

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/WEST HARLEM PIERS COMMITTEE
MINUTES of February 07, 2023**

Committee Members:

*new member

Member	Present	Absent	Excused	Recorded Minutes
Co-Chair Maritta Dunn	X			
Co-Chair Joyce Adewumi	X			
Hon. John George	No longer on the committee			
Hon. David Hanzal	X			
Hon. Tiffany Khan	X			
Hon. John Martin-Green	X			
Hon. Jonathan Sinagub	X			X

Attendees:

- Minah Whyte, Borough President Mark Levine’s Office, minahwhyte@manhattanbp.ny.gov
- Yuien Chin, Harlem One Stop
- Hon. Heather Jason, CB 9 Landmarks & Parks Committee Co-Chair
- Louis Baily, Manager of Membership and Organizing, WeAct, louis@weact.org
- Daniele Flemming, Commercial Loan Officer, UMEZ, dflemming@umez.org
- Claire Hunt, Columbia Spectator
- Julia Ross, Columbia Spectator

- I. **Meeting was** order at 6:42pm
- II. **Adopted Agenda** Hon. Jonathan Sinagub- so moved; Hon. David Hanzal seconded; Adopted by voice vote
- III. **Adopted Minutes** December’s meeting to be drafted from recording for next meeting approval; January’s Meeting Minutes Hon. Marietta Dunn – so moved; Hon. John-Martin Green seconded
- IV. **IV. Introductions/Presentations/Announcements**
 - a. Louis Baily, WeAct
 - i. Membership Meeting on Saturday, 2/11, 10am-12pm, We Act’s State Policy work and Black History Month Tribute @ Prince Hall Grand Lodge (454 W. 155th St., between aAmsterdam and St. Nicholas.
http://community.weact.org/membership.meeting_february_2023;
 - ii. Gas Stove replacement Pilot Program, partnering with NYCHA; Gas Stove Report: <https://www.weact.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Out-of-Gas-Report-FINAL.pdf>; Out of Gas Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZsdqSgzYu1s>; Press release: <https://www.weact.org/2023/01/we-act-for-environmental-justices-out-of-gas-in-with-justice-pilot-finds-significant-improvements-indoor-air-quality-when-transitioning-from-gas-to-induction-stoves-in-affordable-housing/>
 - iii. Hon. John Martin-Green, Blueberry Productions, <http://www.blackberryproductions.org/> Community gathering on 2/21 from 6-8 pm at the Harlem School of the Arts, 645 St Nicholas Ave. A community discussion and presentation of the COPP (Commonalities, Opposites, Partnership for Peace) intervention. A touring a 30-minute documentary at MCB9 schools and CBOs.
 - b. Sub-committee Reports
 1. Hon. David Hanzal - initiative to address the needs of small business and entrepreneurs in the district.
 2. Hon. Tiffany Kahn - West Harlem Park.
 3. Hon. Marietta Dunn - West Harlem Piers/Marine Transfer Station.

- a. No responses from NYCDPR on the monies received from Columbia University for WH Piers Park. Suggested a letter to the NYC Controller be drafted for CB 9 Chair's signature. And copy Columbia University and local elected officials. Committee members concurred in general with that suggestion after much discussion.
 - b. Previous issued letter by CB 9 1st Vice-Chair's to NYCDPR will be sent to Minah Whyte, Borough President Mark Levine's Office
 - 4. Hon. John-Martin Green was appointed to lead the "Events" sub-committee.
- c. Yuien Chin, Harlem One Stop Presentation (WHDC grant recipient) 3 projects:
 - i. Arts in Windows – currently 15 vacant commercial spaces. Art not only in vacant spaces; artists from West Harlem; installed May-June (often stays in the window longer); walking tours & artist talks
 - ii. 3rd annual Harlem Culture Crawl – April 28-29 with Harlem Cultural Collaborative.
 - iii. Historic Preservation Day Conference – 2nd conference at CCNY, April 23 & 24.
 - iv. Legislative Brief – State Assemblyman Serrano, 3rd year introduced bill to create Arts & Cultural Districts; economic development and workforce tool; presently moved out of committee to D. O'Donnell, now in the Senate; would establish guidelines for Arts & Cultural Districts; applications need to be supported by two government agencies; provides technical support, funding to destinations in Arts & Cultural Districts.

