

Economic Development and West Harlem Piers Committee

Manhattan Community Board Nine

Serving the West Harlem communities of Morningside, Manhattanville, Hamilton Heights and Sugar Hill

Committee Chair: Carmen Morillo

Committee Members: Quenia Abreu, Arnold Boatner, Marco Fei, Rodley Ferguson, Jamaal Nelson,

DECEMBER 2012 MEETING MINUTES

- I. Call to Order:** at 7:00pm on Tuesday December 4th 2012 @ 18 Old Broadway, New York, NY 10027
- II. Attendance:** Present Committee Members- C. Morillo; A. Boatner; M. Fei; [Q. Abreu; R.Ferguson; J. Nelson – absent]
Present Board Members- V. Gholson
Present Guests- none
- III. Approval of the Agenda:** First Motion - M. Fei
Second Motion – A. Boatner
- IV. Approval of the Minutes:** First Motion – M. Fei
Second Motion – A. Boatner
- V. Announcements**
- a. Update on Committee Assignments-** Due to personal time constraints, Harriet Rosebud is no longer assigned to this committee.
- b. NYCEDC November 2012 report- Highlights**
- Private employment fell by 5,900 in October after a decline of 9,700 jobs in September.
 - The unemployment rate fell from 9.5 percent in September 2012 to 9.3 percent in October.
 - The Manhattan hotel occupancy rate in September 2012 was 89.2 percent, down from 90.2 percent in September 2011.
 - The Manhattan Class A office vacancy rate was 8.0 percent in October 2012, while the average asking rent was \$69 PSF.
 - Passengers in NYC area airports totaled 10.9 million in August 2012, up 10.2 percent from August 2011.
- c. 3595 Broadway – Construction Update**
- Boatner informed the committee of the following issue "The construction site at 3599 Broadway (148th Street) is dirty and poorly lit at night. Columbia promised a bulletin board to update the community of what was going on and hasn't provided one. Also there is a security risk due to a small alcove (which has become a trash receptacle) that has been created inside the construction wall where someone could hide out at night and potentially surprise passersby."
 - Emails were sent to CU and the construction Manager, James Palace, to which La-Verna Fountain, Vice President of Construction Business Services and Communications, responded, "-The site fence adjacent to the fire hydrant has been reconfigured, which should address the security concern and reduce the potential for collection of debris. Please note that there will be a small recess in the fence as we cannot close off the hydrant due to code regulations. -

Additional reflectors have been added to the jersey barriers to help illuminate the walkway -We will continue to sweep the sidewalk on a daily basis during the work week -The bulletin board at the site has the latest information on the project."

- d. WHDC Economic Development/Workforce Meeting- WHDC is meeting with each sector of the community to hold in-depth informational sessions about our grant program. The meeting will be held at the WHDC office, which is located at 423 W. 127th St., Suite A (ground level) on Dec 12th at 6:30pm.
- e. West Harlem Food and Beverage Association- Holiday Promotion For the entire month of December 2012, New York shoppers can take advantage of special promotions at participating retail stores and restaurants in West Harlem. On December 12, 2012 at 5:30 pm at West Harlem Piers Park: 125th St. and Marginal, The West Harlem Food and Beverage Association will join elected officials and the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation in hosting the annual 'Holiday on the Hudson Tree Lighting' which officially lights the Christmas tree and kick off holiday events in West Harlem. Guests and Patrons will relish in the holiday promotions at establishments such as Café One, The Chipped Cup, Coffee & Victuals, Chokolat Patisserie, Community Restaurant, Dinosaur Bar-b-que, Harlem Public Gastropub, Harlem Wine Gallery, Havana Central, Hudson River Café, J's Petit Cacao, Jin Ramen, LeMonde, Lot125, Massawa, Nussbaum & Wu, Riverside Church/Pasha Events, Toast, Tonalli and Trufa while enjoying the unveiling ceremony. Holiday menus, showcasing the diversity of cuisine from around the world in uptown NYC, will also debut for the season; where patrons will enjoy sumptuous dishes and drinks like themed holiday cakes, Belgian hot chocolate and eggnog coquito.

VI. Presentations: None

VII. Updates on Projects: since the WHDC is getting ready to release their grant applications, the committee decided to focus the committee meeting only on the CBA project

- a. CBA and Economic Development – C. Morillo
 - Review notes on the CBA, 197a plan, and the district needs statement and then compiled a list of questions, areas of concerns, recommendations, and proposed committee projects.
- b. West Harlem Business Association – C. Morillo DISCUSSION TABLED
- c. Union and Contractors Workshops – Q. Abreu DISCUSSION TABLED
- d. Survey of underdeveloped areas – A. Boatner DISCUSSION TABLED
- e. Boat Tours from the West Harlem Piers – M. Fei DISCUSSION TABLED
- f. Reopen Amtrak Station on West 125th Street – R. Ferguson DISCUSSION TABLED
- g. West Harlem Business Incubator – J. Nelson DISCUSSION TABLED

VIII. Action Item

- a. Resolution - Responsible Development and Good Jobs APPROVED 3-0-0
- b. Resolution – Guidelines for Presenters APPROVED 3-0-0

IX. Old Business: None

X. New Business: None

XI. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned @ 9:15pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 8th, 2013 @ 6:30pm at the Board Office 18 Old Broadway.