

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

Savona Bailey-McClain, Committee Co-Chair, Jane Arrendell, Committee Co-Chair  
Brandon Brice, Elvis Hernandez, Vicky Gholson, Ph.D., Ernestine Welch, Board  
Committee Members, Maritta Dunn, Mark Irgang, Caren Irgang, Evy Maier, Public  
Member

### Committee Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2009

The meeting was called to attention at 6:30 p.m. by Committee Co-Chair Savona Bailey-McClain.

**Present:** Savona Bailey-McClain, Elvis Hernandez, Vicky Gholson, Ph.D.,

**Absent:** Jane Arrendell, Brandon Brice, Maritta Dunn, Ernestine Welch, Mark Irgang, Caren Irgang, Evy Maier

**Guests:** James Subudhi, WEACT; Cecil Corbin-Marks, WEACT

The Committee Co-Chair Savona Bailey-McClain and Committee Member Elvis Hernandez baked desserts for the meeting to celebrate the holidays. Discussion then began about goals, objectives and projects for the coming year. A long discussion about the planning process for the former Marine Transfer Station took place with members of WEACT. It was suggested by the Committee Co-Chair that since there weren't many new ideas generated from the November Community Forum that a joint letter be sent by the Community Board and WEACT to the Mayor's Office asking that the City move forward on a feasibility study based on the recommendations that have already be sent. (There was a suggestion to just tear down the old Station and make it a nature preserve)

WEACT countered that the Mayor's Office is looking for a physical plan with renderings like Harlem on the River. Cecil Corbin-Marks was not opposed to a letter but felt that a Steering Committee be formed to move the process forward. Details of this strategy was not provided.

Committee Co-Chair, Savona Bailey-McClain shared that the Community has grown from its experience from Harlem on the River and the construction of the West Harlem Piers Park. And since the City is only going to start the process from scratch, why waste such valuable resources. Instead, continue with public forums to educate the public on some of the recommendations presented and give residents an opportunity to better negotiate with the City when an RFP is being developed.

Vicky Gholson felt that her idea for putting a production studio on the site should not be dismissed. The Committee Co-Chair shared how in early 2009, she contacted the Office of Film and Television and spoke with the Assistant to the Commissioner. The Office stated that they work with private owners of sites for television and film production. The Agency doesn't have the resources for similar development on public land. It was suggested that we contacted City Planning and the Economic Development Corporation.

Ms. Gholson then suggested that we should not give up on the idea and perhaps nearby the former Marine Transfer Station there could be space for such a project.

Another subject that was brought up was outreaching to more small business owners. Vicky Gholson suggested that we outreach to cab drivers. There was a spirited

conversation about the usefulness of such an outreach but Elvis Hernandez felt it was important to outreach to this group and volunteered to do so.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.