

THE BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
C. VIRGINIA FIELDS, PRESIDENT
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE MINUTES
KYLE MERKER, CHAIR
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2003

Draft

Minutes of the regular Community Board #5 meeting held on **Thursday, January 9, 2003** at Fashion Institute of Technology, 227 West 27th Street, "A" Building, 8th Floor, 6:00 p.m. Kyle Merker, Chair, presiding. The tapes of the full meeting are available in the Board office.

Members Present

Vikki Barbero
Philip Beer
Paul Connolly
Candy Cook
William Daly
David Diamond
Suzanne Esper
Lola Finkelstein
Eric Gering
Nancy Goshow
Kevin Guillet
Scott Isebrand
Lenise Logan
Joyce Matz
Kyle Merker
Connie Ress
Doreen Seligson
Rosalie Shields
Maxine Teitler
Bonnie Williams
Brad Wilson
Lawrence Zucker

Present Part

Brian Landeche
John Mills
Michael Presser

Absent

Alice Adesman
Susan Baida
Muriel Bernstein
Angela Bledsoe
Aaron Block
Judith Breidbart
George Elkins
Howard Mendes
Michael Pollok
David Rabin
Carmel Reingold
Mickey Schwartz
David Siesko
Michael Utefsky

Excused

Robert Baublitz

Janelle Farris
Sharon Friedman

Public Members

Jon Schachter
Joe Tucker

Public

Rob Byrnes
Mark Valenta
Patricia Hamilton
Stanford Kay
James Collin
Jack T. Linn
Chris Osgoul
Jutta Egslicsh
Lucia Chen

Elected Officials

Nicole Johnson
Borough President C. Virginia Fields

Leah Kane

Congress Member Jerrold Nadler

Dan Golub
Assembly Member Richard Gottfried

Emily Negrau
Councilmember Christine Quinn

Ronnie Billini
Councilmember Margarita Lopez

Staff

Kathy Kinsella
District Manager

Kim Rodney
Assistant District Manager

Cindy Perez
Community Associate

PUBLIC SESSION

At 6:10 p.m., the Full Board meeting of Manhattan Community Board Five was called to order, Kyle Merker presiding.

Rob Byrnes – Exec. Director for the East Midtown Association – distributed a written report updating the board on the BID's activities and announced that Bowry Residents Committee has been contracted to perform homeless outreach in the BID area.

Stanford Kay – Artist – spoke briefly on his proposed art project for Union Square Park and asked for the Board's support.

Leah Kane – Representative for Congressman Jerrold Nadler – spoke about the Mortgage and Rental Assistance Program and that registration was due to expire at the end of the month.

Jack T. Linn – Assistant Commissioner – NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation – introduced himself and spoke about the over-saturation of vendors in the parks and around their perimeters. Due to a Court decision in 2001,

Parks does not have authority to regulate this activity in and around parks. He stated that Intro 160, coming before the City Council would address this issue. The hearing on the bill is scheduled for January 27th at City Hall.

BUSINESS SESSION

● CHAIR'S REPORT ~ *Kyle Merker*

Mr. Merker announced the resignations of Joan Piker and Michael Royce from the Board and thanked them for their contributions. Mr. Merker then asked members to reach out to people they may know as potential Board Members.

Mr. Merker spoke briefly regarding attendance and handed out a memo outlining portions of the by-laws relating to this matter.

Mr. Merker reminded anyone interested in a leadership role speak to either the Chair, 1st Vice Chair or 2nd Vice Chair.

Mr. Merker then recognized the Elected Officials' representatives present.

● DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT ~ *Kathy Kinsella*

Ms. Kinsella announced that 30th to 45th Streets, from 7th to 8th Avenues has been identified as a high crime area and would be targeted for Operation Impact, which will increase police presence in that area.

She then announced that there is a Quality of Life hotline for complaints (1 888 677-5433), and that the Police are mandated to respond.

Ms. Kinsella then informed the Board that the 10 digit (1 + area code + number) dialing system will begin on February 1, 2003. All area codes must be used even when dialing within the same area code.

● VOTE ON MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2002 BOARD MEETING

The minutes passed with a vote of 21 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, as follows: **IN FAVOR:** Barbero, Beer, Connolly, Cook, Daly, Diamond, Esper, Finkelstein, Gering, Goshow, Guillet, Isebrand, Logan, Matz, Ress, Seligson, Shields, Teitler, Williams, Wilson, Zucker. **ABSTENTION:** Merker.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

● CONSENTS & VARIANCES ~ *MICKEY SCHWARTZ & LAWRENCE ZUCKER*

Mr. Zucker presented the following resolution:

Knights of Vartan - Street Activity Permit Application.

WHEREAS, Knights of Vartan has filed an application to hold an event on April 27, 2003, on Broadway between West 43rd and 44th Streets; and

WHEREAS, This event is held every year without incident; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Community Board Five **recommends approval** for the application for a commemorative ceremony for Knights of Vartan.

The resolution passed with a vote of 21 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, as follows: **IN FAVOR:** Barbero, Beer, Connolly, Cook, Daly, Diamond, Esper, Finkelstein, Gering, Goshow, Guillet, Isebrand, Logan, Matz, Ress, Seligson, Shields, Teitler, Williams, Wilson, Zucker. **ABSTENTION:** Merker.

