

Next issue:
Sat., May 29

The Main Street **WIRE**™

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Rose Window Returns A team from Gil Studio reinstalled the Rose Window at the west end of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd this week to complete a round of renovation work on the historic structure. More photos, in color, with this issue of *The WIRE* on *Website NYC10044* at <http://nyc10044.com>.

Revision of RIRA Constitution Makes It an All-Elected Body

The Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) will become an all-elected body if a revised constitution is passed a month from now by a community Town Meeting quorum of 100 or more residents. In last week's meeting, the Council voted 16 to 4, with 1 abstention, to refer the new document to the community.

The current constitution of the residents' organization, in force since 1991, has places at the Common Council table for a variety of non-elected positions – the appointed representatives to Community Board 8, Governor-appointed residents on the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating

Corporation (RIOC), and appointed representatives of the Roosevelt Island Council of Organizations (RICO), which has been mostly inactive for several years.

The new constitution also breaks out operational rules and procedures into a set of bylaws, which the Council approved unanimously. Both documents are published in this issue of *The WIRE*, starting on page 5. RIRA is recognized by the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) as the official voice of residents of the Island.

The two-document approach to the governing documents is intended to provide for easier changes by a Common Council vote, rather than requiring the convening of a Town Meeting for changes favored by all, such as a new provision giving representation on the Common Council to the new buildings in Southtown. The new bylaws give 465 and 475 Main Street a total of three representatives, proportional to the Island's older buildings. The total number of delegates is 31, with the pre-Southtown buildings represented by the same numbers of delegates as they had under the old constitution:

District Members	
546 Main Street in Eastwood	2
Rest of Eastwood	7
2 River Road	1
4 River Road	1
10, 20, 30, and 40 River Road	8
Westview	3
Island House	3
Rivercross	3
465 and 475 Main Street	3

If the Town Meeting called for June 15 does not attract a quorum of 100 or more residents, as required in the current constitution, the documents' approval will revert to a vote of the Common Council. Last week's approval vote of 80% suggests that a two-thirds approval vote should not be difficult. The Common Council meets the first Wednesday of every month at 8:00 p.m., in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, but normally has skipped July and August meetings.

Other changes in the new constitution, as summarized by RIRA First Vice President Steve Marcus, who headed the rewriting effort, include these:

- Moving from one voting dis-

trict to another will not cause loss of a Councilmember's voting rights. With Councilors elected for two years, Councils have lost several members in the past because of moves from one building to another.

- Rules have been set up for the filling of Council "alternate" positions. Losing candidates for Council positions have held the alternate positions, seated and voting at Council meetings when election winners are not present, but the old constitution has had no provision for appointing alternates when the pool is depleted or when it is non-existent by virtue of members having run unopposed.

- Committees of the Council have been restructured, and now include:

- Communication
- Government Relations
- Housing
- Planning [*including Energy*]
- Island Services [*including Transportation, but excluding Public Safety*]
- Legal Action (*new*)
- Public Safety (*new*)
- Social, Cultural and Educational Services

- Language governing Council elections has been removed from the constitution, and it's expected that an Election Committee will formulate rules for the November, 2004, election in the Fall. The 2000 campaign became controversial when questions arose about donated materials and services and how they should be counted against a candidate's allowed expenditures.

The sole exception to the "all-elected" Common Council is the position of RIRA treasurer, which can be filled by a non-elected Islander under certain circumstances.

Marcus told *The WIRE*, "I am pleased the RIRA Common Council has overwhelmingly approved changes to our Constitution and has adopted operational bylaws as well. The current constitution is over 13 years old and has numerous inadequacies that have been a distraction and hindrance to the Common Council. I hope that all residents will support these changes at the upcoming Town Meeting as a means by which RIRA can more effectively work to serve the community."

Saga-Like, a Resident Effort on Public Safety Goes On and On

by Dick Lutz

It's perennial, abiding, immutable, everlasting: Roosevelt Island's Public Safety Department (PSD) occupies a special place in the heart and gut of resident leadership as a focus for complaints and demands for better service – perhaps even more embedded in the community's political culture than charges of haphazard development and worries about creeping deterioration.

Try to count the efforts to *do something, just do something* about Public Safety or public safety (the department, capitalized, or the goal, generic) over the years and it's hard to distinguish where one ends and the next begins, and humankind has no system of enumeration that will suffice.

For about a year, give or take, another effort called RISK has been the vehicle of resident efforts to *do something, just do something*. That's the Roosevelt Island (RI) Safety Committee (SK), headed by Eastwood residents Byron Gaspard and Nellie Velez. As Gaspard put it in a meeting this week, "an organization that was put together to unify all the task forces of this community in one effort, and that is to deal with the safety issues – the public safety of Roosevelt Island."

There is no figurative nutshell that will contain all the gripes, but they range from lack of contracted interior vertical patrols through alleged blindness at drug dealing, from failure to keep reliable statistics to ineffective leadership, from crony-driven recruitment through sleeping on the job.

This week's meeting brought in representatives of Carolyn Maloney, Member of Congress; Alan Hevesi, State Controller; William Thompson, City Controller; Pete Grannis, Assemblymember; C. Virginia Fields, Borough President; and Gifford Miller, Speaker of the City Council; along with Dan Quart, representing Commu-

nity Board 8. Many had been present before, or their colleagues had been, to listen to a plea for more policing by NYPD, radical surgery on PSD, and the calls to *do something*.

The Island voices ranged from plaintive to strident: Ron Schuppert, a member of the Rivercross Board: "I'm appalled at the nepotism, the way people are recruited, the way people are not trained, and the fact that if anything goes wrong on the street, nothing is ever done about it. The supervision is not there; the head of Public Safety, Mr. Fry, only comes out of his office to play the lottery, or brown-nose at the RIOC offices. There is no supervision. Some of the people they have are actually trying to do their job, [but] they're getting no back-up. In fact, if they give a summons to the wrong person, they're either fired or reprimanded. This thing has gone far beyond us trying to correct it. It needs to be torn out at the roots and started over."

Matthew Katz, president of the Residents Association: "I've seen a Public Safety force, for which the residents of this Island pay a considerable amount of money, which has particular responsibilities within each building that have not been defined on paper, and have not been actually produced, and I think these need to be dealt with and dealt with now."

See **Public Safety**, page 8

Briefly...

A **soccer reunion** is in the works for all former Roosevelt Island soccer players who played or had an affiliation with The Strikers, the Island's traveling team. It's slated for Sunday, June 13, at noon, at Octagon Park. Contact for those wishing to attend is mliiss@trammellcrow.com.

Spring, Confirmed

At Southpoint, new life was in evidence last week. It's a walk worth taking, both for these little guys and their human neighbors. More, in color, on *Website NYC10044* at <http://nyc10044.com>.



The Editorial Page

Still No Emergency Plan?

Perhaps it’s good that *The WIRE* has waited until now to comment on the meeting RIOC held in April, which was expected to lay out the particulars of plans required to deal with emergencies and disasters affecting the Island. There wasn’t the space last issue, but it also seemed reasonable to give RIOC time to recover. After all, the meeting had been billed as Roosevelt Island-specific, but it wasn’t. It was clear that, in the months since last summer’s Blackout, RIOC had done precious little to prepare for another such occurrence – or some other disaster.

RIOC brought in representatives of State and City Offices of Emergency Planning. They talked about avoiding carbon monoxide accumulation in closed garages and who has responsibility for dealing with forest fires in the Adirondacks. But nothing specific to the special problems of Roosevelt Island, where the wrong kind of disaster could leave us cut off from emergency services, medical assistance, and transportation for evacuation.

Perhaps it’s good that we waited, for Thursday night at the RIOC Board meeting, resident Board member Patrick Stewart took it upon himself to lecture Residents Association President Matthew Katz, the current president of RIRA, suggesting that outraged residents expressed themselves inappropriately at the emergency plan meeting. Stewart seemed to be saying Katz should take on the job of keeping residents from expressing their profound frustration and disappointment at attending a meeting advertised as Roosevelt Island-specific, only to be shown tables of organization for State agencies.

But Katz calmly asked the right questions: “Perhaps the kind of planning that is necessary really needs to be done *here*,” he suggested gently, tactfully failing to mention that it’s been eight months since the Blackout and the promise of an emergency plan for the Island. “I think that there’s some planning that might be done,” he continued, and then came the questions to which all Islanders should have answers: “If there’s a Blackout during extreme weather, we’ve been told that there’s a high school at Broadway and 21st Street in Astoria to provide services to this area. How are people going to get there? Will the Red Buses be used? Can the Red Buses be used in Queens? Can they go over the 59th Street Bridge to Manhattan? Where will the Red Buses pick people up? Can we provide a heating or cooling facility on the Island? Where should that be? Should it be the school? What kind of arrangements need to be made with the school?”

Katz further pointed out that emergency service access is via a lift bridge, and asked whether arrangements exist to operate the bridge manually if a power emergency hits while the bridge is up. “These are questions that need to be answered, and those answers shared with the people of this community,” he concluded.

