

CB 9 Economic Development-Harlem Piers Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2015

Committee members in attendance: Arnold Boatner (chair), Quenia Abreu, James Archer

Community members: Savona Bailey-McClain-West Harlem Art Fund; Maria Bassala-Washington Heights-Inwood Economic Development Corp; Dennis Reeder-Washington Heights-Inwood Economic Development Corporation; Orlando Ovalles-NY Women's Chamber of Commerce

Called to Order: 6:41pm

Adopted Agenda

Adopted Minutes

UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- 1) Savona Bailey-McClain of West Harlem Art Fund-gave a presentation on the Under the Viaduct data visualization art exhibit planned for this summer. She also stated she is attempting to secure excursion boats for docking at Harlem Piers tentatively scheduled for June 6th and July 5th. There was extensive discussion of excursion boats/ferries being encouraged to dock at Harlem Piers. The 79th Street Boat Basin currently can't be used for excursion boats/ferries due to permanent docking by some boat owners in the basin. In addition, some of the boats stored at 79th Street are severely damaged due to Super Storm Sandy damage. This precludes ferry boat service for 125th Street Piers due to the fact that any ferry would have to stop at 79th Street before coming further up to 125th Street. McClain said that no excursion boats docked at Harlem Piers in 2014 due to poor dinner cruise ticket sales in 2013. Meeting being planned with all stakeholders to determine if project can be completed.
- 2) Dennis Reeder and Maria Bassala of Washington Heights-Inwood Economic Development Corp. gave a presentation on services being provided by his organization to CD9 residents as a result of a grant being provided by the WHDC. In addition to the WHDC grant, Reeder said his organization also has a grant from Columbia University for the George Washington Bridge bus terminal reconstruction assistance. Reeder's organization provides counseling and loan assistance to businesses in CD9. He discussed the demographics of Upper Manhattan and the differences between the types of businesses. Reeder will have offices opening soon at 215 West 125th Street after losing a lease for another location on Amsterdam Avenue. Reeder asked for assistance in identifying businesses that could use their assistance. WHDC also operates a vendors market on 175th Street.
- 3) WHDC Strategic Plan Review-brief overview and discussion of the WHDC's strategic plan. Focus is moving to a request to proposal (RFP) process that would be more pro-active in addressing community needs.
- 4) Marine Transfer Station- brief update and discussion regarding the decommissioning of the MTS by the Sanitation department. McClain suggested a letter being written to the mayor regarding the community board's vision for the MTS.

- 5) City College/CUNY-Discussion of City College's lack of participation in community affairs.
- 6) Columbia University Manhattanville Retail Strategy- discussion of Jerome L. Greene Science Building retail space. Committee will contact 12th Avenue restaurants regarding Columbia space for rent.
- 7) Columbia University Employment Information Center- There was extensive discussion of the CB9 meeting with Columbia University employment center staff and the lack of service to community district residents.
- 8) District Needs Assessment- copies of the District Needs Statement from last year were distributed to committee members for review and input.

Meeting adjourned 8:10pm