

THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

Cathedral Station ♦ P.O. Box 1316 ♦ New York, N.Y. 10025 ♦ (212) 539-7602

Website: ThreeParksDems.org ♦ Email: ThreeParksDems@aol.com

President

Daniele Gerard

Editor

Lauren Williams
(laurenwilliams1@cs.com)

District Leaders

Bob Botfeld
Cynthia Doty

State Committee

Lynn Thomas
Daniel Marks Cohen

FEBRUARY 8, 2012

FEATURED TOPIC & SPEAKERS: COMPTROLLER JOHN LIU—State of the City's Economy: pensions, jobs, and more; FREELANCERS UNION, Gabrielle Wuolo, Policy & Program Development Manager—Sick leave, pay, and health care—prospects for independent contractors; ELECTION of THREE PARKS BOARD of DIRECTORS

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: The Youth Hostel
891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street

ROOM: Chapel/Ballroom

AGENDA

7:45 PM Sign-in
8 PM Call to Order

1. President's Report & Announcements
2. District Leaders' Reports
3. Comptroller John Liu
4. Freelancers Union
5. Election of Three Parks Board
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 22, 2012
Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

Wednesday, March 14, 2012
Three Parks Meeting, 8 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

Wednesday, March 28, 2012
Three Parks Board Meeting, 8 PM
Place: Youth Hostel, 891 Amsterdam Ave. at 103rd St.

President's Column

By Daniele Gerard

Thanks go out to Three Parks member Steve Max for his January presentation: "The 1%, the 99%, and the Economy." Members and friends listened with rapt attention, asked probing questions, and showed their appreciation with resounding applause. It was a lively and informative evening!

The club's February meeting features Comptroller John Liu, who will speak to us about the State of the City's Economy: pensions, jobs, and more. We will also hear from Freelancers Union's Policy and Program Development Manager Gabrielle Wuolo, who will discuss prospects for independent contractors, including sick leave, pay, and health care. The membership will also vote to elect the 2012 Three Parks Board of Directors, whose bios appear in this newsletter.

It's almost that time of year again: the Three Parks Annual Benefit will be held at Café Frida on Sunday, April 1 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Club will present the *Ted Weiss Public Service Award* to Assembly Member Deborah Glick in recognition of her contributions in the areas of social and environmental justice and her advocacy on behalf of progressive issues. We also will present the *Jesse Crawford Community Service Award* to Community Voices Heard for its invaluable work improving the lives of low-income families and communities.

If you would like to have your name listed on the benefit invitation as a Benefactor (\$500), Patron (\$250), or Sponsor (\$150), please mail your check to the club's post office box or visit threeparksdems.org and click on the benefit link. We are going to print next week, so contact us soon!

Finally, please read the Three Parks proposed resolution on campaign finance reform that will be discussed and voted on at the February meeting.

A video of Steve Max's presentation at the January meeting, "The 1%, the 99% and the Economy," was made by Board of Directors member Erl Kimmich.

DVDs of the full presentation are available for \$5 (to cover costs). Order from Erl by sending e-mail to <harriet_tubman@hotmail.com>

District Leader Report

by Bob Botfeld

The proposed 2012 New York State Senate and State Assembly redistricting maps were published on Thursday, January 26 by the joint legislative task force. Under the proposed redistricting plan, the Three Parks area Assembly and Senate representatives would remain largely unchanged since nearly all our current election districts continue to remain within the previous 69th Assembly and 30th and 31st Senate districts. (Under the proposed plan we would lose our three election districts north of 110th Street.) However, the plans are highly gerrymandered to protect incumbent representatives, and Governor Cuomo has threatened to veto both plans – so the plans may well be changed.

Progress at the Land Use Committee Meeting – CB7 (Wednesday, January 18) Neighborhood Retail Streets (Store) Zoning:

A standing room only crowd of over 225 Westsiders – including many who signed the Three Parks Save Our Neighborhood Store petitions on Amsterdam Avenue – attended the Community Board 7 (CB7) Land Use Committee meeting at Goddard Riverside Community Center to discuss the proposed Neighborhood Retail Streets zoning created to protect the mom and pop stores, local restaurants, and neighborhood service shops in the Upper West Side. Laura Smith of the Department of City Planning (DCP) presented the plan which was developed in conjunction with input from CB7 members, Councilmember Gale Brewer, and local residents. The extension of the proposed zoning area on Amsterdam Avenue to include 96th Street to 110th Street was acknowledged by the DCP to have been added as a response to our neighborhood's petitions and expressed interest. At the meeting, community member comment, including testimony from Three Parks members Bob Botfeld, Cynthia Doty, Elizabeth Kellner, Lynn Max, and Steve Max, was heard in favor of the proposal.

