

Community Board 9 Manhattan

Economic Development/Harlem Piers Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2016

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

Committee Members Present: Quenia Abreu, Chair, Nekpen Osuan, Nick Smith, Jose Taveras, Maritta Dunn, Basia Nikonorow, Orlando Ovalles. **Committee Members absents:** None

Public Member: Maritta Dunn (Present), **Community Board Members:** None

General Public: Victoria Mason-Ailey & Mathew Creegan, Columbia University Office of Government & Community Affairs, Sonia Pena, Travis Feldler

Called to order at 6:45pm. Motion to adopt the agenda (second by Jose Taveras) and the minutes (second by Nick Smith)

1. Old Business

A. Marine Transfer Station

- Are there any other options possible for acquiring funds for the Marine Transfer Station?
 - Will a developer be necessary in order to refurbish the MTS?
 - A developer was interested in the rebuilding of the MTS. Maritta Dunn stated she had plans from the developer from the development of the West Harlem Piers. She stated she will provide the documents in the near future.

B. Small Business Jobs Survival Act (SBJSA)

- Must look at where the money the city allocated for legal advice is located. Which organizations will receive these monies for providing legal services to small businesses?
- Metro article reported on the growing number of shuttered storefronts due to skyrocketing rents in Manhattan. Nick Smith provided the article's URL:
 - "New map shows all of Manhattan's shuttered storefronts":
<http://www.metro.us/new-york/new-map-shows-all-of-manhattan-s-shuttered-storefronts/zsJphE---vGkB8ADzGWX6w/>
 - Original article from 6sqft: "Vacant New York: Mapping all of Manhattan's empty storefronts" by Dana Schulz: <https://www.6sqft.com/mapping-manhattans-vacant-storefronts/>
- SBJSA bill is currently still looking for supporters in the city council. City Council reconvenes this month.

C. Janus Properties

- Members of the committee will meet with Janus properties on September 13th at 3pm at their offices located at 421 West 127th Street to discuss the development of a Business Incubator

- Committee and CB9 must make a meeting with the West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC) in order to see if collaboration can be met between Janus, WHDC, and CB9 in the development of the incubator to be located within one of the buildings owned by Janus.
- Committee will look up terms of the Business Incubator within the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA).

D. CB9/CB10 Job Fair

- Committee chair contacted Community Board 10 about the progress of the Job Fair. CB10 has yet to respond.
- Committee will continue to contact potential employers to attend the job fair. Employers willing to attend the event will be recorded on a Google Spreadsheet shared through committee members and members of CB10

2. New Business

A. Columbia University Career Expo & Childcare Fair

- Victoria Mason-Ailey from the Columbia University (CU) Office of Governmental and Community Affairs announced that Columbia will be hosting a “career expo” a.k.a. job fair on September 7th from 9:30am to 3:00pm. Pre-registration was “strongly encouraged.” However due to the lack of communication between CU, CB9, and other organizations (or possibly a low number of event registrations) the pre-registration requirement was dropped.
 - Positions included in the fields of security services, construction, facilities management, and administrative services from CU Facilities, Skanska, and Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital.
- Committee asked Ms. Mason if CU would be able to provide information on the number of people from CB9 who attended the event. Mason stated she will get back to the chair.
- Columbia University is to host a Childcare Fair will be held on September 20th at Lerner Hall Auditorium from 4:00pm to 6:00pm

B. Business Census

- Large amount of new businesses have opened within CB9 within the past few years.
- Committee members and the New York City Women’s Chamber of Commerce (NYCWCC) managed to get 26 businesses to fill out the census form.
- Many shop owners are interested in creating a merchant’s association. However, many businesses do not have enough funds to create and maintain a business improvement district (BID) within CB9.
- City Council Member Mark Levine can allocate money for the founding of a merchants association or BID.
- Next round of interns working for the NYCWCC will begin in October.

- Committee is interested in contacting Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer's office to schedule a meeting on the basics of Merchant Associations and BIDS.
- One business, a cigarette wholesaler located at 1614 Amsterdam Avenue, has operated in that location and owned by the same family for 92 years.

C. Resolution

- Resolution is still not finalized. Terms and other details must adhere to the Community Benefits Agreement.
- Key Issues:
 - Outreach with other non-profit organizations.
 - Working with CU on what is most needed.
- Resolution is to be finalized by September 9th and read by next general board meeting.

D. Explore West Harlem

- NYCWCC will be launching a new restaurant guide called *Explore West Harlem* on September 29th. Website is still under development. Location to be determined. Was scheduled for August, however was cancelled due to inclement weather.
 - Launch of the West Harlem visitor's guide, restaurant week, and website.
- NYCWCC is interested on installing light pole banners on major corridors within CB9 to promote Explore West Harlem.

E. Boat Docked At The West Harlem Pier

- Issue was discussed at the August 11th Executive Board Meeting. Apparently, the owner of the boat has been in discussion with CB9 to locate at WHP for closed to 2 years.
- A boat docked on the West Harlem Piers recently. The vessel, Baylander IX-514, had to leave its last location and has since moved here.
- According to Senior Vice President of DockNYC, Donald Liloia, the vessel is docked on a month to month arrangement. It is currently under repairs and will open soon to provide daily tours to school groups and other interested groups.
- Tours are currently offered free of charge on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00am to 4:00pm.
- Private functions that do not exceed 120 persons are to be encouraged so long as it is preapproved by the Baylander.
- Committee members will visit the vessel in their own time to see the condition of the boat.

F. Other New Business

- Committee will discuss with the CB chair in potentially changing the committee's name and updating its purpose on future descriptions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm