

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/WEST HARLEM PIERS COMMITTEE
MINUTES of January 03, 2023**

Committee Members:

*new member

Member	Present	Absent	Excused	Recorded Minutes
Co-Chair Maritta Dunn	X			
Co-Chair Joyce Adewumi	X			
Hon. John George		X		
Hon. David Hanzal	X			
Hon. Tiffany Khan	X			
Hon. John Martin-Green	X			
Hon. Jonathan Sinagub	X			X

Attendees:

- I. **Meeting was** brought to attention and then called to order at 6:44 pm
- II. **Adopted Agenda** Hon. Jonathan Sinagub- so moved; Hon. Tiffany Khan seconded; Adopted by voice vote
- III. **Adopted Minutes** December’s meeting to be drafted from recording for next meeting approval
- IV. **IV. Introductions/Presentations/Announcements**
 - a. Janet Rodriguez, SoHarlem, www.soharlem.org, 212-222-2792, janet@sohalem.org, SoHarlem located in the Mink Building, 3rd fl., 1361 Amsterdam Ave. for 12 years. It is open to the public: M-Thr, 9-5; Sat., 9-5.
 - i. SoHarlem is a cultural incubator focusing on Fashion. They have designers and apprenticeships, garment center training programs, design studios, For 4 months (Sept.-Dec, 2022) 12 designers exhibited at a pop-up shop at the Malt House.
 - ii. Partner with the Mission Society for High School age students 3 days /week, collaborate with Harlem Fashion Week, and the High School of Fashion, Art & Design. Much more info. On Instagram.
 - iii. A WHDC grantee.
 - b. Creation of Sub-committees
 1. Develop a business initiative to address the needs of small business and entrepreneurs in the district, Hon. David Hanzal.
 2. West Harlem Park, Hon. Tiffany Kahn agreed to pursue issues related to the West Harlem Park.
 3. West Harlem Piers/Marine Transfer Station, Marietta Dunn.
 4. Strategic Planning Task Force Report
 - a. Hon. Jonathan Sinagub began a discussion regarding CU’s Community Advisory Council. This lead to a lively discussion regarding community “vision”, the 197a Plan, the CBA and the Declaration of Covenants.
 - b. Hon. Maritta Dunn felt that Columbia University must meet already executed sign contracts with the community.
 - c. Hon. Victor Edwards provided a brief review of the recent discussions with Columbia University representatives.
 - d. Attendees felt that Columbia must be held accountable and that the Community Board must develop more aggressive strategies to hold Columbia University accountable.
 - c. Visitors
 - i. Yuien Chin, Harlem One Stop
 - ii. Hon. Heather Jason, CB 9 Landmarks & Parks Committee Co-Chair

- iii. Hon. Carlton Davis, CB9
- iv. Hon. Heather Jason, CB9, Parks & Landmarks Committee
- v. Hon. Victor Edwards, 1st Vice Chair, Strategic Planning Task Force
- vi. Janet Rodriguez, founder & CEO of SoHarlem

V. **Old Business**

- a. Subcommittees (see above)
- b. Awards Ceremony
 - i. The committee members were in agreement to hold the awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 26th, 2023 at 6:30 pm. The preferred venue would be outside and perhaps on a roof deck overlooking West Harlem. It was suggested that the Penthouse Public Space at Broadway Houses on Riverside and 135th Street would be an appropriate location – TBD.
 - 1. The Gland Slam Ball Room at 145th Street & Broadway was suggested as a possible venue.
 - ii. Hon. David Hanzal distributed a list of none businesses that meet the criteria (50 plus years in the community, same location and same Owner)
 - iii. Hon. Maritta Dunn reported that she will distribute the **Business Recognition Profile** to be filled out by the business to be honored. The form is **Green** and the original needs to be returned to her as soon as possible.

VI. **New Business**

- a. Curtis Archer, Harlem Community Development Corporation, to provide an accounting of the funds he receives from Columbia University.
- b. Hon. Tiffany Kahn, requested that the EDEHP Committee support “Building Equity”, where equity is built by first time home buyers. Home equity is the single most important form for a family to build financial equity. The HPD program that provides first time home buyers loans, but the process is onerous and costly; taking up to 4-6 months for approvals.
 - i. It was suggested that a letter of support by the Community Board be drafted to the Borough President and City Council in support of making the program more accessible to lower income resident. This will be introduced at the next Executive or full Community Board meeting.

VII. **Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm**

**Note: Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, via zoom.
Economic Development & West Harlem Piers Committee meetings
are held on the first Tuesday of each month**