

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

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

Committee Meeting Minutes of May 1, 2007

The meeting was called to attention at 6:35 p.m. by Chair Savona Bailey-McClain

Present: *Savona Bailey-McClain, Chair, Vicky Gholson, Ph.D., Eileem Merritt
Norma Ramos, Linda Walton, Ernestine Welsh, Maritta Dunn*

Absent: *Blaine North, Anthony Fletcher*

Guests: *Barbara Askins, Executive Director, 125th Street BID, Len Greco,
NYCEDC, Ed Johnson, ILO Infosystems, Ann-marie Nolin, Harlem School
of the Arts, Kevin McGruger, Board Chair, Harlem Textile, Nicholas
T. Sbordone, Director of External Affairs, NYC DoITT, Michael Lewis,
Executive Director, Wireless Harlem*

Adoption of agenda was approved.

Presentations:

Barbara Askins, Executive Director of the 125th Street BID gave the committee an update. She indicated that a change of direction was needed to address our stretch of 125th Street from Morningside Avenue to Broadway. This new direction would offer a comprehensive approach that goes beyond the River to River proposal which only looks at zoning in our area. She is recommending that our committee looks to connect to two commercial areas east and west of this target area with development. Our committee needs to identify the issues which include:

- Large exempt properties
- What role will Columbia play?
- Large co-ops which are also exempt properties
- City owned properties

Below is a recommended Plan of Action:

- Seek improvements to sidewalks & lighting through budget requests
- Demonstration projects
- Special districts (boundaries can be re-drawn)
- Assessment runs

Maritta Dunn suggested that we include the "V" shape area of 127th Street. Jordi Reyes-Montblanc stated that the co-op site is the present site of the board and that some co-ops can be assessed. Ms. Askins agreed but indicated that it's usually at a nominal amount. The chair of the committee asked how we could make our district BID ready. Ms. Askins stated that she would come back so that we can discuss the types of services that would be needed.

The Chair of the Board stated that this is an optimal time given that the Borough President and the Board will engage in a 197c plan but we must quickly decide what we need.

Maritta Dunn suggested that we propose a resolution but the chair wants that resolution to reflect the language of the 197a plan and to perhaps include Gregory Fitzgerald from the Office of the Manhattan Borough President. Norma Ramos stated that infrastructure needed to be included.

Nicholas Sbordone from NYC DoITT spoke next with a colleague from the Franchise Administration Division of the General Counsel. Mr. Sbordone who is the Director of External Affairs explained the services of DoITT which are to develop the infrastructure for the City of NY. It also includes: nyc.gov; 311; WNYC-TV cable; technology based initiatives and franchises for private entities to provide public amenities. Examples include Cablevision, Time Warner, paid telephones.

His agency meets quarterly with Councilwoman Gale Brewer who chairs the committee Technology in Government for the City Council. They publish statistics and are working on the Broadband Initiative. There is an advisory committee that is required by law and a hearing per each borough. The hearings are to help identify areas of concern. EDC (telecommunications unit) and DoITT are working together on this feasibility study (being conducted by the Diamond Management & Consulting Technology). Following cities like Philadelphia and San Francisco, this study is to become a roadmap for handling broadband concerns.

Diamond is a management and technology consulting firm. Recognizing that information and technology shape market dynamics, Diamond's small teams of experts work across functional and organizational boundaries to improve growth and profitability. Since the greatest value in a strategy, and its highest risk, resides in its implementation, Diamond also provides proven execution capabilities. They deliver three critical elements to every project: fact-based objectivity, spirited collaboration, and sustainable results. Diamond is headquartered in Chicago, with locations in Hartford, New York, Washington D.C., London, and Mumbai. Diamond is publicly traded on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol "DTPI." Diamond serves Global 2000 clients in such industries as consumer packaged goods, financial services, logistics, manufacturing, retail and distribution, telecommunications, healthcare, insurance, and public sector organizations.

The chair of the committee asked about wifi in Harlem Piers. DoITT is not familiar with the project but explained that in Bryant Park, Google sponsored the initiative because of the significant usage or hits that would derive from the park. The corporation could make their investment back with advertisement banners online. Another alternative for our community regarding Harlem Piers would be for a BID to find a sponsor. City Parks is dealing with their sites with an RFP.

Maritta Dunn stated that Columbia students would probably come to the park since they are so nearby and that would attract a potential sponsor.

Michael Lewis from Wireless Harlem asked about the six franchisees that the agency has contract with. DoITT explained that the number of franchisees is now at four. The annual fee to their agency for these franchisees is \$10,000/yr and \$10/mo for light poles in Zone C.

(Below is information on zone designations that we learned subsequently after the meeting.)