Mr. Zucker then introduced the following resolution:

Distinctive Sidewalk - 900 Eighth Avenue

WHEREAS, An application has been made for a distinctive sidewalk by the Moinian Group, for 900 8th Avenue; and

WHEREAS, The distinctive sidewalk for the residential entry will be granite arranged in a diagonal pattern of 18 inch by 18 inch pavers, highlighted by 4 inch square accents and a 4 inch wide band at the perimeter, and the remainder of the sidewalk project will be constructed of concrete in standard 5' by 5' flags; and

WHEREAS, The applicant proposed a light charcoal color with reflective chips to sparkle in the light to complement the distinctive sidewalk; and

WHEREAS, 8 additional street trees will be planted along Eighth Avenue and 53rd and 54th Streets; and

WHEREAS, The materials to be used will be tested for, and required to conform to the Department of Transportation's slip resistance regulations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Community Board Five **recommends approval** of the application for a distinctive sidewalk by the Moinian Group, with the understanding that the material meets anti-slip regulations.

After a few questions regarding the exact area to be included in the designs and the placement of trees, the resolution passed with a vote of 22 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, as follows: **IN FAVOR:** Barbero, Beer, Connolly, Cook, Daly, Diamond, Esper, Finkelstein, Gering, Goshow, Guillet, Isebrand, Logan, Matz, Presser, Ress, Seligson, Shields, Teitler, Williams, Wilson, Zucker. **ABSTENTIONS:** Merker.

● **JOINT CONSENTS & VARIANCES AND PARKS ~ *MICKEY SCHWARTZ,* *LAWRENCE ZUCKER, SCOTT ISEBRAND AND KEVIN GUILLET***

Mr. Guillet presented the following resolution on behalf of the Committee:

Philippines Independence Day Committee

WHEREAS, The Philippine Independence Day Council Inc. (Applicant) has made an application to conduct a street fair and cultural program on Madison Avenue between 23rd Street and 28th Street including the area adjacent to the east side of Madison Square Park on Sunday, June 1, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has agreed to abide by the Street Activity Permit Guidelines established by Community Board 5 and has submitted all required documentation pursuant thereto; and

WHEREAS, there will be no organized events within the Park boundaries except for Vendor booths, which will be set up on the outer sidewalk on the east side of the Park along Madison Avenue, and the number of vendors will be approximately the same as in past years (37 food vendors, 45 non-food vendors), and all cooking/food preparation will take place on the east side of Madison Avenue across the street from the Park; and

WHEREAS, the street fair is being expanded on the north side from 26th Street to 28th Street in order to better spread out the vendor locations and reduce the density of people in the activity area, with 26th through 28th Streets remaining open to cross town traffic throughout the event; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant has agreed to increase the number of clean-up personnel on hand and to clean the park area continuously throughout the event; and

WHEREAS, the applicant is aware of the concerns of area residents regarding the noise associated *with* the amplified sound at such events and has agreed to set up the stage for the cultural program at 24th Street facing ~~the Park~~ north in order to minimize the noise impact on area residents; and

WHEREAS, this event was successfully held in this area for eleven consecutive years prior to 2002; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Community Board Five **recommends approval** of the Philippine Independence Day Council Inc.'s application to conduct a street fair and cultural program on Madison Avenue between 23rd Street and 28th Street including the area adjacent to the east side of Madison Square Park on Sunday, June 1, 2003.

After some discussion, and friendly amendments to the 6th WHEREAS (see italics and strikethrough) the following resolution passed with a vote of 23 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, as follows: **IN FAVOR:** Barbero, Beer, Connolly, Cook, Daly, Diamond, Esper, Finkelstein, Gering, Goshow, Guillet, Isebrand, Logan, Matz, Mills, Presser, Ress, Seligson, Shields, Teitler, Williams, Wilson, Zucker. **ABSTENTION:** Merker.

● **PARKS ~ SCOTT ISEBRAND AND KEVIN GUILLET**

Mr. Isebrand presented the following resolution:

Proposal for a temporary public art project in Union Square Park

WHEREAS, City of New York, Parks and Recreation has proposed the installation of a public art project in Union Square Park; and

WHEREAS, The installation—tentatively called “Life Signs”—would consist of ten diamond-shaped signs, reminiscent of crosswalk or deer-crossing signs, but instead depicting realistic silhouettes of interactions in the park between everyday people; and

WHEREAS, The stated goal of the project is to have “residents...identify with the very real people depicted[,] feel that they are empowered to occupy...the public realm of New York,” and enjoy affirmation “that life goes on here, this place is a zone for living;” and

WHEREAS, The ten signs would be 24” x 24” each, placed in carefully-considered spots, including existing light posts when appropriate, and hung at an average height of 8 feet; and

WHEREAS, The ten signs would use a type of light green, and not a color typically associated with a real traffic sign that communicates alarm or a warning; and

WHEREAS, The installation would be ~~for three months~~ *from approximately Labor Day to Thanksgiving, in 2003*, with installation and dismantling taking only one day each; and

WHEREAS, The ten signs would be fabricated locally; and

WHEREAS, The artist, Stanford Kay, was born in Brooklyn and is a graduate of the Pratt Institute; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kay has experience with creating public art; and

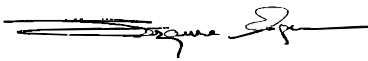
WHEREAS, There will be a license agreement for maintenance of the project; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Manhattan Community Board Five **recommends approval** of the three-month “Life Signs” public art installation in Union Square Park *on the condition that no trees be harmed.*

After much discussion regarding the implication of signage in parks and a friendly amendment to add a 10th WHEREAS and corrections to the 6th WHEREAS (see italics and strikethrough), the resolution passed with a vote of 16 in favor, 7 opposed, 2 abstentions, as follows: **IN FAVOR:** Barbero, Connolly, Daly, Esper, Gering, Goshow, Guillet, Isebrand, Logan, Mills, Ress, Seligson, Shields, Teitler, Williams, Zucker. **OPPOSED:** Beer, Cook, Diamond, Finkelstein, Matz, Presser, Wilson. **ABSTENTIONS:** Landeche, Merker.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Suzanne Esper
Secretary