The new zoning restricts the ground floor street frontage of new retail establishments on most of Amsterdam Avenue from 72nd Street to 110th Street and Columbus Avenue from 72nd Street to 86th Street to 40 feet frontage. It limits the ground floor street frontage of new banks on Broadway, Amsterdam Avenue, and Columbus Avenue to 25 feet. There are exceptions and exclusions to this proposal. For complete details about the proposed plan see the Department of City Planning Web site at <<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/uws/index.shtml>>

The plan was overwhelmingly favored by the audience members. The primary concerns raised were that the restrictions were not strong enough to prevent or even reverse the influx of banks, drugstores, and other large businesses that have replaced the treasured old neighborhood favorites.

Approval by the CB7 Land Use Committee is the first step under the city's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) process in the adoption of the zoning change. At the end of the nearly three hour meeting, a straw vote of the committee members was taken by the committee chair Richard Asche. By my unofficial count, nine members expressed support, two were concerned about the effectiveness of the proposed plan, and one or two expressed no position.

A formal vote by the Land Use Committee on this proposal is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15 during the next meeting of the committee. The location of the next committee meeting is tentatively set for the CB7 offices at 250 West 87th Street. The full CB7 Community Board is scheduled to vote on the proposal at the March 6 CB7 meeting which will be held at Jewish Home Lifecare located at 150 West 106th Street.

Three Parks has changed our phone number to 212-539-7602; please make a note of it.

Friend Three Parks Independent Democrats on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and check out our Web site at <www.ThreeParksDems.org>

Participatory Budgeting Project for District 8

By Cynthia Doty, District 8 Co-Chair

Please come out to the Neighborhood Assembly on February 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to learn about all the capital expense proposals that will be on the ballot for the community to vote on in March. The meeting will be held at the Hostel at 891 Amsterdam Avenue at 103rd Street in the Chapel/Ballroom. Budget Delegates have been meeting for the last few months and have developed many exciting proposals. Delegates from seven different committees will give presentations and then discuss their projects in an expo or science fair set-up so community members can learn about the suggested improvements.

Actual voting will take place from March 25 to March 31.

Our area will hold a voting poll site on March 25 from noon to 6:00 p.m. at the Hostel in the SOHO room. Residents over 18 years old who live in the 8th City Council District will be eligible to vote on five proposals each.

Personally, I have found this process fascinating. Not only will community members have a chance to directly choose how to spend \$1 million dollars of capital expense funds, but also the process itself has proven very rewarding. Those involved have gotten to learn so much about the district and to meet and collaborate with others from all parts of the area, especially unique in a district so spread out as the 8th. Participants have had a wonderful opportunity to not only identify community needs but also brainstorm on real, viable solutions...something that so rarely happens. Many new exciting ideas and campaigns have been created through this process that the community, Council Member, and her staff can continue to work on them over the year, including those that address problems that did not qualify for capital expense funding.

This project engaged many new people, highlighted dozens of community needs that otherwise might not have happened, and community members have had a unique opportunity to work together to develop specific solutions.

So come out to the Neighborhood Assembly on February 16 to learn more.

Results of Endorsement Vote for Democratic Candidate for U.S. President

An endorsement vote for the Democratic Presidential candidates took place at the January club meeting. Results of the balloting were as follows:

President Barack Obama 54
No Endorsement 8
Bernie Sanders 3

The Presidential Primary will occur on April 24.

Nominations for Judicial Delegates for Three Parks will be taken at the February 8 club meeting and the election will be held at the March 14 club meeting.

Proposed Resolution on Campaign Finance Reform

From time to time, Three Parks introduces resolutions to enable the club to work formally on various issues, for example, health care/single payer, Social Security, fracking, and Indian Point. Below for consideration by the membership is a proposed resolution supporting public financing of elections. It will be read, discussed, and voted on at the February 8 club meeting.

WHEREAS campaign finance reform, including public financing of elections, is the single most important step to upend the perception of “pay-to-play” culture in Albany and Washington, D.C. and to promote greater transparency, competition, and accountability in government,

WHEREAS New York could be an example for the nation of how to revitalize democracy at all levels of government,

WHEREAS after *Citizens United*, which should certainly be overruled, we face an era of unlimited and increasingly secret spending on elections, and

WHEREAS public financing enables candidates to run competitive campaigns while relying on a base of small donors back home, rather than on a small number of wealthy contributors, and will promote accountability and diversity in New York’s and Washington, D.C.’s governance while revitalizing our participatory democracy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Three Parks Independent Democrats calls on Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature to create a robust public financing program for New York State and urges our federally elected officials to do the same for Washington, D.C.

Jewish Home Lifecare’s Proposed Move

By Cynthia Doty

On February 7 Community Board 7 will vote on a Ruling about the proposed construction of a new nursing home by Jewish Home Lifecare (JHL). The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. at Congregation Rodeph Sholom, 7 W. 83rd Street.

