



NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY BOARDS

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BRIEF HISTORY OF COMMUNITY BOARDS

1951 – Manhattan Borough President Robert Wagner establishes 12 “Community Planning Councils” to advise him on local planning and budgetary matters.

1963 – City Charter revision creates “Community Planning Boards” for the entire City to advise Borough Presidents “in respect to any matter in relation to the development or welfare of its district.”

1975 – City Charter revision creates Community Boards as we know them today with four responsibilities:

1. Monitor and evaluate the delivery of City services
2. Plan and review land use and zoning
3. Participate in City Budget process & Capital Program
4. Advise on matters affecting the welfare of its district



NYC'S 59 COMMUNITY BOARDS

Number of Boards by Borough

Manhattan = 12

The Bronx = 12

Queens = 14

Brooklyn = 18

Staten Island = 3



WHO SERVES ON COMMUNITY BOARDS?

50 volunteer members on each board

- 2,950 members across NYC's 59 boards.

Board members appointed by Borough Presidents

- Half unilaterally
- Half by City Council recommendations

Membership requirements

- Must be a New York City resident.
- Must demonstrate a “significant interest” in the district, i.e. living or working in the district.

Members serve staggered two year terms.



COMMUNITY BOARD STRUCTURE

Governed by by-laws

Members elect officers

- Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer

Paid District Manager and staff

- Run the office
- Respond to constituent inquiries
- Prepare meetings
- Facilitate District Service Cabinet

Committee Structure

- Executive/Steering Committee
- Committees meet throughout month
- Full board meets once a month
- Draft and vote on resolutions



COMMUNITY BOARD COMMITTEES

TYPES OF COMMITTEES

- Land Use and Zoning
- Landmarks and Preservation
- Parks and Waterfront
- Health and Human Services
- Transportation
- Education and Youth Services
- Nightlife and Business Applications

ISSUES COMMITTEES ADDRESS

- ULURP Applications
- Landmarks Applications
- Park Design & Concession Applications
- Location & Availability of HHS Facilities
- Traffic Signals, Bike Lanes, Public Transport
- School Capacity, Library Funding
- Liquor License, Sidewalk Café & Street Activity Permits



LAND USE CASE STUDY – RIVERSIDE CENTER

Original Proposal	CB Recommendation	Final Proposal
12% of 2,500 units to be developed as affordable housing	30% of 2,500 units to be developed as permanently affordable housing	20% of the floor area will be developed as affordable housing, resulting in more than 20% of the units to be affordable.
Automotive showroom to be located in development	Replace automotive showroom with community-friendly uses	Automotive showroom to be located in development
75,000 SF public school – developer to provide core and shell without build out	150,000 SF public school – developer to pay for full build out	100,00 SF public school – developer to pay for core + shell, City to pay for at least 85,000 SF of build out
Apartments to be located in 5 towers	Apartments to be located in 4 towers	Apartments to be located in 5 towers
1,800 public parking spots	Limit to 1,000 public parking spaces only	1,500 public parking spots
Raised open space included walls along 59 th Street and inaccessible stairwells along Riverside Blvd	Make public areas level with sidewalk (not raised) to improve visibility and accessibility	Lowered grade of open space on 59th St, redesigned connections to Riverside Park to include ramps
Winding paths along Riverside Park	Broaden paths and sidewalks to improve circulation	Paths redesigned to allow ADA accessible ramps
59 th Street designed to be the back of the project with curb cuts, few doors, and a raised wall.	Develop West 59 th Street as an enlivened path to Riverside Park.	More retail along 59th St, elimination of wall, fewer curb cuts to reduce pedestrian/vehicular conflicts.
LEED Silver proposed - not codified into law.	LEED Platinum or highest LEED rating available at start of construction.	LEED Silver codified project's restrictive declaration.



RECRUITMENT & APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Used by Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer from 2006 - 2013

GOALS:

- Increase representative nature & diversity of appointments
- Create a competitive process
- Raise public awareness of community boards

PROCESS:

1. Borough-wide Recruitment
2. Independent Screening Panel
3. Interview & Appointment
4. Orientation & Training

