



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS®**
Manhattan / Riley County
PO Box 835
Manhattan, KS 66505-0835

The VOTER

February, 2008

<http://lww.manhattanks.org>

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Voter editor: Hilary K. Esry

February	
12 <i>Tuesday</i>	LUNCH WITH LEAGUE Topic: Diversity Presenter: Dr. Myra Gordon, Kansas State University Location: Manhattan Public Library, Auditorium (second floor), 629 Poyntz Ave. Time: 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
16 <i>Saturday</i>	MONTHLY BOARD MEETING Location: Edesia's, 406 Poyntz Ave. Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. <i>Members Always Welcome!</i>
26 <i>Tuesday</i>	BROWN BAG LUNCH Location: Riley County Office Building, second floor meeting room, 110 Courthouse Plaza Time: 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
March	
11 <i>Tuesday</i>	LUNCH WITH LEAGUE Presenter: Beth Tataro, President of the Manhattan/Ogden School Board Location: Manhattan Public Library, Auditorium (second floor), 629 Poyntz Ave. Time: 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
15 <i>Saturday</i>	MONTHLY BOARD MEETING Location: Edesia's, 406 Poyntz Ave. Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. <i>Members Always Welcome!</i>
25 <i>Tuesday</i>	BROWN BAG LUNCH Location: Riley County Office Building, second floor meeting room, 110 Courthouse Plaza Time: 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
April	
10 <i>Thursday</i>	ANNUAL MEETING Location: Edesia's, 406 Poyntz Ave. Time: 6:00 p.m.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, multi-issue organization that promotes responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and takes action on selected government issues. As an organization, it does not support nor oppose any political party or candidate.

Bioenergy and Water in Kansas

Interested League members are invited to attend a meeting on Bioenergy and Water in Kansas, in conjunction with the ongoing LWVK study on the topic, on Thursday, February 7, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at Radina's Coffeehouse and Bakery, 616 North Manhattan Ave.

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County Commission

President's Message

By Karen Mayse

Like many others at this time of year, the League is taking stock of where we are, contemplating the future and making plans to move forward confidently. During January League program planning meetings, we had thoughtful suggestions from members for studies for next year. These suggestions will next be evaluated by the board and then presented for consideration at our annual meeting in April.

It is this time-honored process that has resulted in the public policy positions that enabled the League recently to take action regarding amending the downtown redevelopment PUD. All action in that regard was based on the LWV MRC's position on growth, planning and development, the League's mission to encourage informed participation of citizens in government, and League principles, which clearly state that government should be "responsive to the will of the people." We based questions about conflict of interest during the Jan. 7 planning board meeting on the LWVUS position on transparency in government. The League's Jan. 8 City Commission statement appears in this issue of the Voter and our positions appear on the League's web site at <http://lww.manhattanks.org/issues.html>.

**Plan to attend the
2008 Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 10,
6 p.m., at Edesia's,
406 Poyntz Ave.**

More details coming soon!

Though most LWV MRC attention has been focused recently on Manhattan issues, we did not miss that the Kansas legislative session recently got underway. The LWVK will be monitoring school funding, energy policy and other legislation. The LWVUS has been collecting local League immigration study comments including LWV MRC focus group results. The LWVUS study committee will begin writing the position now that the Feb. 1 response deadline has passed. The LWVUS is also preparing for national convention in June. League members nationwide are already participating in activities for the 2008 elections. At the dawn of 2008, we can already see that it will be a busy year.

2008 Presidential Nominations

Democratic Presidential Caucus Tuesday, Feb. 5:

To find your caucus location, see www.ksdp.org/CaucusFinder. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and you must be in line by 7:00 p.m.

Senate District 21: Marysville City Hall

Senate District 22: 1st Congressional District: Geary County Historical Society and Museum

Senate District 22: 2nd Congressional District: K-Sate Union Main/West Ballrooms

Republican Presidential Caucus Saturday, Feb. 9:

To find your caucus location, see <http://ksgopcaucus.org/locations.htm>. Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m. Caucus begins at 10:00 a.m. Second Congressional District Caucus locations:

Riley County: CiCo Park

Pottawatomie County: Rock Creek Jr/Sr High

Libertarian Party Presidential Nominating Convention May, 2008:

Memorial Day weekend, May 22-26, 2008. For more details, watch www.lpks.org.