Zone A comprises Manhattan south of 96th Street, Zone B is citywide, excluding Zones A and C, and Zone C includes all Community Planning Districts in which 5 percent or greater of the occupied housing units do not have telephone service according to the 2000 U.S. Census, Manhattan Community Boards 10 and 11, Boards 1 through 7 in The Bronx and Boards 3 through 5 and 16 in Brooklyn.

CB 9 falls under mobile telecommunications franchise Zone B. The zones were determined by calculating the percentage of residents in a neighborhood that had telephone service as of the 2000 U.S. Census. Specifically, any neighborhood with over 5% of homes without telephone service would fall under Zone C; all other neighborhoods outside Manhattan's central business district (Zone A) would fall under Zone B.

Response from DoITT

To modify a particular neighborhood's zone classification from B to C, we'd need to determine that the neighborhood now has over 5% of homes without telephone service. The minimum compensation in Zone B is \$50 per pole/month. While this is more than the \$10 per pole/month in Zone C, that there have been the most poletop reservations—and the fewest cancellations—in Zone B to date seems to indicate a very viable pricing model. That said, as we haven't reviewed the Census Bureau's latest figures since last meeting with you, going forward we'll look at the available applicable data to determine whether changes in the neighborhood's character and makeup are significant enough warrant a revisiting of its assessment.

Pursuant to City Council resolution DoITT has the authority to issue new mobile telecommunication franchises, and we are currently working through the process that may result in additional franchise awards.

There are two types of companies that the agency is dealing with in regards to telecommunications – FCC providers for cell phones like Nextel or those that purchase franchisees and sell to providers.

Kevin McGruder from Harlem Textile asked about education organizations and not-for-profits. How would their needs be incorporated. He sited needs of affordability and accessibility. The chair of the committee stated that no one came to the Board with the surveys or asked us anything. Supposedly the Diamond Organization reached out to libraries as one site of data collection. The Chair of the Board stated to the DoITT representatives that the Harlem Piers area will be a mixed use commercial area and that we are pro-actively working with agencies.

DoITT indicated that they are reaching out and for example mentioned Mr. Michael Lewis who is focused on one specific area (Mr. Lewis has not been given the green light in West Harlem. Our board will investigate the best possible scenario for our community).

Vicky Gholsen stated that DoITT services are not well known or understood (great point). She asked how educational and not-for-profits could link into the city's data retrieval system to pull down information. Such organizations don't have the resources or planning funds to develop information networks. Other examples she mentioned was satellite uplinks and downlinks, enhanced videostreaming, special projects or events. Ms. Gholsen further stated that public hearings are not necessarily the best atmosphere for such discussions. She recommended brain trusts because Northern Manhattan residents are not tapped by the city as consultants.

DoITT answered by stating the following programs are now in place:

Access NYC – enhanced 311, non-emergencies, HRA (social services)
Business Express – information on starting a business
Mandated videostreaming that was pushed by the new Governor

There is nothing in place for art and entertainment but perhaps something could be done with the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Len Greco from EDC asked about the four franchisees. DoITT indicated that these companies are still developing transmitters to be attached to light poles. There are 600-700 reservations to enhance cell service but could include wireless.

Len Greco inquired about wifi for Harlem Piers and DoITT stated that connections could be better made on rooftops, on ground installations like store fronts or light poles which they feel are very expensive.

Michael Lewis stated that streets do not need to be dug up anymore. Hard connections can be made through "line of sight" and equipment affixed on buildings and poletaps.

Edward Johnson asked about "right of way" and the disparities in communities. Mr. Lewis stated that he completed a feasibility study that includes portions of our board. (The chair of the committee has retrieved the study and has given all members a copy)

Len Greco gave his report. Everything is going well. The ferry landing is in place. Vicky Gholsen asked about Phase II – overall waterfront development. The chair of the committee stated that she has invited OEM – Office of Emergency Management because they deal with coastal flooding and evacuation. NYS DEC held a major conference in December that was focused on climate change and NYC particularly.

Summer meetings – We discuss having a July meeting but no August meeting since the board is moving.

Citarella is still in litigation.

Meeting was then adjourned.

Additional update:

PAL site

I finally have an update regarding the PAL site. I found out the Friday before a scheduled meeting at the board with PAL, that the site does not belong to the Police Department but to the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. The agency DCAS was able to find out by tracking the block and lot number. I have also learned that the transfer of the site took place in 1955 from the Police Department to Con Edison. Con Edison did nothing with the site for over twenty years and then in 1976 the site was transferred again to City Parks.

But PAL started to use the facility that same year in some sort of informal arrangement. The building has no net asset value but the tentative net asset value as of 2006 is 2.7 million dollars. Therefore, Parks could sell the site, place a concession there or put their own program in it.

