



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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JOHN WEIS
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, February 2, 2010
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Fulton Center Auditorium, 119 Ninth Avenue (17/18)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

MEETING AGENDA

- Public Session Corey Johnson
Adoption of Agenda John Weis
Adoption of Last Month's Minutes
Reports
Manhattan Borough President Sandy Myers
Local Elected Officials Various
District Manager Robert J. Benfatto, Jr.
Chair John Weis
Committee Letters & Resolutions John Weis
(lletters and resolutions, see reverse)
Old Business John Weis
New Business
Adjournment

Public Session

Assembly Member Dick Gottfried reported on the Governor's findings about government spending. He commented on how he thought the Governor's budget cuts maybe doing more damage than good. He believes that the spending cuts should come from more wealthy New Yorkers contributing more to the state taxes. He also reported on the Governor's Medicaid Redesign Team. He believes that there will be a struggle when dealing with the budget.

Congressman Jerry Nadler spoke about the Health Care Bill and thinks that we are better off with it then without it. The economy is going great in that the stock market is moving up and that corporate profits are the highest they've ever been, but unemployment remains high. More money needs to be brought into circulation so more people will spend thus creating jobs. Congressman Nadler does not think we should cut spending for fear of a double dip recession. Congressman also spoke of the transportation bill. He mentioned that Governor Christie of NJ cancellation of the ARC Tunnel project stating that the \$2.8 billion that was originally ear marked for the project will go back into the NJ Transit Trust.

1  
2 Paul Clements spoke in favor of the Park on 20<sup>th</sup> Street. Stated that it was not low income housing that it was  
3 affordable housing.  
4 Pamela Wolf speaking in favor of the 20<sup>th</sup> Street Park Project. Believes that there are no alternatives to create a  
5 new public park.  
6 Ellen Binder speaking in favor of the park. Not opposed to affordable housing but she is opposed to any housing  
7 constructed on city property. She believes that the area has every amenity but open space.  
8 Chris Winslow is in favor of the park; the area ranks last in public open space in Manhattan. Believes the location  
9 on 20<sup>th</sup> Street would be strategically placed in the middle of an area with the need for open space.  
10 Justin Hoy, co president of Save Chelsea defended the CB and believes that both issues are equally important.  
11 Matt Weis spoke in favor of the park. He believes the district ranks No. 1 in affordable housing but dead last in  
12 public parks.  
13 Sally Greenspan is in support of having both the park on 20<sup>th</sup> street as well as affordable housing. However she  
14 believes that the park location should be a park.  
15 Jeffrey Croft, President of the NYC Park Advocacy Group, stated that District 4 ranks last in public open spaces.  
16 The last park was built 43 years ago. Believes that this community needs parks and not more affordable housing.  
17 He would like to see more elected officials get involved in their cause.  
18 Miguel Acevedo believes that the discussion should be truthful. Believes that the gentrification of Chelsea is  
19 pushing out all of the residents who qualify for affordable housing. Supports the park but believes that it is more  
20 important to have a roof over your head for a family of four then to have a park for a select few kids to play in.  
21 Tom Taylor Chair of the Lawn Committee at Clinton Garden. Supports parks but believes there should be more  
22 affordable housing. His own children can't afford to live here so they will move to Philadelphia where there is more  
23 affordable housing.  
24 Mike Green, Chelsea resident since 1978 supports the park.  
25 Gloria Comacho does not want to see Sacred Heart to move into Holy Cross. She believes the character of Holy  
26 Cross will be damaged.  
27 Hilda Rivera a former CB 4 board member would like to see the CB reconsider their decision for the Park and is in  
28 support of the park.  
29 A student of Holy Cross spoke in favor of not having Holy Cross and Sacred Heart combined  
30 Binh Mah a student spoke in favor of not having Holy Cross and Sacred Heart combining.  
31 Lisa Guerra is very grateful for Holy Cross, and has been accepted to two of the top Catholic Schools in the city.  
32 Save Holy Cross.  
33 Bob Sussman living on 20<sup>th</sup> street and is in favor of the park.  
34 Jenny Whippets spoke in favor of the park. She believes a park in the neighborhood will be a better building block  
35 then affordable housing. Believes the park would be the ultimate good for the community.  
36 Shakira Moran closing sacred heart would be bad and impossible for her to work.  
37 Dan O' Sullivan spoke in favor for the park.  
38 Kim Miller Mother of a Holy Cross student. She is very upset about the merger. Believes the Holy Cross faculty is  
39 the best because of Sister Mary. She wants to save Holy Cross  
40 Eva LeClaire mother of 4 who wants all of her kids to go to Holy Cross. She wants every opportunity for Holy Cross  
41 that other schools have. She believes that closing one parochial school will greatly affect the community.  
42 Jehuda Bach representing Hudson Guild announced that there is free tax service at the Guild. Made other various  
43 announcements of upcoming events at the Guild.  
44 Ronnie Tuft moved into Chelsea 30 years ago, and has seen the community blossomed and advocates for the park.  
45 Angela Perez spoke in favor of saving Holy Cross. She can not send her kid to another school because she would  
46 not be able to afford it.  
47 Sam Glassman resident of 20<sup>th</sup> Street supports the Park.  
48 Nancy Holmstrom strongly agrees that gentrification is a problem. She is in support of the park as it is a public  
49 good.  
50 Lindsay Gansom who works for transportation alternatives looking for support from CB4 with more speed cameras.  
51 Antoinette Thorpe is a mother of a Holy Cross student. She was unaware that Holy Cross would be closed and  
52 believes that it would be a great disservice if the school were to close.  
53 Karen Smith a Chelsea resident for 49 years. The community has changed and believes that there should be more  
54 affordable housing. Is against the park but believes there should be more affordable housing.  
55 Michael Cantegreenie is in favor of the park. Believes there should be more of a balance, as the Park has become  
56 an issue of class.  
57 Angela Castro, class of '93, and is now a Mother of a Holy Cross student and is in favor of saving Holy Cross.  
58 Jim Friedlich longtime Chelsea resident and although he supports affordable housing he supports the Park on 20<sup>th</sup>  
59 Street more.  
60 Lisa Wager FIT Community Relations spoke of the upcoming public events.  
61 Terra Gottfried is in support of the Park that believes the distances now to open spaces are too far especially with  
62 kids.

