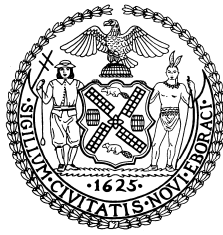


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

**ZONING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

January 22, 2013 - 6:30pm
Marymount Manhattan College, 221 East 71st Street, 2nd Fl, Regina Peruggi Room

Present: Elizabeth Ashby, Michele Birnbaum, Larry Parnes, Marco Tamayo, Teri Slater (Co-Chair), Elaine Walsh (Co-Chair). **Excused:** Barbara Chocky

POPS - Discussion of Privately Owned Public Plazas (POPS). Study by Hunter College Urban Affairs students.

This is a continuation of our discussion of POPS. Paul Lozito, on behalf of the Hunter study team presented their report - "Rescuing and Revitalizing Privately Owned Public Spaces: A Strategic Plan for Community Board 8." Paul provided a brief overview of the history of POPS and the regulations in place for the zoning bonus from 1961-1975 and 1975-2000 given to developers in residential areas in exchange for a POPS. POPS emerged from the 1961 zoning resolution as a tool to develop more open spaces in dense, primarily commercial areas but was not limited to commercial areas. MCB #8 has 23% (76) not 96 as was listed in the data base of all of the POPS (330) in the City. This was learned when the students reviewed the NYC Planning department records for POPS (obtained by FOIL with the help of Melissa Cerezo). This finding will be verified by both the NYC Departments of City Planning and Buildings. Of the 76 POPS, 38 were built before 1975; 37 POPS were built between 1975 and 2000. One was build after 2000. Today POPS are not permitted in residential areas except for community facilities.

During the discussion time, members of the public discussed the importance of having data available for easy access. The overall reaction to the POPS discussion was positive with people expressing a wish to get involved with engaging others around the use and openness of POPS. There were concerns raised as to the liability for building and that, in the offering plans, POPS were not always described in the offering plan and many residents did not know their building had a POPS. There is a web site to find POPS and view the conditions, www.APOP.mas.org.

A continued discussion will occur with NYC Department of City Planning to review the report prior to public availability, explore monitoring of sites and how the community board can play a role to inform and engage the public and the building owners.

Illegal Signage

Danielle Dowler, a Fund for the City of New York fellow is working on a study of signage. She was not able to attend the meeting and provide a report.

It was again stated that illegal signage is a major issue and there is minimum enforcement by DOB. There has been no update from DOB regarding the lists they have received of signage violations. A report on signage will be presented at the next meeting.

As there was no new or old business the meeting was adjourned.