

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, May 2, 2012  
Lenox Hill Hospital  
131 East 76th Street, Einhorn Auditorium  
New York, NY  
6:30pm

### Minutes

Present: Michele Birnbaum, Jeffrey Escobar, A. Scott Falk, Larry Hockert, Ellen Polivy, Rita Popper, Michael Dillon (public member) & David Menegon (public member).

Excused: Jonathan Horn, Helene Simon, Charles Warren, Hedi White.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Co-Chair A. Scott Falk, who began by introducing the two new public members of the committee, Michael Dillon & David Menegon.

#### **1. A request for a turn signal stop light at the intersection of 96th Street and Park Avenue. (Requested by Mr. Farina, resident)**

Anthony Farina, resident of 1230 Park Avenue and chairman of the house committee of 1230 Park Owners, Inc., appeared before the committee to request installation of a turn signal at Park Avenue and 96th Street and speed-enforcement cameras in order to slow traffic and to improve pedestrian safety. Mr. Farina spoke of the conditions at that intersection and the history of collisions there, including a fatal hit-and-run.

Asked to explain what sort of "turn signal stop light" he was requesting, Mr. Farina said he was concerned about traffic turning left from 96th Street onto Park Avenue, but that he would like to see the entire intersection examined.

Lo van der Valk of Carnegie Hill Neighbors spoke of several difficulties in that area and pointed out that factors in the safety issues at that location include the slope of Park Avenue, drivers rushing to beat a traffic light, and the volume of pedestrians, both adults and children.

The committee discussed the pedestrian and vehicular traffic in the area, which has two hospitals, a number of schools, and traffic related to the 97th Street transverse road through Central Park. A member of the committee also suggested that the resident consider

contacting area schools to request that they provide crossing guards when students are traveling to and from the schools.

Instead of recommending a specific solution to the problems at this intersection, the committee put forward a resolution to call on DOT to take a look at the intersection.

WHEREAS the intersection of 96th Street and Park Avenue is close to two major hospitals and several schools;

WHEREAS the intersection of 96th Street and Park Avenue has heavy traffic endangering children, the elderly, and disabled persons, and is the site of many pedestrian accidents;

WHEREAS the slope of Park Avenue at 96th Street increases the risk of accidents at that location;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8M calls on the Department of Transportation to look at the intersection of 96th Street and Park Avenue for ways to improve pedestrian safety at this location.

*Approved: 4 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions*

*Yes: Birnbaum, Falk, Hockert, Popper*

*Public Member Votes: 2 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions*

*Yes: Dillon, Menegon*

## **2. Discussion of having a station or stations on Roosevelt Island as part of the DOT pilot Bike Share Program.**

Community Board 8 member Ellen Polivy and Benjamin Kallos (public member of the Communications Committee) came to the committee to request the board's support for the inclusion of Roosevelt Island in the upcoming bike share program. Several Roosevelt Island residents spoke in favor of this request, and Fernando Martinez, Vice President of Operations for Roosevelt Island Operating Corp. (RIOC), reported that RIOC's survey of the island's residents showed overwhelming support for such a program.

Jonathan Kalkin, a former RIOC board member, recounted some of RIOC's efforts to investigate launching their own bike share program and explained that RIOC had waited for NYC DOT to select its own vendor in order to allow for compatible bike share programs. Mr. Kalkin shared a message from Cathy Dove, Vice President of the new CornellNYC Tech campus, expressing the university's support for a bike share program.

WHEREAS there is a commitment to launch a bike share program in New York City;

WHEREAS the residents of Roosevelt Island have expressed strong interest in having bike share on Roosevelt Island;

WHEREAS NYC DOT has excluded Roosevelt Island from its initial plans for bike share;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8M asks the NYC Department of Transportation and Alta Bike Share to include Roosevelt Island in the initial rollout of the Citi Bike program.

*Approved: 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions*

*Yes: Birnbaum, Escobar, Falk, Hockert, Polivy, Popper*

*Public Member Votes: 2 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions*

*Yes: Dillon, Menegon*

**3. A request for a new Revocable Consent for a fenced-in area at 69 East 82nd Street. (Requested by DOT)**

Steve Blatz, the architect for this project, presented the committee with plans to modify the townhouse at 69 East 82nd Street, the easternmost of a row of eleven townhouses on the north side of East 82nd Street between Park and Madison that was originally built in the early 1900s. Several decades ago the front stoop was removed from the house and a three-story addition was built out to the lot line; similar alterations were made to all of the other townhouses on this block. Each of the other ten houses has a fenced-in garden in front of their entrances, but this townhouse does not have a fence or garden.

Mr. Blatz explained that they are seeking to modify the facade of the house to create a more sensitive design in the context of the block. As part of the renovation they seek to add a three-foot tall fence extending five feet into the sidewalk, to continue the line of the garden wall created by the fences in front of the other townhouses.

WHEREAS the townhouse located at 69 East 82nd Street is the only one of a row of eleven adjacent townhouses that does not have a fence and garden in front of its entrance;

WHEREAS the townhouse owner is requesting to install a fence three feet in height, extending five feet from the lot line, creating a consistent fence line with the ten adjacent townhouses;

WHEREAS there will be six feet four inches of clearance between the fence and the tree pit located in front of the property; and

WHEREAS 69 East 82nd Street is not an individual landmark and is not located within the boundaries of a designated historic district;

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

*Approved: 4 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions*

*Yes: Birnbaum, Falk, Hockert, Popper*

*Public Member Votes: 2 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions*

*Yes: Dillon, Menegon*

**4. Old Business**

There was no old business.

## 5. New Business

The committee discussed a complaint regarding several delivery cycles surrounding the fire hydrant on 86th Street just east of York Avenue, outside the Mansion Restaurant.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Scott Falk and Charles Warren, Co-Chairs