

COMMUNITY BOARD 7/MANHATTAN

FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Mark Diller, Chair

September 1, 2020 at 6:30pm

Community Board 7/Manhattan's Full Board met on Tuesday, September 1, 2020, via Zoom. Chair Mark Diller called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm after the Secretary confirmed the existence of a quorum.

Mark Diller: Community Boards are composed of 50 volunteers appointed by various elected officials. The role of the Community Board is advisory. Many people are here because of the overlapping issues of homelessness and the shelter clients that are being housed in hotels. It's important to keep in mind that the Department of Homeless services made this decision, which the Community Board learned about at the same time as the public. We held an info session last Monday for people to hear from the decision-makers and hotel operators. There were 1,389 people at the highest point on Zoom. We will have a public session at the end of this meeting, and it will be open to anybody. A sign-up sheet will be dropped in the chat to ensure that we get a representative sample of all the things people are here to talk about. There is simply no way that we can call on everyone with 180 current attendees and 390 that registered. To members of the public and the Board: please be parsimonious with your time. We will give at least an hour at the end of the meeting to hear from everybody. The Community Board is continuing with small group meetings with stakeholders and representatives where we try to look for solutions to problems that have been brought to our attention. The standing committees will be evaluating their agendas in light of all the issues before us. I encourage all of us to speak with respect towards everyone so that we can move this conversation forward.

Captain Neil Zuber, 20th Precinct: Everybody has been complaining about the quality of life. There's a perception that there's an increase in drug use, public lewdness, and a lot of issues that weren't present last year at this time. We're pushing for everyone to take pictures and report this to CB7, elected officials, etc. but please also call 911. We have no doubt that people are seeing a lot more of this than was reported. Based on increased reporting, we were able to bring the Manhattan North Narcotics Detectives to our neighborhood and take 12 drug sellers and buyers off the street. Don't be afraid to clog up the 911 system, the dispatcher is trained to determine what type of issue it is. If you're not certain, call 911. If it's something very simple, like a noise complaint, call 311.

Business Session:

Business & Consumer Issues Committee, Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons

Resolution Re:

New application to the SLA for a Two Year Liquor License

1. **120 Riverside Blvd** (West 66 th Street) Blue Real Estate Café LLC, d/b/a Blu Café.

2. **483 Columbus Avenue**

- **Both resolutions to approve were adopted. VOTE: 43-0-0-0.** The vote was taken using the virtual "raise hand" feature of the Zoom platform. In addition, the following votes were duly recorded by those whom the Zoom platform did not offer the "raise hand" feature.

- Louisa Craddock, Yes
- Christian Cordova, Yes
- Doug Kleiman, Yes
- Doug McGowan, Yes
- Richard Asche, Yes
- Mark Diller, Yes
- Shelly Fine, Yes
- Ethel Sheffer, Yes
- Bev Donohue, Yes
- Amy Hyman, Yes

- Audrey Isaacs, Yes
- Jay Adolf, Yes

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

Resolutions Re:

3. **305 West End Avenue** (West 74th – 75 th Streets.)
 - A. Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for installation of rooftop HVAC units and new equipment screen, high brick wall with coping and wrought iron rail.
 - B. Application #20-04558 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for canopy restoration.
 - C. Application #19-37141 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a 2 nd -floor new equipment screen installation.
 - **The resolution to approve was adopted. VOTE: 41-0-1-0.** The vote was taken using the virtual "raise hand" feature of the Zoom platform. In addition, the following votes were duly recorded by those whom the Zoom platform did not offer the "raise hand" feature.
 - Mark Diller, Yes
 - Louisa Craddock, Yes
 - Shelly Fine, Yes
 - Doug Kleiman, Yes
 - Peter Samton, Yes
 - Ehtel Sheffer, Yes
 - Bev Donohue, Yes
 - Christian Cordova, Yes
 - Paul Fischer, Yes
 - Audrey Isaacs, Yes
 - Richard Asche, Yes
 - Erana Stennett, Abstain

4. **60 West 76th Street** (Columbus Avenue.) Application #LPC-20-10575 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to modify the entrance landing and areaway and install a ramp.
 - **The resolution to approve was adopted. VOTE: 41-0-1-0.** The vote was taken using the virtual "raise hand" feature of the Zoom platform. In addition, the following votes were duly recorded by those whom the Zoom platform did not offer the "raise hand" feature.
 - Mark Diller, Yes
 - Doug Kleiman, Yes
 - Louisa Craddock, Yes
 - Shelly Fine, Yes
 - Richard Asche, Yes
 - Peter Samton, Yes
 - Doug McGowan, Yes
 - Paul Fischer, Yes
 - Bev Donohue, Yes
 - Ethel Sheffer, Yes
 - Lolita Ferrin, Yes
 - Christian Cordova, Yes
 - Erana Stennett, Abstain

5. **55 West 86 th Street** (Columbus Avenue.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a first and second-floor facade renovation.
 - Erana: Is this a commercial block?
 - Michele: Yes.
 - Erana: Is the signage as we see it in the rendering?

- Mark: It's just to let you know where the signage will go. It will be the subject of a subsequent application.
- Barbara: Why does it say Book Culture? Are they moving in there?
- Michele: No.
- **The resolution to approve was adopted. VOTE: 43-0-1-0.** The vote was taken using the virtual "raise hand" feature of the Zoom platform. In addition, the following votes were duly recorded by those whom the Zoom platform did not offer the "raise hand" feature.
 - Bev Donohue, Yes
 - Mark Diller, Yes
 - Doug Kleiman, Yes
 - Doug McGowan, Yes
 - Richard Asche, Yes
 - Shelly Fine, Yes
 - Peter Samton, Yes
 - Paul Fischer, Yes
 - Ethel Sheffer, Yes
 - Audrey Isaacs, Yes
 - Madelyn Innocent, Yes
 - Richard Robbins, Yes
 - Louisa Craddock, Abstain

6. **262 Central Park West** (West 86th – 87th Streets.) Application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Window Master Plan.

- Erana: What's the current material? Have they always used aluminum for replacements?
- Mark: The replacement proposals are all aluminum. I understand that the replacements that have been done are mostly if not all aluminum.
- Barbara: It seems like a real shame to put in 1 over 1 windows for a building that used to have 6 over 6.
- Michele: Mark said he would have preferred 6 over 1.
- Erana: If they're doing a master plan why aren't they going back to the original plan?
- Jay: Filing a master plan doesn't mean they're replacing all the windows. Filing for a master plan means that if anyone applies for a window replacement, it's consistent throughout the building. In this case, I think a little over 70% of the windows were already 1 over 1. A lot of people tend to think of aluminum as cheap, but it's very typical.
- Peter: I recall that they are already doing some of the replacements.
- Michele: Yes, individually.
- Richard Asche: Nobody living on Central Park West would voluntarily install 6 pane windows. To me, there's a great aesthetic value in uniformity. A 1 on 1 window is not unattractive and does not stand out.
- **The resolution to approve was adopted. VOTE: 41-4-0-0.** The vote was taken using the virtual "raise hand" feature of the Zoom platform. In addition, the following votes were duly recorded by those whom the Zoom platform did not offer the "raise hand" feature.
 - Mark Diller, Yes
 - Christian Cordova, Yes
 - Doug Kleiman, Yes
 - Richard Asche, Yes
 - *Shelly Fine, Yes*
 - Peter Samton, Yes
 - Doug McGowan, Yes
 - Lolita Gerrin, Yes
 - Paul Fischer, Yes
 - Bev Donohue, Yes
 - Ethel Sheffer, Yes

- Polly Spain, Yes
- Audrey Isaacs, Yes
- Richard Robbins, Yes
- Louisa Craddock, Yes

7. **320 Riverside Drive, Unit PA** (West 104 th Street.) Application LPC-20-10930 to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to install a bay window at the penthouse.

- **The resolution to approve was adopted. VOTE: 44-0-0-0.** The vote was taken using the virtual "raise hand" feature of the Zoom platform. In addition, the following votes were duly recorded by those whom the Zoom platform did not offer the "raise hand" feature.
 - Mark Diller, Yes
 - Christian Cordova, Yes
 - Doug Kleiman, Yes
 - Peter Samton, Yes
 - Richard Asche, Yes
 - Shely Fine, Yes
 - Louisa Craddock, Yes
 - Rich Robbins, Yes
 - Audrey Isaacs, Yes
 - Doug McGowan, Yes
 - Lolita Ferrin, Yes
 - Bev Donohue, Yes
 - Paul Fischer, Yes
 - Ethel Sheffer, Yes

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.