Indeed. And the answers should have been part of that meeting back in April. They were not, and few are apparently available now. It means, among other things, that more time will pass before this Island is genuinely prepared for a repeat of last summer’s Blackout, let alone something more serious.

So RIOC Board members can save their lectures on how residents should behave at bait-and-switch meetings where officialdom passes off a display of organizational charts as Island-specific emergency planning information. And RIOC should get on with its proper governmental function – of making the plans necessary for this community’s next emergency.

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Leaving home is never easy. Home is what Roosevelt Island has been to us for the better part of the past decade.

When we moved here from across the Queensboro Bridge, we wondered what all the talk about the “community” was. Then, as we became a part of it, it seeped into us.

We now understand what being a member of this extended family is. It is saying “Hi” to every second person on Main Street because they are your neighbors, your children’s classmates and teachers, your store-keepers, your handyworkers, your students, the folks at the post office, the librarians, the patients at the two hospitals, the Tram operators, and the so-called community “leaders.” More often than not, they wear more hats than one, or play different roles at different times!

It is getting involved in the myriad community events, it is coming out on Roosevelt Island Day and the Halloween Parade to see all the kids enjoy games and activities, it is protesting ill-planned bus schedules and getting together in times of grief. It is writing letters to *The WIRE* and sticking up notices on concrete pillars to reach out to everyone.

It is all that – and more. It is belonging to a unique place. It is having more friends than you knew you

island observer



had. It is being able to call people at short notice and knowing they will help you because that’s how people in a community are.

It is being a part of the wonder that this Island is, this group of people from so many countries and backgrounds that meeting a Mongolian or a Rwandan or an Australian or a Korean does not mean having to make a trip. Just knock on your neighbor’s door and you’ll be meeting someone from a different culture, a different nation, a different demographic.

Dhruv, my son, now five, came to 40 River Road as a two-day-old baby. This is where he learned how to walk, how to play in the sand pit, and how to say “hello” in six different languages. At Island Kids and at The Roosevelt Island Day Nursery, he learned that being different just means being special and that everyone on the Island is just that: very, very special.

In his class right now, there are children from no fewer than 15 different countries – where else would you find that within two blocks of your home?

So, it’s hard to leave. I’ve been away for a brief period, so I know how much we’ll miss the joy of being a part of this community. And yet, we are going just two hours north to central Connecticut, not as far as Slovenia or Shanghai, where friends from my Mother and Baby Group have gone.

Our dream is that when our babies from five years ago are ten years old, we will all re-group on the Island. See you then!

Anusha Shrivastava



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Letters

To the Editor:

It is so depressing to see the state of the semicircular white bench at the southern end of the park along River Road. One part of it had been ripped off weeks ago. Now the other side is also missing. It is not clear if it is due to vandalism or just sheer decay and neglect. Now that the good season is here and it is such a pleasure to sit outside, we hope something will quickly be done to restore that bench for the joy of Islanders and visitors.

Gabriella Toresini

To the Editor:

It was two years ago that my wife and I moved from Roosevelt Island. We had lived there for about ten years. During that time the need to have the MetroCard as part of the Tram operation became more apparent with every passing day. This past weekend I returned to the Island, not only for a visit, but to help in the distribution of *The WIRE*. It was a pleasure to be able to swipe my MetroCard and ride the Tram. I want to say that Mathew Katz, RIRA President, deserves all my thanks and those of all the Island residents for his hard work and persistence in seeing this happen. From my point of view he should have, in his honor, a free MetroCard for life. Thank you, Matt, for helping to make the quality of life just a little bit better for Roosevelt Islanders.

George and Margery Rubin

To the Editor:

I would like to add my “Amen” to the letter submitted by John Hafner published in the May 1 edition of *The Main Street WIRE*. I, too, was maltreated, verbally abused, and inconvenienced by Platzer Productions in the filming of *Dark Water*.

I think we need answers to the problems this production has caused for the residents of Roosevelt Island and what RIOC and the production company intend to do to assuage the insults, verbal and otherwise, inflicted on us; namely:

1. The inability of the residents of 540 Main St. to enter or leave their building, pick up their mail or use the intercom system.
2. The halting of pedestrian and vehicular traffic on Main Street during the morning and evening rush hours.
3. The “coning off” of all the parking spaces on Main Street between the Deli and the Church for the use of the production company’s personal vehicles.
4. The parking of production company’s vehicles (including tractor-trailer trucks) in bus stops and in front of fire hydrants.
5. The absolute audacity and rudeness of the personnel of Platzer Productions to both the residents and Public Safety Officers.
6. The filming with bright lights and “rain” until 3:00 a.m. on a Friday night/Saturday morning.

7. The loss of TV reception to residents hooked up to the master antenna; the production company took down one of the antennae and placed a “phony water tower” on the roof of 540 Main Street, blocking reception. It has not been remedied as of this date.

8. The interruption of service on the Tram and, by the way, the subway service to and from Roosevelt Island on several occasions.

We need this production company to contribute money to the Island’s capital needs for their privilege of using and abusing our Island. We need, desperately, to have our sidewalks and Main Street roadway repaired. The buildings on Main Street need to be “power-washed” and possibly re-pointed. The windows that front on Main Street need to be washed, by use of a scaffold system. The stores on Main Street could use beautification, awnings, etc. And all the empty stores need to be leased by entities that provide services the Island requires and desires.

Maybe next time, the residents will be consulted; one can only hope.

Mary Anne Kennedy

Letters deadline for May 29 issue: Tuesday, May 25

After deadline, letters are considered on a space-available basis.

Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters to the editor, to the community, and to/from officials. Publication on a *Name Withheld* basis will be considered, but the writer’s name, address, and phone number **must** be provided for verification and for our records; *letters submitted anonymously are not considered for publication*.

Preferred form of submission: E-mail to Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com (plaintext e-mail format preferred, or attach a file created using any common wordprocessing software, but no MSWord files containing macros), or on a PC-standard 3.5" disk left at the desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. **Alternatives:** Typed copy left at 531 Main Street or faxed to 212-755-2540. Clearly handwritten letters will be considered if brief, but we are not able to take telephone dictation of letters. **Letters subject to acceptance and to possible editing for length and clarity.** Recommended maximum length, 300 words; longer letters will be considered if their content merits the required space.

At press time, the **Public Safety Blotter** for May 1-15 had not yet been received. It is expected soon, and will be posted on **Website NYC10044** at nyc10044.com/wire/2417/blot2417.html.

Welcome to summer! It seems like this is going to be another year where we skip spring and move right into summer. I am happy to announce that some plantings have started to mark this occasion and more will continue as the season progresses. As sad as I am to see the cherry blossoms fall, I am looking forward to my first full summer on the Island.

As promised, I have a total amount of the charges to *Dark Water* for their filming on the Island. (Please note that this only includes the permit amounts and does not include the amounts paid to commercial tenants, individuals or building management.) That amount is \$66,703, including reimbursement for any damages. While the majority of this is put into the general operating budget to pay for Island upkeep, some of it is being set aside for new planters and plantings. I look forward to being able to do other special projects as additional filming projects become available.

Now that the elevator at the Tram has been operational for a somewhat extended period of time, I am focusing fully on the elevators at Motorgate. We have received a report from an elevator consultant, and unfortunately the news was not great. The consultant is now helping us to set the scope of work to be bid by elevator contractors. This is a somewhat long process.

The good news is that once the process is complete the elevators will be fully operational. This is not a repair job, but rather a major renovation. I am looking forward to finally having all of the elevators on the Island working at the same time!

As I announced in my last column, we are going to

In my April 17 column I spoke of an extraordinary task that RIRA was undertaking to create a new constitution for our organization and also bylaws that could be modified to respond to the current needs of the Common Council. Heretofore, the stand-alone constitution could only be changed through a cumbersome process requiring a two-thirds majority vote by the Council and a simple majority from a quorum of 100 RIRA members at a Town Meeting. This was so daunting an exercise that the constitution hadn't been successfully amended since 1991.

Well, we've done it! At the May 5 meeting, the Common Council gave a two-thirds majority vote to both the modified constitution and the new bylaws that had been written, debated, and recommended to them by a constitutional committee chaired by First Vice President Steve Marcus. The next and final step belongs to you, the members of RIRA. A quorum of 100 voting RIRA members must ratify the new constitution at a Town Meeting. A failure to obtain a quorum will require the final vote to return to the Common Council. The present constitution requires us to provide 30 days notice of a Town Meeting with copies of the new constitution made available at least 20 days prior. This issue of *The Main Street WIRE* will begin that process with official notification and reproduction of the new rules. Additional signage and additional copies of the new constitution and bylaws will be provided at the Library, at other Island locations, and on demand. This is your opportunity to learn how your Residents Association functions and to play a crucial role in its future. The Town Meeting has been called for Tuesday, June 15, at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Please be there, well versed in the details of these two new documents and ready to ratify them.

The reason for the exercise was in the practical application of the old constitution. In many ways, it was ambiguous and even contradictory. Also, RIRA's needs and practices have changed in the decades since the constitution was penned, and this essential rulebook had simply not kept up with the times. In addition, the law of unintended consequences had reared its ugly head by virtue of constitutional requirements that made our jobs as volunteers and civic leaders harder than necessary. To increase our effectiveness, we needed a user-friendly set of rules.

