

**Harlem Piers & Waterfront, Economic Development &
Consumer Affairs Committee
Manhattan Community Board Nine**

Savona Bailey-McClain, Committee Chair
Jane Arrendell, Anthony Fletcher, Vicky Gholson Ph.D., Eileen Merritt, Blaine North,
Norma Ramos, Linda Walton, Ernestine Welsh, Board Committee Members
Maritta Dunn, Public Member

Committee Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2007

The meeting was called to attention at 6:40 p.m. by Chair Savona Bailey-McClain

Present: *Savona Bailey-McClain, Chair, Jane Arrendell, Vicky Gholson, Ph.D., Eileen Merritt, Blaine North, Norma Ramos, Linda Walton, Ernestine Welsh, Maritta Dunn*

Absent: *Anthony Fletcher*

Guests: *Barbara Askins, Executive Director, 125th Street BID; Len Greco, Assistant Vice President; NYCEDC; Alyssa Cobb-Konan, Vice President, NYCEDC; Alejandro Baquero-Cifuentes, Assistant Vice President Special Projects, NYCEDC; Laura Gray, Project Manager (Excursion boat), NYCEDC; John Herold, Riverside Park Administrator, NYCDPR; Jonathan Jenkins, Preparedness Specialist, NYCOEM; Peggy Shephard, Executive Director, WEACTION; L.Schubiner, Columbia University student*

Adoption of agenda was approved.

Summarized minutes (The tape recorder did not pick up most of the meeting)

Presentations:

Barbara Askins, Executive Director of the 125th Street BID gave the committee a short report. Ms. Askins stated that this would be a great time to consider our yearly budget consultations, which begin in September, and include streetscape improvements like light poles and sidewalk improvements.

Jonathan Jenkins, Preparedness Specialist from NYC Office of Emergency Management came to the committee per invitation since we are a coastal community, to describe his agency and what they do. OEM develops citywide emergency response plans; coordinate interagency response to emergencies and educate the public on emergency preparedness. Mr. Jenkins went on to describe different types of coastal storms—Nor'Easters, tropical storms and hurricanes. A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone in the Northern Hemisphere with minimum sustained winds that can be 74 mph or higher. It circulates counterclockwise and northeast storms gain speed as they move up the coast. Hurricanes can form anywhere in the Atlantic and has a life-span of 3-14 days traveling 3k to 4k miles. The official hurricane season lasts from June 1st to November 30th. NYC is most at risk from August to October.

Mr. Jenkins was asked about our community board and Harlem Piers specifically. He answered that our community board is in Evacuation Zone C and that Harlem Piers could possibly handle a Category 3 hurricane. Anything above and our piers can experience damage.

Committee members asked about evacuations. Our community does not have evacuation signs posted anywhere. Mr. Jenkins stated how his agency didn't believe that CB9 residents had many cars and he was quickly corrected that residents throughout Northern Manhattan have cars and would need to know evacuation routes.

Alyssa Cobb from NYCEDC introduced Ms. Laura Gray, Project Manager handling our RFP for excursion boat operation. Ms. Gray stated that the RFP is due to be released in September, 2007. All respondents must present a projected fee proposal, dates and times of operation, description of services, vessel description, ridership projections and docking fees. All existing ferry operators will be notified. Ms. Gray reviewed her fact sheet and solicited comments. Both Dr. Gholsen and Ms. Norma Ramos stated that there should be some kind of community benefit like internships for youths. Ms. Gray stated that we could recommend additional routes to be considered by operators that could benefit local residents like services to the beach or ferrying to Edgewater, New Jersey (a historical route). Below is a typed copy of the fact sheet that was provided to the committee.

Summary

The New York City Economic Development Corp. (NYEDC) intends to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the operation of excursion boats at the new pier located at the foot of West 125th Street (the Maritime Pier). It is expected that this RFP will be released in September, 2007.

Purpose

NYCEDC's goal in issuing this RFP is to initiate the operation of waterborne uses at the Maritime Pier. This will help develop an active waterfront that ties into the historic Harlem community. It is expected that revenues received from excursion boat operators will help pay for maintenance of the park.

Existing Use

The Maritime Pier is part of a major open space redevelopment along the Hudson River, between St. Clair Place/West 125th Street and West 135th Street (the Waterfront Project). The Waterfront Project includes the two public piers, one a recreational pier and the other for waterborne uses (the Maritime Pier). Also included are open space improvements on approximately 2 acres upland of the piers. The Maritime Pier is currently under construction and is expected to be complete in the spring of 2008.

Community Needs

The West Harlem community has expressed a need for public open space and waterfront access. The Waterfront Project is currently a major public access area to the waterfront in West Harlem.

Targeted Uses

The purpose of the new Maritime Pier is to accommodate uses including excursion, waterborne transportation, and/or educational boat service. In the future we also hope to offer public ferry service to and from the Maritime Pier. The Maritime Pier will help create a new waterfront destination for visitors as well as provide local public benefits and a space for active recreation along the Hudson River.

RFP Evaluation

NYCEDC plans to evaluate responses based on several factors including: the quality of the proposal, demonstrated successful experience in performing services similar to those encompassed in the RFP, relationship of the operations to the surrounding community, and the economic impact to the City.

John Herold gave a presentation regarding proposed maintenance cost and operation for Harlem Piers. Costs that must be taken into consideration are the following:

- Associate Park Service Workers
- Plant materials
- Pest control (particularly since more restaurants are opening up and visitors will most likely bring food into the park)
- Garbage disposal
- Tools & equipment (including snow shovels)
- Security (including evening shifts)
- Maintenance of lights
- Vehicles with a 5 year replacement plan

Vicky Gholson asked that portable port-o-sans be included in the budget even if it's temporary for workers in the park.

Alyssa Cobb then presented Mr. Alejandro Baquero-Cifuentes who is serving as the Project Manager for streetscaping component of Harlem Piers.

Len Greco stated that construction is going well and that he was happy to show the committee all of the works that has been done thus far.

Meeting was then adjourned at approximately 8 p.m. for outdoor tour.