Transportation Committee, Andrew Albert and Howard Yaruss, Co-Chairpersons

Resolution Re:

8. Crosstown bike lane on 72nd Street.

- Erana: Howard, you stated that the thoroughfare is not heavily used, but it's always doubled parked and also has a bus lane?
- Howard: When I say heavily used, I mean that there's a lot of deliveries, but not a lot of traffic.
- Erana: What are you envisioning for the layout of the street?
- Howard: We have no clue, we'd just like to see what the DOT comes up with.
- Klari: I live on 72nd street. The concept on its face sounds like a good idea. This is asking for a proposal, not asking for a bike lane. I want to bring up the issue of how you get to the greenway through Riverside Park. Getting to the greenway safely is not just an issue for cyclists, but pedestrians as well. Phase 5 of Riverside Park Renovation will create a dedicated bike path on 66th street which will be the ideal way to join the bike lane. The other option is to go North on Riverside Drive to join the route. However, when the Rotunda is under renovation, that route will be unavailable. When people think of a bike lane that terminates at Riverside Park they need to think of a safe way for the cyclists to get to the Riverside bike lane.
- Roberta: On 72nd street there's a path and a staircase that cyclists can dismount and walk their bike on. The DOT has been looking at how to create bus stops that allow bikes to pass through.
- Susan: The city is facing massive budget cuts to public transportation, and bike lanes shouldn't be the top priority these next few years. I live on 71st street, and right now there are restaurants

out and the bus lane is creating danger for bicyclists. To have that same model used on 72nd street wouldn't work.

- Jeanette: We need DOT to do a "complete streets" analysis of 72nd street so it looks at all the modes of transportation.
- Jay: The resolution says that CB7 is seeking a proposal for a "physically protected two-way bike lane or lanes," so it is directly asking for a bike lane.
- Howard: We are asking for a proposal to be developed, not for the DOT to make a two-way bike lane. We want the proposal to include a bike lane.
- Steven: I hope that we can come up with a positive way to reconcile outdoor restaurant seating with bike lanes as well as electric bikes and bikes riding in the wrong direction. I will be sending an email about this soon.
- Ken: This proposal is for a two-way bike lane, so I would not expect people to ride the wrong way. The DOT is not going to spend money they don't have. We're living in a time when biking has exploded, and CitiBike usage has increased. This project would be a small investment for an enormous benefit.
- Ethel: It would have been better if this discussion had taken place at the committee. This is supposed to be a resolution to request DOT to begin to investigate a proposal. To do what? To improve what? Safety, implement a bike lane? I would suggest the resolution be simplified or be voted on with the following addition: We ask the DOE to launch a proposal to look into the need and/or design of a bike lane and create a timeline for continuing comment and participation of the community to input to DOT.
- Louisa: We are in a very difficult financial situation, and we should be careful what we're asking for. We don't want to ask for one thing and then ask for more. It's better to ask for a master plan study of the entire street (including a bikeway). How long does the DOT take to come up with these design plans?
- Rich: I agree with Steven. Two separate issues that need to be enforced are cycling the wrong way and cycling on the sidewalk. In terms of the comments about cost, this is a more important issue because of COVID. The DOT is a city agency, the MTA is a state agency. The DOT spending a small amount of money on bike lanes does not take money from the MTA. We are asking for a proposal. If we don't like it we can vote it down.
- Joseph Rodriguez, Public: I approve of the 72nd street proposal. There's been over 2,000 crashes, 4 people have been killed, and hundreds have been injured since the city started keeping track. Proposals like this save lives. I don't think there is a funding issue with this.
- Daniel Friedman, Public: I think this piecemeal approach is a road to ruin. Bike lanes will create enough gridlock so that 72nd street will become the next 96th street in terms of gridlock. We can't assume that the DOT will plan correctly or spend their money correctly.
- Hindy Schachter, Public: I'm a senior cyclist. I cycle on 72nd street and it is not safe in its current condition. Unsafe streets lead to unnecessary deaths, which I would like to prevent. When other people say we don't have the money for a simple bike lane that could save lives, I think of Madison Lyden and Central Park West. Let's get the protected bike lane before a death.
- Justin Gundlack, Public: A two-way bike lane is a significantly different piece of instruction than a one-way lane. There is no cross-town artery in this part of the city, and this would be incredibly valuable. This is the chance to push the city to put down bike lanes.
- Nicole Paynter, Columbus-Amsterdam BID: The Columbus-Amsterdam Business Improvement District fully approves this resolution calling for a proposal. We believe a protected bike lane on 72nd street will make the area more accessible and safer for residents, businesses, and visitors.
- Lisa Orman, Streetopia UWS Director: We are in a bike boom. There currently isn't a safe way to cross the UWS on a bike. We surveyed families on their transportation use and habits. The largest shift was from the subway to biking, and 72nd street was the biggest crosstown. Every dollar spent on bike lanes returns 24 dollars for improving health, business, etc. We can't afford not to invest in our streets like this.
- Andrew Rosenthal, Public: Bike lanes mean fewer pedestrian injuries. I collected hundreds of signatures for people in favor of a 72nd Street bike lane.
- Ellen Azorin, Public: I support this resolution. It may not be perfect, but it is shameful that on the UWS we do not have a protected crosstown bike lane. The cyclists who are coming out of the park at 72nd need someplace safe to go. Let's start here.

- **The resolution was approved. VOTE: 47-6-1-0.** The vote was taken by roll call.

Parks & Environment Committee, Elizabeth Caputo and Klari Neuwelt, Co-Chairpersons

Resolution Re:

9. Eliminating exceptions to prohibition on smoking in NYC parks.

- Janice Horowitz, Public: When the decade-old ban was created, there were exceptions made for the edges of the park (the perimeter). This happens to be the part of the park being used now more than ever. It's critical that we close these exceptions now. In order to smoke, people need to remove their masks, which creates a COVID risk for anyone in the park or entering it. Second-hand smoke poses health problems, but it also makes the lungs of non-smokers more susceptible to viral infections, and thus COVID-19.
- Ellen Kessel, Public: The West 80s Neighborhood Association supports this resolution.
- Racheal Adriko, Head of School for Montessori at 85th Street: In a normal year our students traverse the border of Riverside Park. Our teachers will be leading classes on the periphery of Riverside Park every day. Eliminating smoking on park perimeters will ensure the safety of students and teachers.
- Andrea Truppin, Public: I support this resolution. Is there any thought about enforcement? I'm concerned about the practicality.
- Klari: Enforcement has always been an issue. Having signage and clarifying that there is no smoking in NYC Parks at all will help with that.
- Doug McGowan: I voted no to the marijuana inclusion at the committee level. Is there an opportunity to pull the marijuana inclusion out as a friendly amendment?
- Klari: A majority of committee members wanted it in. The resolution is for no smoking of anything in parks.
- Ken: I totally support the tobacco part of this. I don't understand why the marijuana part was added. Marijuana is already illegal, and its enforcement is completely racist, and overwhelmingly targets black people. I ask for an unfriendly amendment to withdraw the marijuana part.
- Melissa: I completely agree with Ken. I'm also a little suspicious of the timing of this resolution related to the enforcement of homeless people smoking on the medians.
- Erana: I think we should table this. There's a buffer between the perimeter of the park and the inside of the park. I think the people that would smoke on CPW will now go to the residential side of the street to smoke. There might be people who walk into the park smoking who a Parks official will direct to go to the perimeter of the park.
- Jay: Is the public sidewalk adjacent to a park considered part of the park?
- Klari: Yes.
- Erana: Why did the Borough President keep the perimeter out of the original legislation?
- Klari: In order to get it passed she needs to propose the exceptions for her colleagues.
- Klari: Let's vote on Ken's unfriendly amendment.
- Rich: Why don't we just amend it to say no smoking at all in the park?
- Mark: The reason is that the law currently defines smoking as tobacco.
- Ken's amendment to remove the second to last paragraph of the resolution. **VOTE: 22-16-5-0**
 - Madge Rosenberg, yes
 - Rich Robbins, yes
 - Doug McGowan, Yes
 - Ethel Sheffer, Yes
 - Louisa Craddock, Yes
 - Bev Donohue, Yes
 - Shelly Fine, No
 - Peter Samton, No
 - Christian Cordova, No
 - Richard Asche, No
 - Audrey Isaacs, No
 - Polly Spain, No
 - Robert Espier, No
 - Doug Kleiman, Abstain

- The resolution as amended was approved. **VOTE: 37-3-4-0**
 - Mark Diller, Yes
 - Bev Donohue, Yes
 - Ethel Sheffer, Yes
 - Rich Robbins, Yes
 - Louisa Craddock, Yes
 - Doug McGowan, Yes
 - Shelly Fine, Yes
 - Peter Samton, Yes
 - Christian Cordova, Yes
 - Catherine DeLazzero, Yes
 - Doug Kleiman, Yes
 - Audrey Isaacs, Yes
 - Paul Fischer, Yes
 - Madge Rosenberg, Yes

New Business

Approval of minutes from the July full board meeting

The minutes were adopted by acclamation with minor changes.

