

MINUTES
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 9
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/HARLEM PIERS COMMITTEE
HELD ON ZOOM DATE Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Committee Members:

Co-Chairs: Hon. Maritta Dunn (present) Hon. Joyce Adewumi (present)
Hon. John Martin-Green, (present), Hon. Jonathan Sinagub (present),
Hon. Kelsey Bitts (absent), Hon. Vanessa Jones (present), Hon. David Hanzal (present)

Board Members:

Hon. Heather Jason, Hon. Shannon Richards

Other Attendees:

Yuien Chen, Quenia Abreu, Ira Gershenhorn, Janet Rodriguez

Call to order

Hon. Joyce Adewumi called the meeting to order at 6:50pm.

Approval of Agenda

Hon. John Martin Green moved to adopt the Agenda second by Hon. Maritta Dunn.

Approval of Minutes

Hon. Dunn move a motion to adopt the minutes with any necessary corrections. Hon. Vanessa Jones second the motion.

Presentations/Discussions/Updates:

Presentation by Quenia Abreu:

Discussion on last meeting continued with how to support Small businesses.

Ms. Abreu reported that a grant was received from West Harlem Development Corporation to support small businesses with a small grant. She announced that applications are being accepted from small businesses till September 12th. Flyers went out as well as emails to board members. Announcement also posted on CB9 Facebook. Explained requirements and eligibility on website with phone numbers for further info or applications. Other resources and available grants also provided on CB9 website.

Old Business

Hon. Dunn reported on Marine Transfer Project. Gave overview of her visit to Baylander Restaurant. Gave status of Marine Transfer project to date concluding that many items are outstanding. Dept of Sanitation still owns property. Economic Development/Harlem Piers has study on the underground. Need study of above ground. Posed question whether this committee should set up meeting with Sanitation particular for funding?

Hon Jonathan: Perhaps this is opportunity to reach out and be more vocal in community to keep interest on Marine Transfer station.

NEXT STEPS: committee comments

- Reach out to MTP to determine if still interested.
 - Give presentation on project with Borough President and Dept of Sanitation
 - Find out if Sanitation on board -if not can't move
 - MTP had shown full support. Now a matter of presenting to Sanitation dept because new regime
 - Various boards have approved but none have come through.
- Consensus led by Hon. Dunn to get something in front of them.

Discussion on Fairway property

Hon. Dunn informed how Spanish speaking employees were released unfairly and without full pay even though had Union representation. She gave history of Fairway Property including parking lots.

Proposed that new business owner should give the Spanish employees who lost jobs the right of 1st refusal for new employment. Further proposed they appear before Committee to respond to 1st hire opportunity and be otherwise compensated. Agreed but question on floor how can it be enforced, what legal recourse? How to hold Union accountable?

Hon. Adewumi recommended researching the Fairways issue to get proper context, then write a letter to the new owners inviting them to our meeting to talk about employees, actual ownership/property status. Make sure that their plans actually benefit our community. Decide best action.

Hon. David Hanzal stated owner is WAKE FERN who also owns ShopRite, FoodTown, Price Shop and others.

Status of District Needs Assessment

Still looking for previous documents, any items related to Economic Development re capital/ expense budget, what we felt should be funded. Referred to previous meetings minutes to contact different and various agencies for assistance in determining business needs. Should utilize social media, small business associations and groups, centers.

Hon. Adewumi expressed need to complete assessment urgently to identify and allocate funds.

Hon. Jonathan asked about process for finding status of business at this time

Hon John Martin Green expressed challenge of grass roots approach going door to door.

Hon. Adewumi suggested must use several ways -Chamber of Commerce, Business associations, our own members who have affiliations and knowledge; everyone can help.

Hon. Dunn suggested each target a specific area.

Hon. Jonathan, others cited how to tell if a business is temporarily closed due to Covid or permanently.

Hon. David Hanzal will talk with a restaurant association

Hon. Adewumi suggested outreach- flyer, hold zoom meeting as a forum for finding out what businesses remain and what's needed.

Yuien gave a summary of the businesses that have closed on Amsterdam Avenue (about 3). Pointed out that the Borough President Gale Brewer recently completed a study of the businesses in our district and their needs. She will find out if Mark Levine's office has any data at upcoming meeting.

Hon. Jonathan found the 2019-20 Budget which can be used as reference for further work on NEEDS Assessment. He will email to all.

Group agreed to meet and work on assessment; day to be determined.

New Business

Ira Gershenhorn pointed out that there are live oysters at West Harlem Piers and NYC Environment Protection agency should clean the water and encourage the large volume of oysters there to grow. The place should be a fishing and scuba destination. There also be electric boats there as well.

6. Adjournment

Hon. David motioned to adjourn the meeting, Hon. JMG seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm

Respectfully Submitted by

Hon. Joyce Adewumi