

**Roosevelt Island Residents Association
Common Council Meeting, Wednesday, May 2, 2012
Minutes for April 4, 2012 Meeting**

1. Public Access – 8:15 p.m.

Ben Kallos – Communications Committee, CB8 – Reported that the coming Bike Share program introduced in Manhattan on March 26, has excluded Roosevelt Island in the initial planning. Kellner is in favor of the program and supports initially including this community by adding a post at the Tram Plaza as one of the locations for the Bike Share. Kallos said a letter or resolution from RIRA asking CB8 to include Roosevelt Island would be helpful and considered public notice of this community's interest.

Margie Smith – RIOC Board Member – She is looking for ideas for how to use the temporary and other open space still available on the Island and make it available to the community while possible. Land is currently not in use where Southtown buildings #7, 8, & 9 are to be built, as well as the open area across from the "Boat Prow" near The Octagon. She wants to hear ideas about easy to assemble and disassemble exercise equipment that can be moved elsewhere, particularly when the current Southtown space becomes unavailable.

Joyce Mincheff – Roosevelt Landings Tenant Association - Mincheff, Roosevelt Landings Tenant Association President, spoke to the Council about her application to receive Public Purpose Funds (PPF) funds and the current planned allocation of those funds. Although the PPF Committee has held their meetings with all applicants and completed the decision making process, she requested that the Common Council ask the PPF Committee to reallocate funds to include her request for \$2800. Her paperwork was disqualified by RIOC.

Linda Heimer – Resident – She noted that Sal Ferrara has taken on presenting "The RI Second Annual Cherry Blossom Festival" and has asked RIRA to participate. Heimer is requesting that RIRA not participate as a protest of Ferrara's gubernatorial appointment

Regular Meeting called to order at 8:30pm:

- 2. Roll Call:** Quorum achieved (22 present). Shull has resigned. Pope voting for Romm.
- 3. Approval of 4/4/12 amended Agenda:** Appointment of new RIRA member from Manhattan Park by I. Salisbury; **Motion to amend, ?; Second, Hamburger; Approved by acclamation.**
- 4. Approval of 3/7/12 Minutes: Motion-Hamburger; Second Escobar; Approved by acclamation.**
- 5. Treasurer's Report** – written
Current Checking balance: \$4,944.64; LAFC: \$1,222.27; Total Assets: \$6,166.91.
- 6. President's Report** –
 - There are several motions and resolutions that the Council will be voting on this evening, one of those being the approval of the RIRA blood drive that we've held with the New York Blood Center for the past decade. This effort will culminate on Roosevelt Island Day in the Senior Center (546 Main St.), scheduled for Saturday, June 9. Tonight I will ask for your approval to begin the process. In May Katz will draft Common Council members for a couple of hours each at the RIRA table, beginning the more difficult process of getting our neighbors to sign up as blood donors. This process will begin Saturday, May 19. We will be at our usual station at the Farmers Market. This effort will continue for four consecutive Saturdays, including Roosevelt Island Day. Also, at our next meeting, the SC&E Committee will be asking for your endorsement to cover the cost of RIRA's continuing Free Bagel, Juice and Coffee Breakfast on Roosevelt Island Day.
 - The RIRA Public Purpose Fund Committee has completed its work reading and reviewing dozens of applications, interviewing the respective applicants, and then upward of 30 hours making as fair and equitable a distribution of the funds as possible. Bill Long most ably chaired the committee through 13 meetings. He will present the Committee's conclusions for your endorsement this evening.

- At RIRA's last meeting, the Common Council approved a motion to support the Roosevelt Island Youth Center and the Beacon Program, which we had learned was in jeopardy of losing its funding. As agreed, Katz sent a letter from RIRA to Councilmember Lappin expressing our support of this program. Council Member Lappin informed us in her March 28 newsletter that our Beacon program is not on the closure list. Budget negotiations will be ongoing through June, and we hope the Youth Center will receive what it needs to be effective.
- Tomorrow evening, Cornell will host a Town Meeting to introduce its plans for the new graduate tech center and to take questions from residents. Cornell's president, David Skorton will lead the contingent and most of our local politicians are expected to be in attendance. The meeting convenes at 6:30 p.m. at the Manhattan Park Theater, #8 River Road. Common Council members are strongly encouraged to attend this important first meeting with Cornell. Additionally, RIRA's Silicon Island sub-Committee met to continue the initial planning for the main stand-alone coalition organization that will eventually have RIRA as a member among many other organizations from our immediate Island community as well as those being gathered from Queens and Manhattan. Those minutes were included in your agenda package.
- Our guest this evening, Ben Kallos, has informed Katz that positions are available for poll workers at the Republican Primary election on April 24. Workers will be paid both for training and for staffing the polls. If you are interested, please call John Halebian at the Lenox Hill Democratic Club, (212) 500-5010.

7. Committee Reports –

Public Purpose Funds: Chair, Bill Long – Presented the Committee's allocations for the funds and thanked the committee members for their efforts in the decision making process. Farance: Suggested that the committee next time look at two types of funding: one-time and repeated or on-going funding and work out criteria for both kinds. He also suggested that perhaps next year the committee needs to ask RIOC to up the amount of funding provided. Discussion ensued about Mincheff's request to be included in the allocation of funds and how that request might be handled (taking \$250 from each of the other recipients).

Farance offered an Amendment to the motion asking RIOC for an exception to find or reallocate funding for all groups taking away \$250 from each and giving \$2750 to Roosevelt Landings' Tenants Association. Seconded; VOTE: 8Y, 12N, 2A. Motion fails. Motion to approve the PPF fund allocation as originally put forth, Seconded; VOTE: 16Y, 0N, 3A. Motion passes.