Nominations of Board officers for 2020 to 2021, Joshua Cohen, Chair, Elections Committee

Josh: We'll accept nominations for a Chair, 2 Vice-Chairs, and 2 Co-Secretaries

Shelly: I nominate Mark Diller for Chair. (seconded and accepted)

Linda: I nominate Doug Kleiman for Vice-Chair. (seconded and accepted)

Roberta: I nominate Andrew Rigie for Vice-Chair. (seconded and accepted)

Elizabeth: I nominate Seema Reddy for Vice-Chair. (seconded and accepted)

Roberta: I nominate Julian Giordano for Co-Secretary. (seconded and accepted)

WHO NOMINATED: I nominate Bev Donohue for Co-Secretary. (seconded and accepted)

Josh: Nominations are closed.

Mark: Earlier today I emailed everyone a proposed amendment to the Bylaws to accommodate online voting for the board election.

Proposed amendment to the bylaws to accommodate online voting in the upcoming Board election

Mark: We need 30 days advance notice to vote on this amendment. The resolution calls for the use of a Google Form to allow for voting in real-time. If that doesn't work, the only other option will be a roll call vote. The amendment will only be in effect for 13 months.

Rich: Can we edit the proposed amendment after tonight? I don't think we should limit ourselves to a year.

Mark: Amendments to the amendment can be proposed next month. Let's consider the proposal amended.

Sheldon: I move the proposed bylaw amendment tonight to our agenda next month. (seconded)

Roberta: We now have a link on our website for people to request an absentee ballot and register to vote in November. The Census is finished at the end of this month. Please encourage everyone you know to sign up for it.

Catherine: I respect everyone on the Board and especially appreciate the leadership of our Board by Chair Mark Diller. Mark's responsibility is not to fix problems, but to listen and communicate facts and help our community navigate this together. I want to thank Mark. It's important that we listen to and see the best in each other. My experience on the Board has been that we care about listening to those we disagree with. We continue to grow and want to do better because we care.

Community Session:

We welcome all members of our community (residents, businesses, CBOs) who would like to speak on issues of interest to them. Members of the community are granted two minutes for remarks, and we will also accept a written copy for the record.

Manhattan Borough President's Report (Gale Brewer)

In terms of the hotels, thanks to the Board and elected officials, we sent a list of questions to DHS but have not gotten an answer. In terms of the Census, we have sent out letters to remind people to take the census, especially those. We gave \$215,000 to community groups throughout Manhattan. I wrote to the Mayor asking why he is withholding \$12 million in capital dollars from last year. The Monumental Women statue is up, I was grateful to be a part of it. In terms of the high holidays this month, we've written to the Parks Department and DOT to allow for outdoor services. The cantilevered building planned for 251 West 91st Street is outrageous, and we sent a strong letter to Michael Dell saying that this is ridiculous.

Reports by Elected Officials

Councilmember Helen Rosenthal, District 6

I just had a productive conversation with parents concerned about their children walking to and from school. There will be another stakeholder meeting before school starts. Principals are in touch with the 20th Precinct, which is increasing patrols around schools. Thank you Captain Zuber for your hard work and congratulations on the recent drug bust. We'll be sending out an email tomorrow on how parents can donate their pandemic EBT food cards. Go to www.helenrosenthal.com to sign up for my emails.

State Senator Robert Jackson, District 31

I stood with Brad Hoylman about USPS with respect to putting voting lockboxes all over the state. It costs 4-5 million dollars to do that. This is about democracy, we need them. On September 9th there will be a public safety town hall with Jamaal Bowman and others. I will email the information. The budget is a big thing, with 5 bills going to be approved by the state legislature down the road. We're waiting for the federal government for funding. If not, we're going to have to look at increasing taxes on the wealthiest New Yorkers to make sure the state survives this pandemic

State Senator Brad Hoylman, District 27

We're charting a path forward on homelessness. For the press conference that Robert Jackson mentioned, 36 states have the opportunity to go to these drop boxes instead of USPS, which would be helpful. I strongly support our teacher's union in delaying the reopening of schools until we have a plan from the de Blasio administration. Apply for your ballots now.

Councilmember Mark Levine, District 7

We're drafting legislation in prohibiting smoking in marginal park areas, thank you for your helpful input. We'll make a point of reaching out to you to discuss shaping this legislation as it is drafted. Big news on the school front today with pushing back learning by 11 days and implementing mandatory random testing for 10-20% of school communities every month (including students and teachers). One positive case means the pod has a 14-day quarantine, and a second positive case will shut down the building until a source is determined by contact tracers. If the citywide rate is above 3% we will revert to remote learning. There's an action plan in place for low-income neighborhoods if they rise above 3%.

Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, District 67

We will have a Census phone bank on September 15th. The UWS normally has a great response rate, not this year. We will be having a virtual blood drive until September 19th, call our office if you're interested. The Parks Department's early decision to deny permits for youth sports was ridiculous. I wrote to the Parks Commissioner and they reversed that decision. Cuomo signed into law my bill for the Good Samaritan Law for people using naloxone to be protected from any kind of suit to encourage its use.

Public Comment

Zach Campbell, Community Liaison for the American Museum of Natural History

The museum is preparing to open tomorrow, September 2nd, for members and on the 9th for the public. For more details go to www.amnh.org/plan-your-visit. Work on the Gilder project has progressed and will continue through September. Learn more at www.amnh.org/about/gilder-center.

Susan Peters

I'm here to request that you fulfill the mission statement of protecting our neighborhood. 5G mounts are being placed on lampposts. Studies warn against the health effects, including from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The FCC limits from 1996 have not been updated. I strongly encourage you to deal with this, I can put you in contact with experts.

Peter Arndsten, Columbus-Amsterdam Business Improvement District

Open streets for restaurants from 97th to 110th streets on Saturdays and Sunday from noon to 9 pm, there are about 30 restaurants. We are running our tree stewardship program to take care of trees. You can join by emailing info@columbusamsterdambid.org. Join the 107th Street Community Garden is doing on Wednesdays from 4-6 pm. There are really great green markets at 97th street, 114th street, and 110th street/Manhattan avenue.

Martha Dwyer

I'm concerned about wearing masks and social distancing relating to new shelter populations. This is especially important for parents and kids going back to school. Project Renewal is not enforcing rules vis-a-vis staff, guards, or residents.

Ashley Gonzalez, NYPL

As of next Monday, 50 locations will be open for non-contact grab and go, including the Morningside Heights and Riverside locations. You can place a hold online and all you need to do is go in and grab the book.

Stan

The HelpUSA provider is not enforcing the 10 pm curfew for the Belleclaire Hotel. I've sent emails but nothing has changed. Guards are not patrolling the block or the street. People across the street are on church steps at all hours of the night. We've witnessed people who did drug deals and we called the police who can't do anything about it unless they witness it.

William Thomas

I'm a member of Open New York, an all-volunteer independent pro-housing organization. I'm here to speak in favor of the continued use of hotels as shelters. We're experiencing an eviction crisis on top of the pandemic. It helps all New Yorkers when those in homeless shelters can social distance. It isn't fair to segregate these shelters and it's important and ideal that high-income neighborhoods like the Upper West Side have these shelters. The fear-mongering is wrong, and homeless people are human beings and shelter is a human right.

Anne Kemper

Research shows that for people experiencing substance abuse and chronic homelessness, the solution is to provide housing. What is CB7 doing to help homeless people transition to permanent housing and affordable housing?

Ankur Dalal

I'm in favor of using hotels in the neighborhood for supportive housing, particularly in times of crisis. I echo Councilmember Rosenthal's statement that housing is a human right. I would love for CB7 to continue to support housing projects of this kind.

Nicole Metzger

How many of the 12 people arrested last night reside at the shelter?

Mark: I was told that 9 were from the Lucerne and 3 were from the Belleclaire.

Anne Smithey

I'm in favor of temporary housing in hotels. Allowing social distancing benefits everybody. I haven't seen any of the disorders that people are describing. We all have an obligation to help people down on their luck.

Jonathan Lindenbaum

This is a difficult time, and if we can help people who are adversely affected without raising crime like the NYPD reports show, then it is time to do so.

Josh Pinkerton

I support the use of hotels by shelters. Instead of moving people out of neighborhoods so we don't look at them, we should address the underlying issues that are causing them. We are in a housing crisis, and our neighborhood has not done its fair share.

Maria Lehv

There is a detriment to the neighborhood because of shelters. My initial concern is about decision making, I'm concerned that the Community Board wasn't involved leading up to this, and I want the city to make sure the Community Board is involved. A lot of these organizations have paid social media directors etc... that have been giving misleading information about sex offenders. Level 1 sex offenders are not required to register, so there may be registered sex offenders in this neighborhood.

Bobbi Barnett

I walk down the street and see homeless people on the street. We have failed our homeless neighbors. Homelessness is a real crisis and every neighborhood needs to do its part.

Nicholas Oo

I support the hotels housing the homeless. This is a city-wide issue, not just on the Upper West Side. There's no evidence that this temporary solution has caused any meaningful problems. We need to prioritize the lives and health of homeless people over minor inconveniences we face. We also need to share in this communal responsibility like every other neighborhood.

