

CB 9 Economic Development-Harlem Piers Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2015

Committee members in attendance: Arnold Boatner (chair), Quenia Abreu , Nick Smith

Community Board Members in Attendance-Victor Edwards, Brad Taylor

Community members: Charles Callaway, WeAct; Gustavo Salis, DNAInfo; Keith Pope, SLG Construction

Called to Order

Adopted Agenda

Adopted Minutes

UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

- 1) Victor Edwards gave an update on the Strategic Planning Committee efforts with regards to the CBA and West Harlem Development Corporation to explore funding a business incubator within CD9. Discussion centered on a business model that would be sustainable after the CBA initial funding has ended. Further discussion centered on previous efforts like Mart 125 on 125th Street and La Marquetta in East Harlem to provide affordable space for community merchants. Quenia Abreau raised the issue of the Columbia University Job Center and the need for an independent job center in the West Harlem community not run by Columbia and funded by the WHDC. Charles Calloway mentioned that WeAct has OSHA card certification trainings that have been done at NYCHA housing projects like Manhattanville. He currently has a class of 42 candidates for various certificates. Boatner pointed out that Columbia University is the seventh largest employer in NYC. There was further discussion on the role of McKissack & McKissack in relation to recruitment and making certain that eligible qualified non-union workers are allowed to work on the Manhattanville site. The discussion next moved to the "specialty exemption" that is part of the CBA that allows for hiring workers outside of the UMEZ empowerment zone in the construction of the slurry wall that borders the Manhattanville site. The exemption makes it virtually certain that Columbia will always be in compliance with the CBA in relation to employment statistics. There was also discussion regarding the WHDC board and the reporting of activities by WHDC. How much money is paid to the Tides Foundation for administrative services in the selection of the awards granted was also discussed. Quenia Abreau will draft a resolution as a follow-up requesting funding for an independent employment center.
- 2) Keith Pope Of SLG Construction gave an update on the St. John The Devine construction site recruitment for laborers. 9 people from community board 9 are currently employed on the site. SLG now has a database of 66 qualified laborer candidates for employment on the site. SLG only recruits laborers and not plumbers, electricians or carpenters. Brad Taylor asked what commitments the Brodsky Organization, the developer, has made to community recruitment. Keith could not comment beyond discussion of the laborers. Crescent Construction is responsible for the recruitment of other workers on the site. Crescent will be invited to present at a future meeting.
- 3) Charles Calloway of WeAct gave an update on the MTS decommissioning by the DSNY. WeAct meeting will be held on February 17th to develop strategies to accelerate the decommissioning process. Letter from Mark Levine to Sanitation department was sent on behalf of WeAct asking for acceleration .

Meeting adjourned 8:09pm