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**The City of New York  
Manhattan Community Board 8  
Street Fair Committee Meeting  
New York Blood Center  
310 East 67<sup>th</sup> Street  
Auditorium**

**Monday, March 7, 2011  
7:00 PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members present:** Michele Birnbaum, Barbara Chocky, Laura Lijewski, Jane Parshall, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider, Helene Simon, Hedi White

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by co-chairs Barbara Chocky and Laura Lijewski.

**1. Public Hearing RE: closing of streets in Manhattan Community Board 8 for private event use vs. Closing of streets for public event use.**

This item had been referred back to the Street Fair Committee for further discussion by the full Board. Since there has been an increase in the number of requests to close streets for graduations, religious ceremonies, and for use by education institutions for student and faculty only block parties that would exclude attendance by the general public, the committee felt it is worthwhile to consider the appropriateness of the using public streets for private events.

Following discussion, the committee did not come to a consensus on a protocol or guidelines. Also, further information needs to be gathered on the costs to the city of a block party versus the benefit to the public and community organizations. It was also decided that it can be easier to discuss it as a policy issue when there are no specific requests before us.

**Be it Resolved to layover the issue of private use of public streets until the October meeting for further discussion.**

**Motion passed.**

7 Yes (Chocky, Lijewski, Parshall, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, White)

0 Opposed

1 Abstain (Birnbaum)

**2. Public Hearing re: Applications for Multi-Block Street Fairs for Calendar Year 2011**

**a. Review of a Greenmarket located on the East side of First Avenue, between 92<sup>nd</sup>/93<sup>rd</sup> Streets on Sundays, June 19, 2011 to Sunday, December 18, 2011 from 8:00AM to 5:00PM**

Although there was general support for the green market in the neighborhood, there was some concern expressed as to the impact on nearby businesses.

**Whereas there is general support by the public and elected officials for the greenmarket, and  
Whereas the market accepts food stamps, therefore**

**Be it Resolved to approve the greenmarket application.**

6 Yes (Chocky, Parshall, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, White)

2 Opposed (Birnbaum, Lijewski)

0 Abstain

- b. **Summer Streets to close Park Avenue from East 72<sup>nd</sup> Street to East 17<sup>th</sup> Street on Sundays, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:00AM to 2:00PM by the Department of Transportation to open the public streets for people to walk, bike, play and breathe.**

Concerns were mentioned by a member of the public that money would be better spent to avoid budget shortfalls such as for teachers than to spend money on closing the streets for this event.

**Whereas there is a reduction in the number of blocks closed for the event, and  
Whereas the event is enjoyed by many residents as well as visitors to the city, and  
Whereas, the event brings people to businesses in the area, therefore,**

**Be It Resolved that the Summer Streets event is approved.**

6 Yes (Chocky, Parshall, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, White)

1 No (Lijewski)

1 Abstain (Birnbaum)

### **3. Public Hearing re: Applications for Single-block Street Fairs for Calendar Year 2011**

**Unanimous approvals: 3d, e, f, g, h, j, l, m, n**

**Approvals: 3b, c, k, o**

**Disapprovals: 3i**

**Failed: 3a, p**

- a. **Trevor Day School to close East 90<sup>th</sup> Street between Madison and Fifth Avenue on Tuesday, June 14, 2011 from 3:30PM to 5:00 for a High School Commencement Reception**

In the past the school has held its graduation reception on the grounds of the Cooper Hewitt which is currently under construction. Therefore, Trevor Day is requesting closure of the street for their reception. Should it rain, the reception will be held in the school, but would need to be split between two rooms to accommodate those in attendance. Last year they also held the event in the street.