Three years ago, shortly after I was elected to my first term as RIRA president, I asked the Common Council to consider about a dozen amendments to the constitution. My timing and methodology were faulty; that Council, Class of 2000, could not agree on appropriate language and a six-month effort came to naught. Steve realized that, without the separate bylaws that most small societies use, the constitution would re-

have a transportation and event hotline set up in the very near future. I will announce the phone number before the next column by posting signs on the kiosks and in the buses. I will also give copies to each of the buildings. I will also print the number in my next column. We invite everyone to call to get updates on Island events as well.

One of the first events that we will announce on the transportation and event hotline is Roosevelt Island Day. I am looking forward to my first one and have already reached out to some government agencies to ask if they will set up some information booths for Island residents. I will also keep you posted on this.



Herbert E. Berman, President
Roosevelt Island Operating Corp.
e-mail: HBerman@rioc.com

the community, and I am committed to working on their preservation.

I hope that everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather. I am constantly amazed by the beauty of the Island.

main cumbersome. And, here we are!

Steve Marcus convened a series of committee meetings in March and April with additional debate conducted on-line. It has been a fascinating and exhausting process and one that I wouldn't have missed for anything. My thanks to the Council Members who made it happen, especially Doris Speer, Esq., Karen and Patrick Stewart, Mark Chipman, Lynn Chambers, Nurit Marcus, Sherie Helstien, Margie Smith, Vicki Feinmel, Frank Farance, Kasha Edelman, Deirdre Breslin, Byron and Margaret Gaspard, Joan Christianson, and James Whalen. And thanks to the Common Council, Class of 2002, that endorsed this committee's work with their vote of confidence.

While we're on the subject of the law of unintended consequences, you may recall my discussion of the Island's *Dark Water* film experience in my last column. I've been in touch with Lauri Pitkus, location manager for Platzer Productions. She has not been able to confirm our discussions of special screenings of *Dark Water* or other films for Island residents, but we are pursuing that possibility. However, she offered me a check for \$2,000 to be applied to your RIRA general treasury and has already made good on her promise!



Matthew Katz, President
Roosevelt Island Residents Assn.
e-mail: MatthewKatz@rcn.com

This generous gift will help defray the costs of the free breakfast on Roosevelt Island Day, the required notifications and publicity for the constitutional Town Meeting, and the many other civic and social events that RIRA intends to provide the community. We must have made a good impression on the film folk; Ms. Pitkus intends to revisit us on Roosevelt Island Day and to bring her kids. Should you run into her on June 12, please thank her for supporting your Residents Association.

I read with interest, as I'm sure you did, the account in the May 1 *WIRE* of the exchange between resident RIOC Board members, David Kraut and Patrick Stewart on the question of the privatization of Island House and Westview. I won't address the legal and ethical considerations of a Board member's recusing himself on matters involving his own building because of a potential conflict of interest. I'm not conversant with New York State's requirements on these issues and each of us must act according to his own lights.

I must take exception to Director Stewart's statement, "If it's a building-specific issue, which in this case is the privatization of these buildings, which I See **Katz**, page 8

COMING UP

— This Weekend —

Voter Registration assistance near the Farmer's Market under the ramp at Motorgate, **Sat., May 15** (and future Saturdays).

Democratic Candidates in the 28th State Senate District, introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney, **Sat., May 15**, 10:30 a.m., NYU Medical Center, 530-550 First Avenue at 31st Street, classroom A, basement. For information, call **212-987-5516**.

Another View, art show to benefit Maria Droste Services, including photographic works of Islander Francine Lange, **Sat.-Sun., May 15-16**, 12:00-4:00, 386 Park Avenue South (between 27th/28th), suite 903. Donations welcome.

Senior Day, Sun., May 16, 1:00 p.m., Senior Center, 546 Main Street. 27th annual observance.



TREE CITY USA.

Trees of Roosevelt Island exhibit, through **May**, Rivercross Main Street windows.

Arthur Tress Exhibition, through **May 29**, Tues.-Sat., 11:00-6:00, Hunter-Fox Gallery, 35 East 67th St., 4th floor. Photographs of constructions made in 1984 at Charity Hospital (since demolished) on Roosevelt Island.



— The Coming Week —

Community Board 8 meeting on Roosevelt Island, **Wed., May 19**, 7:00 p.m., PS/IS 217 auditorium.

Book Discussion — *Patience and Sarah* by Isabel Miller, **Thur., May 20**, 6:30 p.m., Library. Free. Books available at the Library.

Tree Walk with State Forester Bob Bealin, **Sat., May 22**, 10:00 a.m. Sponsored by the Roosevelt Island Tree Board. Meet at Blackwell House. Free.

Flea Market sponsored by Cabrini Parish, **Sat., May 22** and most Saturdays, 10-4, Good Shepherd Plaza, through the summer.

— Future Events —

Toastmasters Public Speaking Group, Mon., May 24, 8:00 p.m., Westview Community Room.

The Main Street WIRE — next issue **Sat., May 29**. (To receive e-mail bulletins in the meantime, send an "Add Me" message to Bulletins@MainStreetWIRE.com.) **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., May 21; decision on fliers for *The Bag*, Mon., May 24; fliers due Thur., May 27. **Future issues:** June 12; July 3 (Fourth of July issue), 31; Aug. 28; Sept. 11, 25; Oct. 16, 30 (pre-election issue); Nov. 6 (post-election issue), 20 (Thanksgiving issue); Dec. 4, 18 (two December holiday issues), then twice a month starting in January, 2005. (Schedule subject to adjustment.) **Phone/fax** for news, **212-826-9055/755-2540**; urgent matters **917-617-0449**. **Phone/fax** for display and classified advertising placement and information, **212-751-8214/755-2540**. **To list your organization's Island event in this column**, e-mail information to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com, or leave it, addressed to *The WIRE*, at the desk at 531 Main Street; provide a telephone number for follow-up questions; there is no charge for such listings.

There is no charge to list Island events here. E-mail information to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com or leave copy at the lobby desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. Please provide telephone numbers for possible follow-up.

Residents Association Common Council meeting, Wed., June 2, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Public access near beginning of session.

Roosevelt Island Day, Sat., June 12, all day.

Blood Drive, Sat., June 12, all day.

General Slocum Memorial, a boat ride following the course of the day-trip steamer 100 years ago, **Sat., June 12**, departing from South Street Seaport. (The General Slocum caught fire near Blackwell's Island; 1,100 died in the City's worst loss of life prior to 9/11/01.) Sponsored by the Maritime Industry Museum; tickets \$35 c/o the Roosevelt Island Historical Society, **212-688-4836**.

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Town Meeting, Tue., June 15, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd, on ratification of its revised constitution and by-laws.

Senior Center

Monday
10-11, **Latchhook Class**
10-11:30, **English as 2nd Lang.**
10:30, **Blood Pressure Screen**
12:30, **"Oldies" Movies**
1:00, **Tai Chi**
7:00, **Dance Class** (Beginners)
Tuesday
10:00, **Computers**
10-11, **Dance & Relax**
1:00, **Bingo**
6:00, **Yoga Class**
7:30, **Games (RISA)**
Wednesday
8-9, **Swimming/Water Aerobics** (Westview seniors only)
9:15, **Stay Well**
10:00, **Spanish Class**
10:30, **Shoppers' Bus**
12:30, **Sculpting**
7:00, **Pokeno (RISA)**

Thursday
10:00, **Tai Chi**
10:30, **Creative Arts**
12:30, **Movie**
7:00, **Dance**

Friday
6:00, **Dance & Relax**
9:30, **Yoga Stretch**
1:00, **Bridge**
7:00, **Games (RISA)**
Saturday
7:30, **Bingo (RISA)**

Special Events
Sun., May 16, Senior Day (all day)
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ROOSEVELT ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We, the residents of Roosevelt Island, come from diverse backgrounds and have diverse interests and circumstances. We all want to live together in harmony based on mutual respect and the voluntary sharing of certain responsibilities for our common good. We form this community association to enable us to define, maintain and promote our common objectives in a democratic manner.

ARTICLE I, NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1, Name

The name of this organization is the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (hereinafter referred to as “RIRA”).

Section 2, Purpose

The purposes of RIRA are: 1) to represent the interests of its members to all governmental, quasi- governmental and private institutions that develop policy affecting Roosevelt Island and its residents; that supervise or manage our housing and that supervise or manage other Island operations; and 2) to ensure that the health, safety and welfare of its members and the quality of life in our community are maintained and improved.

ARTICLE II, RIRA MEMBERSHIP

Section 1, Membership

All individuals who live in residential housing on Roosevelt Island are members of RIRA.

Section 2, Contributions

In order to defray the cost of RIRA operations, the Common Council may raise funds as needed from voluntary contributions. Such contributions shall not be a precondition for the exercise of the rights and privileges of RIRA membership.

