

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., Linda Walton, Ernestine Welch, Board Committee
Members, Maritta Dunn, Mark Irgang, Carmen Irgang, Public Member

Committee Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2009

The meeting opened at 6:45 p.m. by Committee Co-Chairs Eileen Merritt and Savona Bailey-McClain

Present: Savona Bailey-McClain, Eileen Merritt, Linda Walton, Jane Arrendell, Ernestine Welch,

CB9 Board Members: Christa Giesecke,

Guests: Dee Dee, Alejandro Baquero, NYC Economic Development Corp.

Adoption of agenda was approved.

Presentations:

The Waterfront & Economic Development showed a Power Point presentation that was made in collaboration by Committee Co-Chair, Eileen Merritt and former board member Michael Palma and images of “green” walls and “vertical” walls that are in Europe and a rendering from a French company for the Marine Transfer Station.

There was health discussion about these possibilities. One important note by Board member Christa Giesecke is that the weather climates might be warmer in Europe therefore making “vertical” walls more possible. Alternatives could be to have plantings at the base of the buildings and use wire or cables to allow plants to climb upwards.

After the initial discussion, Alejandro Baquero from NYC Economic Development Corporation, then made a presentation. The first part of his presentation was on the current status of the Marine Transfer Station (see attached). The second phase of Mr. Baquero’s presentation was on what makes for a good planning process which was not what the Committee Chairs asked EDC to do. EDC was supposed to make a presentation about the RFP process.

A robust discussion then ensued about the importance of the current building on the MTS site. Feelings were split on whether the building mattered because with the West Harlem Piers project, the site was an old parking lot with no buildings to renovate or tear down. Also debated, was Mr. Baquero’s statement about participating in the WEACTION charrette. An unofficial resolution to the joint charrette by the Community and WEACTION was to allow the latter to have their community charrette but the Committee would continue to pursue ideas and recommendations. Then in April, both groups can come together to flesh out a list of recommendations to the Mayor’s Office and NYC Economic Development Corporation. This would ensure more participation and discussion in the community about viable ideas that could be vetted in a feasibility study which would be the next step.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.