

**Minutes of the
Economic Development Committee
West Harlem Piers Committee
Tuesday, February 4th,**

Committee Members Present:

*Maritta Dunn, Co-Chair, Joyce Adewumi, Co-Chair, Kelsey Bettis,
John-Martin Green, Venessa Jones, Tina Lumley, Johnathan Sinagub,
Excused: David Hanzal*

Visitors and General Public:

Brian Felicetti, Katherine Greybull, Tina Johnson, Janet Rodriguez

Presentations:

Waterfront Alliance: The Alliance is working to fulfill a grant through the Hudson River Estuary Program that is related to human powered boating facilities. They were told about the kayak pier that sank at the West Harlem Piers. They were also told of the kayak program that was suggested for Riverbank State Park that offered swimming lessons for children and kayak instructions for adults. The Committee strongly suggests that the Waterfront Alliance investigate restoring funding for these projects.

Bronx Night Market: Started in 2016, the Bronx Night Market is a pop-up market that operates May through September. It is a festival of food, craft beverages and artisan merchants. They are interested in starting this same type project in the West Harlem Area. The suggested area is the playground at 135th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. The Committee supports the idea with the understanding that local merchants would be included, and residents would be employed as needed.

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Business Landmark Awards: The Economic Development Committee voted to recognize businesses in the West Harlem Area that has operated in the same location and has had the same owners or operators for minimum of thirty (30) years. Because of budget constraints only 20 businesses can be recognized each year. Committee members have been given five (5) Business Recognition Profiles to identify our first 20 businesses.

Film/Television Task Force: The Committee supports a proposed City Council legislation that addresses the quality of life disturbances local communities experience when there is filming in their area. The legislation would require early notifications and communication between the local community and the film and television industry. The proposed legislation would create a task force to produce an acceptable action plan for film and television production.

Sugar Hill: Sugar Hill got its name during the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s when it became a popular place for wealthy African Americans to live . It was so named because it represented a “sweet life”! It was officially recognized as a district in 1927. This recognition should immediately return to all letterheads and correspondence representing CB9M.

Next Meeting: March 3rd, 2020