

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES

-----X

April 16, 2013

Start: 10:06 a.m.

Recess: 10:29 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
MARK S. WEPRIN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Daniel R. Garodnick
Robert Jackson
Jessica S. Lappin
Diana Reyna
Joel Rivera
James Vacca
Albert Vann
Vincent M. Ignizio
Ruben Wills

A P P E A R A N C E S

Thomas McKnight
Executive Vice President for Planning, Development and
Transportation
New York Economic Development Corporation

Joseph Coletti
New York Economic Development Corporation

1
2 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Good morning,
3 everyone. My name is Mark Weprin. I am the chair
4 of the Zoning and Franchises Subcommittee, and I
5 am joined this morning by the following members of
6 the Subcommittee: Council Member Jessica Lappin,
7 Diana Reyna, Dan Garodnick, Vincent Ignizio, and
8 Al Vann. One, two, three, four, five, six--that
9 would be a quorum. We also are going to be joined
10 by the chair of the Finance Committee, Domenic M.
11 Recchia, Jr., who is on his way down, who was here
12 before. We only have one item on the agenda
13 today. We did have two listed. The Manhattan
14 core parking text amendment, Land Use number 795,
15 is being put over to the next meeting, and that
16 leaves us with the following application, Land Use
17 number 2013-5519. It is the Coney Island
18 authorizing amendment to a previously executed
19 agreement between the mayor and the City Council,
20 a special process. I am stalling slightly because
21 I am waiting for Domenic, but in the meantime I
22 will call up the following members of EDC, who are
23 going to be making this presentation: Thomas
24 McKnight and Joe Coletti. Gentlemen, if you
25 please would sit at the table, and when you are

1
2 ready to begin--don't feel obligated for your
3 presentation; he knows it well. He does have a
4 statement to make, but I think he is going to wait
5 until you are done anyway. We are going to start.
6 Just state your name when you do speak for the
7 record, so we can tell you guys apart for the
8 record. Welcome, Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. We are
9 going to have the presentation made, and then Mr.
10 Recchia, we will call on you to speak after that.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you.

13 Gentlemen?

14 THOMAS MCKNIGHT: Hello, folks.

15 I'm Tom McKnight, executive vice president for
16 planning, development and transportation at EDC.
17 Very brief remarks that I will make explaining the
18 application, and we are happy to answer any
19 questions that you have. The item before the
20 Subcommittee relates to the Coney Island amusement
21 park special process agreement authorized by the
22 Council in 2009, which established a process for
23 the development of the Coney Island amusement
24 area, including provisions for interim leases for
25 the development and preservation of amusement uses

1
2 as the full Coney Island plan is implemented. In
3 order to further the recent progress in the past
4 few years in the historic amusement district and
5 to assist local businesses in their recovery post
6 Hurricane Sandy, the city is seeking an amendment
7 to a previously executed agreement between the
8 mayor and the Council that will allow current
9 lease terms in the interim amusement area to be
10 extended from 2020 to 2027 and will add an
11 additional property to the existing interim
12 amusement area. The additional property was
13 subject of a publically issued RFP released by EDC
14 last year, and is located adjacent to West 15th
15 Street, just west also of the existing amusement
16 park. While discussions are continuing with the
17 local amusement operators, it is anticipated that
18 these amendments to existing approved leases will
19 allow the operators to both partially recoup
20 investments made since Hurricane Sandy as well as
21 facilitate their investment in new attractions and
22 rides to also bring more activity to the
23 neighborhood of Coney Island and at no cost to the
24 city. Thank you for your consideration. I am
25 happy to answer any questions you may have.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: That is great,
3 Mr. McKnight, and Mr. Coletti, you are just here
4 in case we need you for questions, right? Well,
5 before we get into questions, I want to ask the
6 chair of the Finance Committee who represents
7 Coney Island, Domenic Recchia, Jr. to please take
8 the mic.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chairman, and good morning, my colleagues of
11 the Land Use Subcommittee. This is very important
12 in the economic impact for Coney Island to extend
13 this lease and to expand the amusements. In light
14 of super storm Sandy, many of these park owners
15 they were devastated and they are coming forward
16 putting money up, but in order for them to be able
17 to recoup back, they need an extension on their
18 lease. They can never be recouped back their
19 money if the lease was held where it is today.
20 That is why I strongly encourage your support, and
21 just so you know, these amusement park operators
22 are keeping up to their commitment to the
23 community. They went out and raised money during
24 super storm Sandy. The money they raised, they
25 have a fair process. They raise money for local

1
2 community groups. They give thousands of dollars
3 away, and they do not keep any of the money for
4 themselves. In addition to that, when we rezoned
5 there was agreements made in the Land Use that
6 jobs would go to Coney Island residents, and I am
7 happy to say that this year there will be over 400
8 jobs given to Coney Island residents, and since
9 the rezoning until today every March we have a
10 hiring hall. This year about 2,000 lined up to
11 get interviewed, and out of that they hired 400
12 people. There is about 400 and maybe 50 jobs in
13 the amusement. 400 of those jobs went to Coney
14 Island residents. We keep track of this. I am
15 personally involved with this with my staff, and
16 it's not like some other Land Use or rezoning
17 where corporations get big tax breaks and so
18 forth, but we have an eye. We can prove what is
19 happening, and I encourage all of my colleagues to
20 support us on this. Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you,
22 Council Member Recchia. Do any of the members of
23 the panel have any questions for these gentlemen
24 on Coney Island? I understand I was told the
25 sword swallower is in approval of this motion as

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

well they told me.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: On the final vote, we will have the sword swallower come.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Okay. I'll hold you to that. Alright. I guess that is it. Alright. Gentlemen, we want to thank you. That was easy enough, right? Anyone else here to testify on this matter? Speak now or forever hold your peace. Well, thank you. We are going to close this hearing. We are going to move to vote. Okay. We will leave it open for the member who had to leave for a second.

FEMALE VOICE: Chair Weprin?

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Aye.

FEMALE VOICE: Council Member Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

FEMALE VOICE: Council Member Vann? Council Member Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

FEMALE VOICE: Council Member Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: You forgot

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

me.

FEMALE VOICE: I'm sorry. Council Member Lappin? Sorry.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: We are going to hold the rolls open 'cause Mr. Vann is chairing a hearing downstairs, and we will bring him back as soon as we can, and we will hold the rolls open until the Landmarks meeting and we can get another vote. There is none? Well, that is good 'cause we need another vote. So yes, we are going to hold the rolls open.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Go get Al Vann. Do you want me to go--where is he?

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Until we get Al Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I want to thank all of my colleagues.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: You are welcome, Mr. Recchia. With the rolls still open, the meeting is now adjourned.

THOMAS MCKNIGHT: Thank you, folks.

[pause]

FEMALE VOICE: Council Member Vann?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: - - I vote
aye.

FEMALE VOICE: By a vote of six in
the affirmative, no negatives, no abstentions,
pre-considered Land Use item for Coney Island
denoted T 2013-6098 is approved and referred to
the full Land Use Committee.

[pause]

FEMALE VOICE: Council Member
Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote aye
on all.

FEMALE VOICE: The vote now stands
seven in the affirmative, zero negatives, zero
abstentions Coney Island pre-considered item
approved and referred to the full Land Use
Committee.

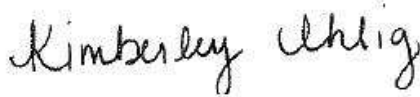
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: This meeting
on Land Use is adjourned. Zoning Subcommittee.

[gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature _____

Date _____4/29/13_____