can review your rights in further detail. The [NYS Sexual Assault Victim Bill of Rights](#) must be presented to every survivor in NYS before a sexual assault forensic examination which details your rights. Here are some below:

- You cannot be treated differently based on certain characteristics, such as race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, age, source of payment, sex, gender identity, or gender expression.
- Your immigration status or national origin cannot affect your emergency care or services. You can ask for an interpreter if it is hard for you to understand or speak English.
- Minors under the age of 17 have certain rights to make their own decisions without a parent or legal guardian.
- You can have an exam in any hospital emergency department at no cost to you. If you do not have health insurance, or you decline to use your health insurance, you can ask the hospital to bill the Office of Victim Services.
- You have the right to trauma-informed care. Trauma-informed care is provided by services that identify and limit potential triggers to reduce retraumatization, and to protect a survivor's

mental and emotional health. This includes the right to have an advocate stay with you during the exam.

- You have the right to be tested, and receive preventive treatment for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.
- You have every right to ask questions of the police, nurses, attorneys—anyone involved in your care and case, if you choose to report to the police.
- You have the right to confidentiality with your survivor advocate. Confidentiality may not apply if related to issues of patient safety.
- You have the right to do nothing.

## **2) Discussion of the impacts and needs of those who are homeless and otherwise vulnerable as a result of COVID-19 Crisis.**

Shelly introduced the topic and described the steps that needed to be taken to secure safe and appropriate shelter and services for the homeless and most vulnerable seniors in our community.

**We discussed and approved the following resolution that he proposed;**

### **RESOLUTION**

**Committee of Origin: Health and Human Services Committee**

**Re: Providing for the Most Vulnerable New Yorkers in the COVID-19 Crisis**

The following facts were taken into consideration:

- Most hospitals in New York City are now at or beyond capacity in order to treat Covid-19 patients
- Most hospitals in New York City are now only able to admit those who are most in need of medical intervention
- The city, state and federal governments, the latter represented by officials of the Army Corps of Engineers, are working on renting rooms — and in some cases, leasing entire hotels — to provide non-intensive care for COVID patients and others.
- The West Side Federation for Senior Housing working with the city has been successful in implementing this process for its Euclid Hall residents.
- Euclid Hall residents were providing rooms with separate bathrooms, nurses to monitor and respond to their medical condition of the people housed in these rooms and three meals a day for each of the people moved into these rooms.
- Mayor DeBlasio plans to move more than 6,000 of the city's vulnerable homeless New Yorkers in this coronavirus crisis into these rooms and hotels.
- The need for this remedy is particularly necessary for West Side SROs that serve the homeless due to necessary sharing of toilet and other facilities.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** CB7 supports the efforts of Mayor DeBlasio to plans to move more than 6,000 of the city's vulnerable homeless and others into safe rooms and hotels.

**FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** CB7 urges the City to provide rooms with separate bathrooms, provide nurses to monitor and respond to the medical condition of the people housed in these rooms as well providing three meals a day for each of the people moved to these rooms.

**Vote: Committee Members: 6-0-0-0 Non-committee Board Members: 4-0-0-0**

### **3) Calls for Support from Community-based Organizations**

Organizations that serve the most vulnerable seniors and needy residents in our community district are reaching out for assistance. They are asking for donations of non-perishable food, hygiene items and PPE for their isolated residents and their front line staff. WSFSSH alone has 1400 residents in over a dozen Community District 7 buildings.

We decide to recommend that the Board inform the community of the needs of non-profit organizations serving the most vulnerable of our community through a CB7 email.