

MINUTES FROM THE MONTHLY MEETING OF
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD # 1
HELD
JANUARY 27, 2009
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
199 CHAMBERS STREET, RICHARD HARRIS TERRACE

The Chairperson, Julie Menin, called the meeting to order.

Public Session

Kaziem Woodbury - Downtown Alliance

- The DA is launching an expansion of its Jitney service in February—Route: East to West; Battery Park City to City Hall via Warren and Murray Streets. For more information, please go to: www.downtownny.com.

Greg Kirschenbaum – Office of Borough President Scott Stringer

- The Port Authority has agreed to make building inspections public by posting the results online at: www.wtcprogress.com.
- Borough President Scott Stringer testified January 14th at the MTA public hearing against the proposed Access-A-Ride fare hike and other fare increases and service reductions.
- Released a 9-point safety plan (posted on the website) to address traffic safety issues in Chinatown following the accident there in which a van backed into and killed two young children.

Erin Drinkwater - Office of U.S. Representative Jerrold Nadler

- Rep. Nadler is happy to see that President Obama intends to close the Guantanamo Bay Prison
- The mobile postal units are not coming back, but the Post Office is looking into retail locations to sell stamps at face value.
- Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, held a hearing on H.R. 157, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights of 2009. Rep. Nadler believes it is ‘senseless that 588,000 Americans living in the heart of our capital do not have regular Congressional representation. It is a great injustice.’
- On January 22, 2009, Rep. Nadler (NY-08) was officially selected by his colleagues to resume his Chairmanship of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.
- Rep. Nadler is continuing to work with Congresswoman Maloney on the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. Negotiations continue and the bill should be introduced in the coming weeks.
- Rep. Nadler is pushing for a larger and more far-reaching stimulus package. He has been leading the effort among his House colleagues to expand the recovery plan.

John Ricker, (Office of NYC Comptroller William C. Thompson)

- Monthly Update projects the City's budget gap will be as much as \$1.9 billion in FY 2009, could drop to \$1.5 billion for FY 2010, and may balloon as high as \$5 billion by FY 2011: www.comptroller.nyc.gov.
- The Comptroller has issued a plan to address the MTA's finance problems that will generate funds for the MTA in other ways than by imposing the burden on riders and tax-paying citizens.

Jean Grillo – Public Member CB 1

- Thanked the Tribeca Committee and CB 1 regarding the City Hall Restaurant's request for a sidewalk café. The current artists residing at 131 Duane Street are fighting their evictions, which they claim are based on a phony demolition plan.

Audrey Harkins - Little New Amsterdam Library

- Seeking volunteers to assist with shelving of books and other related tasks at 9 Murray Street.

Molly Bidol (Assembly Member Glick's Office)

- Testified at the MTA Public Hearing against the increases and service cuts.
- In June 2009, the state law that allows for mayoral control of New York City schools will sunset. Rep. Glick wants to hear from constituents as to whether mayoral control should be extended or changed. Call her office to participate in online survey: 212-674-5153
- Testimony on request for funds for new Yankee Stadium is attached to the CB report.
- To cut down on printing costs, tax forms can now be downloaded from: www.NYSTax.gov. Many of the libraries will also download the tax forms to allow the public to get them.

Paul Goldstein (Office of Speaker Sheldon Silver)

- On January 15th, Speaker Silver will host an open house for parents and anyone else who is interested in the 2 new schools opening in September. DOE will be present and all are invited to attend for more information regarding P.S. 276 and the Spruce Street School. Speaker Silver will introduce our two new Principals to the members of his School Overcrowding Task Force. Terry Ruyter will serve at P.S. 276 in Battery Park City and Nancy Harris will serve at the Spruce Street/Beekman School.
- Also on Thursday, January 29th, at 10:00 A.M., 250 Broadway, 19th Floor, Assemblyman Silver will convene an Assembly Hearing to receive progress reports from many of the agencies and organizations involved in rebuilding the WTC site and Lower Manhattan. Speakers will include Chris Ward, Executive Director of the Port Authority, Larry Silverstein of Silverstein Properties, Lee Sander, Executive Director of the MTA, Avi Schick, Chairman of LMDC, Julie Menin and other key people involved with the rebuilding efforts.
- On January 11th, Assemblyman Silver hosted a college fair with the City University of New York (CUNY) that attracted more than 400 undergraduates and graduate-program-bound students and parents. CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, who also attended this fair along with the CUNY staff, presented Silver with the CUNY

Educational Leadership award, citing his longstanding support for quality public higher education and exemplary leadership.