ARTICLE III, COMMON COUNCIL

Section 1, Function

Except as provided in Article IV, the Common Council (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the ‘Council’) shall be the governing body of RIRA and shall determine RIRA policies and coordinate, direct and administer their implementation.

Section 2, Membership

Membership in the Common Council shall be comprised of RIRA members of legal voting age who are either elected in RIRA elections, proportionately from the several voting Districts, or appointed, each as specified in the RIRA Bylaws.

The total number of Council members and the proportional District representation shall be set forth in the Bylaws. The Council membership may be changed at any time by the Council by amendment to the Bylaws; provided however, that the Council shall be obligated to use a proportional method in proposing any change to Council membership which would have the effect of affecting the proportional representation of any District.

ARTICLE IV, TOWN MEETING

Section 1, Call for Meeting

A Town Meeting shall be called into session if (a) a majority vote of the members of the Common Council present and voting at a Council meeting at which a quorum is present call for a meeting, or (b) 100 members of RIRA of legal voting age petition to the Common Council for such a meeting. The petition may be given to any Common Council member, whose responsibility shall be to direct it to the Common Council Secretary for action.

The Common Council’s call for a Town Meeting, or the petition, must specifically state the date, time and place of, the agenda for, and action requested to be taken at, the Town Meeting.

Section 2, Authority

At the Common Council meeting next following a Town Meeting at which a quorum was present and action taken, the Common Council shall resolve to enforce and/or implement such action to the fullest extent legally permissible, and shall determine the most practicable method by which such action shall be enforced and/or implemented.

Section 3, Notice

All Town Meetings shall be called with at least 15 days public notice unless the Common Council shall declare, by resolution at a duly convened meeting at which a quorum is present, that an emergency exists, in which case such shorter notice as determined by the Common Council shall be deemed sufficient; provided that public notice of Town Meetings called for purposes of amendment to the Constitution shall be as set forth in ARTICLE VIII. Notice of all Town Meetings shall be deemed sufficient if it consists of the publication of the meeting date, place and time, and the agenda, including proposed motions, on lobby bulletin boards in all residential buildings where permitted and on at least five Roosevelt Island kiosks.

Section 4, Waiver of Notice

Attendance of a person at a Town Meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such Meeting, except when such member of RIRA attends a Meeting for the express purpose of objecting, at the beginning of the Meeting, to the transaction of any business because he/she believes that the Meeting was not lawfully called or convened.

Section 5, Quorum

The quorum for the conduct of any business at any Town Meeting shall be 100 members of RIRA who are of legal

As Adopted December, 1991 [Amended May, 2004]

voting age. When a quorum is present at a Town Meeting, it is not broken by the subsequent withdrawal of any such RIRA members.

If a Town Meeting is called for the purpose of voting to create or modify a policy or to conduct any other business and a quorum is not present, the Common Council shall be thereafter empowered to establish such policy and conduct other such business as would otherwise have been conducted at such Town Meeting, but only in accordance with the provisions set forth herein and in the RIRA Bylaws.

Section 6, Voting

Each member of RIRA of legal voting age in presence at a Town Meeting shall have the right to cast one vote in person. Abstentions shall not be counted as a “vote cast”, either for or against any motion. All actions of a majority vote of all votes cast at a Town Meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the action of RIRA, except as otherwise set forth in ARTICLE VIII. No action may be taken at any Town Meeting on any action which was not specified in the published agenda.

Section 7, Other Conduct and Procedures at Town Meetings

Except as provided above, the conduct of, and procedures at, each Town Meeting shall be governed by the then-current edition of Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE V, ELECTIONS OF COMMON COUNCIL; TERMS OF OFFICE

Section 1, Regular Elections

In each even-numbered year, there shall be an election of members of the Common Council, the President and Vice President to two-year terms. This election shall occur on

ARTICLE VII, RIRA BYLAWS

Section 1, Establishment of Bylaws

The Common Council shall establish such Bylaws, not in conflict with the Constitution, as may be necessary and proper for the governance of RIRA. In the event of conflict between any Bylaw and the Constitution, the provisions of the Constitution shall control.

Section 2, Adoption, Amendment or Repeal of Bylaws

Any Bylaw may be adopted, amended or repealed by the vote of at least two-thirds of the votes cast of the members of the Common Council at a duly convened meeting at which a quorum is present. No adoption, amendment or repeal of any Bylaw shall be voted on by the Common Council at the same meeting at which it is proposed. Each such adoption, amendment or repeal of a Bylaw shall be made available to RIRA in the method determined by the Common Council.

ARTICLE VIII, AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

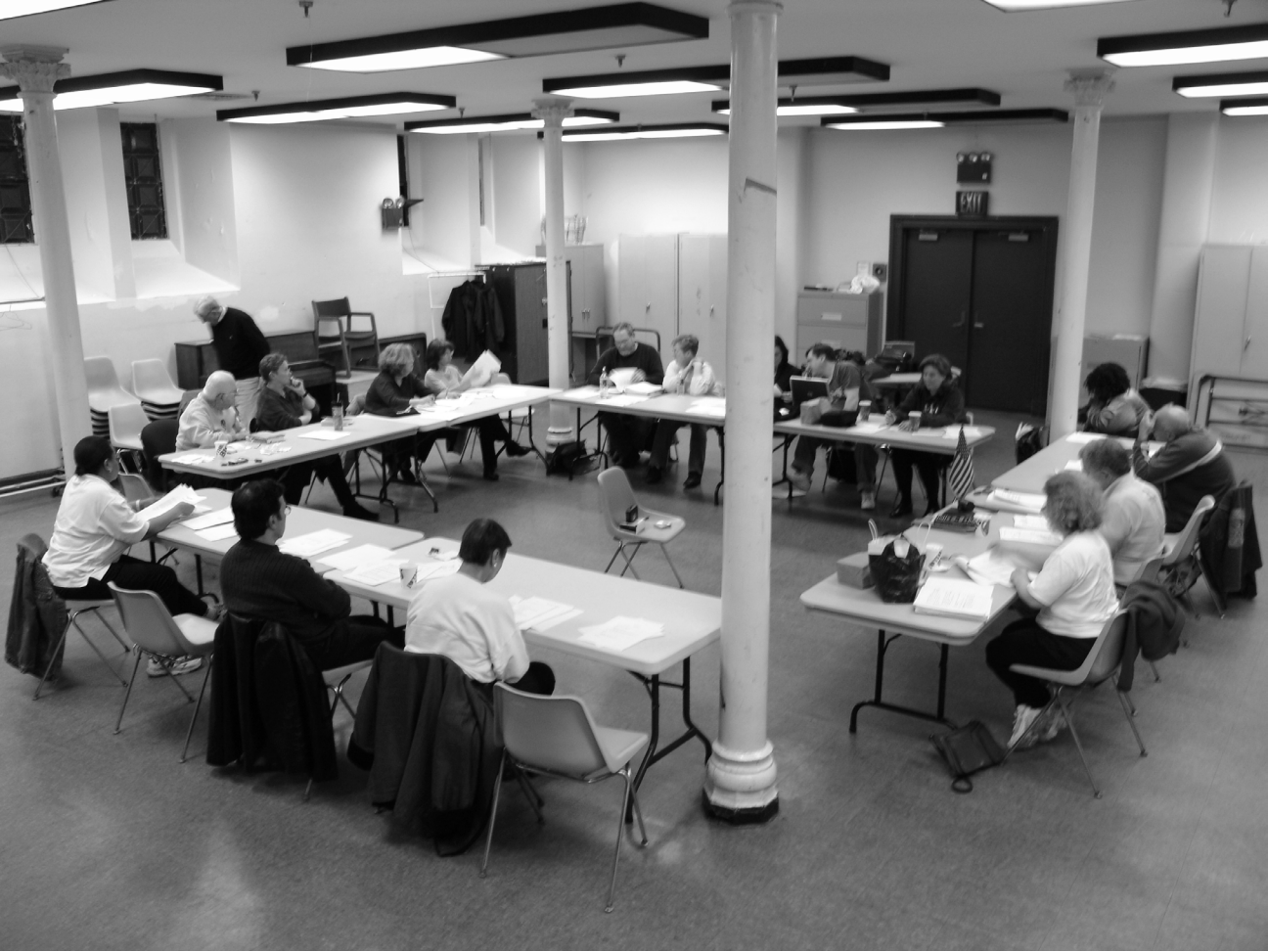
Section 1, Introduction

Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed in writing at any time by a member of the Common Council or by petition to the Council of 100 RIRA members of legal voting age.

Section 2, Consideration and Voting

No amendment to the Constitution shall be voted on by the Common Council at the same meeting at which it is proposed, except as permitted by the fifth paragraph of this Section 2.

In the case of an amendment proposed by a Council member, the Council shall vote on the amendment at its next regular meeting. If at least two-thirds of the Council mem-



The Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association meets the first Wednesday of every month (excepting some summer months; dates are published in ComingUp, on page 3 of every *WIRE*) at 8:00 p.m. in the lower-level room of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Meetings are open to the public, and residents are able to address the meetings near their beginning. In November, the community will elect delegates to the Council from building districts (see Bylaws, next page). All residents over 18 are eligible to run for Council seats.

the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, i.e., on the regular election day for Federal and State offices. Election procedures, including nominations, campaign rules and balloting, will be held in accordance with RIRA Bylaws.

