

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

Savona Bailey-McClain, Committee Co-Chair, Jane Arrendell, Committee Co-Chair  
Brandon Brice, Elvis Hernandez, Ernestine Welch, Board Committee Members, Maritta  
Dunn, Mark Irgang, Caren Irgang, Evelyn Maier, Public Members

### **Committee Meeting Minutes of January**

The meeting was called to order at 6:44 p.m. by Committee Co-Chair Savona Bailey-McClain and Jane Arrendell.

**Present:** Savona Bailey-McClain, Brandon Brice, Elvis Hernandez, Ernestine Welch, ,  
Evelyn Maier

**Absent:** Jane Arrendell , Mark Irgang, Caren Irgang, Maritta Dunn

There was no formal presentation. The Committee continued their discussion on goals, objectives and projects.

The Committee Co-Chair re-capped December's meeting to the full committee. Attendance was low in December due to the holidays. First topic was about the WEACT Forum. Members asked when was the forum held and Brandon Brice stated that date wasn't good and so therefore the organizers couldn't expect a good turnout. The Co-Chair requested the sign-in sheet and still has not received it.

It was shared that Cecil Corbin-Marks gave a nice PowerPoint presentation using the recommendations that the Board sent to the City. The Co-Chair believed 75 people attended the event. And it was asked if we had to continue working with WEACT. The answer is yes and the City would like for the Board and WEACT to settle on a working relationship.

In the December Committee meeting, it was suggested to WEACT that since only two recommendations were made during the forum then a joint letter from their organization and the Board could be sent to the City urging for feasibility as the next step. Unfortunately, WEACT was not in favor of such a suggestion. Instead, they want to form a Steering Committee to look at the re-development of the site. Then WEACT wants to hire an architect to develop a rendering for the City.

The reason why the Committee Co-Chair suggested that a letter be sent instead is because the Board has gone through this procedure before with the West Harlem Piers Park. The community has learned from that experience and knows that a feasibility study is the next step. Instead of going through a lengthy charette process, forums could focus on the recommendations and educating the community. By the time the feasibility study is complete and when negotiations begins for an RFP, the community would be better prepared and there would be great support for the re-development. Again, WEACT didn't feel that would be a good move.

It was suggested that the Committee's next move would be to invite more speakers as we had done in early 2009. Ernestine Welch still expressed concern that it could appear that the Board is not working with WEACT. The Co-Chair stated that we should let WEACT do what they want to do because the Board has done its work. Ms. Welch feels that we should be more involved but the Co-Chair expressed frustration in dealing with WEACT and the Board's inability to move forward.

Brandon Brice and Elvis Hernandez agreed that we need to move forward. Ernestine Welch posed a question to everyone on how we could get more Board members to come out to our meetings and the general public. And that it was important that we start educating the full Board. Therefore, we could gain support if a vote is needed.

A suggestion was offered about videotaping the meetings. Brandon Brice stated that he would help show how we could tape the meetings with a small camcorder and then place the video on You Tube. This could be a beginning.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.