1 Lauren Danzinger Greenwich Village Chelsea Chamber of Commerce believes that we are losing a lot of  
2 businesses in the area due to the closing of St. Vincent's.  
3 Anita Black spoke in favor of the affordable housing.  
4 Maria Ramirez spoke in favor of Holy Cross not closing.  
5 Nicole Locklin Healthcare education Project advocating for better health within in the community, very interested in  
6 hearing how has the closing of St. Vincent's effected community residents.  
7 Louis Stubblefield and is a gardener and is retired but believes there should be affordable housing  
8 Eloise Acevedo she is for affordable housing  
9

10 First Vice Chair Corey Johnson closed the public session.

11 John Weis approved the agenda and moved for adoption.

12 John Weis moved to have the minutes from the last board meeting adopted.

13  
14 **Sandy Myer for BP Stringer**, reminded everyone of the State of the Borough Address, mentioned that the BP's  
15 office is still in the process of interviewing CB members, both new and existing, also mentioned Your School Your  
16 Voice especially with the new School Chancellor.

17 **Sara Myers for Senator Duane** who was approved to the budget task force.

18 **Rachel Stein for Assembly Member Rosenthal**, the bill regarding electronic cigarettes and to have restrictions for  
19 sales to minors, rent laws are coming up on June 15<sup>th</sup> and reminded everyone to be more aware and active.

20 **Amanda Yunger for Speaker Quinn** mentioned the hearing for Walmart  
21

22 **District Manager Bob Benfatto's** reports that all agendas and reports are available online

23 Chairman Weis spoke of why the full board meetings have been in Chelsea due to scheduling conflicts with the  
24 hospital. He also mentioned that the full board and members should pay full attention to the public speakers.  
25  
26

## 27 COMMITTEE REPORTS – LETTERS & RESOLUTIONS

### 28 Executive Committee (EXEC)

29  
30  
31 Item 1: Letter to Public Design Commission re High Line's signage contract for section 2

32 **John mentioned the actual placements of the sign. Walter also commented on the location of the signs**

33 Item 2: Letter to DCA re Sonny Lou Inc. d/b/a Pepe Giallo - 253 Tenth Avenue (25)

34 **Burt believes that the vault door in the sidewalk should be reinforced if they intend to have a table on top of**  
35 **it. Walter believes that the applicant should be present to accept any modifications to the applications.**

36 **Lisa confirmed that the vault by law would have to be reinforced. Jay asked for a point of clarity for the**  
37 **number of tables and chairs. Christine asked where they would store the bicycles as the vault is where**

