

# **Economic Development Committee**

## **Manhattan Community Board Nine**

Serving the West Harlem communities of Morningside, Manhattanville, Hamilton Heights and Sugar Hill

**Savona Bailey-McClain, Committee Co-Chair; Nicole Monegro, Committee Co-Chair; Jane Arrendell; Arnold Boatner; Nikoa Evan-Hendricks; Carmen Morillo; Kimberly Cameron**

### Committee Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2011

The meeting was called to attention at by Committee Co-Chairs Nicole Monegro and Savona Bailey-McClain.

**Present:** Savona Bailey-McClain, Nicole Monegro, Jane Arrendell, Arnold Boatner, Carmen Morillo, Kimberly Cameron

**Absent:** Nikoa Evans-Hendricks

**Guests:** Carmen Neely, Harlem Pride; Jerome White, Mayor's Center for Economic Opportunity; Carson Hicks, Mayor's Center for Economic Opportunity; Maritza Owens, Executive Director, Harvest Homes Farmer's Market; Dwaine Lee, Horticultural Society of NY; Donald Notice, Chairman, West Harlem Local Development Corporation; Donald Fuij, West Harlem Group Assistance

### **Presentations:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. and the committee had a quorum. The agenda was then approved along with September's minutes. Committee members Arnold Boatner and Carmen Morillo presented a detailed report on their outreach for students in our Young Urban Forester Training Program. Carmen Morillo presented a spreadsheet recording all the schools and Afterschool Programs that she reached out to.

Carson Hicks and Jerome White from the Mayor's Center for Economic Opportunity presented their programs with a spotlight on their NYC Justice Corps. This program is administered by the Department of Correction and John Jay College. NY Justice Corps connects youths to local, community internships with stipends and community projects. During the discussion, it was discovered that the Mayor's CEO, West Harlem Group Assistance and the Horticultural Society of NY have been working indirectly and directly together on a number of projects in Greater Harlem. Committee members also shared that literacy programs are desperately needed for many immigrants and not use English as a Second Language or GED programs. It was noted that though local schools help immigrant children with reading and language skills, there was nothing really available for our adult population.

Committee members encouraged more interaction and support for our proposed Green Roof/Stormwater Training Program and with Harvest Home Farmer's Market. Executive Director Maritza Owens shared that though the West Harlem Farmer's Market is doing very well, she still had trouble getting young people for paid work with her markets.

Dwaine Lee from the Horticultural Society of NY presented a Green Infrastructure/Stormwater Management Training Program for our community and that it could benefit up to **45** local residents with job skills and certifications. Mr. Lee will come back to present the financials to pay for the program and offer more details.

#### Under Discussion Items

It was shared how Governor Cuomo has decided to create ten Regional Economic Councils. NYC will consist of all 5 boroughs submitting one proposal. Sheena Wright, CEO, Abyssinian Development Corporation and Ken Knuckles, Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone has been selected to serve on the Council along with representatives from the Manhattan Borough President's Office. As a note: [The Committee Co-Chair invited Ms. Wright and the BP's office to both the September and October Committee meetings. No representatives have responded with an update or a visit.]

Carmen Neely, president of Harlem Pride came to show support for our 1<sup>st</sup> food event. Harlem Pride consented to share our announcement to their 400 membership. And their members came out to Dinosaur Barbeque along with Assemblyman Danny O'Donnell, Board members Brad Taylor, Jane Arrendell and Kimberly Cameron.

ENYA/AIA conducted tours at the West Harlem Piers and the old MTS for Open House NY. The weekend event was held on October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Clearwater Sloop, a Class "B" vessel is scheduled to come to our piers on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> with dockside tours and a public sail that's sold out at 4 p.m.

Budget consultations are due and there were no requests made by the Committee Chair in 2010 for both capital and expense budgets. Committee members are encouraged to review all of the items.

Lastly, information was shared about the Urban Jobs Act 2011 and WEACT did not attend for an update on their planning process for the old MTS. They have been invited two months in a row.