

Inc. Village of Bellerose

Historic Preservation Commission

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Donna Sherrer - Mayor

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Coney Island

Of great interest to those of us with roots in Brooklyn as well as those of us interested in Historic Preservation, is Coney Island. Coney Island is probably one of the most famous 'turn of the century' seaside resorts still in operation. The city of New York is making an effort to revitalize and redevelop the area. This effort has been met by mixed reactions from both historians as well as the community at large.

Recently, as a Commissioner, I was invited to join other Historians and Commissioners to walk Coney Island and view the entire redevelopment area. It was a great opportunity to learn of its history and learn more about the redevelopment vision. Attached are my notes from this walk (sponsored by the NYC Historic Districts Commission).

While reviving the area would be a great asset to New York City, it is important to retain the history and flavor of what made Coney Island what it is. Some of the more controversial proposals which may not contribute to this goal are the following:

- 1) Changing zoning from low rise to high rise (4 to 30 stories)
- 2) Shrinking the zoning size of the Amusement District
- 3) Relocating current businesses and amusements to Southern Coney Island (where Cyclones ball park is located)
- 4) Forcing business to move into retail mall complexes rather than individual shop fronts.

If this is of interest to you, you can see www.myspace.com/saveconeyisland or Save.Coney@Gmail.com for more details on the plans and efforts to "revitalize" not "replace".