- Assemblyman Silver continues to fight for stronger rent laws to keep our homes affordable by demanding that rent laws be fixed “once and for all!”
- Pat Moore and her neighbors will finally get the sound abatement windows they’ve so long awaited.

Jenu Brar (D.A. Robert M. Morgenthau, Office)

- Invites Junior High and High School students to apply for the 2009 summer internship program. Students must reside in Manhattan and be between the ages of 14-17 years old. A stipend of \$600.00 will be earned. The deadline to apply for this June-August internship is March 29, 2009. Resumes and essays should be forwarded to:

Community Affairs
New York County District Attorney’s Office
Attention: Ms. Carol Ragsdale
One Hogan Place, Room 824
New York, NY 10013
Telephone: 1-212-335-9082

Dr. Carole Patterson – St. Vincent’s Trauma and Wellness Center

- The center has relocated to 170 Broadway, between Maiden Lane and Liberty St. This larger facility has expanded its role in addressing a variety of the health issues of families who were affected by 9/11.
- Provides mental as well as other health services for children and adults.
- The 9/11 Benefit Fund takes care of the expenditures.

Senator Daniel Squadron (upon his return from Albany)

- Thanked all who attended Sunday’s swearing-in event.
- Contact office with suggestions regarding involvement with our community board and its major issues.
- Serves on the following committees: Educational, Temporary Committee for Change, Transportation, Housing and Public Authorities.
- Housing issues will be examined carefully and thoroughly as he wishes to preserve as many affordable rental units as possible. There needs to be real housing diversity in communities.
- Report to him any problems we may have with any of the public authorities.
- Next month, Senate will be in session 4 days a week; therefore he’ll more than likely not attend our February meeting.
- The tragedy that occurred in Chinatown last week is unacceptable and measures must be taken to improve pedestrian safety.
- Problems regarding redevelopment of the WTC should be reported to office immediately. There will be zero tolerance regarding to health/safety issues here.

Business Session

Adoption of Minutes BOARD VOTE: Unanimous

Chairperson's Report - J. Menin

- Congratulated Speaker Silver on his on-going efforts.
- Congratulated Ann DeFalco, recipient of the Pace University Jefferson Award for sustained service.
- Thanked Pat Moore for her hard work organizing the holiday party.
- Very concerned about food allergies and how they affect our children, community and others as well. Her children are very sensitive to certain foods and she is active in the food allergy area. On Thursday, at 10:00 A.M. there will be a hearing at City Hall addressing this issue. As a concerned mother whose son almost died from a food allergy, fighting food allergies is very important to her. There are 300,000 New Yorkers who suffer from food allergies.
- Particularly concerned about Charter Revisions. There are rumors stating that the ULURP policy will be taken away from community boards. The board must remain vigilant regarding this and stay focused on it.

District Manager's Report - N. Pfefferblit

- Gave a brief update about proposed budget cuts.
- Helicopters were addressed at a task force meeting that he attended along with Pat Moore. Council Member Brewer chaired the meeting and additional meetings will be scheduled.
- Introduced our new intern, Helaina Hovitz, daughter of Paul Hovitz, who will assist with the CB 1 Newsletter.
- In light of becoming more eco-friendly and green as well as to save money, we will no longer distribute paper minutes, but deliver them via email.
- Michael Levine is taking the lead on an initiative for CB1 to head up a task force addressing issues in Chinatown, which comprises several blocks in CD#1.
- We've been giving testimony at numerous public hearings at City Hall and throughout the City. Catherine McVay Hughes has been helpful in fine-tuning our testimonies to include all the needed points. Copies of the testimonies are available in the office.

Treasurer's Report - J. Kopel

Our payroll is status quo until the City advises us differently. There is an expected payment due from "Friends."

