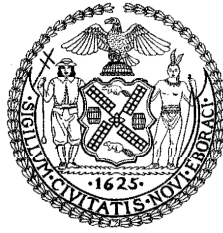


Nicholas Viest
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com - Website
info@cb8m.com - E-Mail

The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

Transportation Committee

Wednesday, April 4, 2012
Lenox Hill Hospital
131 East 76th Street, Einhorn Auditorium
New York, NY
6:30pm

Minutes

Present: Michele Birnbaum, A. Scott Falk, Larry Hockert, Jonathan Horn, Barry Schneider, Judith Schneider, Helene Simon, Charles Warren.

Excused: Hedi White.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Co-Chair Charles Warren.

1. A request by DOT for a letter from the Community Board recommending that a relic from the Queensboro Bridge, the pedestal for the torchiere that at one time flanked the entrance to the bridge, that is no longer of use in connection with the bridge, be donated to the Roosevelt Island Historical Society. (*joint item with 197-a Committee*)

Judith Berdy, president of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society (RIHS), shared with the Transportation and 197-a Committees some of the history surrounding the pair of torchieres that flanked the Second Avenue entrance to the Queensboro Bridge. Both torchieres were removed in 1974 for the construction of the Roosevelt Island Tramway, but the 59th Street lamppost was restored in 1976. The 60th Street lamppost could not be restored to its original location because of the Tram and was believed to have been lost until the remnants of the torchiere base were recently located in DOT's S.E.M. Street Lights Yard in Woodside, Queens.

The Roosevelt Island Historical Society is proposing to preserve the torchiere base and install it near the Tramway Station on Roosevelt Island, near the Queensboro Bridge and the RIHS Visitor Center Kiosk, another historical artifact that once stood at the Second Avenue entrance to the Queensboro Bridge.

WHEREAS a pair of torchieres once flanked the Second Avenue entrances to the Queensboro Bridge, and

WHEREAS the 60th Street torchiere was removed for Roosevelt Island Tramway construction, and was until recently believed lost, and

WHEREAS the base of the torchiere has been rediscovered, but the lamppost still cannot be located, and

WHEREAS there is apparently no appropriate location in Manhattan to install the remnants of the torchiere base in proximity to the Queensboro Bridge, and

WHEREAS the Roosevelt Island Historical Society has previously restored one of the trolley kiosks that was located at the 59th Street & Second Avenue entrance to the Queensboro Bridge, and

WHEREAS the Roosevelt Island Historical Society has identified an appropriate location to display the torchiere base, in close proximity to the Queensboro Bridge and the restored kiosk now in use as the RIHS Visitor Center, and

WHEREAS the Roosevelt Island Historical Society intends to raise the funds to preserve, restore, and install the torchiere base, and

WHEREAS information will be displayed near the restored torchiere base explaining its history,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8M approves of giving the remnants of the torchiere base to the Roosevelt Island Historical Society to preserve, restore, and install on Roosevelt Island near the Tramway Station exit and will send a letter to that effect to NYCDOT.

Approved: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions

Yes: Birnbaum, Falk, Hockert, Horn, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, Warren

2. A request for a new Revocable Consent at 20 East 93rd Street for a stoop and fenced-in area

Brian E. Boyle, the architect for this project, presented the committee with plans for the restoration of the stoop and fence in front of this row house. This project was previously heard by the CB8M Landmarks Committee in September 2011 and was approved unanimously by both the committee and the full board.

WHEREAS Community Board 8M unanimously approved the Landmarks application for alterations at 20 East 93rd Street and the restoration of the stoop and front doors to their historic condition, and

WHEREAS the Landmarks Preservation Commission has also approved the restoration of the stoop and the front doors to their historical condition,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8M approves the request for this new Revocable Consent.

Approved: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions

Yes: Birnbaum, Falk, Hockert, Horn, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, Warren

3. A request to install a Right Turn signal on York Avenue at East 73rd Street. (Requested by Mr. Becker, resident)

Upper East Side resident Glenn Becker appeared before the committee to request installation of a right-turn signal on York Avenue at East 73rd Street, and to suggest other changes to improve the traffic patterns in that area. The committee informed Mr. Becker that in 2011 several members of the community came to CB8M with concerns about pedestrian safety at that intersection, and DOT implemented some changes there in response to the Board's request. In addition, the committee co-chairs felt that the committee needed to wait and look at this area in the context of upcoming changes with the Sanitation Department Garage and the Con-Edison steam plant power conversion. We will revisit this issue later.

4. A request for a curb cut for a length of three feet in length at 429 East 75th Street. (Request by Hospital for Special Surgery)

Hospital for Special Surgery recently opened a new facility at 429 East 75th Street to handle outpatient and surgical follow-ups. Many of their patients need assistance in walking, prompting the Hospital to request a three-foot curb cut to allow easier access to the sidewalk for these patients.

WHEREAS the Hospital for Special Surgery has located a new care facility in the entire building located at 429 East 75th Street, and
WHEREAS, Community Board 8 recently approved a drop off zone for ambulettes and other similar vehicles in front of the facility,
WHEREAS vehicles drop off and pick up patients throughout the day, and
WHEREAS many of these patients are in wheelchairs or have some other difficulty walking, and
WHEREAS the curb in front of this building is six inches tall,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8M approves the request to install a curb cut three feet in length in front of 429 East 75th Street.

Approved: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions

Yes: Birnbaum, Falk, Hockert, Horn, B. Schneider, J. Schneider, Simon, Warren

5. Old Business

Benjamin Kallos requested that the Committee support a bike share station on Roosevelt Island as part of the initial phase of the project that is being implemented by NYCDOT. Committee members felt that the issue should be noticed and put on the agenda for the next meeting so that the DOT representatives and others could participate in the discussion

6. New Business

Mr. Norman Hernandez of West 45th Street came to the committee to seek assistance with multiple bus lane violations issued to him via camera enforcement of the Select Bus Service bus lane on the west side of Second Avenue at 62nd Street, when discharging his car-pool passenger. Although the violations dated back to November 2011, Mr. Hernandez did not receive notification of his violations until February 2012, by which time he had unknowingly incurred further fines. Ethel Sussman from City Councilmember Jessica Lappin's office invited Mr. Hernandez to contact her to seek some assistance in dealing with his situation. The Committee indicated that the Board office would also look into the situation of late notice of violations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Scott Falk and Charles Warren, Co-Chairs