

**Waterfront & Economic Development Committee
Manhattan Community Board Nine**

Savona Bailey-McClain, Committee Co-Chair, Eileen Merritt, Committee Co-Chair
Jane Arrendell, Vicky Gholson Ph.D., Norma Ramos, Linda Walton, Ernestine Welch,
Board Committee Members, Maritta Dunn, Mark Irgang, Rommell Mascot, Hamlet
Peralta, Pedro Pueras, Tony Bruno, Public Member

Committee Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2008

*"Tell me and I'll forget. Show me and I'll remember. Involve me and I'll understand."
Chinese proverb*

The meeting was called to attention at 6:45 p.m. by Chair Savona Bailey-McClain.

Present: Savona Bailey-McClain, Norma Ramos, Vicky Gholson, Mark Irgang,
Absent: Eileen Merritt, Jane Arrendell, Linda Walton, Ernestine Welch, Tony Bruno,
Rommell Mascot, Hamlet Peralta, Pedro Pueras
Guests: Len Greco, NYC Economic Development Corp., Kate van Tassel, NYC
Economic Development Corp., James Subhudi, WEACT

Adoption of agenda was approved.

Presentations:

There were two presentations made by NYC Economic Development Corp. Len Greco began by giving an update on the progress of the piers. The railings are still an issue. The contractors are still waiting on the shipment of parts from London. As soon as the parts arrive then the process of installation can begin. Len shared his disappointment and frustrations. No dates can be given regarding any kind of opening.

The second presentation was made by Kate van Tassel regarding Excursion boat operations. Due to the delays of the park opening, a test run will not take place this August as hoped. Excursion boat operation will be postponed until spring 2009. She also explained that the Excursion boat operator would have exclusivity. The committee asked for more clarification. She stated that this was spelled out in the RFP for which everyone shared that we did not get a copy of the RFP. Kate stated that a copy was sent to the board in March and no one on the committee ever saw the copy. We insisted that a copy be emailed so we could disseminate.

As the committee pressed, we learned that the Excursion boat operator would most likely offer fishing cruises off Long Island and sunset cruises. So, the city was not interested in having this boat operator bring people to West Harlem to support our local economy. The committee voiced their opposition and insisted that we meet the finalist and give them a tour. We also wish to encourage that they use the local restaurants in the area and not compete by offering food on boat. Committee members shared that they want to see theme tours to support the local economy.

After these presentations the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.