Kansas Constitution Party: <http://ks.constitutionparty.com> The US Constitution Party Presidential Nominating Convention will take place April 23-26 at the Kansas City Marriot Hotel Downtown, Kansas City, MO. For more details, see: http://constitutionparty.com/view_events.php

Kansas Green Party: No information available online (kansasgreens.org). Contact: Kansas Green Party, PO Box 1482, Lawrence, KS 66044. At time of press, the caucus link at the website of the Green Party of the US, www.gp.org, was broken.

LWVUS 2008 Presidential Primary Voters' Guide

The League of Women Voters of the United States invited all qualified presidential candidates to provide biographical information and responses to five issue specific questions. Their answers can be found at www.vote411.org. Candidates were qualified if they met the following criteria: 1) the candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for her/his Party's nomination for President; and 2) the candidate must have met the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC Web site as of October 5, 2007.

The questions were:

1. What should be done, if anything, at the federal level to reduce our use of and dependence on fossil fuels?
2. What should be our short term and long term goals in Iraq and the Middle East?
3. What should the federal government do, if anything, to ensure that every American has health coverage?
4. Please explain why you do or do not support setting spending limits for political campaigns and providing a set amount of public funding for all candidates who agree to take no private contributions.
5. What should the federal government do about immigration?

HB2670: Elections by Mail

The Kansas House Elections and Governmental Organization Committee introduced HB2670 on Thursday, January 24th. The measure would allow county commissions to conduct all elections by mail in ballots. Current law prohibits mail in ballots in partisan elections or when any candidate is elected, retained, or recalled. The full text of the bill can be found at www.kslegislature.org.

Community Radio Station: News Reporting Course at UFM

By Christopher Renner

Help Build Manhattan's Community Radio Station:

This spring, as part of the on-going efforts to prepare for the volunteer-operated non-commercial radio station sponsored by UFM Community Learning Center, which the League is supporting, the first of several courses to help community members learn basic skills needed to be part of this new project will be offered by UFM. This semester UFM will offer two sections on basic news reporting. The course will cover topics from how to prepare for an event, how to write a story, and how to use technology to make your job easier. Participants will develop a class project in which they prepare a news story for on-air broadcasting (brief 3-minute piece). Each class will meet for two hours: from 7:00PM - 9:00PM.

Participants will receive a reading packet and will have weekly assignments. MacIntosh computer users should have Garage Band software; PC users should have access to Adobe's Audition or similar software. Instructors will include Dave McFarland and Christopher Renner amongst others.

Session one: January 24, 31; Feb 7, 14, 28.

Session two (repeat): March 6, 13, 27; April 3, 10.

You can sign up via the UFM webpage - <http://www.tryufm.org> course number 08API04A, or by calling UFM at: 785-539-8763

STATEMENT TO THE CITY COMMISSION – January 8, 2008

Downtown Redevelopment – Amendment to the PUD

My name is Karen Mayse, I live at 3340 Newbury, and I am President of the League of Women Voters of Manhattan and Riley County.

The League of Women Voters believes that the City of Manhattan should operate on a thoughtful process of citizen input and widely accepted best practices, including developing and following a comprehensive plan, the Golden standards and other guidelines when changing a zoning district. That is the process the public thought was happening in the beginning of downtown redevelopment. Now it seems that the developer has more influence with the City Commission than the citizens of Manhattan.

That was certainly clear at your last meeting when you repeatedly asked the public to limit their comments, but did not ask city staff or the developer to limit their comments. We appreciate the fact that you have taken steps to level the playing field this evening.

The citizens have not been unreasonable. The community already compromised regarding the size of this building. At no time during the early public process, was there mention of a building in the redevelopment district larger than 60,000 square feet. Without protest, the community accepted an additional 8,500 square feet when the PUD was approved.

The League has been asked about what is allowed under the current PUD, and for clarity wishes to ask Mr Cattell a question: could the developer enlarge the building right now, within the current PUD without the need to amend, and if so, how many square feet could be added into the existing PUD?

With the additional 10,000 or so square feet, this building will be larger than any currently existing grocery in our downtown, representing more concessions than the compromise the public has already accepted.

