

CB9 Economic Development/Harlem Piers Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 6:30 pm

Location: Broadway Housing, 583 Riverside Drive at West 135th Street

Committee Members: Quenia Abreu, Chair (present) , James Archer (Absent), Erik George (absent), Nekpen Osuan (Present), Nick Smith (Present), Jose Taveras (Present)

Visitors: Victor Edwards - CB9, April Taylor - CB9, Victoria Mason –Columbia University office of Government and Community Affairs, Dough Maines – Project Director for Skanska, Van Thompson- Diversity Program Director for Skanska, Elizabeth Velez – Velez Organization, Rev D’Grath Advisor to the Columbia Project and MWBE Advocate, Orlando Ovalles - MWBE Director for the New York Women’s Chamber of Commerce, Charles Callaway from WeAct, Ken Miles, Monique Hardin- Cordero - Residents

Call to Attention at 6:54

At 7:40 pm quorum achieved – Call to order

Motion to Adopt Agenda and 2nd by Jose Taveras

Adopt Minutes- no minutes present

Introductions: The meeting open with introduction of attendees

Discussions:

Presentation by Skanska and Velez Organization on the next phase of the Columbia Expansion Project.

A power point presentation was conducted by Elizabeth Velez and Dough Mains: Project Description University Forum Facility, a conference center, comprised of 4 levels (where Floridita Restaurant used to be) the project started December 2015 and will be completed April 2018.

Contractors: The M/W/LBE participation goal is 35%. Target 20% of the 35% will be awarded to MWBE Firms certified with the State, however firms certified with the city wishing to apply will received expedited assistance to get their certification with the state. LBE refers to local business enterprises located in UMEZ. The team is looking for local contractors and need the assistance of CB9 to identify them. Firms are encouraged to get pre- qualified with Skanska. Qualification is required for large contracts in the mount of \$200K or more. Second and third tiers don’ have to go through prequalification. Skanska informed they are breaking the package up to provide more opportunities and make easier for contractors to apply. Some of the general conditions contracts have already been awarded to local MWBEs: security, signage, pets controls and other general condition items. Metal Panels, Roofing and Masonry will be bid out in two or three months. There are opportunities for suppliers as well.

Maines encouraged the committee to send them a list of local contractors they can reach out and to refer contractors to them. Abreu asked for Velez to email the list of all available contracts to the committee. The committee asked Columbia to provide us with a list of local contractors who were already awarded contracts.

Workforce: The workforce goal participation is 40%. Local Workforce is refer to those individuals residing the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Zip codes. The project is a union project and has a project labor agreement.

Velez and Maines spoke about inclusion and the work they have been doing to get more people into the unions, Velez is working with Strives and talking to the trade unions to get some of their people into the unions. They are also working with contractors to get the commitment from them to open new positions and get locals through the pipeline into the union.

Callaway asked how to get non-union individuals who have taken the OSHA classes through WeAct job opportunities. Velez will provide an application form for individuals, union and non-union, who want to work in construction. The application will be available on site for anyone who wants to apply. Skanska informed the committee there is no project office on the site but they can still get the application.

CB9 agreed to work with the Skanska-Velez team to identify local non-union construction workers to consider for the project, including those working on the St John the Devine Project and the Boys and Girls Club.

Taylor asked for the applications to be available at the Columbia Employment Center. Mason will look into it. She informed the committee there is an online application but not sure if it applies to the project. Tylor also asked for the prequalification application to be send to the committee.

Abreu asked about general conditions for businesses and if they have to be registered as vendors with Columbia. Victoria will look into it. Vendors don't have to be prequalified with Skanska. Skanska will send list of available opportunities to the committee.

Abreu will follow up with Skanska-Velez to do a couple of community outreach events.

Taylor asked if the presentation will be available at the general board meeting or at other committee meetings. Mason will look into it.

Old Business

Marine Transfer Station – Charles Callaway from WeAct.

Callaway informed the asbestos has been removed and they are waiting for the inspection from sanitation and for DDC to sign off on the transfer to Parks, which could happen soon. In 10 days we should hear about it.

Abreu suggested putting together a committee. Charles informed there is working group. They had two forums already but are not meeting again until there is something concrete to report. In June there

might be another meeting with the community and local officials to deliver the updates and hopefully to celebrate. We are asking for DCAS to transfer the Station to Parks. Abreu appointed Taveras to the Committee, he will follow up with WeAct.

Columbia Employment Center

Abreu brought up the subject of pending items. Questions around data having to do with our residents and the usage of the Employment Center and looking at ways collaborate and get more participation from the community residents.

Edward asked for the Employment Center to come to the CB9 meeting.

Mason agreed there are some challenges with the use of the center when it comes to the electronic application process and with the follow up of the users. Also, the employment center door is locked and some people might not feel welcome. Taveras and Hardin- Cordero (resident) commented that the Center does not look active not inviting. Abreu brought the issue of outreach and communicating and informing the community, working not only with CB9 but also with community organizations to inform the residents about the employment center.

Mason will check for the Employment center to present at CB9 for April or May.

New Business

Columbia University

Relocation of CD 9 Residents of the two TILP buildings to new location at 148th and Broadway. Mason informed about the relocation of the CD9 residents (two groups). The buildings are not occupied yet but they will be moving in soon. Residents met with the building manager and had the opportunity to view their units and community space. The same for the church located in the same building. Aside from the group moving in, there a couple of affordable units, HPD is assigning them. Abreu asked if those units are earmarked for CD9. Mason was not sure. The committee will look into it.

Available Commercial space: Mason informed the committee about the available retail space at the building and provided a flyer with picture and contact info for those who want to submit a bid for the space.

SBDC: Mason handed out flyers with information about the upcoming events of the Columbia-Harlem SBDC for small businesses.

Adjourn- motioned and 2nd by Nick Smith at 8:30 PM.