Benjamin Wetzler

My previous house on the Upper West Side was next to a homeless shelter run by a great provider. I never had any issues like described by media reports. I'm in utter disbelief and I support using the hotels. If there aren't hotels in my neighborhood being used I think that there should be.

Cristie Diamond

My children and I have experienced masturbating, catcalling, being followed home. Men are standing in front of the Lucerne without masks and smoke. It seems like this is just adding more danger to our neighborhood. The district is sheltering 6 times more people than we are putting into the shelter system, that is unfair.

Megan Martin

This is a safety, security, and public health issue that has nothing to do with race. A large portion of the men who were moved to the Lucerne was from the hotel in Corey Johnson's district that faced increased crime, prostitution, and drug use. Corey Johnson had them relocated to the Lucerne and now we're experiencing the same issues. The Upper West Side has always been welcoming to transitional housing. This issue is about watching men drop their pants and urinate in front of our children and use drugs in the playgrounds. These men need severe services because they're mentally ill and chemically addicted.

Melinda Thaler

We cannot be dishonest with each other and pretend that we haven't noticed any differences in our community since shelter residents came. We should not ignore constituents. That's just as despicable as telling anyone they don't have a right to shelter. It's not my right to have to be confronted by homeless people. We also need to provide security to people who are up on their luck, not just those down on their luck.

Amelia Josephson

I participated in an event at the shelter last week and I heard shelter residents say how grateful they were for this housing.

Dana Lowey

I had a friend who is a psychiatric professional who got attacked on Broadway the other day. She is tired of being made to feel guilty by politicians. We all care about homeless people, but these people need help, not hotels. We don't have a lack of compassion. We deserve to be safe. Stop guilt-tripping us.

Amanda Fialk

Captain Zuber, I am concerned by the recommendation for the public to take pictures of crime in the neighborhood. We are in a mental health crisis that doesn't discriminate. Having the shelter residents' pictures taken without their approval is triggering and might incite violence and escalate a situation. Please don't take pictures and post them on a Facebook group with 10,000 people. It's very dehumanizing.

John Jun

I'm part of a group called OneBlock Upper West Side that cleans blocks. I found syringes on the corner of 75th street around the block from the shelter. The DHS has not given us a specific time to transition away from these hotels, let's learn more about when we can move these men back.

Olivia Killingsworth

We're not accusing anyone of being racist. You cannot deny that a majority of the population in homeless shelters is black and brown, and COVID is affecting black and brown and homeless people at higher rates. It's no accident that our neighborhood is white and wealthy. Urban renewal projects over the years have made the neighborhood white, wealthy, and segregated. There is a long history of white people using their fears as justification to exclude affordable housing from their neighborhoods. Many of these fears are based less on facts than on anecdotes and biases.

Jacqueline Moffett

Bringing up racism is such a deflection, it takes the focus off of the conversation about our safety. This community has always embraced unhoused people. We have more than our fair share of shelters. To move them here during COVID-19 might have been warranted, but without the services, it has been a disaster. I walked past the Belnord tonight and there were no guards on the street. You have put this neighborhood in danger. When public school opens and kids start walking past these shelters with men who are sex offenders and drug users we're going to have problems.

Ari Blaut

This problem also existed in Midtown and instead of working to fix it, our electeds moved it here. When you have 13,000 people in a Facebook group, for people to say it's not happening just isn't true. A lot of people on this call are confusing an affordable housing issue with a shelter bed issue. The Upper East Side and SoHo have no shelter beds, but the Upper West Side has the 9th most out of 59 community districts. We have a safety issue, and we need to address how we can get these men the services we need. Telling these men that they have to go on the subway or get in a van for 45 minutes to get their methadone each week isn't a solution. The way we help the homeless is by housing them in facilities that provide them with the services that they need.

Ben Rotter

I've been hearing a lot about a fair share of housing for the homeless. The fact that we have this opportunity to help homeless people at this time is a real gift. This city has gone through unbelievable shock, and you might see changes on your street. That hasn't been my experience, but even if it is yours, that shouldn't be conflated with a couple hundred homeless men moving to our neighborhood.

Debbie Goldman

My family has experienced harassment. I worry about my daughter's safety. We've seen drug use, drug deals, harassment, and masturbation. I would love to help those in need, but not at the risk of my safety or that of my daughter. Being stressed out walking in the street hurts our mental health. We're also not all wealthy.

Councilmember Helen Rosenthal, District 6

Thank you, Mark, you've done a yeoman's job. To give people this space again to voice their concerns is terrific. Half a dozen people who spoke were on the call we had just before this call with PS87 and PS9 and other school parents. On the call were the people who really have the answers: Captain Zuber and Project Renewal. I don't know how to respond when the same questions are asked over and over with the same responses being given. Where's the disconnect? I want to be constructive in making the connection. There's absolutely a problem on the UWS. It is very worrisome. I know people have been accosted. Not only do I hear your concerns, but I see them myself. Let's acknowledge that the NYPD and service providers are doing what they've been asked to do. Please don't believe everything you read in the Post. The reason that people were moved from the Project Renewal location in the mid-50s is that that provider, who is located on the Lower East Side, didn't have the staff

needed to handle two different locations. The DHS asked the Hotel Trades Association to find a match for a hotel that could accommodate all 300 residents and all of the staff in one location, and the Lucerne responded to that. We don't know why, or why any hotels were picked. Almost all the hotels surrounding the airports are filled this way too. All of the services are happening at the Lucerne. Each of the clients is in their hotel room, but they still get the services they need (a caseworker, mental health professionals). There is a van to transport people to the original location as needed to get access to medication. Do not risk your well being if you are taking a photograph. If you've taken a photograph, get it to the NYPD. From the time the homeless men came to the Lucerne until now, the NYPD has been doing its work. They reached out to their narcotics unit, had them come here and do this bust. The NYPD will continue to do this work. If you want to send a photo it can be helpful, but it doesn't help them to send it to electeds or post it on Facebook. I spoke with a woman who had been accosted by a homeless man but hadn't called 911. These incidents need to be reported to the PD so they know about them and can do their work. I saw a question about what the criteria are to close the hotels. I feel and share your frustration. This whole thing is temporary due to COVID. It is the Department of Health that is making the decision here. They are making the decisions about schools, restaurants, and when to return people to the shelters so we do not have hotspots of COVID. We are trying hard to help and provide answers. But when we provide those answers, people need to acknowledge them. It's not correct when people say that services aren't being provided at the temporary hotel shelters.

State Senator Brad Hoylman, District 27

Thank you to Mark and everyone who commented. We the elected officials are listening.

Rich Robbins

There were accusations that not everyone got to speak and those are completely false. Everyone who filled out the form was given an opportunity to speak.

Steering Minutes

Mark Diller, Chair

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm via Zoom

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM upon finding a quorum

Attendance:

Jay Adolf, Doug Kleiman; K Karpen, Elizabeth Caputo, Julian Giordano, Susan Schwartz, Ken Coughlin, Roberta Semer, Melissa Rosenberg, William Ortiz, Howard Yaruss, Mark Diller, Barbara Adler, Sara Lind; Cindy Cardinal; Christian Cordova; Page Cowley; Rich Robbins; Beverly Donohue; Andrew Albert; Andrew Rigie; Audrey Isaacs; Joshua Cohen; Klari Neuwelt.

1. District Needs Statements and Budget Priorities

Cindy Cardinal went over the process and what needs to be done.

Timeline - Borough budget consultations in September, CBs need to schedule meetings for review on the needs and budget requests; internally, we should be collecting input and enlisting support from elected officials and stakeholders on our key priorities

Not everyone committee has budget priorities

Next month, Cindy and Mark will be sharing feedback they got from agencies at Borough consultation. Agencies seemed to think they would be able to hit their benchmarks - none seemed to be too worried about their budgets.

Our top priority last year was a housing issue, but it can be whatever we want.

Have to ratify our final priorities through a public hearing - we did that at our first November meeting last year.

If we don't receive anything from the committee, we'll look at what we had last year and try to adjust. We would like to get something in writing from every committee.

In November, OMB distributes our priorities to the agencies; they review and respond prior to the preliminary budget. This year our opinions may have even more sway this year because the city/agencies will be making tough budget decisions and they want to know what the community wants. Good to have details and lots of supporting information. Please update statistics and data in your narratives. Great to have supporting letter or organizations you can point to that support it. Important to link the content between various elements of the submission. They have a document with tips and advice for strengthening submissions and Cindy will share that with everyone.

Mark Diller: Committees can reach out to corresponding agencies for feedback within the framework of whatever makes sense for your committee.

Cindy: Take a look at last year's submission, make it as up-to-date as possible, bring in outside data, put in as much detail, and give it to Cindy, asap.

Roberta: Reminder that the economic downturn will be going on for several years so keep that in mind

Christian: I thought we needed to have all the priorities ready by October Steering.

Cindy: Full Board votes on it - can't just decide it at Steering.

Mark: You need to come to October Steering with your budget priorities done.