**Resolution to approve failed.**

3 Yes (B. Schneider, J. Schneider, White)

3 No (Birnbaum, Chocky, Simon)

2 Abstain (Lijewski, Parshall)

- b. **Central Park Precinct Community Council to close East 60<sup>th</sup> Street between Fifth and Madison Avenue on Sunday, July 3, 2011 from 10:00AM to 6:00PM for a Block Party**

It was suggested by **some committee members** that the Precinct change the date for their event because of concern regarding the number of events being held over a short period of time. Another concern is the closing of a street that is heavily trafficked and that is a bus route.

**Resolved to approve the application on date and site requested.**

6 Yes (Chocky, Lijewski, Parshall, B. Schneider, White)

1 Oppose (J. Schneider)

1 Abstain (Simon)

- c. **Marymount Manhattan College to close East 71<sup>st</sup> Street between Second and Third Avenue on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 from 12 noon to 4:00PM for a Block Party**

**This** event for students and faculty has been held for many years. It is open to public except for their use of the inflatables. Safety concerns were expressed because of its proximity to the Second Avenue subway construction.

**Resolved to approve.**

5 Yes (Chocky, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, White)

1 Opposed (Parshall)

1 Abstain (Lijewski)

1 Not Voting for Cause (Birnbaum)

- d. Manhattan New School (PS 290) to close East 82<sup>nd</sup> Street between First and Second Avenue on Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 11:00AM to 5:00PM for a Block Party**  
The event will be open to the public and has been held in the past.  
**Resolved to approve.**  
7 Yes (Birnbaum, Chocky, Lijewski, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, White)  
0 Opposed  
0 Abstain
- e. Hunter College Elementary School to close East 95<sup>th</sup> Street between Madison and Park Avenue on Sunday, May 22, 2011 from 10:00AM to 4:00PM for a Block Party**  
There was no opposition to this proposal.  
**Resolved to approve.**  
7 Yes (Birnbaum, Chocky, Lijewski, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, White)  
0 Opposed  
0 Abstain
- f. St. Ignatius Loyola Grammar School to close East 84<sup>th</sup> Street between Madison and Park Avenue on Friday, June 10, 2011 from 5:00PM to 8:00PM for a Block Party**  
There was no opposition to this proposal. It will be open to the public.  
**Resolved to approve.**  
7 Yes (Birnbaum, Chocky, Lijewski, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, White)  
0 Opposed  
0 Abstain
- g. Ramaz School to close East 78<sup>th</sup> Street between Park and Madison on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 from 10:00AM to 12Noon for a Block Party**  
Event held by the high school in recognition of Israel Independence. There was no opposition. Event will be open to the public.  
**Resolved to approve.**  
7 Yes (Birnbaum, Chocky, Lijewski, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, White)  
0 Opposed  
0 Abstain
- h. Convent of the Sacred Heart to close East 91<sup>st</sup> Street between Madison and Fifth Avenue on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 from 3:00PM to 8:00PM for a Block Party**  
This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year they are requesting a street closure since they can't use facilities at Cooper Hewitt while it is under construction. This is held the same day as the Museum Mile which involves closure of side streets such as theirs. **Thus the side street would have been closed anyway.**  
**Resolved to approve.**  
7 Yes (Birnbaum, Chocky, Lijewski, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, White)  
0 Opposed  
0 Abstain
- i. Nourishing NYC 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Community Yard Sale to close East 96<sup>th</sup> Street between Lexington and Park on Saturday, June 18, 2011 from 6:00AM to 6:00PM for a Block Party**  
The police precinct advised against closing 96<sup>th</sup> Street, a major cross-town street, and the committee agreed.  
**Resolved to disapprove.**  
7 Yes (Birnbaum, Chocky, Lijewski, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, White)  
0 Opposed  
0 Abstain
- j. Gymtime (York Avenue Preschool) to close East 81<sup>st</sup> Street between York and East End Avenue on Sunday, May 15, 2011 from 11:00AM to 3:00PM for a Block Party**

Last year the Community Board had asked them to move the event from 80<sup>th</sup> street to 81<sup>st</sup> street.