Section 2, Term of Office

The term of all Common Council members shall begin at the first monthly meeting after the elections, on a date determined by the outgoing Common Council.

Section 3, Eligibility

A person may be a candidate for a District Council seat and also for the office of President or Vice President at the same time; if a person is elected to both the District and an Island-wide position of President or Vice President, the District Council seat shall be filled by the runner-up in that District. There shall be no limit on the number of successive terms any Council Member or officer may serve.

Only a resident of a District may be nominated and serve as Council Member from such District.

To be eligible for election as President or Vice President, a person must have been a resident of Roosevelt Island for at least one year at the time of his or her election.

ARTICLE VI, RIRA YEAR

Section 1, RIRA Year

For the purpose of voluntary contributions and all other financial business, the close of the RIRA Year shall be 12:01 AM of December 1 of each year.

bers present and voting approve the proposed amendment at a meeting at which a quorum is present, the Council shall call a Town Meeting at which time the amendment shall be considered and acted upon. Enactment of an amendment at such Town Meeting shall require a majority vote of all votes cast at a Town Meeting called for such purpose at which a quorum is present.

In the case of an amendment proposed to the Council by a petition of RIRA members, the Council shall call a Town Meeting within 15 days at which the amendment shall be considered and acted upon. Enactment of such amendment shall require at least a two-thirds vote of all votes cast at a Town Meeting called for such purpose at which a quorum is present.

In either case, the Common Council shall make available to the members of RIRA a copy of any proposed amendment at least 15 days prior to the Town Meeting at which it will be considered, in the manner set forth in ARTICLE IV, Section 3.

In the case of any amendment brought to the Town Meeting on which a vote cannot be taken due to the absence of a quorum, the Common Council shall vote on such amendment at its next meeting. Any amendment so brought to the Council shall require at least a two-thirds vote of Council Members present and voting for ratification at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Bylaws

As Adopted May 2004

ARTICLE I, DEFINITIONS; PURPOSE

1. Common Council – Legislative body of RIRA. The Common Council meets regularly to discuss and vote on issues of relevance to the community.
2. Council Officers– Council President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Chairs.
3. District Representative – Council Members elected to represent local residential districts.
4. Alternates – Candidates who run for District Representative positions that do not receive sufficient votes for elective office.
5. Majority vote – a vote in which the number of Aye votes exceeds the number of Nay votes on a matter properly presented at a duly convened meeting at which a quorum is present. Abstentions shall not be counted as a vote cast either for or against any motion.
6. Two-Thirds vote – a vote in which at least two-thirds of the votes cast are in favor of a matter properly presented at a duly convened meeting at which a quorum is present. Abstentions shall not be counted as a vote cast either for or against any motion.

These Bylaws set forth provisions relating to the composition of the Common Council, the conduct of meetings and the management of the Common Council, the officers and committees of the Common Council, and the conduct of elections for Common Council. In the event of conflict between any Bylaw and the RIRA Constitution, the provisions of the Constitution shall control.

ARTICLE II, COMMON COUNCIL

Section 1, Membership

- (a) There shall be 31 Common Council Members elected by District.
- The following table details the Districts and number of Council Members:

District	Number of Council Members
546 Main Street in Eastwood	2
The rest of Eastwood	7
2 River Road	1
4 River Road	1
10, 20, 30, and 40 River Road combined	8
Westview	3
Island House	3
Rivercross	3
Southtown Buildings 1 and 2 combined	3

- (b) The President and Vice President shall be selected by an Island-wide election and shall be voting Members of the Common Council.
- (c) Each Council Member shall also serve as member or chair of at least one RIRA committee or as an officer of RIRA. Each Alternate shall serve as member of at least one RIRA committee.

Section 2, Quorum

For all meetings of the Common Council, the quorum shall be the presence of at least one-half plus one of the current Membership.

Section 3, Meetings

The Common Council shall meet at least once each month on a regularly scheduled basis at least during the months from September through June. Additional meetings of the Council may only be called by the President or upon the petition of five Coun-

cil Members. All meetings of the Council shall be open to the public and the first fifteen minutes of each meeting shall be open for public questions and comment.

However, the Council may be called into executive session by a two-thirds vote of the Council Members. Executive sessions are not open to the public and no votes may be taken at any executive session.

Section 4, Motions by Mail

When the Common Council is not in session, matters that require a vote may be raised by the President or at the request of at least five Members of the Council. Such matters shall be communicated to Members via email, mail, doorstation delivery or doordrop delivery. Approval, in writing, of more than half of the Council Membership is required to approve any such matter.

However, if five Members of the Council register an objection to the President or Secretary about this vote, a Council meeting will be called.

Section 5, Notice of Meetings

It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary to notify Council Members of all meetings. It shall be the responsibility of the Vice President to provide notification of Council meetings to the general community. Minimal notice requires posting on at least five kiosks or a statement in a local newspaper.

Section 6, Rules of Procedure

Except as elsewhere provided herein, all meetings of the Common Council shall be governed by the then-current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Except as elsewhere provided herein, all actions of the Common Council shall require Majority vote (as defined in Article I).

Section 7, Vacancies

In the event of the resignation, a move from Roosevelt Island, expulsion or death of any elected Council Member, the position shall be filled in the following order:

- a) by the highest ranking Alternate, if there is one;
 - b) by a majority recommendation by the current Members of that voting District.
 - c) If no recommendation has been made pursuant to (b), in the Council meeting following the creation of the vacancy, then by written recommendation by the Building Committee or Board of Directors for that District.
 - d) If no recommendation has been made pursuant to (c) within two Council meetings following the creation of the vacancy, then by a recommendation of the RIRA President.
- Alternates that have adhered to the committee participation requirements (noted in Article II, Section 1 (c)) shall be automatically accepted as Council Members. All other individuals are subject to the Majority vote of the Council before they may assume the vacant position.

If a district has no alternate, one may be appointed in the following order:

- a) by a majority recommendation by the current Members of that voting District.
- b) If no recommendation has been made pursuant to (a), then by written recommendation by the Building Committee or Board of Directors for that District.
- c) If no recommendation has been made pursuant to (b) then by a recommendation of the RIRA President.

Section 8, Relocation

Any Council Member who relocates his/her residence away from Roosevelt Island shall automatically lose his/her seat. Any Council Member who moves from one district to another will retain the seat from his/her former district for the remainder of the term.

Section 9, Resignation

Any Council Member may resign at any time by submitting a letter of resignation to the President or the Secretary.

Section 10, Expulsion

Any Member of the Common Council may be removed from office for just cause in relation to conduct in office by either of the following procedures:

- (a) *Expulsion for Nonperformance.* (i) Any Council Member or Alternate shall be automatically expelled for failure to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Council unless a majority of the Council Members present vote otherwise. (ii) Any Council

Member or Alternate may be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the Council Members for failure to comply with the requirements of Committee Participation (Article II, Section 1(c)) or Committee Attendance (Article IV, Section I).

(b) *Expulsion for Malfeasance or Misfeasance.* Any Council Member or Alternate may be expelled for misconduct after a written presentation of a Bill of Particulars, signed by no less than three RIRA members, is presented to a regular meeting of the Common Council. The Council shall determine by a Majority vote whether probable cause exists. If it so determines, the charges will then be presented to the person or persons charged. The charged person shall have an opportunity to present a defense at the next regular meeting of the Council. Upon review, if a two-thirds vote of the Council Members concur, the person shall be removed.

Section 11, Rights of Alternates

In general, Alternates that attend Council meetings may speak during the deliberations, but may not vote. However, in the event that a regular Council Member is absent, the first alternate for that District may vote. If the first alternate is not available, then the second alternate may vote, and so on.

If a Member informs the President or Secretary prior to the meeting of an unavoidable delay, the first Alternate will be so informed, and may only vote the seat until the Member arrives. If a motion is on the floor, the Alternate may vote on the motion, after which he/she must give up the seat to the arriving Member.

If the Member arrives within 30 minutes of the scheduled start of a Common Council meeting and a motion is on the floor, the Alternate may vote on the motion, after which he/she must give up the seat to the arriving Member, and may not vote for the remainder of the meeting.

If a Council Member arrives more than 30 minutes after the scheduled start of a Common Council meeting, and has not provided notice of intended delay, then the Alternate retains the seat and the vote.

ARTICLE III, OFFICERS

Section 1, President

The President shall be the chief executive officer and principal spokesperson of RIRA, a voting Member of the Common Council, presiding officer of all meetings of the Council and of the Town Meeting and an ex officio member of all committees.

It shall be the responsibility of the President to sign checks as provided in Article III, Section 9.

Section 2, Vice President.

The Vice President shall supervise: all RIRA elections; all communications, both internal and external, of RIRA; secretarial services that are not the responsibility of the Secretary; legal representation (in coordination with the Chairperson of Legal Action); auditing of the finances of RIRA; membership participation and fund-raising.