Beverly: It could very well be in the current year that what we put on paper makes a difference - this may have some immediate consequences

Steven: We didn't put budgets - is that necessary? Have we ever seen any of our priorities in the past years being acted on?

Cindy: We get agency responses every year and generally they say "we need to study this" or "we don't have enough money" or sometimes "we've already started doing this". In terms of putting a dollar figure, some of our requests do have a dollar but not all.

Melissa: What's the best way to submit to you the budget items?

Cindy: Any way that's good. People usually send a word document - anything where I can cut and paste.

Doug: Can you give an example of external stakeholders?

Cindy: Community-based organizations; Goddard Riverside - external to the community board

2. Election Voting Procedures for October Full Board Meeting

Update: Seema is going to withdraw her candidacy for Vice Chair. So every office will be uncontested, but we still need to vote. The elections committee will count the votes to ensure there is a majority vote for each office.

Shelly: The November Meeting will not be on November 3rd.

Mark: It will be on November 4th.

3. Supporting Community and Block Association Efforts

Want to be able to correspond with Block Associations on a global basis. We have a database and have hired someone to make better use of that data base. If you have a BA on your block, please share with Mark.

Roberta: We already have some BAs in the database, but it was last updated in 2009. What we need now is current updates.

Doug: Do we want Tenants Associations as well?

Mark/Roberta: Yes - more is better. Whatever you have, please send!

4. Full Board Meeting Planning

a. Order of Public Comment

Mark: I've been asked to work on the order of public comment. Trying to move along public officials. Going to ask the elected officials to Zoom in after the public comment period - so they can hear the community and then respond. CB7 meeting should be their last stop.

b. Review of Full Board Agenda

New Transportation Committee item that will be added (asking for the DOT to not have a sponsor for a curb extension; specifically about the SW corner of 96th and WEA).

One BCI resolution is coming off.

Mark will circulate a modification to the Bylaws amendment about voting procedures (no provision in Bylaws for voting online).

5. New Business

Susan: Do we have an agenda for the HHS meeting?

Shelly: Devoted totally to the DNS - list of seven topics. It should be on the website because we sent it in.

Mark: When we speak on behalf of the Board, it needs to come through Mark, or whoever he has delegated to (appropriate committee chairs can certainly speak when appropriate and with Mark's permission).

Louisa: Do we have a statement on the situation of the use of hotels as shelters? And do we want to?

Mark: We do not have a statement. We are trying to participate in identification of issues and bringing people together to try to address those issues on a case-by-case basis. We perform an important role by being facilitators of conversation rather than advocates.

Shelly: The Board voted on the topic in May or June - we encouraged the Mayor to use hotels to deal with congregate settings where people were in danger healthwise. We supported that on the condition that it was with services. The fact that sometimes the execution may have been poor. doesn't negate the fact that we unanimously approved the use of hotels for this purpose during the health situation during COVID.

Louisa: The situation has changed. Do we support keeping homeless in the hotels rather than doing this round-robin that the Mayor has advocated.

Mark: The situation is constantly changing and the devil is in the details.

Linda: I don't think we can take a position on this and now it's moot because he's now paused. The biggest issue should be about transparency from DHS. We're a community board that represents everyone. The biggest issue is that we got blindsided.

Klari: I think Mark is right that what we've been doing is great by facilitating conversations. It would be a huge mistake for us to take a substantive position.

Doug: Perhaps we could take position on secondary issues, for example we all are against any crime in the neighborhood, or calling for additional services where appropriate.

Susan: Mark has been having small group stakeholders, but should we have this on our agenda so that the community at large feels that they have been heard.

Mark: We had an information session with over 1300 people present; we had a full hour of comment on it at September full board; we have a public comment period at every Board meeting. The small group meetings don't work in a big public setting.

Susan: Might want to put it on the agenda so that people know that it's something that we're welcoming comments on.

Cindy: I understand where Susan is coming from, but if you put it on the agenda then you need to be sure that there are people there who can answer questions and give facts from different agencies, service providers, etc. Otherwise it's just us listening.

Susan: It's more of an open forum so the electeds are there and can hear it.

Ken: This is the biggest issue that has come before our community in a number of years; it seems amazing that we haven't taken a position on it. We've taken positions on many other controversial issues. If we had taken a position, the Mayor might not have felt emboldened to do what he did last week.

Howard: There's more to it than just getting information. People in the community may want to advocate that the CB take a position on it. There are all sorts of motivations for people attending a meeting.

Elizabeth: Howard, I agree with what you're saying. But we have a responsibility as a Board to be a convener. There are plenty of groups taking an activist approach. We've hosted numerous meetings and hours of conversations. I would like for our Board to be a source of knowledge and resources but not to weigh in on an activist side.

Statement from Jay:

Despite the fact that we often have disagreements on a whole host of issues, I sincerely want to speak to you all because notwithstanding disagreements, all of us as volunteers on the Board always have the best of intentions. I've been a city resident for all my life. Our city is in a dangerous decline. Lived through financial crisis of the 70s when much of the UWS was unsafe. Through those years a lot of families with young children were fleeing the city. Also been here while the neighborhood recovered. Lately, I've become concerned and anxious. Our government and representatives have become tone deaf to the needs and concerns of a substantial number of our neighbors. District has always been concerned with inclusiveness and a willingness to help those needing help the most. Neighbors who express genuine concern and justifiably very angry at not having been involved in the process, have been greeted by derision, accusations of racism, and NIMBYism by our elected officials and some of our colleagues on the Board. This has also occurred with regard to other issues, for example the crusade to eliminate street parking where needs of car owners are ignored completely. Open streets were established with no input from residents of those streets. Scheduling of a fair on those open streets which are supposed to be peaceful commercial streets with no input from the residents and oddly with the sponsorship of CB7 with no public discussion that I'm aware of. People are again fleeing the city who have a choice to leave and will do so if the city continues on its present path. People pay some of the highest taxes in the country. Asking that we all consider the consequences of our actions and their effect on everyone in our community.

Mark: Borough Board is this coming Thursday and two resolutions that I got today. One has to do with Mayoral Advisory Boards and no members of any Manhattan CB on any of them. I am going to vote in favor of a request that the Mayor include CB reps on his reopening committees. Second has to do with a proposal relating to Central Park - involves the Central Park jogger case and five young men who were wrongfully convicted and were later exonerated. CB10 has asked to have some kind of commemoration or acknowledgement of "The Exonerated Five" in Central Park. Vote on Thursday will be to encourage the creation of such a thing.

Klari: We live in a time when everyone is falling all over themselves to be what they perceive to be politically correct and certainly that is an explanation for this. It was an important event and a severe miscarriage of justice. Central Park is a scenic landmark and was built to be a place of repose. Suffragette statue was an exception - not appropriate to keep adding elements to Central Park that are not part of its natural landscape. The devil is in the details. Just think we need to be really careful about inviting anything other than landscaping into Central Park. It's a slippery slope.

Mark: Concept of acknowledgment in CP is not new - what's new is BP putting it on the agenda for this week. CB10 had a webinar where they explained what they had in mind and it was attended by one of the Exonerated Five. No specific proposal about what this should look like. There is a plaque in CP that acknowledges the location of Seneca Village. The slippery slope is something we can revisit and we will have plenty of opportunities to weigh in about appropriate ways to acknowledge this. In this moment and the way that the media is having a field day with the UWS, my voting against the concept of this might be something that fuels a fire that we don't need to fan right now.

Roberta: The Seneca Village was African American. Having something for the Exonerated Five is absolutely beautiful and very important. It's a message that we care about people deeply, that we've made mistakes, and we apologize for our mistakes.

Howard: This is a resolution just to explore the possibility of this?

Mark: A little more than that - we should go forward with something but doesn't say what that is.

Howard: Not set in stone that it would be a hardscape monument.

Christian: Knee-jerk reaction to this is that what happened might not raise to the level that requires something in CP. But the bigger context with bias in the system, etc I think this is something worth pursuing.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

BUSINESS & CONSUMER ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Linda Alexander and Christian Cordova, Co-Chairpersons

September 9, 2020

Business & Consumer Issues Committee of Community Board 7/Manhattan met via the Videoconferencing application Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Co-Chairperson Christian Cordova.

Present: Linda Alexander, Christian Cordova, Barbara Adler, Joshua Cohen, Madelyn Innocent, Doug Kleiman and Andrew Rigie. **Chair:** Mark Diller. **Non-Committee Members Present:** Louisa Craddock. **Absent:** Seema Reddy and Paul Fisher.

The following matters were discussed, including the following last-minute LLA application:

New applications to the SLA for Two Year Liquor Licenses:

1. **373 Amsterdam Avenue** (West 78th Street) **T. Chubinidze d/b/a To be Determined.**

Presenting for the Applicant: Tamara Chubinidze, owner – tamdat2@hotmail.com; Zahra Lucas – licensing@eahlaw.com (Elke A. Hofmann Law, PLLC)

CB7 Comments:

- Questions regarding live acoustic music on application. Applicant indicated that live music was not intended and erroneously added to the form. Applicant modified M.O.O to reflect recorded “background” music only.