Whereas the applicant agreed to maintain accessibility to the garage at 1540 York Avenue, i.e.,

Yorkville Towers, during their event, therefore,

**Be it Resolved to approve the application.**

7 Yes (Birnbaum, Chocky, Lijewski, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, White)

0 Opposed

0 Abstain

- k. **Episcopal School to close East 69<sup>th</sup> Street between Park and Madison Avenue on Thursday, May 12, 2011 from 9:00PM to 6:00PM for a Block Party**

The event will be open to the public.

**Resolved to approve the application.**

6 Yes (Birnbaum, Chocky, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, White)

1 Opposed (Lijewski)

0 Abstain

- l. **Lycee Francais to close East 76<sup>th</sup> Street between York and Dead End Avenue on Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 10:00AM to 4:00PM for a Block Party**

The event was previously held and will be open to the public.

**Resolved to approve the application.**

7 Yes (Birnbaum, Chocky, Lijewski, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, White)

0 Opposed

0 Abstain

- m. **Cathedral of Our Lady of the Sign to close East 76<sup>th</sup> Street between Park and Madison Avenue on Saturday, April 23, 2011 from 10:00PM to 2:00AM for a Religious Ceremony**

**Resolved to approve.**

7 Yes (Birnbaum, Chocky, Lijewski, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, White)

0 Opposed

0 Abstain

- n. **Ronald McDonald House to close East 73<sup>rd</sup> Street between York and First Avenue on Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 11:30AM to 3:00PM for a Block Party**

**Resolved to approve.**

7 Yes (Birnbaum, Chocky, Lijewski, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, White)

0 Opposed

0 Abstain

- o. **Jewish National Fund to close East 69<sup>th</sup> Street between Park and Madison Avenue on Sunday June 5, 2011 from 10AM to 4PM for a Block Party**

Whereas, the event is in honor of Israel Independence Day, and

Whereas, there will be not live animals, therefore,

**Be It Resolved to approve.**

7 Yes (Birnbaum, Chocky, Lijewski, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, White)

0 Opposed

1 Abstain (Simon)

- p. **Goat Hill Neighborhood Association to close East 95<sup>th</sup> Street between Park and Lexington Avenue on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 from 6:00PM to 9:00PM for a Block Party**

**Whereas, although the applicant for many years informally held there block party without adherence to block event rules,**

**Whereas the applicant has agreed to abide by the block event rules and guideline, although they have not done so for many years in the past,**

**Be it Resolved to approve the application.**

**Motion to approve failed.**

3 Yes (B. Schneider, J. Schneider, White)

1 Opposed (Birnbaum)

3 Abstain (Chocky, Lijewski, Simon)

**The following applicants for single block street fairs failed to appear before the committee to present their applications.**

- q. **The Brearley School to close East 83<sup>rd</sup> Street between East End Avenue and Dead End on Friday, May 13, 2011 from 2:00PM to 5:00PM for a Block Party**
- r. **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to close East 87<sup>th</sup> Street between Second and Third Avenue on Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 9:00AM to 4:00PM for a Block Party**
- s. **Hunter College Elementary School to close East 95<sup>th</sup> Street between Madison and Park Avenue on Sunday, May 5, 2011 from 10:00AM to 4:00PM for a Block Party.** Although there was a representative present for another Hunter block party, she did not know about this event. The Committee thought this may be an error.
- t. **Birch Wathen Lenox School to close East 77<sup>th</sup> Street between Second and Third Avenues on Friday, May 20, 2011 from 12Noon to 3:00PM for a Block Party**
- u. **Birch Wathen Lenox School to close East 77<sup>th</sup> Street between Second and Third Avenues on Monday, May 23, 2011 from 12Noon to 3:00 for a Block Party (rain date)**
- v. **Park Avenue Methodist Day School to close the sidewalk in front of the church on East 86<sup>th</sup> Street between Park and Lexington Avenue on Saturday, April 9, 2011 from 10:00AM to 1:00PM for a Block Party**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Chocky and Laura Lijewski, Co-Chairs

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