You've urged us to look at the big picture, so let's do that. If you say the citizens must accept this change so the south development can go forward, citizens naturally wonder if they'll see a southern development that even resembles the plans they've been presented.

That certainly isn't happening with the north end. Every time citizens question the process, they hear we must proceed on a shortened time schedule or we'll lose the opportunity entirely. Rather than present the public with alternatives, the answer always sounds like a high pressure sales pitch -- buy now or it will be too late. Yet, if this PUD is amended, citizens will be stuck with far less than what they expected.

I respectfully disagree with the Mayor that there are no alternatives to the current plan. Tonight we are hearing that there are other possibilities, just ones that would differ from the current plan.

Now citizens are speaking up. They are pointing out that this big box supermarket is not compatible with the downtown neighborhood. They are pointing out that adding another grocery could have detrimental effects on other nearby groceries. They are pointing out safety, esthetic and financial concerns. They are doing so by writing letters to the newspaper editor. They left comments in an online petition, and they sought out the League for help with circulating paper petitions after they heard about that online petition, which most of the callers could not access. The League agreed to help, and we have been astounded at the response from the community. It is broad-based. It is coming from all neighborhoods. It crosses all political persuasions, and it has been overwhelmingly opposed to amending the PUD.

The League is delivering the paper petitions to you tonight with 522 signatures, most collected by citizens who are not currently affiliated with the League in any way. Rather than see this as a negative response as some have called it, the League thinks it is truly positive for Manhattan that so many citizens care about what happens to our downtown.

Since the citizens have elected each of you, you have a responsibility to act in keeping with the citizens' position. It is clear that Manhattan citizens overwhelmingly oppose the proposed change to the PUD. Therefore, unless you reject the amendment to the PUD, voters have no reason to ever trust the commission when it says that it values public input. Pure and simple, this is a matter of the commission's credibility and its fidelity to the public. Please do not ignore the citizens of Manhattan. Please do not minimize the importance of the public process. Vote to deny the amendment to this PUD.

Immigration Study Report

By Christopher Renner

Our chapter engaged in the national study on immigration. Three focus group meetings were held for members to participate in the discussion. Discussion questions were prepared by the national office along with study guides. Through these focus group meetings our chapter was able to engage in meaningful discussion on the topic of immigration and what priorities we felt needed to be taken into consideration.

Question 1 looked at what criteria should be taken into account by the Federal government in determining immigration policy. Our chapter felt that Economic, Business and Service Employment Needs along with Humanitarian Crises/Political Persecution, Immigrant Characteristics (health and age), Safe Working Conditions, family unification, fair treatment under US law, Education and Training and History of Criminal Activity were high priorities to take into consideration, but the various groups all had different opinions as to which of these criteria were the most important.

Question 2 dealt with how unauthorized immigrants currently living in the US should be treated. Here our chapter was opposed to forced deportation in undocumented immigrants; that deported individuals should be required to pay fines before they could re-entry legally; and, that fines be assess before undocumented individuals would be allowed to earn legal status. We felt it was a high priority that undocumented individuals be allowed to earn legal adjustment to their status based on the length of residency they have had in the US.

Next the League looked at how the federal government should respond to requests for immigration status, in particular what classifications of immigrants should be given priority and what criteria should be considered most important in determining legal entry. Our chapter reached consensus as a high priority all four criteria: admitting family members to join others already here; those entering to meet US labor needs; those entering as students; and, those entering because of persecution in their home country.

Question 4 had two parts. The first part of the question asked our opinion of creating some sort of national identity card for ALL persons residing in the US. Once again our chapter's members reached consensus in that all groups felt this needed to be a high priority for our government. The second part of the question then addressed enforcement issues related to immigration law. All groups disagreed with the construction of physical barriers and the deploying of surveillance equipment at the borders. As a high priority our chapter felt that effective tracking of persons with non-immigrant visas needed to be put in place. We also felt that verification of documents was a high priority and that improved use of technology needed to be implemented to facilitate such verification processes at the employer, point-of-entry, and inter-agency communication levels. Our chapter also felt that it was important that fines be proportionate to revenue for employers who engage in employment practices which seek to side-step such federal legislation.