Public Safety: Chair, Feely-Nahem – No report.

Social, Cultural and Educational Services: Chair, Shinozaki, absent – No report.

Communications: Chair, Fortuna, absent – No report

Government Relations/MTG sub-committee: E. Polivy; offered two resolutions as presented, and two motions for the Common Council to address and vote on.

The first resolution updates and upgrades the legislation, including the alignment of community elections with RIRA elections to ease the process already in place, with the direct election issue as a separate issue/possibility: **Seconded; VOTE: 19Y, 0N, 3A. Passed.** (See #1 Resolution at end of these Minutes.)

Second Resolution: RIRA requests that the RIOC Board hold informal quarterly open meetings with the community-at-large; **Seconded; VOTE: 20Y, 0N, 2A. Passes.**

Motion: That RIRA will forward a letter to CB8 in support of the Bike Share program, Second; VOTE: 20Y, 0N, 2A. Passed. Katz will send letter to CB8.

Jeff Escobar – CB8: April 18 a full Board meeting on Roosevelt Island at Good Shepherd Community Center. On May 9 they will vote on the ULURP on Open Waterways Revitalization Act. Resolution: Turned over to Planning Committee for discussion and a RIRA vote at 5/2 meeting.

PROCEDURAL ERROR: THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE RIGHT AFTER ROLL CALL:

I. Salisbury nominated Mark Lyon to join the Common Council from Manhattan Park; **Agreed to by Acclamation.**

Planning: Chair, Farance – no meeting

Silicon Island sub-committee –Written report submitted by Chair, S. Marcus

Housing: Chair, Chirivas – No report

S. Pope wanted to know if RIRA could contribute to Roosevelt Landings funding request by using moneys from the LAFC account. The answer is “no”, due to LAFC by-laws.

Constitutional Committee: Chair, Evans, absent – No report

Island Services: Chair, Hamburger – written report; additional topic: Looking into the full-service pharmacy issue.

Main Street Retail sub-committee: F. Plastino, Chair is setting up a meeting for committee members’ to meet with either David Kramer or Andrew Jackson, to discuss community concerns and wishes over retail assignments.

Community Board 8 Manhattan: E. Polivy – Reminded the Council that Mr. Kallos was the attorney representing the Democracy group at the time of the June protest at the Governor’s office.

8. Old Business – None

9. New Business –

Katz - RIRA Blood Drive approval: **Seconded; Approved by acclamation**

Atkins reminded the Council that there was free tax help at the Senior Center for anyone who needed it on Tuesdays. Motion to approve a RIRA ad in the Main Street Theatre and Dance Alliance’s (MST&DA) program at a cost of \$40. **VOTE: Seconded; Approved by acclamation.**

Helstien – Helstien announced that she would take a table to sell RIRA hats and waters/teas we have in storage at the Cherry Blossom Festival but not actively participate or give material support to the organization of the Festival. Ferrara told Helstien that from the money raised, 70% would go to RIRA and 30% to Japanese relief on 4/21; Several people said they’d help if available.

Katz - **Motion asking the Common Council to approve RIRA’s (minimal) participation to do fundraising at the Cherry Blossom Festival. Seconded: VOTE: 11Y, 4N, 4A. Passed.**

Hamburger – **Motion to support the Cherry Blossom Festival: Seconded: VOTE: 7Y, 7N, 6A, Ties/Fails.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherie Helstien, Secretary

(GRC #1) RESOLUTION REGARDING RIOC LEGISLATION AND RIOC BOARD

Whereas, the current version of the law governing RIOC has aspects that are outdated and/or inadequate; and

Whereas, Assembly member Micah Kellner has requested a list of the elements that residents would want in the RIOC law, mandating direct election of residents for the seven public Board seats; and

Whereas, the expiration dates of two of the Board terms are not suitably aligned for even-year-November resident elections; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the legislative subcommittee of the Government Relations Committee will provide to State Assembly member Micah Kellner and Senator Jose Serrano, for discussion with them, its documents that seek, in succession, to update and upgrade the current law, modify two Board term expirations, and legislate direct election of residents for the seven public Board seats.

EMAIL OF EXPLANATION (SLIGHTLY CUT) FOR THE VOTE BY EMAIL ON THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND VOTE RESULTS:

Dear Common Council members,

Something was inadvertently omitted from the legislative subcommittee's resolution, and therefore from what 22 of you voted on at the April 4 CC meeting. That omission was a Memorandum of Understanding as the fourth goal. (The three goals that were approved, 19-0 with 3 abstentions, were updating/upgrading the current RIOC law, modification of 2 Board term expirations, and direct election of residents for the seven public Board seats.)

This document would recognize the precedent established by our three elections of producing resident nominees for appointment. It would be an interim safeguard, both in the short term (following the June end of the 2012 NYS legislative session, and preceding our November 2012 elections) and in the long term (while waiting for direct elections to be mandated by law).

Needing to get the package to Serrano and Kellner and start the substantive process as soon as possible, and not wanting to wait till after the May 2 CC meeting, **please let me (ASHTON BARFIELD) know (and copy Katz & Polivy by Tuesday, April 10 at 9 pm, whether it's fine with you to add this fourth goal.** I'll send out the tally and individual votes when we're done.

The FINAL tally: Of the 34 CC members, 19 have voted (22 including late votes). The tally is 20 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention. Passed.

YES – 20

Atkins	Katz
Bates	Long
Biddlecom	Lyon
Darwish	Marcus
Digilio	Plastino
Evans	Polivy
Fields	Semenza
Green	Terranella
Hamburger	Allen (added late)
Helstien	Heller (added late)

NO--1

Farance (added late)

ABSTAIN -- 1

Chirivas