

**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; Tony Bruno, Maritta Dunn, Mark Irgang, Hamlet Peralta, Rommelle  
Mascaet, Pedro Pueras, Public Members

Committee Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2008

The meeting was called to attention at 6:30 p.m. by  
Co-Chairs, Savona Bailey-McClain and Eileen Merritt

Present: *Savona Bailey-McClain, Co-Chair, Eileen Merritt, Co-chair,  
Jane Arrendell, Ernestine Welch, Mark Irgang, Rommelle Mascaet, Pedro  
Pueras*

Absent: *Vicky Gholson, Ph.D., Norma Ramos, Linda Walton, Tony Bruno,  
Hamlet Peralta, Maritta Dunn,*

Guests: *Len Greco, NYCEDC, Alyssa Konon, NYCEDC, James Sudha, WEACT,  
Jim Dowell, Riverside Park Fund, Laurretta Kennedy, Talay Restaurant,  
Irgang*

Bd Members: *Pat Jones*

*Adoption of the agenda was approved.*

*Adoption of the minutes were approved with all necessary corrections.*

**Committee Chair Report**

Co- Committee Chair Savona Bailey-McClain began a discussion regarding the Marine Transfer Station. She proposed to the committee that we should examine making the facility a "state of the art" "green" facility as a first phase without worrying about potential uses. The retro-fitting of the former 135<sup>th</sup> Street Marine Transfer Station is estimated at 26 million or more. The Mayor's Office has stated that they were not interested in contributing to that effort. Perhaps if the focus of our process begins with "greening" the facility, the Mayor's Office might take another look.

Len Greco and Alyssa Konon both shared that there is a new law with the city requiring all new construction to be "green". Alyssa Konon also offered to assist our committee when we are ready to recommend uses to the Mayor's Office and Board Chair Pat Jones stated that we find out from the Mayor's Office what their thoughts might be for the site.

There was a lot of questions from participants and guests. James Sudha still encouraged us to consider uses in addition to "greening" the facility which he supported. Jim Dowell from Riverside Park Fund understood and shared that a natural progression to usage would develop as we look to "greening" the facility and getting more community involved.

Committee Co-Chair, Eileen Merritt, stated that as we continue to talk with groups wanting to present their ideas that those proposals could be incorporated in an overall plan. This would make the process more open and accessible to community residents.

#### Agency Presentation

Len Greco gave an update on the West Harlem Piers and presented a checklist of items that have been completed: electricity, lighting and water. The railings are not done. EDC hopes that they will be completed by August 4<sup>th</sup>. The connecting attachment needs to be fabricated in London and then shipped to New York. Len stated that Kate Van Tassel will come in August to give a presentation on the Excursion Boat Operator.

#### Community Presentations – Marine Transfer Stations

WEACT (West Harlem Environmental Action) gave a presentation to the committee of their overall experience and work in the community. The Powerpoint presentation was given by James Sudha and Cecil Corbin-Marks (CB9 board member). WEACT wanted the committee to agree to work together on a community charette for the abandoned 135<sup>th</sup> Street Marine Transfer Station.

The Co-Chairs of the Committee responded to the presentation by saying that it would be better to have a town hall meeting about making the facility a “state of the art” “green site” no matter what the use may be. There was further healthy discussion by committee members Norma Ramos who didn’t want to see our community lose out on an opportunity. Ernestine Welch stated that she was concerned about the board’s commitment to such an effort. Several members stated that they want to give others in the community an opportunity to propose their ideas.

The restaurant owners of TaLay decided to decline giving a presentation in like of the discussion but wanted to participate in any community process.

Alyssa Konon from NYC Economic Development Corporation offered to help the board with talking with City Hall about the Marine Transfer Station and a community planning process. Pat Jones stated that we should find out what plans City Hall may have for the station too.

It was agreed that we would work with WEACT on an outline for a joint meeting in the fall.

#### Resolutions

The committee approved a resolution unanimously to deal with sidewalk awnings, canopies and signs.

Meeting adjourned