Finally the last two questions required each group to reach consensus or no consensus. Question 5 discussed the need for the federal government to address and balance the long-term financial benefits and cost of immigration, in particular that state and local governments should not have to bear the total costs of integrating immigrant populations into US society. Question 6 then asked if federal immigration law should be coordinated with US foreign policy. This question sought to establish a pro-active foreign policy that dealt with the living conditions, educational opportunities and overall economy of nations with large emigrating populations. Our chapter reached consensus in agreement with both.

In reporting our chapter's result to National, the study did have some drawbacks in the design of the survey. Little room was provided for comments beyond the choices provided by the Likert Scale on the survey questionnaire. As such, we intend to bundle our chapters many written comments and forward them to National along with the request that future surveys be more open-ended and allow for more input from the membership.

Observer Reports:

League members report on various community boards

Manhattan Urban Area Planning Board

Barbara Withee, Observer

December 17, 2007 7:00 p.m. (meetings are televised on the first and third Monday of each month)

Members Present: Stephanie Rolley, Chairperson; George Ham, Vice Chair; Jerry Reynard; Mike Hill; Bill Meredith; Stacy Kohlmeier.

Member Absent: Mike Kratochvil

Staff Present: Eric Cattell, assistant Director for Planning; Steve Zilkie, Senior Planner; Jane Winslow Senior Planner; Cam Moeller, Planner II; Chad Bunger, Planner.

The final development plan for Meadowlark Hills retirement Community Planned Unit Development and final plat of Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community were approved 6-0.

The only general agenda item was a time for public input for the annual review of the Manhattan Urban Area Comprehensive Plan on significant issues that might need further study or other action. Jane Winslow provided background on the review process.

There were no comments from citizens. Citizens were invited to submit comments to the Community Development Department for the next few weeks.

Some issues that the Planning Division is working on are: Form Based Codes and other zoning alternatives; frameworks for developing neighborhood plans in the southwestern and northeastern portions of the community; alternatives for revising the makeup and jurisdictional boundary of the Planning Board; and updating the Storm Water Management Master Plan.

Riley County Law Board

Bob Kruh, Observer

January 22, 2008 Present: Hatesohl, Johnson, Kearns (presiding), Phillips, Snead, Urban, Wilkerson

In public comment a citizen told of her recent confinement at the Law Enforcement Center, a time in which she said a certain officer treated her in inappropriate ways and used offensive language while she served as a trustee preparing meals for inmates. Further, she charged that her subsequent complaint of harassment has not been dealt with expeditiously. Although the RCPD director reported that her complaint has been under review, the Board and the director were to give the matter further consideration in executive session following the public portion of this meeting.

The Board approved 1) a new laundry and dry cleaning contract with a firm in Topeka and 2) acceptance of a state grant of \$9,300 to assist with enforcement of underage drinking laws.

The Board heard a detailed description of the expansion of current police and jail facilities now being designed by Bruce McMillan's architectural firm. Prisoner populations have grown far more rapidly than those projected at the facilities' 2001 inception, with additional space required for women and special needs prisoners. Planned are ca 15,000 sq ft of new space and 2,800 sq ft of renovation, with construction cost ranging from \$3.479 to \$3.827 million, or about \$200 per square foot. The county commission has earmarked \$3.7 million, but, beyond construction, there are costs for fixtures, communications, legal expenses, and architectural fees. The project may begin as early as May 2008 with completion possible by August 2009. It was pointed out that about ten new officers would need to be added for 24/7 coverage of the new space.

Director Schoen presented goals and objectives for 2008, which the board then approved. In addition to operational and administrative items, plans include improved community communications in both urban and rural areas and a consolidated plan for juvenile intake procedures, now being carried out by several uncoordinated entities. The county attorney and CASA are assisting with the latter process.

The board also approved the calendar for preparing next year's budget, which anticipates publication prior to the public hearing scheduled for June 16. Starting with the current budget of \$13.1 million, each one percent increase would add \$131,198, with a statutory limit of 10%.

