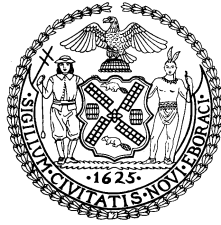


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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Charter Revision Task Force
Community Board 8 Office
505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
Tuesday, February 19, 2019 - 6:30PM

Attendees: Alida Camp (co-chair); Billy Freeland (co-chair); Barbara Chocky; Shari Weiner; Peter Patch; Michelle Birnbaum

Outside attendees: Jim Caras

The CB8 Charter Revision Task Force met with Jim Caras, a Commissioner of the NYC Charter Commission 2019. Caras shared background on the Commission's process and information on forthcoming meetings and hearings.

Caras first provided background on the Commission's process. He noted that they heard from the public on issues ranging from animal rights to land use to proposals for an all-elected Civilian Complaint Review Board. Caras explained that the Commission followed rough guidelines for determining which issues they would study most closely. Namely, the Commission wants to ensure that they only put to the ballot issues that require a charter revision to enact, and the Commission sought to avoid areas recently decided by the 2018 charter revision commission. Therefore, it is unlikely that the 2019 commission would propose a reversal of community board term limits.

On January 31, 2019, the Commission voted on focus areas for further meetings and hearings. Those focus areas are: (1) elections; (2) governance; (3) finance; and (4) land use. The specific topics to be considered within each area are attached to these minutes.

The Commission will begin a series of public meetings in February and March to discuss these areas, followed by hearings, likely in April. The meetings are designed to inform the public of the specific areas of interest to the Commission. The hearings allow for public input on those areas. The public is encouraged to address those areas and explain why they approve or disapprove of the Commission's reasoning as expressed in the meeting. These meetings and hearings are slated to take place at City Hall. The schedule is as follows:

- February 25: public meeting on governance issues (other than police accountability)
- March 7: public meeting on police accountability
- March 11: public meeting on finance (both budget and procurement)
- March 14: public meeting on land use
- March 18: public meeting on land use

Members of the Task Force plan to attend most of these meetings, with Alida attending the March 14, and Billy attending the meeting on March 18.

The Task Force then discussed land use issues specifically, and ways in which the Task Force and Community Board 8 can offer ideas, resolutions, and testimony before the Commission. The Task Force will discuss these in more depth at its next meeting, but the issues include:

- EDC projects going through ULURP
- Zoning overrides and whether to mandate a balancing test
- ULURP for certain types of infills
- Zoning lot mergers and whether certain amalgamations of zoning lots should be subject to a specified process
- Air rights
- The distinction between major / minor modifications
- Proposals for a comprehensive development plan, including whether to require that a comprehensive plan consider changes to construction technology (e.g., how new technology enables the construction of buildings that would not have been feasible when the Zoning Resolution was last re-written in 1961)
- Proposals for a role for the borough board with respect to large projects
- Proposals for Community Boards, the Borough Board, and the Council Member or Borough President to have a “triple no” veto over certain projects.

The Task Force also mentioned other issues that may warrant discussion and, potentially, a resolution:

- Requiring agencies to respond to community board resolutions
- Requiring the LPC include a preservationist
- Adjustments to participatory budgeting, such as giving a councilmember a certain percentage of dollars to allocate as discretionary capital spending. Proposals may include a rebalancing of budgetary power between the Mayor and Council.
- Speaker Johnson’s suggestion that certain agency heads be confirmed by the city council, and that certain of those agency heads be re-confirmed by the Council after a certain number of years (a shorter time than the remainder of the Administration’s term)

Caras clarified that a community board cannot take a position on charter revision issues once they have been submitted to the ballot (likely early August), but that a community board can weigh in prior. Caras is willing to attend community board meetings before August.

The Task Force decided that it would aim to prepare a resolution, or multiple resolutions, on the areas the Commission is considering. The Task Force will meet either in late February or early-mid March to discuss and vote on a draft resolution, which will be finalized at a meeting on March 19, in advance of the March 20 Full Board meeting. The Task Force hopes to have someone testify about Community Board 8’s position at one of the Commission’s hearings in April.

Alida Camp and Billy Freeland, Co-Chairs