V. **Old Business**

- a. Subcommittees (see above)
- b. Awards Ceremony
 - i. Hon. Maritta Dunn reported that she has 7 **Business Recognition Profile** completed, Hon. Jonathan Sinagub has 1 completed form (Mondel's Chocolate).
 - 1. Next steps: prepare invitation to event on CB 9 letter head, select venue and date for the event.
 - 2. Suggested that the recognition somehow acknowledge 50-70, 70-90, and 90-100 years in the community.
 - 3. Venues that will be approached Sugar Hill Museum and Broadway Houses.
 - 4. Hon. Heather Jason inquired about Edward's Sisters Reality, founded in 1926 by Millicent, Sarah, and Lucille Edwards. Located at 740 St. Nicholas, ground floor.. Contact: Ramona Grey Harris, ramona@esramanagement.com

VI. **New Business**

- a. Regarding the proposed development at Amsterdam & 145th Street (Heritage Health), Yuien Chin, requested the committee to be aware of the loss of commercial space with the advent of the proposed development project. Businesses will be displaced, and the community is losing services; revitalization of commercial corridors are important to a thriving community. She was asked to prepare a more detailed account of the commercial losses due to the proposed project at the March committee meeting.
- b. Ferris Wheel- The discussion began by reviewing the 2019 CB 9 Letter of Support for Mr. Gary A. Johnson, The Harlem Rocket, and The Paradise Express Ferry. Hon. Marietta Dunn pointed out that there is no public record supporting the Ferris Wheel. Mr. Johnson recently attended a CB 9 Parks & Landmarks Committee meeting where he presented the proposed Ferris Wheel development at West Harlem Piers (see accompany slide presentation- provided by the Hon. Heather Jason).
 - i. Attendees had many questions and concerns regarding the proposed Ferris Wheel: extension of the existing West Harlem Pier and construction in a flood plain; employment opportunities and wages for community residents.

- ii. Hon. Heather Jason and Louis Baily (We Act) share with us their impressions from the Parks & Landmarks Committee presentation: The proposed development is a package of 3 items- the Ferris Wheel, the high-speed tour boat, and the build-out of the Marine Transfer Station; it was noted that the Marine Transfer Station is now under the auspices of NYC DCAS, who may conduct a structural analysis.
 - iii. Louis Baily provided notes from the presentation (attached)
 - iv. It was noted that at the Parks & Landmarks Committee presentation Mr. Johnson was told that he needs to present to the EDWHP Committee. An effort will be made for Mr. Johnson to present at the March committee meeting.
 - v. Hon Marietta Dunn noted that MTP Developers presented their proposed designs for the Marine Transfer Station to the full community board. The NYC Dept. of Sanitation did not respond to an invitation to attend a presentation.
 - vi. Timeout Article: <https://www.timeout.com/newyork/new/a-casino-and-a-ferris-wheel-might-eventually-open-on-top-of-the-u-n-in-midtown-manhattan-02023>.
 - vii. Hon. David Hanzal – Harlem Rocket by Paradise Express would be the first family-friendly attraction in Harlem in 30 years. 45-minute tours will depart on the hour from 10am to 6pm. The West Harlem Piers’ strategic positioning allows easy accessibility via nearby Subway lines (#1,#2,#3, A,B,C,D) to West 125th Street, as well as via MTA buses and Tour buses. From http://paradiseferry.com/site/?page_id=2645
 - viii. Next Steps- suggestions included: a list of questions be prepared for the March meeting with Mr. Johnson; that the 2019 Letter of Support be rescinded; that Mr. Johnson slide presentation be circulated amongst committee members.
- c. Prior to adjoining it was announced that the next meeting will be in person at the CB 9 office. Hon. Joyce Adewumi, suggested that we take a more “democratic” approach and not to mandate a in person meeting, and for committee members to vote on this issue. A hybrid meeting may be more accommodate to those who are still laboring under these difficult times. We need to be more compassionate and considerate. To be discussed futher.
- VII. **Meeting adjourned at** 8:50 pm; moved by Hon. John-Martin Green and Seconded by Hon. Jonathan Sinagub

Note: Next meeting will In Person and be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 6:30 pm. At the Community Board 9 Office, 3291 Broadway. Economic Development & West Harlem Piers Committee meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month.

Attach.

Questions from CB 9 Parks and Landmarks Committee meeting, re: The Harlem Rocket, and The Paradise Express Ferry development proposal.
Harlem Gateway Waterfront Initiative Slide Presentation