Waterfront & Economic Development Committee  
Manhattan Community Board Nine

Savona Bailey-McClain, Committee Co-Chair, Jane Arrendell, Committee Co-Chair  
Brandon Brice, Elvis Hernandez, Vicky Gholson, Ph.D., Ernestine Welch, Board  
Committee Members, Maritta Dunn, Mark Irgang, Caren Irgang, Evy Maier, Public  
Member

Committee Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2009

The meeting was called to attention at 6:30 p.m. by Committee Co-Chair Savona Bailey-  
McClain.

Present: Savona Bailey-McClain, Elvis Hernandez, Vicky Gholson, Ph.D.,  
Absent: Jane Arrendell, Brandon Brice, Maritta Dunn, Ernestine Welch, Mark Irgang,  
Caren Irgang, Evy Maier  
Guests: James Subudhi, WEACT; Cecil Corbin-Marks, WEACT

The Committee Co-Chair Savona Bailey-McClain and Committee Member Elvis  
Hernandez baked desserts for the meeting to celebrate the holidays. Discussion then  
began about goals, objectives and projects for the coming year. A long discussion about  
the planning process for the former Marine Transfer Station took place with members of  
WEACT. It was suggested by the Committee Co-Chair that since there weren’t many  
new ideas generated from the November Community Forum that a joint letter be sent by  
the Community Board and WEACT to the Mayor’s Office asking that the City move  
forward on a feasibility study based on the recommendations that have already be sent.  
(There was a suggestion to just tear down the old Station and make it a nature preserve)

WEACT countered that the Mayor’s Office is looking for a physical plan with renderings  
like Harlem on the River. Cecil Corbin-Marks was not opposed to a letter but felt that a  
Steering Committee be formed to move the process forward. Details of this strategy was  
not provided.

Committee Co-Chair, Savona Bailey-McClain shared that the Community has grown  
from its experience from Harlem on the River and the construction of the West Harlem  
Piers Park. And since the City is only going to start the process from scratch, why waste  
such valuable resources. Instead, continue with public forums to educate the public on  
some of the recommendations presented and give residents an opportunity to better  
negotiate with the City when an RFP is being developed.

Vicky Gholson felt that her idea for putting a production studio on the site should not be  
dismissed. The Committee Co-Chair shared how in early 2009, she contacted the Office  
of Film and Television and spoke with the Assistant to the Commissioner. The Office  
stated that they work with private owners of sites for television and film production. The  
Agency doesn’t have the resources for similar development on public land. It was  
suggested that we contacted City Planning and the Economic Development Corporation.

Ms. Gholson then suggested that we should not give up on the idea and perhaps nearby  
the former Marine Transfer Station there could be space for such a project.

Another subject that was brought up was outreaching to more small business owners.  
Vicky Gholson suggested that we outreach to cab drivers. There was a spirited
conversation about the usefulness of such an outreach but Elvis Hernandez felt it was important to outreach to this group and volunteered to do so.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.