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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Budget Committee**

This meeting was conducted via Zoom
Tuesday, October 18, 2022 - 6:30pm

Resolutions for Approval:

1A: Contract for Land Use Consultant

2A, 2B, 2C, and 2D (Unanimous): District Needs Statement and Budget Priorities

MINUTES:

Board Members Present: Elizabeth Ashby, Anthony Cohn, Rebecca Dangoor, Felice Farber, Billy Freeland, Craig Lader, Judy Schneider, Ed Hartzog, Lindsey Cormack, Alida Camp, Gayle Barron, Marco Tomayo, Judy Schneider, Saundra Coleman, Russell Squire.

Item 1A: Continued discussion of allocating CB8 Budget for Use by the Arts Committee and the Zoning and Development Committee

The committee continued its discussion from last month about budgeting for Tuck Edelstein. Many members noted that Edelstein’s work to date – on an application to create two special use districts with a 210 foot height limit – has moved far along and that CB8 needed to continue to contract with and pay Edelstein in order to ensure his work could continue. It was said that Edelstein has made pre-application submittals and the next step is for the Department of City Planning to send questions to Edelstein about the proposal. Other members raised questions about Edelstein’s transparency and communicativeness, including regarding providing updates to the board, submitting invoices, and detailing the work he has accomplished and the work he anticipates moving forward. Some members felt that any future funding should be tied to increased transparency and an improved process.

Resolution 1:

WHEREAS, Community Board 8 Manhattan has previously engaged Tuck Edelstein of Edelstein Architecture P.C. (“Edelstein”) to develop and submit to Department of City Planning an application to create two special use districts with a height limit of 210 feet;

WHEREAS, Edelstein requires a new contract to perform any future work on the application that may be required;

WHEREAS, CB8 members have raised questions about Edelstein’s transparency, communication, and provision of information such as monthly reports, next steps, hours worked, and more;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Community Board 8 is not ending its efforts to support this project, and will vote on encumbering funds at a meeting in November 2022, contingent on Edelstein providing CB8 with a work plan for next steps, all monthly reports that we have asked for (indicating hours worked, activities, accomplishments, and next steps);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if Edelstein does not provide that information, CB8 will not continue working with Edelstein and will search for another planner, and no funds will be delivered without receiving the materials requested.

No: Shari Weiner, Anthony Cohn, Gayle Barron, Marco Tamayo

Abstain: Ed Hartzog, Alida Camp, Elizabeth Ashby

Yes: Rebecca Dangoor, Felice Farber, Billy Freeland, Judy Schneider, Craig Lader, Saundrea Coleman

The resolution was disapproved

Resolution 2:

WHEREAS, Community Board 8 Manhattan has previously engaged Tuck Edelstein of Edelstein Architecture P.C. (“Edelstein”) to develop and submit to Department of City Planning an application to create two special use districts with a height limit of 210 feet;

WHEREAS, Edelstein requires a new contract to perform any future work on the application that may be required;

WHEREAS, CB8 members have raised questions about Edelstein’s transparency, communication, and provision of information such as monthly reports, next steps, hours worked, and more;

WHEREAS, Council Member Julie Menin has allocated \$10,000 to CB8 for a “planner”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 encumbers \$10,000 to pay for a planner, Tuck Edelstein, to continue efforts on the special use districts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this funding is dependent on receiving a summary of the work completed to date by Edelstein and Associates and the anticipated work moving forward, including what would be accomplished by the \$10,000 funding discussed herein;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any contract entered into with Edelstein will stipulate that these funds will not be dispersed unless CB8 receives the information asked for, and continues to ask for in the future (including monthly invoices).

No: Rebecca Dangoor, Craig Lader, Billy Freeland, Felice Farber

Abstain: Ed Hartzog

Yes: Shari Weiner, Anthony Cohn, Gayle Barron, Marco Tomayo, Saundrea Coleman, Alida Camp, Elizabeth Ashby

The resolution was approved

Item 1B: Discussion of the Arts Committee budget was tabled to next month.

Item 2: Continued Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2024 Statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities

Item 2A: Capital Budget Priorities

The Committee discussed the Capital Needs and priorities for the District to be set forth in the District Needs Statement. The discussion included continuing to prioritize the need for additional school seats especially early childhood spots, repairs to NYCHA housing in the District, ensuring that residents of

Isaacs and Holmes Towers are given priority access to programming at the Isaacs Center (an expense item), emphasizing the need for accessibility improvements at the 67th Street Library, and removing items that have been completed or are underway and should move to continuing support.

The capital budget priorities as discussed were approved by a unanimous vote (Felice Farber, Billy Freeland, Rebecca Dangoor, Gayle Barron, Craig Lader, Judy Schneider, Marco Tamayo, Alida Camp, Ed Hartzog, Saundrea Coleman, Elizabeth Ashby, Shari Weiner)

After a vote was taken a discussion was had about addressing the need for bike lanes and installing an asphalt overlay on the Roosevelt Island Bridge bike lane to improve bike safety. Given the late hour the committee agreed to take it up as a friendly amendment at the Full Board Meeting.

Item 2B: Expense Budget Priorities

The Committee discussed the Expense Needs with priorities placed on programming for Holmes and Isaacs Youth at the Isaacs Center, increased enforcement of open restaurants, mobile food vendors, parking placard abuse, and other vehicle enforcement (trucks, speeding ATVs etc), aid for food pantries and other support for the food insecure in our community, increased police foot patrols, and additional Parks Dept staff including additional PEP officers and increased rat extermination.

The expense budget priorities as discussed were approved by a unanimous vote. (Felice Farber, Billy Freeland, Russell Squire, Craig Lader, Judy Schneider, Gayle Baron, Ed Hartzog, Rebecca Dangoor, Alida Camp, Saundrea Coleman)

Item 2C: Continuing Support

The Committee discussed the items requiring continuing support including moving some of the projects currently underway to the continuing support section.

The continuing support needs were approved by a unanimous vote.

Item 2D: District Needs Statement Description

The Committee reviewed the redlined edits to the Description of Needs that were provided by the Community Board Committees and updated to reflect the issues and priorities discussed at the September Budget Committee Meeting. The Committee voted to approve the District Needs Statement Description, allowing for additional wordsmithing corrections.

The District Needs Statement text as discussed was approved by a unanimous vote.

Felice Farber and Billy Freeland, Co-Chairs