After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted

Committee VOTE: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee VOTE: 1-0-1-0.

2. **225 Columbus Avenue** (West 70th Street) **225 Rest Corp d/b/a To be Determined.**

Presenting for the Applicant: Manuel Colon, owner – mcolon312@icloud.com; Donald M. Bernstein, Esq. – donald@brpclaw.com (Bernstein Redo PC)

CB7 Comments:

- Barbara Adler spoke in favor of the applicant, having a great reputation in the neighborhood for many years. Inquired about recorded music. Applicant responded that it will be low volume/ambient music only. Applicant lives upstairs.

NOTE: This is former Bistro Casis space. Applicant has requested a 30-day waiver so they may open as soon as possible, as this is a fully built out restaurant. The committee had no objection.

After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted

Committee VOTE: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee VOTE: 1-0-0-0.

3. **201 West 106th Street** (Amsterdam Avenue) **Luke Guy LLC, d/b/a Calaveras Corner.**

Presenting for the Applicant: Victor Martine, owner – victor@thecalaverasnyc.com; Kimberly A. Summers, Esq. – Kimberly@DS-LawOffices.com (DIPASQUALE & SUMMERS, LLP)

Public Comments:

- Peter Arndtsen of Columbus/Amsterdam Avenue BID, spoke in favor of applicant.

After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted

Committee VOTE: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee VOTE: 1-0-0-0.

4. **2 West 69th Street** (Central Park West) **APQ Mineral Springs LLC, d/b/a La Pain Quotidien.**
Presenting for the Applicant: Mario Vasquez (mario.vasquez@lapainquotidien.us), District manager of LaPain Quotidien.

NOTE: This application is for the LPQ location within Central Park, in the Mineral Springs area, which is closest to the west 69th street entrance of Central Park, and is north of the Sheep Meadow. Aurify Brands has acquired LPQ.

The application is for Beer and Wine only.

Public Comments:

- Eleanor Selling from the public spoke in favor of the application.

After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted

Committee VOTE: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee VOTE: 1-0-0-0.

Alteration and Class Change Application of Liquor License:

5. **15 West End Avenue** (West 60th Street) **Ivory & White Markets d/b/a Morton Williams.**
Presenting for the Applicant: Abraham Avi Kaner, – avikaner@mortonwilliams.com; Max Bookman, Esq. – max@pb.law (Pesetsky and Bookman P.C.)
- The applicant is reducing the boundary of the premises and is required to submit a formal application, they are also upgrading from Beer and Wine to Full Liquor license

After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted

Committee VOTE: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee VOTE: 1-0-0-0.

Alteration Liquor License:

6. **2450 Broadway** (West 90th Street) **Carmine's Broadway Feast Inc d/b/a Carmine's. Alteration License to include next door space to widen the lobby area for take-out and delivery.**
Presenting for the Applicant: Jeffrey Bank, owner – JBank@alicart.com; Max Bookman, Esq. – max@pb.law (Pesetsky and Bookman P.C.)

After due deliberation the resolution to **approve** was adopted

Committee VOTE: 7-0-0-0. Non-Committee VOTE: 1-0-0-0.

7. New business:

- Discussion about delivery bikes and related safety issues, including third party delivery companies vs. delivery personnel employed by restaurants. Possibility of an upcoming joint meeting with Transportation Committee.
- Discussion of the phased in re-opening of indoor dining, including air-filtration systems, extension of outdoor dining, heat lamps, enclosed cafes, consumer confidence, etc.
- Also discussed were the persistent reckless non-registered motorcyclists and ATVs throughout the neighborhood

The meeting ended at 7:54 pm.

Parks & Environment Committee Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2020

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

Non-Committee Members Present: Mark Diller (“MD”), board chair. Barbara Adler (“BA”), Linda Alexander (“LA”), Robert Espier (RE), Doug Kleiman

(All participants took part in the meeting virtually, using the Zoom platform. The meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q15Ef-xjCT8>)

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by co-chair Klari Neuwelt.

Prior to the discussion of the first item of business, EC announced she will be stepping down as co-chair of the committee due to her candidacy for Manhattan Borough President.

MD announced that committee member Cindy Cardinal has resigned from Community Board 7 because she has taken a job as Chief of Staff for Council Member Helen Rosenthal.

1. Bull Moose Dog Run, Theodore Roosevelt Park.

1a. Update on results of the recent dog run renovation.

The Bull Moose Dog Run, located in Theodore Roosevelt Park just north of the Museum of Natural History facing West 81st Street, reopened in July 2020 following a \$684,000 renovation by the Department of Parks and Recreation that took nearly a year to complete. Elaine Boxer, a volunteer with the Bull Moose Dog Run Association, told the committee she has received complaints from dog owners that the surface material that DPR used for the run is irritating some dogs’ paws. She said there have been reports of swollen, red, bleeding, and blistered paws. Boxer reported that Steve Simon, DPR’s Manhattan Chief of Staff, informed her that the surface material that DPR formerly used at the dog run and specified— known as pea gravel -- was unavailable and could not be sourced from a DPR vendor. The agency substituted material called rice gravel, which it tested for drainage and installed. Boxer said that the new material is smaller than pea gravel with sharper edges and may not be suitable for dog paws. She also believes that the gravel is piled too deeply. In one case, a dog sprained his ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) from running on the loose surface. In another case, a dog strained a muscle and was limping for a week.

RE: Pea gravel is commercially available by the ton.

Beyond the surface material, Boxer noted two additional problems with the renovated run: too few benches and a difficult-to-open lockbox where tools for the dog run are stored. She also noted that some dog owners are allowing their pets to use the grassy area next to the run, against park rules.

Committee, board member and community questions:

KN: Could a new surface material be placed on top of the current one, obviating the need to scrape off the current one and cart it out? Boxer: Doesn’t think so.

KC: Any idea what percentage of dogs are being affected by the new surface material. Boxer: Doesn’t know. There are about 800 members.

NK: Does she know why the small dog run isn’t being used more? Boxer: Doesn’t know.

NK: Why did the dog run flood so quickly after a renovation that was supposed to address drainage problems?

KN says she recalls that a worker turned on a valve by mistake.

KN asked Matt Genrich, a District Park Manager whose territory includes Theodore Roosevelt Park, to weigh in.

Genrich said that DPR is aware of the complaints about the dog run’s surface material and is looking into it. Unfortunately, he would not have an answer for this meeting. The same goes for the lack of benches.

Regarding the tool box, Genrich said he would follow up with the contractor and that it should be taken care of soon.

Genrich confirmed that the flooding soon after opening was the result of a valve that was accidentally turned on. Regarding the use of the adjacent lawn, he said that if Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) officers or other DPR employees see people using the closed lawns, they will ask them to leave. He said it's a matter of reeducating people.

KN: Do PEP officers ever issue summonses? Genrich said he has asked PEP to do spot checks but he doesn't know whether any tickets have been issued. He said that PEP prefers to start with education rather than summonses.

Boxer suggested to Genrich that it might help if DPR closed an opening in the fence at the south end of the lawn. She also suggested a sign asking dog owners to use the run rather than the lawn.

Genrich replied that there is a sign at the entrance gate indicating that the lawn is closed.

LA: Suggests enforcement of the lawn rules by dog run users.

BA: Said that at the least the small dog area part of the run should be fixed.

SS: Advocates enforcement and summonses of people using the lawns, as opposed to education.

Erica Overton, Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal Deputy Chief of Staff: they will try to help with this.

Peter Arndtsen, Columbus-Amsterdam BID: Notes that at the Morningside Dog Run, dog owners used to get surface material from DPR and spread it themselves.

Peter Wright, President, Friends of Roosevelt Park: Says there will never be PEPs at the run – there are too many other places in the district they need to be. He also said if you close a fence, people will simply open it back up. He said that until the surface problem is resolved, dogs will be on the lawn. He also said that brownstone chips, one alternative surface material, is not as sanitary as pea gravel.

Daniel Atha, Upper West Side Naturalist Group: Said that DPR should consider the ecology of a site when building something like a dog run. The current site was dark and swampy from before the Museum was first built and is not the ideal place for something like a dog run. Don't reengineer nature, he advised.

KN: Said she doesn't feel comfortable asking DPR to put more money into a different surface after all that has already been spent, given that CB7's existing resolution on this dog run supported the project but urged that public money for it be limited, and also given that much more public money was actually spent on it than had then been projected. She asked Genrich to return to the committee and update us on a resolution to the problem.

Peter Wright: All three other dog runs that FORP looked at were built with private funds.

1b. Discussion with Friends of Theodore Roosevelt Park about proposed sound-deadening landscaping.

