Economic Development and West Harlem Piers Committee
Manhattan Community Board Nine
Serving the West Harlem communities of Morningside, Manhattanville, Hamilton Heights and Sugar Hill

Committee Chair: Carmen Morillo
Committee Members: Quenia Abreu, Arnold Boatner, Marco Fei, Rodley Ferguson

Monthly Meeting
583 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10027
Tuesday, April 2nd, 2013
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

I. Call to Order: at 6:40pm

II. Attendance:

Present Committee Members- C. Morillo; A. Boatner; Q. Abreu; R. Ferguson; M. Fei
Visitors- Maritta Dunn; Savona Bailey McCain; Barry Weinberg

III. Approval of the Agenda:
First Motion – A. Boatner
Second Motion – Q. Abreu

IV. Approval of the Minutes:
First Motion – A. Boatner
Second Motion – R. Ferguson

V. Announcements

a. Changes to Committee Roster: Jamaal Nelson has been appointed Chair of the Health Committee and has asked to be removed from serving on this committee

b. NYCEDC March 2013 report: (highlights)
   - Private employment rose by 21,600 in January 2013 after an increase of 11,900 jobs in December 2012.
   - The unemployment rate rose to 9.1 percent in January 2013 from 8.8 percent in December 2012.
   - The Manhattan hotel occupancy rate in January 2013 was 77.3 percent, up from 71.9 percent in January 2012.
   - The Manhattan Class A office vacancy rate was 7.7 percent in February 2013, while the average asking rent was $70 PSF.
   - Passengers in NYC area airports totaled 8.9 million in December 2012, up 3.7 percent from December 2011.

c. 3595 Broadway – Construction Updates: (April 1st through April 8th)
   - Demolition is substantially complete
   - Waterproof existing adjacent properties
   - Complete parging (cement coating) of adjacent buildings
   - Regular weekday work hours: 7:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
   - Small machinery on site
   - Parking lane closures around the project site [M. Dun ask the committee to get clarification on the times of the parking closures]

d. Manhattanville Campus Construction OPEN HOUSE on April 4th:
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- Learn more about General Project Information, Construction Activities in Manhattanville, Construction Activities at 148th and Broadway, Project Design, Sustainability Initiatives
- Information for Minority, Women and Local Businesses and Individuals
- Thursday, April 4, 2013 Nash Building Enter at 96 Old Broadway 3:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

e. Updates from Ellen Baxter
- Given that CB9 has had extensive involvement with the Sugar Hill development over several years, it will be important to update the Board fully. As I mentioned to you, we are planning a Topping Off event at the end of April, which might be a good time to invite the entire Board. The Topping Off ceremony is intended to thank all the workers who have worked hard to reach the milestone of the roof top level. Once we have confirmed the date, I will be sure to let you know.
- The recruitment phase for the Youthbuild construction training we are engaged with in collaboration with Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp. was completed earlier this year, and 28 young adults are enrolled, the maximum that the program can accommodate at this time. CB9, CB12 and the elected officials received the materials and we believe directed several of the participants to the opportunity. I will let you and CB9 know when the second phase of recruitment takes place.

f. Update from West Harlem Food & Beverage Association
- NYC Beer and Cheese Tasting on Saturday April 27th at 4pm
- Register at http://coursehorse.com/beer-class-nyc/beer-cheese-tasting

VI. Presentations

VII. Updates on Projects: review project proposals and discuss next steps. Since members have limited availability outside of board meetings to work on these projects, the committee has decided to focus on trying to recruit Interns to assist. If we’re unable to secure interns before the summer, the committee will prioritize these projects and all members will work on one project collectively.

a. CBA and Economic Development – C. Morillo
b. West Harlem Business Association – C. Morillo
c. Union and Contractors Workshops – Q. Abreu
d. Survey of underdeveloped areas – A. Boatner
e. Boat Tours from the West Harlem Piers – M. Fei
f. Reopen Amtrak Station on West 125th Street – R. Ferguson

VIII. Action Item: NONE

IX. Old Business

a. Request for minor funding and interns to assist with projects- A request funding has been submitted to Chair Rev. Morgan Thomas. Waiting for a response.
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b. **Business along Broadway btw 125th and 126th street without a lease** - A survey of the businesses was performed. The finding provided little to no substantial information concerning lease issues. Instead CM will gather resources to distribute to Ms. Dun and she will distribute it to the businesses.

c. **3595 Broadway construction concerns** - Since CU has yet to identify the type of retail that will occupy the space, AB will survey the neighborhood stakeholders to gather suggestions.

d. **Revisions to the committee’s mission statement and goals and accomplishments for 2013** - Revision were circulated. All members approved the changes.

X. **New Business**: Savona McCain and Maritta Dunn informed the committee about a project they had worked on years ago. Supposedly there is a huge streetscaping project set to start this week along 125th street. We were told the board did a lot of work to develop this project including resolutions and letters. And we’ve been asked what the committee is doing to ensure this project is fulfilled. CM will attempt to gather information on this project from the board office and update the committee at the next meeting.

XI. **Adjournment**: Next meeting is Tuesday, May 7th, 2013