PAL has admitted to their funder of the boatbuilding program, that they cannot continue the program. They do not have the administrative personnel nor operational funds to handle such a program. PAL also derailed the meeting that was scheduled at the board.

It looks as though City Parks may want the site back but are aware that the community wants to see a boatbuilding program there.

The Chair asked me to reach out to the Chief of Staff for Manhattan Borough Commissioner Bill Castro. Attached, you will find a listing of programs (not all programs) that exist in the city from a variety of communities. It includes programs with funds, those that are located in poorer communities and established organizations that may have historical connections to certain neighborhoods.

Kayak Schools & Tour Companies

Sea Cliff Kayakers

Katabasis - ACA & BCU NJ Paddling School--Ray & Margaret make the trip worthwhile. Paddle-making is a plus.

Atlantic Kayak Tours - Just upstate, and well worth it.

Hudson Valley Outfitters - Terry has a great operation in Cold Spring.

Downtown Boathouse - Free Public Access and Short Tours

New York Kayak Company - Randy has a small pro shop in town.

Atlantic Kayak--the DC area company

Amphibious Horizons - Mike has been on the Chesapeake for years.

Maine Island Kayak - Ask for Steve Maynard.

SweetWater Kayaks - Florida-based Kayak Centre.

NY Waterfront & Parks

US Coast Guard - Office of Boating Safety

Hudson River Park Trust

The Hudson River Watertrail Association

Friends of Hudson River Park

Working Waterfront Association

NY Outrigger - Liberty Challenge

Clubs

Inwood Canoe Club

The greenest part of Manhattan, and one of the most ancient forests in the NYC, is Inwood. This northern point of schist dramatically rising from the confluence of the Hudson River and Harlem River is also the home of a charming and friendly paddling group, the Inwood Canoe Club. Make sure a visit is part of your summer plans! Just don't mention Alexander Hamilton...

<http://www.inwoodcanoecub.org/>

Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club

Our dear friends and affiliates on the Gowanus Canal. This welcoming group of paddlers is on the front lines of ecological recovery in one of NYC's most challenged waterways. They also assist sister paddling groups throughout the harbor.

<http://www.gowanuscanal.org>

Communita

There's a good chance that the things you read on this website were written at Communita. This true community meeting place sells our shorts, provides from wi-fi to all, and serves up great teas and food. It's always a good day at Communita!

<http://www.communita.net>

LIC Bar

Right up the street from the boathouse is a wonderful, friendly neighborhood bar with a patio. It's elegant yet dog-welcoming. What a combo!

<http://www.licbar.com>

"Jacob"

LIC Community Boathouse volunteers were honored to help local filmmakers with the production of "Jacob," the fictional story of a Bronx boy of Latino and Caucasian heritage whose disappearance is overshadowed by the media frenzy surrounding a missing white boy from Oregon.

Friends of Brook Park

Kayaking on the East River redefine's one's sense of neighborhood. Suddenly, the South Bronx is a few minutes paddle away at peak current. Having this fun crowd of creative eco-mavericks on the other side of Randalls and Wards Island (heck it **is** one island now) on the Harlem River makes this new sense of dubiety even sweeter.

<http://www.friendsofbrookpark.org>

Hoboken Cove Boathouse

On the far side of the Hudson River, in a place ridiculed as often as Queens, folks bootstrapped themselves up to a boating program with help from the Downtown Boathouse. A great spot on the Hudson to rest and socialize!

<http://www.hobokencoveboathouse.org/>

Red Hook Boaters

Our cousins to the south, related through the Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club, operate from a lovely cove at Valentino Park. They offer free paddling into the Buttermilk Channel and wander up into the East River too! Only the laws of physics, specifically hydrodynamics, keep us from meeting often at a nice midway point like Dumbo!

<http://www.redhookboaters.org/>

Sealevel blog

Perhaps the most ambitious yet humble NYC paddling blog. You'll find both wide-eyed newbie kayaker observations/ growth experiences and an exhaustive and up-to-date array

of links to vital information sources about boating and biking. Wahoo!
<http://sealevel.typepad.com/sealevelny/>

Tim Gamble's Message-in-a-Bottle Blog

Tim is a Downtown Boathouse stalwart and founding member of the Redhook Boaters. And now he's revealing a quirky side, dropping off bottles (sometimes with bribes) in the many far-flung places he paddles. Who knew Tim was so communicative?

<http://messageinabottleproject.blogspot.com/>

Bonnie's kayak blog

Bonnie is an energetic and generous person who's always got smart things to say, usually brightened by compassion and enthusiasm. Aren't we lucky to have her sharing her thoughts about the harbor?