To perform the responsibilities of office, the Vice President shall supervise the Nominations Committee, the Election Committee, the Communication Committee and the Auditor.

In the temporary absence or inability to serve of the President, the responsibilities of the President shall be assumed by the Vice President who shall serve as President Pro Tempore.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President shall become President until the completion of the term.

Section 3, Secretary

The Common Council shall elect from among its own Members a Secretary of the Council.

It shall be the responsibilities of the Secretary to take and report minutes of all meetings of the Common Council and the Town Meeting, to maintain the archives of RIRA and to notify Members of the Council of all meetings of the Council.

Section 4, Treasurer

The Common Council shall elect a Treasurer.

Candidates for the office of Treasurer may be nominated by any Member of the Council. The Treasurer must be a) a Member of

the Council who is an accountant; or if there is none willing to serve, b) a non-Member who is an accountant; or if there is none willing to serve, c) a Member of the Council.

If the Treasurer is not already a Member of the Council upon taking office, the Treasurer shall automatically become a voting Member of the Council and shall so serve throughout his or her term of office as Treasurer.

It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer: to receive and disburse all monies of RIRA; to maintain financial records for RIRA, including those required by law; to present a financial report to each meeting of the Common Council; to sign checks as provided in Article III, Section 9; to receive financial reports from all RIRA committees.

Section 5, Chairpersons

RIRA shall elect from its own Members the following chairs:

Communication; Government Relations; Housing; Planning; Island Services; Legal Action; Public Safety; and Social, Cultural and Educational Services.

Section 6, Resignation of an Officer

Any officer of RIRA may resign at any time by submitting a letter of resignation to the Secretary. The resignation of the President, the Vice President or the Treasurer (if the Treasurer is not an elected Member of the Council) shall automatically include resignation from the Council.

Section 7, Removal from Office

Except for the President and the Vice President, any officer may be removed from office upon a two-thirds vote of the Members of the Common Council. No motion to remove an officer may be voted on at the same meeting it is made nor without at least five days written notice to said officer.

Removal of an officer shall not constitute removal as a Member of the Council (except for the Treasurer, if the Treasurer is not an elected Member of the Council).

Section 8, Vacancies

In the event of the death, resignation or removal from office of any officer except the President and the Vice President, the vacated position shall be filled in the same manner as it was originally filled for the balance of the term.

In the event of the death, resignation or removal from office of the Vice President, the Common Council shall by majority vote elect a new Vice President. In the event of the death, resignation or removal from office of the President, the Vice President shall become the President.

Section 9, Fiscal Responsibility

The Common Council shall elect an Auditor who shall not be a Member or officer of the Common Council or any RIRA committee.

Candidates for Auditor may be nominated by any Member of the Council and must be professionally qualified as an auditor.

It shall be the responsibility of the Auditor to audit the books of RIRA and of each committee. It shall also be the responsibility of the Auditor to prepare special audits of RIRA or of any of its committees upon the enactment of an authorizing resolution of the Common Council.

It shall be the responsibility of either the President or the Treasurer to sign all checks issued in payment of the indebtedness of RIRA. Checks for amounts greater than \$750 must be co-signed by both the President and the Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the safekeeping and disbursement of all monies raised by or allocated to committees. Committees may not incur debts in the name of RIRA or disburse monies without prior authorization of the Common Council.

It shall be the responsibility of all committees to submit financial reports and records to the Treasurer and the Auditor on demand.

ARTICLE IV, COMMITTEES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

Section 1, Selection of Members

Council Members shall volunteer for membership in at least one Committee. Any RIRA member who is not a Member of the Common Council may serve on any committee if approved by the Chairperson of that committee. Committee members are expelled from the Committee if they fail to attend three



RIRA First Vice President Steve Marcus chaired the committee that revised the organization's constitution.

consecutive sessions. As Common Council Members are subject to the requirements of Article II, Section 1(c), which requires them to be a member of at least one Committee, any such expelled Council Member must select another Committee in order to continue to comply with such Section.

Section 2, Nominations Committee

There shall be a Nominations Committee to recruit candidates for the Common Council and the offices of President and Vice President.

This committee shall be chaired by the Vice President.

Section 3, Election Committee

There shall be an Election Committee to administer all elections. The Election Committee shall include representatives from at least five election Districts. No candidate for President or Vice President may serve on the Election Committee. Candidates for the Common Council may serve on the Election Committee but may not participate in the elections for their own election Districts. No member of the Election Committee may participate in the election campaign of any candidate other than himself/herself.

Section 4, Communication Committee

There shall be a Communication Committee that shall assist other committees and the officers of RIRA with communications activities.

Subject to the prior approval of the Common Council, the Committee may: publish a RIRA newsletter; represent RIRA to the news media; and/or publish a calendar of RIRA events.

This committee shall be chaired by the Chairperson of Communication.

Section 5, Government Relations Committee

There shall be a Government Relations Committee that shall be the representative of RIRA to their various Government representatives; to ensure the establishment and maintenance of ongoing relations with local, state and federal government and quasi-governmental officials; and to support RIRA and other local groups approved by the Council in their relationships with government.

This committee shall be chaired by the Chairperson of Government Relations.

Section 6, Housing Committee

There shall be a Housing Committee that shall represent to the Council the issues and concerns of residents regarding the management, living conditions and rental policies of the residential buildings on the Island. It shall also serve as the liaison for the Council to the various building committees and housing task forces.

This committee shall be chaired by the Chairperson of Housing.

Section 7, Island Services Committee

There shall be an Island Services Committee that shall supervise for the Council the delivery of transportation, parks and recreation, sanitation, postal and commercial services; supervise common facilities; and assist individuals and organizations who may experience problems obtaining the services due them.

It is also responsible for recommending and implementing RIRA policy on all matters relating to common means of transportation on and/or to and from Roosevelt Island.

This committee shall be chaired by the Chairperson of Island Services.

Section 8, Legal Action Committee

There shall be a Legal Action Committee responsible for advising the Council and its committees on the legal recourse for issues and problems that RIRA and/or the Council may be encountering.

This committee is also responsible for engaging and coordinating with outside legal counsel, as necessary; and implementing Council decisions with respect to legal recourse. This committee shall raise funds for immediate or future legal expenses.

This committee shall be chaired by the Chairperson of Legal Action.

Section 9, Planning Committee

There shall be a Planning Committee that shall represent the Council on matters involving future development of Roosevelt Island, including but not limited to commercial development, housing, vehicular access, transportation, social services and energy; monitor and recommend RIRA positions on planning matters; and recommend changes in the structure, constitution and programs of RIRA to ensure its continued effective-

ness.

It is also responsible for recommending and implementing RIRA policy on all matters relating to energy conservation, distribution and generation.

This committee shall be chaired by the Chairperson of Planning.

Section 10, Public Safety Committee

There shall be a Public Safety Committee that shall recommend and implement RIRA policy on all matters related to safety, security and vehicular traffic and parking on Roosevelt Island.

This committee shall be chaired by the Chairperson of Public Safety.

Section 11, Social, Cultural and Educational Services Committee

There shall be a Social, Cultural and Educational Services Committee that shall represent the Council and RIRA to social, cultural and educational organizations that are not a part of RIRA and to supervise such organizations that are a part of RIRA. Additionally, this committee shall be the fundraising arm of RIRA and shall actively seek individuals to participate in RIRA affairs.

This committee shall be chaired by the Chairperson of Social, Cultural and Educational Services.

Section 12, Ad Hoc Committees

The President, with the advice and consent of a majority vote of the Common Council, may appoint chairpersons and members of ad hoc committees and assign the super-

President to two-year terms. This election shall occur on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, i.e., on the regular election day for Federal and State offices. If possible, the RIRA election shall be held in space adjacent to the space used for Federal and State elections on Roosevelt Island. The President shall appoint RIRA members to a Nominations Committee and an Election Committee.

Section 2, Nominations

Nominations for President, Vice President and for Common Council Membership shall be made during the month of October. The Nominations Committee shall be responsible for publicizing this fact by posting timely notices on lobby bulletin boards in all residential buildings where permitted and on at least five Roosevelt Island kiosks. The notices shall indicate where nominations may be deposited.

Any Roosevelt Island Resident 18 years of age or older may nominate himself/herself for a Council seat, or for President or Vice President by the submission of a signed statement indicating name, address and willingness to serve if elected. It shall be the responsibility of the Nominations Committee to solicit the candidacy of at least one nominee for each Council seat and for the offices of President and Vice President.

Section 3, Eligibility

It shall be the responsibility of the Election Committee to certify the qualifications

place or within such 100-foot radial.

Section 6, Balloting

All RIRA members 18 years and older shall be eligible to vote for President and for Vice President. Only the resident RIRA members of a District of the Common Council 18 years and older shall be eligible to vote for Council Members from such District. Voters must sign in on a log-in sheet showing building and apartment number. Each will receive one ballot for the appropriate election district. If the identity or address of any prospective voter is challenged, that person may be required to produce valid identification, showing address.

All ballots shall be secret. Each District shall have a separate ballot box. Ballots shall be safeguarded before, during and after the election until such time as the new Common Council convenes for its first meeting. at which time they shall be destroyed.

