Manhattan C.B 7

My community is Manhattan Community Board 7, which deals mainly with the upper west side and the Manhattan valley. Manhattan Community Board 7 conducts studies on parks and gardens in general, since its area is close to Central Park. It continues its works by exchanging ideas with the municipality on other small resting places in the region, some areas that can be called parks and many other issues that they think will be beneficial for the people of the region.

Especially for the last two years, they have been constantly preparing reports on COVID and informing the municipality about the situation in the region. I can say that it is one of the most successful works of the board recently, as it is much more beneficial to prepare reports by seeing the people of the region on such a sensitive issue. Also, if you go to the Manhattan C.B.7 website, you will find a presentation text on what citizens should do about COVID-19 in what situation. The fact that the studies are good and accurate, and the active use of the website ensures that they receive great support and approval from the people.

While I'm not worried about the work of the community board, I'm concerned about something that I think is more important than the work done. It worries me that people do not know why these communities exist and what they do, or even that they are unaware of their existence. These communities establish a link between the municipalities and the public through volunteers. Having a community board is essential, especially in an area like Manhattan where it's hard for municipalities to dig too deep when examining public issues.

Although not very many, the subjects that I think are missing among the board's work, that is, that I think should be mentioned more, are air pollution and waste management. These issues lag behind park studies a little. Recently, the Manhattan C.B. 7 prepared a report on this issue separately to the north and south ends. But I hope they go further on this issue. Because without a clean air space, Central Park will not give people peace.

One of my favorite things about community setup is that they are very kind to people who know themselves and consult them when there is a situation that needs fixing, and they take these complaints and suggestions into account and take appropriate action. Since these committees, which are composed of completely unpaid volunteers, are composed of people who enjoy serving the public and love what they do, they listen to the complaints and suggestions of the people as they should be. Although it is especially close to Central Park, it has a busy agenda, but Manhattan C.B. 7 is very successful.

I haven't attended a meeting yet. But when I can adjust my calendar, I will definitely attend one of these meetings held once a month and tell them about some of the problems I have identified before. I want the meeting I attended to be especially about parks because it is obvious that parks are of great importance for us people. Hearing directly at first hand the work these people are thinking of doing about the parks will be both pleasing and an opportunity to directly report a mistake that I will see. In addition, in this period when people's access to clean and fresh food is generally difficult, they prepared a report on accessing these foods. If a meeting is held on this subject, I will definitely attend this meeting. So I look forward to attend these meetings.