

Russell Squire  
Chair

Will Brightbill  
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  
Community Board 8 Manhattan  
Planning Together Task Force Meetings  
Thursday, April 29, 2021 - 6:30PM  
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 - 6:30PM  
*These meetings were conducted remotely via Zoom***

*Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.*

**MINUTES**

**Resolutions for Approval: Item 1**

***April 29 Attendees:*** Russell Squire (Co-Chair), Michele Birnbaum, Taina Borrero, Sharon Pope-Marshall (Co-Chair), Marco Tamayo, Peter Patch, Saundrea Coleman, Elizabeth Ashby, Felice Farber Alida Camp, Tricia Shimamura, Greg Morris,

***May 26 Attendees:*** Peter Patch, Barbara Rudder, Lori Bores, Michele Birnbaum, Russell Squire (Co-Chair), Taina Borrero, May Malik, Sharon Pope-Marshall (Co-Chair), Marco Tamayo, Loraine Brown, Alida Camp, Billy Freeland, Felice Farber

The Planning Together Task Force was convened to review and evaluate the Planning Together legislation in the City Council, which would establish a process for developing and implementing a comprehensive city plan.

At the April 29 meeting, the task force began looking at the wording of the legislation. In the course of doing so, meeting attendees expressed a number of views regarding changes that we would like to see in the legislation and broader preferences for the city's approach to planning. Among the ideas put forward and generally agreed upon were: that the Director of Long Term Planning should not be chosen by the mayor alone, but should be appointed with input from other elected officials; that a bottom-up approach to planning is preferable to a top-down approach to zoning and land use; that landmarks and public safety should be considered among the various other issue areas in developing local land use scenarios; that decisions on land use scenarios for community districts should be made by the community boards for those districts; that targets for land use scenarios in community districts should be set by community boards for those districts, with very narrow exceptions; and that the community board should withhold from legislation that does not embody all of these principles.

During the April 29 meeting, the task force was able to go through only a small portion of the legislation in detail. At the conclusion of the meeting, Michele Birnbaum, Taina Borrero, Sharon Pope Marshall, and Russell Squire volunteered to examine approximately five pages of the legislation each and to present on those pages and their related suggestions at the next task force meeting.

At the May 26 meeting, the CB8 members mentioned above presented on their respective sections of the legislation. The task force and members of the public continued to discuss the Planning Together legislation and suggested changes, and the task force passed the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, legislation has been introduced in the City Council to enact a proposal called Planning Together for purposes of developing and implementing a comprehensive city plan;

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has presented to community boards, including Community Board 8 Manhattan, and invited feedback on the Planning Together legislation from community boards;

**WHEREAS**, the Community Board 8 Manhattan Planning Together Task Force and the board generally have reviewed and considered the Planning Together legislation with a view to providing comments and feedback to the City Council;

**WHEREAS**, communities are due a greater role in final determinations of zoning, development, and land use matters;

**WHEREAS**, local control of zoning, development, and land use is preferable to centralized control;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. CB8 opposes the proposal embodied in the Planning Together legislation as currently drafted and structured;
2. CB8 recommends that the proposal be modified to include the following:
  - a. The Director of Long Term Planning should be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council and Public Advocate;
  - b. Borough Steering Committees should be replaced by existing Borough Boards;
  - c. The “land use scenario” for each community district should be chosen by the community board for that district;
  - d. Landmarks and public safety should be added as subjects to be considered in creating land use scenarios;
  - e. No citywide targets and corresponding community district targets should be set by the city except with respect to resiliency infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and sanitation;
  - f. Community district land use scenario targets with respect to, without limitation, housing, jobs (including associated needed commercial, retail, and industrial space), open space, city facilities, school seats, public transportation, public utilities, and other infrastructure should be set by the local community board;
  - g. Community boards should be given resources to do their own planning in their district and to provide the quantitative and qualitative surveys provided for in the district needs statements;
  - h. Where public hearings are required, there should be at least one in each community district;
  - i. Resources should be provided for community boards to create 197-a plans should they wish to do so.

Vote: Passed 8-0-2-0

**In Favor:** Russell Squire, Sharon Pope-Marshall, Barbara Rudder, Felice Farber, Michele Birnbaum, Loraine Brown, Peter Patch, Taina Borerro,

**Opposed:** none

**Abstain:** May Malik, Marco Tamayo

**NVFC:** none

Sharon Pope Marshall and Russell Squire, Co-Chairs