<http://www.frogma.blogspot.com/>

Newtown Creek Alliance

The Newtown Creek is one of the dirtiest waterways in the nation. It is also a potential boon to Long Island City, Greenpoint, and Maspeth. Imagine what it would be like if it were economically and ecologically productive, a welcoming place for new businesses and residents alike? Now come to a meeting of the alliance and meet the people who are working to make that change for the better.

<http://www.newtowncreek.org>

Newtown Creek Photo Page

Bernie Ente has worked harder than perhaps any photographer to capture contemporary daily life on the East River and its environs. And guess what? He's succeeded beautifully.

http://www.entephoto.com/newtown_creek1.htm

Nature Calendar

Wouldn't it be great if you could find out where to go and what to see in your town's natural environment (what's blooming, ripening, migrating, hatching, and more) as easily as you scan movie, gallery, and sports listings? Starting June 21, you will!

<http://www.naturecalendar.org>

Manhattan Kayak Company

The Stiller family are central to the paddling revival in NYC. Manhattan Kayak Company, operated by Eric Stiller and colleagues, have been invaluable volunteers in the kayak community, leading safety workshops and assisting events. For tours, lessons, and other exciting paddling opportunities, please check out Manhattan Kayak Company.

<http://www.manhattankayak.com>

NY Kayak Company

Randy Henriksen, the owners of NY Kayak Company, sells kayaks (with special knowledge of folding kayaks), books, lessons, and any gear you could need. He's also been a generous volunteer in the harbor community, from building kayak racks to assisting Buddhist on-water rites. We're grateful for such a local friend with such deep knowledge.

<http://www.nykayak.com>

Going Coastal

If you want to get jazzed about the potential of harbor wide community growth, read the books and attend the events produced by this dynamic little group!

<http://www.goingcoastal.org>

Partnerships for Parks

These are the people who'll help you tap into new resources to improve your local park. Grants and wisdom from P4P have been critical to the LICCB's success. They also teach volunteers the most effective means of organizing efforts and catching the attention of potential allies.

<http://www.itsmypark.org>

LIC Business Development Corp

In many ways, this is where we began. This business center is also a community hub, helping to encourage new amenities and partnerships. The LICBDC introduced the boathouse to Plaxall Inc and to many of our sponsors. Thanks!

<http://www.licbdc.org>

The Foundry

A gorgeous catering hall provided to the LIC Community Boathouse fundraisers for free by its owners, the Du Val Family. The Du Vals also lend us kayaks and volunteer at beach cleanups in Halletts Cove. Thanks!!!

<http://www.thefoundry.info>

Spokesman Cycles

The first bike shop in LIC in many years, Spokesman Cycles is a family-owned shop that sells high quality new bikes on Vernon Boulevard in Hunters Point. The company has earned a reputation for excellence with its East 17th Street Manhattan store and the family volunteers to improve Rainey Park, an often overlooked waterfront gem.

<http://www.spokesmancycles.com>

Recycle-a-Bicycle

Our wonderful new neighbor and Plaxall co-tenant refurbishes vintage bikes, has drop-in tune up service, and provides great programs for inner city youth. There's also an enormous amount of overlap between our volunteer bases.

<http://www.recycleabicycle.org>

Downtown Boathouse

The pioneer of free public paddling in contemporary NYC! No group in NYC puts more people in kayaks for 20 minute paddles and three-hour tours to the Statue of Liberty and USS Intrepid. Also check them out for skills building and special events.

<http://www.downtownboathouse.org>

Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance

One-stop shopping to know what's up in NY-NJ Harbor

<http://www.waterwire.net>

Plaxall Inc

Our generous landlords (free rent) on Anable Basin!

<http://www.plaxall.com>

LIC/Astoria Waterfront Community Meetings

Partnerships for Parks Catalyst Coordinator for the western Queens waterfront parks, Emily Maxwell, holds regular meetings to bring residents and community activists together to improve our relationship with the East River.

<http://www.astoriawaterfront.org>

Gowanus Dredgers

Canoe tours and educational programs.

Our affiliate organization.
<http://www.gowanuscanal.org>

Greater Astoria Historical Society

The Greater Astoria Historical Society, chartered in 1985, is a non-profit cultural and community oriented organization dedicated to preserving the past and promoting Long Island City's future. The Society hosts field trips, walking tours, slide presentations, and guest lectures to schools and the public.

<http://www.astorialic.org>

PAL does not have funds to upgrade the building. They are poor organization and like most not-for-profits are struggling to keep their head above water. They have made personnel changes which cannot support the administrative support of the program.

The new Executive Director wants to take the organization in a different direction. He has every right to do so because it is an independent, private 501c3.

So, an alternative to the situation would be to encourage a partnership from an experienced program that could handle operations of the site so that PAL children and other neighborhood children can still participant.