JHL wants to move from 106th Street to 97th street between Amsterdam Avenue and Columbus Avenue. They want to start construction in February 2013 of a 20-story nursing home on Park West Village property where there is currently a parking lot. It is right next to PS 163 property. They have made a deal with Chetrit/Gluck to switch properties allowing Chetrit to develop the 106th Street site.

JHL wants to replace their aging structure with a new, state-of-the-art facility. Originally JHL wanted to sell part of its W. 106th Street property to Chetrit and use the proceeds to build a new building on West 100th Street. That plan was ultimately scrapped, but Chetrit and JHL worked out a new deal to swap vacant property that Chetrit owned on W. 97th Street for JHL’s W. 106th Street site.

Now the details of the land transaction have been finalized, and JHL is ready to move forward on the \$250 million facility, with a projected move-in date of spring 2017.

Currently this specific PWV land on 97th Street is zoned in such a way that a developer is allowed to build an “as of right” project if it does not meet three factors – one of which has to do with negatively impacting the community by reducing community open space.

At the Jan 17 CB7 Committee meeting the committee approved a resolution that the project does impact the open space. If the Full Board adopts this resolution on Feb 7, it will recommend that City Planning take the proposed development out of the “as of right” category and into a ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure) process, which triggers public hearings, community review, and an environmental review.

CB7 only has an advisory role so City Planning does not have to follow the resolution. Come to the CB7 meeting to learn more or check out the CB7 Web site for more details.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and his wife Elyse on the birth of their son, Maxwell Eliot Stringer.

Also, congratulations to State Committeeman Dan Cohen on his marriage to Jill Drossman Cohen and to Assembly Member Daniel O’Donnell on his marriage to John Banta.

Condolences

The club extends condolences to members Molly Bailey and Margaret Collins on the passing of their sister Estelle Lee, to member Michael Katz on the passing of his father William Katz, and to the family of deceased member Elizabeth Gardner.

State Committee Report

Daniel Marks Cohen

Earlier in January the Reform Caucus sat down with Jay Jacobs to discuss our frustration with the meeting last November in Albany. Several resolutions – including one on the millionaire’s tax and another on fracking, had been submitted for consideration by the State Committee, and after assurances that they would be voted on by the entire body, they were tabled – and in a way that was inherently undemocratic through a voice vote rather than through a hand vote, and it was done swiftly, with calls for a hand vote (known as a “division of the house” in Roberts Rules of Order) ignored. This may sound a little technical, but the fact is that even simple resolutions were now being ignored, without respect for the democratic process, and we, the Reform Caucus, were angry.

I give credit to Jacobs for showing up – he faced about two dozen of us and after we aired our grievances, he proceeded to say, politely, but firmly, that he thought he had done the right thing; that he was trying to prevent resolutions from “embarrassing” the governor, and that he would not change his behavior. There was also an issue where we questioned whether the chairman could be objective when addressing the fracking issue, since Jacobs owns a summer camp in Pennsylvania that has, together with other property owners in the region, signed a lease with a drilling company to allow fracking on the his property. Jacobs said that the terms under which the lease was signed were done with an environmental group, and that the terms were so environmentally stringent that of the many companies that had approached them, only one actually emerged willing to sign, said Jacobs, for less than comparable properties, because of the environmental restrictions. Jacobs also said that he thought the company would never actually drill on the property, but that having large amounts of leased land helps the company obtain financing, even if it does not drill in every area. Perhaps this is all true, it still remains that Jacobs is profiting from fracking, and so there is a question of conflict of interest.

The State Committee, when there is a Democratic governor as the head of the state, said Jacobs, should be

merely a cheering section, not doing anything to influence politics or policy. We, the Reform Caucus, fiercely disagree. It was a civil meeting, but it was clear that if we wanted to even have a democratic process in the State Committee, or address the conflict of interest mentioned above, we would need to show that not allowing a proper vote on our resolutions or a conflict of interest discussion would be even MORE embarrassing, and that we had to pursue litigation under New York’s open meetings law to force things to be fair. We have established a working group to come up with a few options, and I will keep you posted how this proceeds. The fact that we have to do this is ridiculous, we should be devoting our time and energy to electing Democrats across the state and country, and it was clear that Jacobs hoped we would devote our energy to other things, but what is the point of having a State Committee if it cannot give voice to concerns of its members? I was elected to represent the 69th AD in the State Committee, my constituents have concerns that they feel are not being addressed by the Democratic Party. I have a job to do.

Jacobs said that he thought we had acted temperamentally at the meeting last year, almost like a child, he implied. Well, we responded, if that is the case, we are now going to throw a tantrum. Brace yourself. More to follow. See you at the next club meeting.

