

Community Board 9 Manhattan

Economic Development/Harlem Piers Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2017

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

Called to order at 6:35pm | Quorum achieved at 6:41pm

Attending Members: Quenia Abreu (chair), Jose Taveras (co-chair), Maritta Dunn, Basia Nikonorow, Nick Smith

Absent Members: Nepkin Osuan

Guests: Donald Liloia (DockNYC), Torrell Miller (DockNYC), Scott Kow (Baylander), Al Trenk (Baylander), Michael Trenk (Baylander), Lance Demonteiro, Taylor Luwan, Brian Goldman

Presentation (Baylander)

- Vietnam-Era Navy Vessel that later functioned as a Helicopter Landing Trainer, was decommissioned in 2011 and sold through auction in 2012 by Al Trenk.
- Vessel qualifies for National Landmark Status by 2018/2019.
- Owner's son (Michael Trenk) would like to convert the vessel into a café/restaurant. He currently owns Prohibition, NoBu, and Lucky's Burgers.
- Owner would like the Baylander to serve as a community facility as well. Available access to the community through school tours and programs.
- Owners would like to partner with the New York Harbor School.
- Vessel would be a community facility/public space during the day and a restaurant at night.
- Owners and EDC believe the restaurant would reinvigorate the Harlem Piers.
- West Harlem Development Corporation. Is Michael Trenk's wife on the Board of Directors?
- Claims up to 50 jobs would be created.
- Restaurant would be a smorgasbord of vendors for the short period.
- Would like to hire locally (within CB9), although might include Columbia University students.
- Wages will start at \$7.50/hr plus tips. Maximum would be as much as \$16/hr.
- First seasonal would comprise of more part-time than full-time.
- Training for community residents
 - Mechanical Training on ships (through NY Harbor School)
 - Marine Tour Guides.
- Owners are willing to work West Harlem Development Corporation & Harlem Justice Corporation.
- Is the restaurant the original purpose of the Baylander?
- Currently, the Baylander is still on a temporary contract (month-to-month)
 - Docking Fee: \$3000/month which goes to DockNYC & EDC
- DockNYC would like to bring more boats to Harlem Piers.

- After Columbia's obligation to maintain the Harlem Piers ends (around 2022), who will of the Harlem Piers Park?
- Café: What happens when it rains? Will the restaurant be enclosed? Summer 2017: No. Summer 2018: Possibly with tents.
- Minimum number of employees will be 10 to 15.
- No marketing plans are currently available. MT claims the boat promotes itself.
- Time Commitment: How long will be boat be in Harlem Piers?
- With the café, DockNYC will issue a 5 year agreement for the Baylander.
- Current Operation: Open to the public Saturdays & Sundays from 12pm to 4pm. They are working with Harlem Piers Park to not conflict with other programs.
- Economic Development Committee would like to speak with EDC to make the Baylander a fixture and destination. However, the EDC would need to committee to develop the 12th Avenue Corridor.
- Economic Development Committee recommends for the owners of the Baylander to bring an operating & safety plans to ED Committee for vote on recommendation.
- **Marine Transfer Station:** EDC and Army Corp of Engineers are inspecting the pilings for its current conditions. Economic Development Committee would like to meet with EDC to issue a request for proposal and development plans.

Old Business

- BID/Merchants Association
- Basia presented with research on BIDs.
- Some BIDs are contiguous in certain areas, especially in Midtown.
- BIDs take 2 years to create a BID as it is required to go through the Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP) and requires landlords to be a major portion of the BID board.
- Some BIDs are more active than others with well maintained websites and active communication.
- Examples of BIDs: Columbus-Amsterdam BID, 125th Street BID, Washington Heights BID
- ED Committee would like invite BIDs and successful Merchants Associations to the April 4th EDC meeting.
 - April 19th – Meeting with businesses for the creation of the Merchant's Association.

West Harlem Merchants Association:

- Split the association into four districts: Morningside Heights, Manhattanville, Hamilton Heights, and Sugar Hill
- Give the ED Committee members deadlines for meetings with agencies and restaurants. Pick days for future meetings.
- ED Committee will begin organizing for the WHMA in Hamilton Heights as its first section.
- Invite the landlord of the former hotel building on West 135th Street & 12th Avenue to the next EDC Meeting (April 4th)

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18PM