Board member Barbara Adler presented a proposal by Friends of Roosevelt Park (FORP) to plant a row of evergreen trees in front the fence that is in front of the brick garage wall directly behind the dog run as a way to absorb some of the sound of barking, which she said residents of 81st Street have complained of since the dog run's opening. She stressed that her presentation was informational only and that FORP is not seeking committee action at this time. The proposed trees are emerald green arborvitae, which do not grow higher than 12 to 14 feet. Adler said that FORP has raised funds to pay for the trees.

Adler also noted that FORP wanted to turn a barren rectangular area next to the dog run into a bioswale similar to the one that the Columbus Avenue Business Improvement District created at Columbus Avenue and 78th Street when she was its president. FORP's idea was to use boxwoods in the bioswale, but that unfortunately DPR very recently planted something else in this area, perhaps by mistake, as confirmed by Matt Genrich.

Committee, board member and community questions:

KN: Will the trees be sitting in pits that will intrude on the dog run? BA: No pits. The trees would be right up against the back fence of the run.

NK: Are these trees proven to mitigate sound? BA: This type of tree is used for sound mitigation.

Elaine Boxer: Expressed the fear that dog urine will damage the trees. BA: We discussed this; it won't be a problem.

Zachary Campbell, community liaison at the Museum: Wants to make sure that the plantings are far enough from the wall and foundations of the garage, that access to the “rat highway” (an area next to the museum’s north wall where rats are baited) is maintained, and that the trees do not interfere with museum security’s line of sight.

Daniel Atha: Arborvitae is a fantastic choice for that location. But he doesn’t recommend boxwood for the proposed bioswale area. Boxwoods are intolerant of ammonia, which dog urine contains; are delicate plants; and don’t fare well in swampy areas. He instead recommends wax myrtle or juniper.

2. Discussion of impact of Covid-19 on P&E issues and initiatives. Discussion of District Needs Statement.

KN said that the budget priorities section of the District Needs Statement is the most important part for the committee. Unfortunately, this section can’t be discussed yet because we haven’t been able to arrange a meeting with DPR to review priorities. KN suggested that in the meantime the committee identify areas within our purview that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. She gave the projected budget cuts for parks as just one example. Although the outlook changes almost every day and we don’t yet know the budgetary impact on capital projects, she said the cuts to the expense side of the ledger in parks and sanitation spending have already been devastating.

KN cited other impacts of COVID of particular relevance to our committee:

- More private cars on streets and resulting pollution
- Greater use of electric vehicles, including Revel and other motorbikes, operating illegally in parks and on pedestrian or shared paths
- The perception of crowding in the parks, with the need to socially distance and some park users not wearing masks
- The City’s pull-back from its collection of compostable material
- Less frequent trash pickup and a resulting increase in rats
- Delay in the implementation of the NYS plastic bag ban, though other factors have also affected that, and food stores not permitting customers to use their washable bags

Committee and community members cited other impacts:

NK: Recycling of electronic waste halted

KC: The dramatic increase in cycling, the timing of which unfortunately coincides with two problems on our section of the Hudson greenway: the substandard bypass of the waterfront path and the dangerous construction pinch-point just north of 59th Street.

Peter Arndtsen: The residential pick-up of organic, non-compostable materials, such meat and waste paper that has been contaminated by food, has been suspended and he’d like to see that come back. He said this is key to controlling rats and he is pushing for the return of organics collection.

Arndtsen also supports a gas tax to help fund the MTA, and he expressed support of regular volunteers to help with trees in our parks – so-called “tree stewarding,” such as spreading mulch and weeding. It would be great if this could spread to other parks in the city, he said.

KN noted that the collection of compostable food scraps has resumed at the 97th Street greenmarket (Friday mornings).

EC asked that we make sure that concerns about electric vehicles be part of the DNS because people need to be kept safe.

Discussion of trash cleanup in parks.

Committee member Natasha Kazmi updated the committee on the status of volunteer coordination with DPR and the Riverside Park Conservancy to help with trash pickup in our parks.

The Community Board received complaints about Riverside Park looking trash-ridden and neglected. KN put NK in touch with Kristen Meade, the volunteer coordinator at the RSP Conservancy. Meade said that while park usage has increased, the DPR budget has been slashed, perhaps by as much as \$84 million. The seasonal workforce has been cut by 45 percent and no overtime is being approved, at least at the Conservancy. This explains why the park was in the state that it was.

The need for social distancing means that the Conservancy can't use volunteers as it did in the past. At the same time, DPR is responsible for trash collection. "Bin flipping" has been cut from three times a day to two or even one time a day, resulting in overflowing trash cans. In response, initially the Conservancy planned public outreach to get people to come to the park three times a week, pick up gloves and bags, collect trash around the park and place it next to the containers. However, officials have moved away from that approach. The new plan is to still use citizen volunteers, but the volunteers will use their own gloves and trash bags and do their own collection and leave the bags next to receptacles in the park. Meade said this would make a huge difference. Already, Meade said, there has been an outpouring of volunteers collecting trash. The Conservancy is beginning to organize groups of 10 to 15 volunteers to help with park cleanup, for which it charges about \$100 per group. There is a lot of demand and groups are booked up for the next couple of weeks, particularly on the weekends. Meade told NK that Greenkeepers from Goddard-Riverside will help with park cleanup, but this costs a lot so the Conservancy is looking for donations. Other organizations, such as Repair the World, will probably start working with the Conservancy soon.

NK asked Meade what CB7 can do to help. She said that in addition to spreading the word about volunteering and the need for donations, it would be helpful to educate people to take their trash out of the park with them, although there is not yet signage to this effect. Meade noted that the worst section for trash is out of our district -- the area between 120th to 150th streets, where people barbecue.

Geoff Martin, DPR Manager for Riverside Park: Said that all seasonal positions in the parks have been cut. Said it's a challenge to keep Riverside Park in shape. The park is fortunate to have the good neighbors of the Upper West Side as partners to help keep the park clean. He asked for patience.

Budget cuts to the Department of Sanitation have meant trash piling up on Upper West Side's streets as well. The committee heard from community resident Jake Russell who has formed a volunteer program called OneBlockUWS to keep the district clean on a block-by-block basis. Groups of volunteers take responsibility for different blocks, with the goal of eliminating overflowing street trash. The non-profit group is funded by donations. Volunteers now number in the hundreds. Russell can be reached at OneBlockUWS@gmail.com and there is a Facebook group.

Committee members praised Russell's and others' efforts, although KN lamented that while we are grateful that Russell and others have stepped in to address a need, they are doing work that is a municipal responsibility.

Updates on Committee Business

KN: Announced that work on the long-delayed "Brewer money" project in Riverside Park near 72nd Street has begun. A major goal of the project is to completely separate cyclists from pedestrians until cyclists reach the waterfront

KN also said that we have been told that Phase 5 of Riverside Park South will open September 30th, minus the planned comfort station and concession stand, which were never bid, but adding a dog run, a playground and a dedicated bike ramp connecting Riverside Boulevard and the Hudson greenway path.

KC: Announced that the Cherry Walk is scheduled to shut down for several weeks on September 28 to fix shore damage from Hurricane Sandy, to be paid for by FEMA funds. He said that reportedly the work will not also involve repaving the increasingly dangerous Cherry Walk itself, which will have to wait for City funding to be secured. [UPDATE: Construction work on the Cherry Walk has been postponed indefinitely due to subcontracting difficulties.]

KC: Noted that compost is now being collected outside the West Side Community Garden on 90th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam on Sundays from 12 to 1 pm. Details:

<https://www.westsidecommunitygarden.org/2020/09/17/compost-drop-off/>

EC: Asked whether RSP's playing fields are now open. Geoff Martin: The ballfields are open to the general public and permits for youth leagues were recently issued. The West Side Little League will be starting soon. Martin said that there are also outdoor learning spaces in the park, mostly on the lawns. Users are not allowed to store anything in the park. He thinks a Montessori school and a Jewish school have permits, although the permit list is being constantly updated.

KN: Thanks to Geoff Martin and Matt Genrich for joining us each month. It is part of their job responsibilities, but we really appreciate their input.

KN: We are trying to get an update on the 79th Street Rotunda reconstruction project.

SS: Asked for update on the Lasker pool/rink renovation in Central Paark. KN and MD have not heard anything new. KN said this season was the last for the concession. MD said construction will start in the spring, at the earliest.

SS noted that water fountains on the south side of the reservoir in Central Park aren't working. MD asked her to send him an email and he'll follow up with the Central Park Conservancy.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of HHS Committee meeting of September 22, 2020, 7:03 p.m.

Present: Co-chairs: Catherine DeLazzero, Sheldon Fine. Committee: Rosa Arena Robert Espier, Audrey Isaacs, Courtney Clark Metakis, Madge Rosenberg

Guest: Aggie Tang, MPA from NYU in Health Policy, Strategy Team Summit-City M.D., Policy & Research Intern at the Commonwealth Fund

I. District Needs Statement

Sheldon Fine reviewed the agenda and explained the meeting process for the evening as follows: The committee members' reports and the committee discussion will take place for the first hour and a half. Then there will be New Business starting with committee members and then it will be open to non-committee board members and community members.