USD 383 Board of Education

Kathy Dzewaltowski, Observer

December 19, 2007

Work session:

The work session focused on school starting and dismissal times. Currently, secondary schools start and dismiss about an hour earlier than elementary schools. Advantages to the current setup include more daylight when elementary students are walking to school or waiting at bus stops in the morning, and secondary students miss less class time when they need to leave early for school activities. One of the disadvantages of this setup was the need for supervision for elementary students whose parents need to be at work before school starts. John Maberry, Director of Transportation and Maintenance, reported that the district would need 30 more buses if all schools started at the same time, and he estimated the costs would be \$2.2 million. Dave Colburn suggested that the district could spend that amount of money providing quality before- and after-school programs. The board requested more information about attendance and did not reach a consensus opinion.

Regular meeting:

The board discussed school board appointments to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The school board will be notifying the Parks and Recreation board that it is seeking a legislative change that will allow the school board to appoint representatives who are not necessarily board members.

The board approved 6-0 two new courses for MHS: AP English and Composition, and Mind-Body Fitness. (Susan Marshall was absent.)

Board members discussed Facilities and Growth planning. The board discussed planned focus groups, who would be involved, and the need to establish the purpose and expectations of the groups. Board members wanted the focus groups to include citizens who do not have children attending school.

The board received information about the district's virtual school program, iQ Academy, and reviewed policies and handbook rules. Board members thought the language addressing class rankings and whether a student would be included in class rankings with "brick and mortar" MHS students was open to interpretation. The board approved 6-0 the proposed handbook rules and policies.

Board members were presented with information about purchasing a new software program for school library circulation at a cost of \$28,604. The board asked to have the purchase follow the usual bid process and requested that bids be sought.

The board discussed the possibility of offering a school-based program during Spring Break, using uncommitted funds from the at-risk budget to pay for the program. Administration expressed concerns about being able to put together a program in time for March 2008 but will investigate the possibility. Dr. Bob Shannon, Superintendent, said that Sunset Zoo, Manhattan Arts Center, and Boys and Girls Club had expressed interest in partnering with the school district. Board members directed administration to develop a proposal, which included the option of recommending waiting until March 2009 to implement the program.

Manhattan City Commission

Mary Beth Reese, Observer

December 18, 2007: All City Commissioners were present.

The Manhattan Marketplace PUD amendment was the only item of business. There was extensive public comment. League President Karen Mayse spoke against the amendment stating that public input was being ignored, that the amendment was incompatible with the downtown neighborhood, that a big box grocery did not fit with the character of the historic downtown, and that the large building would detrimentally affect a nearby historic structure and planned housing units.

Commissioners voted 4-1, with Commissioner Strawn opposed, to return the recommendation to the Manhattan Urban Area Planning board for further consideration, specifically to revisit compatibility of the proposal with nearby properties and the extent to which it may have detrimental affects. Also to be considered is the relative gain to the public health, safety and welfare that denial of the request would accomplish compared with the hardship imposed upon the applicant.

Mayor Phillips specifically requested the Planning Board consider the financing for the overall redevelopment project when reviewing the amendment proposal.

Riley County Commission

Jan Kruh, Julie Merklin, Lyndal Nyberg, Joan Strickler, Observer

December 20 – Present: Mike Kearns (chairman), Alvan Johnson, Bob Newsome

For the most part, routine business items were dealt with including consideration of medical costs for the city's jail inmates, insurance coverage for terrorism, pay rates for attorneys representing indigents, an increase in the adult services budget, transfer of Scenic Drive maintenance to the city, and insurance to maintain continuity of county services in a disaster.

The commission also discussed ways of funding the post-ice storm cleanup, suggesting that townships could reimburse the county for some of the assistance measures.

In the afternoon county and city commissioners met to consider common interest. The city declines to consider paying medical costs for its inmates in the Riley County jail, suggesting that the matter be considered broadly. Commissioners suggested that the statute governing the RCPD and the Law Board be reviewed and possibly redesigned. Both agreed that the inspection of child care facilities requires more regularization.

December 31 – Present: Mike Kearns, Alvan Johnson

Appraiser McHenry has begun the process of determining 2008 real estate values for the county's some 24,000 parcels. Change notices are mailed on March 1 each year. Personal property forms for 2008 were recently mailed to owners of mobile homes, boats, golf carts, ATV's, farm trucks, non-highway vehicles, aircraft, and commercial personal property.