NOTE: IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE A COPY OF A RESOLUTION SUMMARIZED IN THE MINUTES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CB 1 OFFICE AT 212 442-5050

Committee Reports

Tribeca Committee - C. DeSaram

177 Franklin Street, Glad Tidings Tabernacle Inc. – Report

The Church did not require a special permit to locate In Tribeca. But its use group would prohibit the approval of liquor licenses within 200 feet.

RE: 17 Hubert Street, CPC application for Special Permit pursuant to section 111-50 of the Zoning Resolution to permit loft dwelling use to be located on the first and second floors of an existing non-residential 5-story building – Resolution

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

RE: 105 Reade Street, application for liquor license for Sazon, Inc d/b/a Sazon – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: 165 Church Street, application for wine and beer license for Capri Caffe d/b/a Tiberio Palace – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: 189 Church Street, application for restaurant wine license for Yawata Sushi Inc. – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: 311 Church Street, application for liquor license for additional bar for Tangier, LLC. – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: 325 Church Street, application for liquor license for 325 Church Street Company LLC d/b/a Salugi's – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: 323 Greenwich Street, application for renewal of unenclosed sidewalk café for Gigino Inc., d/b/a Gigino Trattoria – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: 131 Duane Street, application for renewal of unenclosed sidewalk café for Radiante, LLC d/b/a City Hall Restaurant – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 22 In Favor 5 Opposed 4 Abstained 0 Recused

Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee - J. Galloway

RE: Citywide Zoning Text Amendment: Waterfront Text – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 1 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Changes to City Charter Section 197 City Uniform Land Use Review Process – Report

There will be a Charter Revision Commission that may propose changes that would affect our current procedures. However, as a community board, we should consider making suggestions ahead of the Commission's recommendations. We need to be very focused on this as it is an important process that will extend over a number of years. The committee needs volunteers to work on this project.

Charter Revision Task Force – Report

We need to maintain vigilance in participating in the planning of our neighborhoods. We don't want to reduce our role in city planning, we want to increase it.

Battery Park City Committee – L. Belfer

Presentation of Milstein safety plan for the 200 and 300 North End Avenue project – Report

The community objects to state DOT's plan for tearing up the park and the dog run for 18 months, just to rebuild it. Our task force proposes minimal alterations. The park project began with the former Governor and is associated with changes to be made to the promenade. State DOT is working with us. Next Wednesday, DOT will meet with us again. The funding exists for this project, but if we don't use it we'll lose the money because the funds cannot be transferred to another project.

Discussion about traffic problems at W. Thames and Battery Place – Report

Although Battery Place ends at W. Thames the traffic doesn't stop there. Drivers do not obey the stop sign at this intersection. The "safety barriers" at West St. and Joseph P. Ward St. are not functioning as safety barriers in-as-much-as the drivers ignore them. Conn MacAogain of NCYDOT listened to concerns and will take them back to DOT for analysis and possible solutions.

Discussion about bridge jurisdiction and security issues at the World Financial Center – Report

The oftentimes inoperable elevators on the Vesey Street pedestrian bridge are an

inconvenience and a nuisance and there is often inadequate signage advising the community of the broken elevator. The Committee is also concerned about the ability of wheelchair-bound people to exit from the World Financial Center in an emergency situation. There needs to be better planning for emergency situations.

A representative from the Milstein development company met with the committee recently. The ball field adjacent to the building under construction by Milstein is still a major concern. Precautions must be taken for windy conditions.

Issues reported on by Leticia Remauro, Vice President for Community Relations at the Battery Park City Authority - Report deferred to February meeting

Seaport/Civic Center Committee – J. Fratta

Bus Idling - Report

This ongoing problem is being addressed, but without much success yet.

RE: 243 Water Street, application for on premises liquor license for Spent Fire Foods, LLC d/b/a Tables Café – Resolution

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

RE: 89 South Street, 3d Floor, Pier 17, application for on premises liquor license for Charcoal Grill – Resolution

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

WTC Redevelopment Committee - M. Connolly

Port Authority – Update

Quarterly Update reviewed the Port's accomplishments over the past 3 months and forward plans for the next 3 months. The site perimeter, sidewalk sheds and other matters were also discussed. PA representatives reported on the Freedom Tower, Memorial, and other major components of the site and quality of life issues.