38 **they stored them now. Mary commented on her interaction with the operators regarding the placement of**  
39 **the bicycles.**  
40

### 41 Business License and Permits Committee (BLP) - South

42 Item 3: Letter to SLA re IM 202 LLC. – 202 Eighth Avenue (20/21)

43 Item 4: Letter to SLA re Speak Integrated Corp. – 167 Ninth Avenue (20)

44 Item 5: Letter to SLA re THAINY Restaurant LLC – 232 Eighth Avenue (21/22)

45 **Items 3, 4 and 5 are bundled. JD asked that there be clarity regarding bicycle storage on the street.**

46 Item 6: Letter to DCA re Terra Mia Enterprise Inc. – 190 Seventh Ave (21)

47 **Carmen asked who's responsibility it was to mark the sidewalk café area.**  
48  
49

### 50 Business License and Permits Committee (BLP) - North

51 Item 7: Letter to SLA re Balilo Deli Inc. – 837 Eleventh Avenue (57)

52 Item 8: Letter to SLA re John O'Neill or corp to be formed d/b/a Valhalla – 815 Eighth Avenue (53/54)

53 Item 9: Letter to SLA re KIGS 508 LLC d/b/a The Albert Hall – 506 Ninth Avenue (38/39)

54 Item 10: Letter to DCA re Little Siam Corp. – 658 Ninth Avenue (46)

55 Item 11: Letter to DCA re Progetto Inc. – 352 W. 44<sup>th</sup> Street

56 **No comments from the board**  
57

### 58 Waterfront and Parks Committee (WATER)

59 Item 12: Letter to DDC etc. re proposed lighting at Pier 76 and vacate as per HRP Act

60 **Bob thinks the tow pound needs to be looked at. Ed thinks that one of the problems is that there is no area**  
61 **for relocation. Martin hates the pound and asked why they are installing all of the new lights. Capt. John**

1 said because of safety. Brett asked if there was any discussion regarding the type of lighting. Capt. John  
2 stated that it was answered at the committee meeting.  
3  
4

5 **Transportation Planning Committee (TRANS)**

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6 Item 13: Letter to Speaker Silver/Senate Majority Leader Skelos re camera to enforce existing speed limits  
7 **Amanda made a friendly amendment to clean up the carbon copies on the letter. Burt questioned why is**  
8 **there a reduced fines and no points on the license. Christine stated that this is the legislation. Lisa asked**  
9 **if we had a position of red light cameras or getting more red light cameras. Lisa asked if there was an**  
10 **amendment to reiterate CB4's position on more red light cameras.**

11 Item 14: Letter to DOT re safety improvements proposed for the intersection of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Seventh Avenue  
12 **John Lamb asked if this was going to be a similar problem as were some of the other turn restrictions. Ed**  
13 **stated that 8<sup>th</sup> Ave and 9<sup>th</sup> Ave have been very dangerous for a while and asked if 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street**  
14 **were safe intersections. Walter made a friendly amendment regarding the order of language of the letter.**  
15 **Frank was asking that if the committee had all of the information necessary to make this suggestion. Jay**  
16 **commented on the data was sufficient to make that recommendation. Corey agrees with Frank that the**  
17 **data is inconclusive to make this recommendation.**

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19 **Landmarks Committee (LAND)**

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20 Item 15: Letter to LPC re 515-519 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
21 **Walter suggested that the type of building should be added to the letter.**  
22  
23

24 **Quality of Life/Education, Libraries, and Cultural Affairs Committee (QoL), Chelsea Preservation and**  
25 **Planning Committee (CP&P), Housing Health and Human Services (HH&HS), Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Land**  
26 **Use Committee (C/HKLU)**

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27 No items to report

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29 **New Business**

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30 **Letter to Project Find Relocation Support**

31 **Letter of support for the relocation of Project Find- JD asked if the financial support for moving and**  
32 **building their new facility would be the end of their support. Carmen commented on the issue of Holy**  
33 **Cross closing and stated that the two are intertwined. Joe stated the facts to clarify any sort of confusion.**  
34 **Lisa clarified that this is a letter to Project find and believes that they are two separate issues. Miguel**  
35 **stated that the support of the Project Find moving into the basement of Holy Cross will cause problems**  
36 **amongst the parents of Holy Cross students. Jay suggested that there be an outreach to elderly residents**  
37 **regarding the change of venue.**

38  
39 **Meeting adjourned.**  
40