He also announced the launching of a website, www.rileycountyks.gov, that can be used for searching real estate parcels. The public-level access includes property characteristics for each parcel, such as land size, year built, structure square footages, home sketches, bedroom and bathroom counts, current and previous year values, etc. The pay-level access includes real estate sales data for legally authorized subscribers (realtors, fee appraisers, lenders).

January 3 – Present: Mike Kearns, Alvan Johnson

The agenda dealt with routine business items.

January 7 – Present: Mike Kearns, Alvan Johnson, Bob Newsome

CASA Director Jayme Morris-Hardeman reported on the many volunteer workers helping with care for vulnerable children, many of whom themselves had not been taken care of as children.

Extension Director Jennifer Wilson reported on the Credit Cents Program, which deals with use of credit cards and management of credit card debt.

Monty Wedel, Planning Director, reported on the courthouse clock tower and new clock face lighting that has been greatly improved.

Rod Meredith, Assistant Director of Public Works, reported on the county's clean-up after the ice storm in December. Meredith met with FEMA, (Federal Emergency Management Administration), which provided \$182,000 for the county's costs.

Barry Wilkerson, County Attorney, reported on the current seat-belt law, which increases fines to \$60.

January 10 – Present: Bob Newsome, Alvan Johnson

Bob Newsome assumed the role of presiding commissioner for 2008.

There was a report that many new windmills are now erected and working in Kansas – providing more electricity via large wind turbines.

It was mentioned that property taxes are increasing in Kansas and other states and that a number of states are trying to control the burden.

Lyle Butler, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, reported that 1) they are working to get more four-lane highways into the Manhattan area, and 2) the unemployment rate is now at 2.6%.

Riley County Commission (continued)

January 14 – Present: Bob Newsome, Alvan Johnson

John Cowan, GIS Coordinator, reported that there are 62 new images for aerial photography of county area. All residences outside the city are included, and addresses are used to mail census forms.

Becky Topliff, District Court Officer reported there was a slight drop in 2007 of cases overall, although some categories had an increase, such as care and treatment for those with mental illness, alcoholism and drug abuse.

Rod Meredith summarized major projects in the parks department for the year just ended. Included are six county parks, 11 county facility grounds, and the community parks in the small towns.

Robert Nall, Director of Information Technology, described 70 projects set for 2008. To provide election information, the TV monitor in the office building's lobby has been upgraded and new software is being installed in several departments.

Cheryl Collins, Museum Curator, announced the dates for the documentary, "Bloody Dawn: the Lawrence Massacre," which was partially filmed in the county's historic buildings.

Members of the township board were present for discussion of dust issues on West 69th Avenue. Residents are concerned about safety when dust is so thick visibility is impaired. Fire trucks in particular are at risk. Commissioners stated that paving the entire road is not economically feasible. The usual treatment for dust abatement is application of magnesium chloride. Township officials and County Engineer Hobson will work together to find a solution.

Pat Collins, Director of Emergency Management, reported on progress in cleaning up after the ice storm. His report to FEMA was approved 2-0, with stipulation for possible amendment. He discussed radio interoperability of all emergency departments in the county and the kind of equipment needed to improve the system.

January 17 – Present: All Commissioners present.

Charlotte Shawver, Register of Deeds, presented a staff update and described activity for 2007. Total mortgage amount was \$374.5 million. Mortgage registration tax totaled \$973,790, and recording fees brought in \$236,884. The total was unusually large, as the mortgage for Riley Communities to serve Fort Riley was listed at \$283.6 million. Total indebtedness for 2007 was slightly down from 2006.

Jennifer Wilson, Extension Director, reported on recent activities. The Walk Kansas Program begins March 1, and registration is from February 1 on. Volunteer income tax assistance at UFM begins February 1

Johnette Horne, Budget Officer, discussed the closing balance for the general fund in 2007 and commented on projects for 2008. The ending balance is still an estimate until all reports are in. For 2008 projects, estimated carryover funds are \$314,062. It was noted that this amount is limited and that the large surpluses for previous years are not likely to be repeated soon.

The Commissioners received a presentation from Downtown Manhattan, Inc., which included a request for the county's financial support. The Commissioners declined to participate but they will wait for later input from architect Brent Bowman and Planning Director Monty Wedel.



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