Catherine DeLazzero conducted the discussion.

The mission of HHS: :The HHS Committee evaluates and advocates for quality, location, availability and appropriateness of public and private services to special needs populations in the community including the homeless, children, elderly, mentally ill, abused, person with AIDS, the disabled and addicted.

The purpose of the DNS is to provide an informational (fact-based) document that describes the HHS needs in our community, especially for special needs and vulnerable populations. We are updating sections from last years DNS as well as adding new sections.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Universal access to schools and public space
- Madge - no subways scheduled for renovation in 2020
- Audrey -Call Brian Benjamin about which stations are being renovated
- Shelly - 106 ST between Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues. The Red Oak Senior Center & Jewish Home Adult Day programs - involve hundreds of seniors, most are mobility-challenged and go back and forth, using both programs. We have requested a mid=block crosswalk - due to the extraordinary length of the block and the dangerous nature of the terrain.
- Courtney - when streets repaired, curb is repaired
- Shelly - BP's office takes care of curb cuts. Madge will follow up.

AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

- Rosa - food box came with food she doesn't usually buy
- Madge- healthy food
- Shelly says prepared meals, grab and go programs 70,000 meals have been distributed (ncludes breakfast & lunch) at P.S. 75, on 96th Sreet. The morning program, ends Friday and will be offered moving forward from 3 - 5 pm .
There have been deliveries daily by volunteers to over 150 seniors..

HEALTH CARE, MEDICAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS

Aggie Tang

- Numbers need updating
- Telehealth service from Health & Hospitals
- Highest numbers of deaths
- There are only two government testing sites in the district. But there are many private testing facilities that are not guaranteed to be free - based on insurance.

- Courtney - early tests may be billed DFS - file for appeal
Courtney and Aggie will work together

- Nursing homes that serve our area (Jewish home & Amsterdam Houses) had costs greater than reimbursement. Over 2 or 3 years JH and AH may not be able to survive. We need to advocate for a change in the reimbursement formula.

- People need help enrolling in public benefits - Mt. Sinai and several CBOs including Goddard and WSCAH have offices to help with benefits.

- DOE - nursing staff - nurse in every school, many protocols We should continue nurse in every school after pandemic. Only nurse can give medication. Needed in every school.

- Robert - School nurses are critical. Cadre of itinerant nurses are needed to visit homes.

- Audrey - school system is broken. Time of greatest need and least money.

- Shelly: Vision screening for amblyopia evaluates how the brain works with eye. Can need lifetime care. This is especially applied to children with developmental disabilities and premies. Must be done early, when a baby; of by age 6 or else it is harder to correct when older. Of children tested 6.8% have it. But a small part of the population is screened. This condition can lead to partial blindness. Glasses don't correct this. Training and exercises can help young children. We should get data and advocate for pilot for schools in our district.

Catherine - get doctors who can follow up. A

Shelly shared a story that a child with the disease was dressing up as a pirate for Halloween said to his father,; "Put it over my other eye, not the I see through."

VAPING - reaching out to anti-vaping organizations to see what is happening

RECREATION, HEALTH AND EXERCISE - on line classes - Rosa: helped by on line classes but not everyone has computer - will need in cold weather

DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE Rosa - we need statistics on depression

RACIAL LAND HEALTH DISPARITIES.

- Rosa: Accessibility, accountability, death rates, discrimination. Trust (Catherine)
- Aggie: numbers, demographics & movement through district and map out care.
- How have essential workers been affected.
- Shelly - numbers of deaths in NYCHA from COVID?
- Mark: Sen. Espaillat had discussions about disparate outcomes in healthcare. It was there all along but brought out by COVID.

HOMELESSNESS AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING. (Courtney)

- Numbers experiencing homelessness, section 8 voucher info.
- Courtney: reached out but no response from DHS
- 80% increase in homeless issues calls from 311
- Resources needed e.g. increase in 311 homeless street conditions, encampments
- Drains: more ambulances, cops,
- Increased unemp. and evictions expected
- Audrey - should get care
- Shelly - Goddard does outreach for borough 3 x usual numbers of homeless. They are overwhelmed.
- Catherine: private donations. What's happening & what is needed at Goddard?
Shelly
- Supportive housing can help. We need numbers. Project Find. WSFSSH expects 20% cuts in services. Includes Red Oak and Douglass Sr. Center.
- Collegiate money (Mark: still \$14 million left for low income or supportive housing)
- Catherine (gender equity in shelters, need update) More Transparency and community input in relation to women's shelter that was changed to male shelter.
- Courtney: Transparency in opening shelters.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Catherine: rats on the rise - what is city doing

SENIORS

Robert will work on it - Rosa will help on end of life issues.

Rosa - difficulties of dealing with nursing homes, care, for elderly ill mother.

EXPLORE ADDICTION

Chair of state on addiction is Linda Rosenthal

CHILD VICTIMS ACT

Abuse

Need to identify 3 budget priorities out of DNS.

Catherine: Work on DNS informs our work through the year. We should share our findings with city agencies.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Courtney** : resolution about transparency from DHS. Astronomic costs, band aid on problem of homelessness. Nobody knew shelter was coming: BIDs, CB, Police, Elected Officials, Sanitation. Board has addressed this several times including moving the women's shelter. Lack of transparency creates turbulence. We need parameters on how to do this in a more open manner. Improve the process. Other CBs including CB5 asked for clear and transparent plans with input from community stakeholders.
- Shelly : Planning, is necessary, social and security services must be appropriate and the numbers of people moving in must be reasonable. The process that took place was flawed and damaging.
- Robert : underpinning of planning is transparency. We have to find a platform for getting involved and need transparency to help people get back on their feet. This is not local, it is citywide. How do we get city to work with us?
- Megan Martin - Where are vulnerable populations in the budget? Relocation from Hell's Kitchen did not allow communication from other Community Board to us or from Corey Johnson to Helen. There was no forewarning.
- Stanley Gorodevsky : Look at the problems in our community: increase of crime, car windows broken. -
- Mark Diller: There is a perception of increased crime. Call 311 or 911 so that there will be statistics to go to support more police. Major crime has not increased, say the police. Allocation of resources is based on data. Report what you see.
- Melissa Thaler: quality of info in community is demonstrably false. Transfer to Lucerne was not an emergency. That was a falsehood. We are entitled to the truth. No increase in crime in district 7 Linda Rosenthal says is not true. There is difficulty in reporting crime and mentally unstable behavior. Police do not make a report if someone walks out of a store with stolen goods.
- Ms. Danzilo: I echo previous speakers and appreciate Courtney's & Robert's comments.
- Transparency: Contracts, accountability for services, are services working? Why did Goddard need to raise \$200,000. Why is there not enough food. Lobbyists are calling

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us names. She is happy to share letter to Helen Rosenthal. People running for mayor come in, not from neighborhood.

- Jackie Moffatt: I am one of 15,000 people on a Facebook page. Crime is up 431% from last August. Your deflecting from safety and crime is insulting to group. Helen

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Rosenthal says there was crime and it is gone. It is not gone. We are appealing to you. Our district if 9 of 59 communities in the number of shelters. Eric Rosenbaum says they do not have services. Disservice to the men and the community. I feel unheard as do many other people. The crime is an issue. It must be addressed.

- Sarah Gribetz: I am a long time UWSer. I have never been assaulted or raped. I care about homelessness. I will not sign the petition. There are no masks in Rockaway. Mayor says do not enforce the law. I was held up by two thugs and the cops wouldn't make an arrest or make a report.

- Amanda: We are in middle of mental health crisis. Addiction and mental health are so high. Ask people in the hotel what is going on. What services are they given? Community must help each other. Imagine what it is like to be addicted and moved three times and be in community where they are not wanted.
- Timothy Burk: Difficult time for homeless. Keep helping the people.
- Olivia Kilingsworth: If you are struggling with mental illness, being stigmatized and homeless doesn't help. We should welcome them rather than trying to push them out.
- Ken A. : I welcome the shelter with open arms. To try to push people out is not helpful. Let's get facts right.
- Shelly: The issue of transparency is important. What are agencies planning and what services will be in place? Lucerne residents were not in congregate shelters, they were in another hotel. We should bring transparency into all aspects of the DNS. DHS has same problems for 40 years. Relate this back to DNS.
- Doug Kleiman We are all committed to transparency. Need to get to the truth. As Courtney said, all stakeholders need to know. No one should doubt CB is getting at the facts and healing.

Catherine: Thanks everyone for your contributions to DNS. It's important to remember that the purpose of our DNS is to describe the health and human services needs for people who have special needs and are especially vulnerable in our community, especially in this time of crisis, and we work with city agencies, including DHS, as partners in a city system. We should be respectful of the work agencies are doing and seek open communication and dialogue. To be clear, we addressed the issue of transparency in last year's DNS because we were concerned about the displacement of women in the 107th St. shelter. Thank you everyone for your engagement and we want to hear from you.

Mark: This is what we do. Listen to the community.