Quality of Life Committee – P. Moore

Update on Construction Projects in Lower Manhattan

Bruce Ehrmann attended the meeting to provide an update on the numerous projects that have torn streets up in the area near his residence. The LMCCC agreed to follow up.

RE: Opposition to bus and train cutbacks proposed by the MTA – Resolution

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

RE: City Council Intro 899, which addresses the use of bio-diesel and ultra low sulfur diesel fuel in generators used for street fairs – Resolution

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

RE: FDNY cuts to Lower Manhattan – Resolution

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

Youth & Education Committee - R. Skinner

Downtown Community Center presentation – Report

Downtown Community Center representatives summarized the many programs and services provided by Manhattan Youth. They outlined a plethora of programs for our community as a whole (children’s, pre-teen and senior programs with the last two being free). They are working with the Speaker’s Office to try to provide after-school care. More information can be found at: www.ManhattanYouth.org.

Report on update from Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver’s School Overcrowding task force – Report

The Committee will meet with the principals for the two new schools planned for Lower Manhattan.

The Committee endorsed a request for a significant amount of funding in the federal stimulus package to be dedicated to education.

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

Landmarks Committee – B. Ehrmann

RE: 177 Franklin Street – LPC application for one story addition to existing six-story building – Resolution

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

RE: 150 Nassau Street, LPC application for approval of replacement and change in configuration of windows on 21st and 23rd floors – Resolution

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

RE: 443 Greenwich Street, LPC application for sidewalk replacement and placement cobblestone tree pit – Resolution

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

Financial District Committee – R. Sheffe

RE: Street permit application by the NYC Police Museum on Saturday, June 13, 2009, Old Slip-North between Water Street and South Street. Closure of street during the hours of 9 AM to 6 PM; event will take place during the hours of 10 AM – 5 PM – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: Street permit application by Community Board #1 (Mardi Gras Festival Productions; promoter) on Friday, May 15, 2009, Maiden Lane between Water Street and South Street. Closure of street during the hours of 8 AM to 7 PM; event will take place during the hours of 10 AM – 7 PM – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: Street permit application by Community Board #1 (Mardi Gras Festival Productions; promoter) on Friday, August 7, 2009, Maiden Lane between Water Street and South Street. Closure of street during the hours of 8 AM to 7 PM; event will take place during the hours of 10 AM – 7 PM – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: Street permit application the Arthritis Foundation on Sunday, April 26, 2009, Washington Street between Morris Street and Battery Place. Closure of street during the hours of 7 AM to 3 PM; event will take place during the hours of 7 AM – 3 PM – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: Street permit application by Ahead Realty, LLC. on Tuesday, March 17, 2009, Stone Street between Hanover Square and Coentis Alley. Closure of street during the hours of 10 AM to 11 PM; event will take place during the hours of noon – 11 PM – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: Street permit application by Ahead Realty, LLC on Saturday, May 16, 2009, Stone Street between Hanover Square and Coentis Alley. Closure of street during the hours of 10 AM to 11 PM; event will take place during the hours of noon – 11 PM – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: Street permit application by Ahead Realty, LLC on Saturday, July 4, 2009, Stone Street between Hanover Square and Coentis Alley. Closure of street during the hours of 10 AM to 11 PM; event will take place during the hours of noon – 11 PM – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: Street permit application by Ahead Realty, LLC on Saturday, October 3, 2009, Stone Hanover Square between Coentis Alley. Closure of street during the hours of 10 AM to 11 PM; event will take place during the hours of noon – 11 PM – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: Street permit application by Ahead Realty, LLC on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 to Monday, November 30, 2009, Stone Street between Hanover Square and Coentis Alley. Closure of street during the hours of 10 AM to 11 PM; event will take place during the hours of 11:30 AM – 11 PM – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: Street permit application by the Council on the Environment Inc. on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting April 2-December 23, 2009, N/S Cedar Street between Broadway and Church Street. Event will take place during the hours of 6 AM to 7 PM – Resolution

BOARD VOTE: 33 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by Noel E. Jefferson, Secretary