Absentee ballots shall be made available by the Election Committee no later than one week prior to the election. The absentee ballot will be placed in a sealed envelope which is then placed in another sealed envelope, which is signed and shows name and full address, including apartment number. After verifying that the person did not vote on election day, the outer envelope will be opened and the inner envelope placed with all other absentee ballots to be opened at the close of polls and counted along with all the regular ballots.



vision of such a committee to a specified officer. The Council may abolish or replace any ad hoc committee at any time by a two-thirds vote of Council Members.

Section 13, Committee Bylaws

Committees of the Common Council may have bylaws. The Council may develop a model set of bylaws for use by all committees.

Section 14, Frequency of Committee Meetings

All Committees, with the exception of the Nominations Committee and the Election Committee, shall meet at least three times per year.

Section 15, Supervision of Committees

The Common Council shall review the operations of all committees and provide guidance and direction to ensure that committee activities are consistent with the objectives and policies of RIRA as established by these Bylaws.

The Council shall have the authority by a two-thirds vote of the Council Members to remove from office the chairperson and/or members of any committee for failure to follow such direction.

ARTICLE V, ELECTIONS

Section 1, Regular Elections

In each even-numbered year, there shall be an election of Members of the Common Council, and of the President and the Vice

President.

Section 4, Candidates Night

There shall be a Candidates Night not more than two weeks prior to the election. Each candidate for President, Vice President and the Common Council shall have the opportunity to make a brief statement and to answer questions from the floor during the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Election Committee to notify all candidates of the meeting at least one week in advance, to publicize Candidates Night by posting notices on lobby bulletin boards in all residential buildings where permitted and on at least five Roosevelt Island kiosks at least one week in advance, and to conduct the Candidates Night meeting in an impartial manner.

Section 5, Campaigns

The Election Committee shall be responsible for recommending campaign guidelines and/or limits to campaign spending, to be considered and approved by the Common Council.

While the polls are open, no person shall do any electioneering within the polling place, or within a 100-foot radial measured from the entrance to such polling place; and no political banner, button, poster or placard shall be allowed in or upon the polling

place or within such 100-foot radial.

It shall be the responsibility of the Election Committee to post the results of the election within 24 hours following the closing of the polls; to make a report to the Common Council on how the election procedure could be improved.

If there are more candidates running for Common Council seats in a given election District than there are positions available, those who do not win those seats will be designated as Alternates in descending order of the popular votes they received.

ARTICLE VI, ADOPTION, AMENDMENT OR REPEAL OF BYLAWS

Any Bylaw may be adopted, amended or repealed by the vote of at least two-thirds vote of the Members of the Common Council. No adoption, amendment or repeal of any Bylaw shall be voted on by the Common Council at the same meeting at which it is proposed. Each such adoption, amendment or repeal of a Bylaw shall be made available to RIRA in the method determined by the Common Council.

The Island-wide Town Meeting to ratify RIRA's new constitution and bylaws will be held Tuesday, June 15, at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

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Public Safety from page 1

Damon LaScot, representing the Westview Task Force: “We have a dysfunctional system in place. By system I mean PSD, for which we pay over \$2.4 million a year – and the other part of the system is the NYPD, and it seems that the system is not working. We’re not seeing our tax dollars or our rent dollars well represented in terms of the safety and security and quality of life in our neighborhood. I’ve seen it deteriorate at an alarming rate and to an appalling degree over the past 25 years.”

Nellie Velez, from the Eastwood Building Committee: “This is our seventh meeting... We didn’t invite RIOC because we have met with them. From all those meetings we have had with them, we have had no accomplishment. Nothing’s been done. A new president, [Herb] Berman, came in. He sat with us, met with us, he said, ‘OK, we’ll get a coalition,’ which was PSAC [RIOC’s Public Safety Advisory Committee]. The only thing we got from this committee is a pat on our shoulder and one CPOP [Community Policing] officer, kept here for one month, and then pulled away.”

There were similar articulations from Dorothy Donald, representing 4 River Road; Kitty Berman of Island House; and Margaret Gaspard, Eastwood. LaScot produced copies of the PSD Blotter, reprinted from *Website NYC10044* (nyc10044.com), and his own personal crimewatch log, to support a charge that PSD doesn’t record everything. He described hearing a PSD vehicle pull up outside his apartment window and cut its engine in the middle of the night, then hearing it restart some two hours later when a Public Safety Officer had finished a long nap.

Thursday evening, at the RIOC Board of Directors meeting, Historical Society President Judy Berdy joined in the general condemnation of PSD. She brought photos of the office, which she characterized as a “dump,” “pathetic,” and “deplorable,” reflective of the administration of the department. “I don’t know why RIOC tolerates this,” she said.

Resident Board member David Kraut agreed, using a four-letter word for excrement to describe the office.

At the RISK meeting earlier in the week, RIRA President Matthew Katz laid out the numbers in a “follow the money” recitation that described what Roosevelt Islanders pay

for PSD’s Island policing. RIOC’s projected 2004-05 budget lists \$2.5 million for Public Safety, including \$700,000 in administrative cost. RIOC pays half from funds it collects for ground rents, commercial rents, and other Island-based income; the rest is billed to housing companies. It works out, he said, to \$49.48 per month for every Island House apartment, \$49.05 per month for every Westview apartment, \$46.73 at Eastwood, \$44.33 at Rivercross. Per month, per apartment.

(Manhattan Park has a different deal with RIOC, paying high ground rent but only \$19.42 per month per apartment for Public Safety; Southtown has construction-site security involved. Their contributions go into the mix, as well.)

Tony Morenzi, representing Assemblymember Pete Grannis, pointed out that some of these numbers have been reduced, or will be, because the State Department of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) ordered a rollback. That agency controls what can be charged for Mitchell-Lama housing, and on what owners can spend for certain services. The rollback is based on 1995 letters of agreement, in which RIOC and the housing companies agreed on payments for PSD costs. The effort pushed forward by the political leaders represented at the meeting. Katz pointed out that, nonetheless, whatever the specific charges work out to be, the payments “are in addition to the City taxes we all pay to sustain the NYPD, which at present has no patrol presence on Roosevelt Island whatsoever.” Katz went on to complain that, “The CPOP officer promised to us by the 114th Precinct and listed as such on their duty roster has, in fact, not been a presence here almost from the day his Island patrol tour was announced over a year ago.”

On the Island, RIOC President Herb Berman’s response to the rumble of dissatisfaction has ranged from a quiet admission at a RIOC President’s Open House for residents (“I know we have a problem there”) to creation of PSAC, the Public Safety Advisory Committee, chaired by resident RIOC Board member and former Residents Association President Patrick Stewart. As it turns out, Stewart’s handling of that task has also displeased the Islanders representing their buildings on RISK, most of whom also serve on PSAC.

“We were given a bunch of runaround and

Katz from page 3

live in, then I have to take myself out of it, and hope to God that my representatives in RIRA will speak for me and speak to RIOC for me, because that’s what democracy is about.” In my seven years on the Common Council I’ve never known RIRA to discuss intra-building issues, much less speak to RIOC about them. Each of the Mitchell-Lama residential complexes here has a tenants association, committee, task force or owners’ board to speak to their specific concerns.

RIRA’s Housing Committee has addressed the concerns of tenants but has deliberately chosen to leave each building to speak and act on its own behalf. Last spring RIRA mounted a major lobbying effort in Albany to advocate for legislation that would apply the rent-stabilization laws to developments like ours, occupied after 1974 and coming out of Mitchell-Lama protection. That bill failed because of upstate interests hostile to New York City. We will continue to advocate for Roosevelt Island’s housing concerns, so central to our survival as a planned community, while deferring to the expertise and special interests of each building’s leadership.

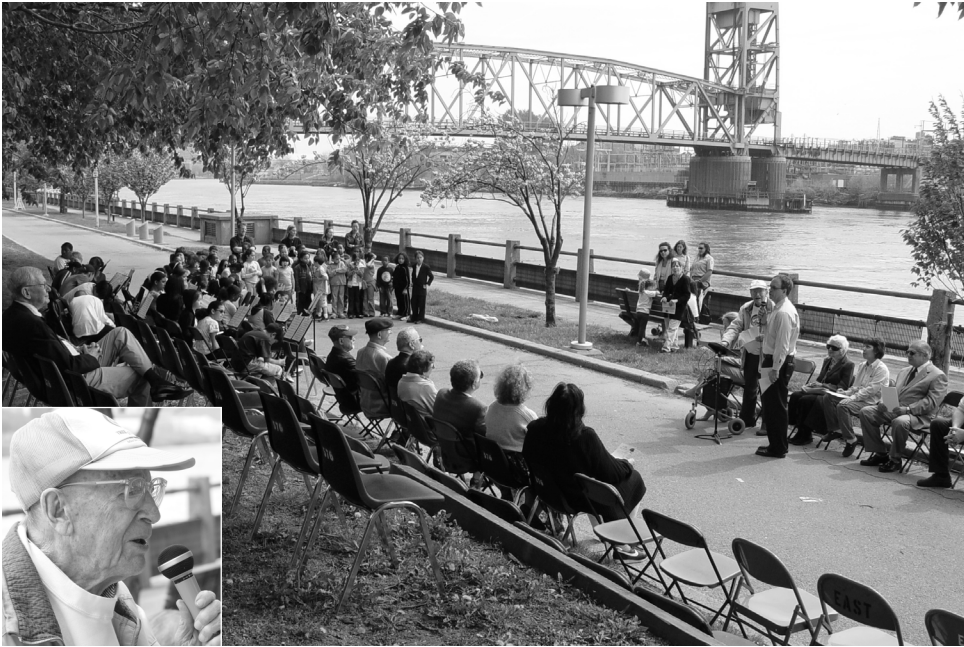
One thing is clear: RIOC and the RIOC Board of Directors will have a role to play in determining the ground leases with the individual building owners that will or will not make privatization possible. Should the State

law passed in September 2002 requiring a majority of residents on the RIOC Board finally be put into practice, this can only benefit the residents. And each resident Board member will need to search his soul to consider whether a vote to save his neighbor’s apartment is inappropriate if it saves his own apartment as well.