Eligible Voters List for February 8, 2012

Ralph	Andrew
Mollie	Bailey
Susan J.	Baldwin
William	Baldwin
Emily	Baldwin
Robert	Bardin
Margret	Beels
Bob	Botfeld
Vincent	Brancato
Theresa	Canter
Daniel Marks	Cohen
Margaret	Collins
Wendy	Dannett
John	Davenport
Lucille M.	Donte
Cynthia	Doty
Ellen	Flax
Ernestine	Gallagher
Martina	Garcia
Mary J.	Geissman
Daniele	Gerard
Louisa	Gilbert
Robert	Ginsberg
Pilar	Gomez
Jacqueline	Huey
Ulla	Jorgensen
Micky	Josephs
David C.	Kaplan
Elizabeth Krob	Kellner
Erlend	Kimmich
Jerry	Koenig
Kenneth	Lauffer
Barbara	Lee
Estelle	Levy
Marie	Lunn
Bruce	Markens
Mary Ann	Marks
Stephen	Max
Lynn Bender	Max
Merle	McEldowney
Batya	Miller
Antonine	Momplaisir

Josh	Pepper
Annie	Petrus
Corine	Petty
Suzanne	Samelson
Milivoy	Samurovich
Ray	Schwartz
Roschel Holland	Stearns
Michael	Stearns
Clara	Taylor
Deborah	Thomas
Lynn	Thomas
Ken	Tulloch
Ruben	Vargas
Yvonne	Vulliemoz
Lauren A.	Williams
Rosetta	Williams
Judy	Wood

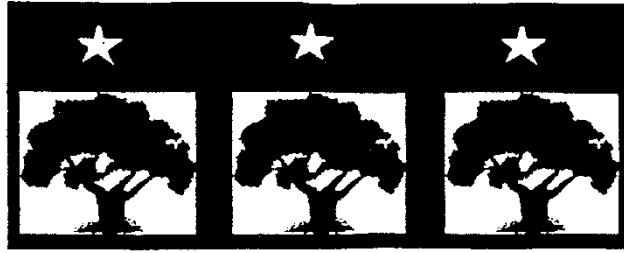
Eligible If Paid

Cyrus	Adler
Susan	Andrews
Shoshannah	Benmosche
Marla	Brunker
David	Camacho
Isabella	Caputo
Renna	Draynel
Gerry Ann	Fifer
Alan	Flacks
Thomas	Goggin
Vivian	Gruder
Robert	Gumbs
Adam	Haridopolos
Chaumtoli	Huq
Brian	Jordan
Michael	Katz
David	Kogelman
Marguerite	Lavin
David	Lazarus
Gail	Leinwall
Joan	Levinson
Betsy	Malcolm
Abigail	McGloster
Alex	Medwedew
Dorothy	Mehler
Ernest	Mehler

Minda	Meister
Gail	Meyers
Christopher	Mooney
Martin	Morand
Brenda	Morgan
Derrick	Mullins
John	Newell
Joan	Ogden
Gabrina	Pearson
Malik	Pearson
Geraldine	Phillips
Rose	Podrasky
Florence	Puccetti-Hepner
James	Reed
Carol	Reisner
Nathan	Riley
K.	Samuels
Eugene	Sarver
Carl Joseph	Scalise
Doris	Schreiber
Ann	Shirazi
Ahmad	Shirazi
Irene	Shrier
Mildred	Speiser
Stephanie	Tegnazian
Ruth	Tepper
Jane	Thompson
George	Voorhis
Vernita	Worrell
Gloria	Zeche

To be eligible to vote in the Club election, a member must have attended at least one meeting in the previous six months and have paid 2012 dues. New memberships do not become effective for thirty days, after which a new member must attend at least one meeting to be eligible to vote.

Reminder : Members may not vote at Three Parks if they also vote at other Democratic clubs.



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316 • New York, NY 10025 (212) 539-7602

Please pay your 2012 dues by filling out the form below and bringing it to the next meeting
or by mailing it with your check to:

*Three Parks Independent Democrats
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316
New York, N.Y. 10025
Attn: Treasurer*

2012 MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member _____

Renewal _____

Membership Category -- Check One

Individual (\$25) _____

Family -- two adults in the same household (\$40) _____

Low Income (\$15) _____

Low Income Family (\$20) _____

Sponsor (\$50) _____ Patron (\$100) _____

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

Email _____

Check here if you prefer to receive the newsletter via email.

****Please pay your dues with a check or via PayPal – cash and money orders are far more difficult to process. Thanks in advance for your cooperation! Please make out all checks to “Three Parks Independent Democrats - Dues 2012****

Three Parks Independent Democrats
Cathedral Station P.O. Box 1316
New York, N.Y. 10025

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**COMPTROLLER JOHN LIU
FREELANCERS UNION
ELECTION OF THREE PARKS BOARD**