Has the sound of whooshing steam from the new Keyspan II plant made you crazy the last two weekends? I’ve been on the phone with April Dubison, Keyspan’s Community Development Director, asking for an accounting and some kind of heads-up before our Sunday-night sleep is destroyed. The resolution of this irritating problem is coming from another source, however.

RIRA is a component of an umbrella group called CHOKE. (Coalition Helping Organize a Kleaner Environment). CHOKE president Tony Gigantiello called me earlier this week to comment on the amount of protest this noise pollution has engendered in western Queens. Through this organization, and as a result of the threat of demonstrations, Keyspan has promised to limit the testing of the new turbine steam-ejector systems to weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. In addition, they intend to install mufflers or silencers on the offending equipment by mid-May. We know about the squeaky wheel and its effect on greasing potential here on Roosevelt Island, and my hat’s off to Tony and CHOKE. Way to go, guys!

Arbor Day, 2004



Tree Board Chair Maury Bleifeld (inset) emceed an Arbor Day ceremony last week, ably assisted by a class from PS217, RIOC President Herb Berman, State Forester Bob Bealin, PS217 Principal Sherry Gregory, Geoffrey Fishman (substituting for Doryne Isley) of Housing Management, and perfect weather topped off with cherry blossoms.

signments having nothing to do with recommendations,” said Byron Gaspard. Stewart, he said, “has completely bamboozled the community and disrespected the people on the committee... by not doing any work at all, dishing out orders, treating us as if we had done no homework... Our function was to make recommendations, based on our findings, on the constructive changes PSD has to make. We produced a mission statement written by a former Director of Public Safety, Peter Norwood. Stewart asked us to rewrite what was already an acceptable document.”

“It took Stewart over two months to schedule the first PSAC meeting,” complains LaScot. “That was November 13, 2003. Nearly six months later, he was asking PSAC members to do even more prerequisite work before we would be allowed to meet with the increasingly Wizard-of-Oz-like Herb Berman. And, by the way, Stewart never volunteered to participate in any of the busy work he handed out to PSAC members.”

LaScot says Stewart’s role, assigned or assumed, is to stall things, shield Berman, and do no work. *The WIRE* asked Stewart for a response to the charges. By press time nothing had been received, but Thursday night at the RIOC meeting, Stewart announced he had completed his own mission statement for Public Safety.

And when Byron Gaspard started complaining about Stewart’s work as chair of PSAC, RIOC Board Chair Mary Beth Labate interrupted him: “I’ve been kept abreast of what’s going on with the Public Safety Advisory Committee and, frankly, it looks like a

complete mess... If the committee cannot come together and work productively, there’s very little that we here on the Board can do... The Board is not in a position to make sure everyone holds hands and plays nice, and from what I understand, the biggest issue is [that] people are just not jelling at these meetings.”

At Tuesday’s meeting, held around three long, narrow banquet tables in the Island House community room, the representatives of government promised help – to support a request for an NYPD substation, for example, or to continue economic pressure on RIOC through DHCR – but offered advice, as well: *Document, document, document. Don’t inundate officials with paper; instead write short letters. Ask Islanders to call 911 for emergencies or 311 for quality-of-life matters instead of Public Safety. NYPD is “complaint-driven” – make sure they get the Island’s complaints.*

But even on the committee, there are uncertainties about just what solutions might be possible. There is the concern that personnel at an NYPD substation would be pulled away for duty in other parts of the 114th Precinct, among other things.

But it’s perennial, abiding, immutable, everlasting – Sisyphean in its persistence – dissatisfaction with the Island’s public safety and RIOC’s Public Safety Department – and even dissatisfaction with RIOC’s efforts to deal with it. Tuesday’s meeting was only the latest manifestation of resident leaders’ exhortations to *do something, just do something*.



Representatives of political and government leaders in Tuesday morning’s meeting with residents representing Island organizations and apartment buildings.

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PLACE: RI Senior Center
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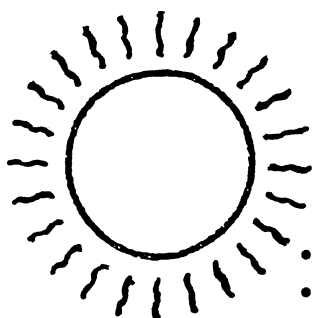
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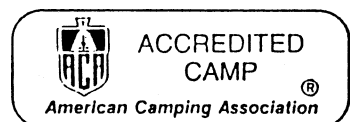
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SPORTSWIRE

The baseball season began with four consecutive losses for the Senior Roosevelt Island team. They were consistently outplayed and outmatched by the Yorktown and CYO League teams. There are a number of reasons why the Senior team had difficulty competing at this level. Among the most prominent are: first, the players did not get ready for the season until after it began, so that everybody seemed out of shape and ill-prepared for this level of competition.

Second, unlike other baseball programs where you have to compete to make a team and earn a right to play, the Roosevelt Island League, by allowing every applicant to play, while very democratic, does not encourage improvement and competition, and therefore the more competitive teams will always have an advantage.

Third, several of the better players who could have played with the Seniors are playing high-school ball and do not have time to participate in the program.

Nevertheless, the coaches, led by KJ Cruz, implemented a rigorous practice program and, along with some excellent pitching, things started to improve. Two weeks ago, in a double-header played on the Roosevelt Island field, the Seniors swept two CYO teams, 2-1 and 4-0. The first game was pitched by Sasha Agosta, who is a power pitcher, and the second by Neal Stueber, who was throwing devastating curve balls, sliders, and knuckle balls. These were two teams that had easily beaten the Seniors previously. Last week there was a re-match with one of the Yorktown teams. Rahim Drame pitched a 12-6 victory and received some timely hitting.

This Saturday the Seniors will be matched against the number-one team in the League from Yorktown, which at the present time is undefeated. The game is at Octagon Field. Parents and friends are encouraged to attend and cheer the team on.



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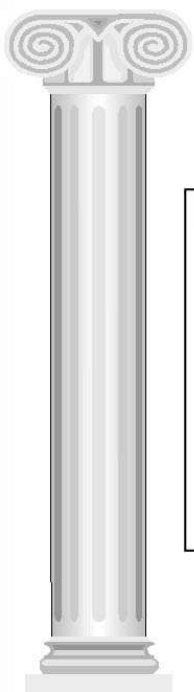
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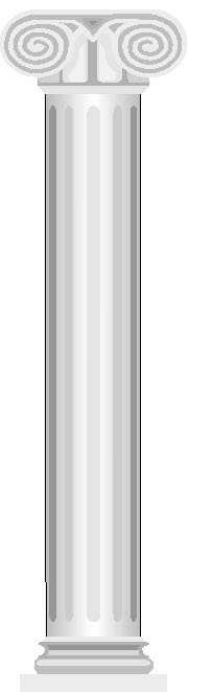
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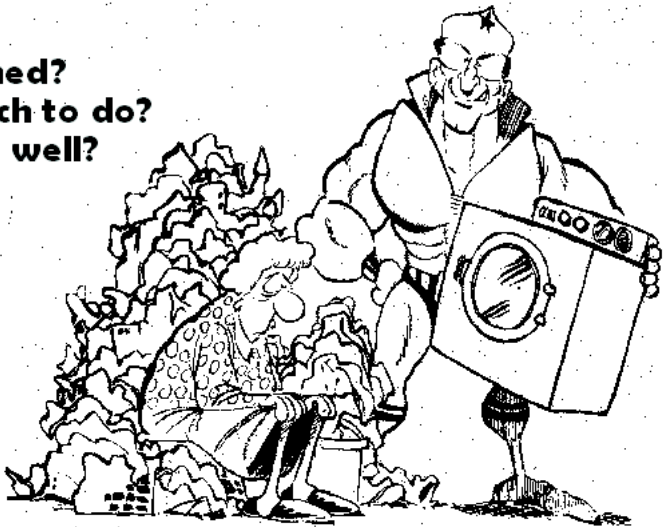
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