

## Strategic Planning Committee Minutes

Thursday October 24, 2013

### Committee Members:

Carmen Morillo – Co-Chair  
Victor Edwards – Co-Chair,  
Arnold Boatner,

### Other Board Members:

Ernestine Welch

### Public Members:

Barry Weinberg

At 6:45 pm the meeting was called to attention by V. Edwards, a quorum did not exist at this time.

### Discussion

#### CBA – Historic Preservation

- Member Boatner requested time for Jonathan Thomas to provide the SPC with a follow-up for the Landmarks Preservation Committee. Member Thomas proceeded to give a report outlining funding opportunities as outlined in the CBA related to initiating, sustaining and improving programs designed to preserve the historic landscape of West Harlem. Member Thomas provided a handout that further identified the sections of the CBA that indicated where funds could be utilized for historic preservation in West Harlem.
- Member Boatner followed-up the presentation by stating there were several areas in the CBA referring to historic preservation and that funds could possibly be allocated for a study to raise funds for St. John Divine. Public Member B. Weinberg added that a study of this type could cost as much \$500,000. B. Weinberg continued by stating that St. John Divine estimated their debt to be approximately \$25 million. Co-Chair Morillo stated that she would not be comfortable with that amount of money being spent on such a project, to which Co-Chair Edwards stated he agreed that this would be large of an amount to expend on a study or survey.
- Member Thomas stated that there were other notable historic sites in West Harlem where these funds could be better utilized noting – St. James church and Hamilton Palace on Broadway. Member J. Thomas continued by stating that funds could be utilized to conduct a needs assessment for area north of 125<sup>th</sup> street to determine potential additional landmarks.

#### Affordable Housing Funds

- Co-Chair Edwards reported on a portion of his meeting with WHDC Exec Director Kofi Boateng. Edwards reviewed the possible creation of an Affordable Housing Fund which would have the responsibility of managing the \$20 million allocated for affordable housing through the CBA, as well as designing new initiatives to attract additional funding through private and community based developers.

#### Columbia "Local" Scholarships

- Next Co-Chair Edwards informed the group that he requested from Kofi the names of the students that have received the scholarships from Columbia as mentioned in the "Growing Together" publication (131 in total since 2009). He continued stating that Kofi explained that these names could not be obtained since according to Columbia it would violate the confidentiality of the students.
- Both B. Weinberg and J. Thomas stated that this was ridiculous and how would we know whether the scholarships were being distributed to students from CB #9. Carmen stated that she attempted to obtain similar information from the university without any success.

CBA MWLB Compliance

- Edwards continued by stating that a comprehensive report on MWLB at the construction site has not been made available. Co-Chair Morillo asked about the assigned monitor's report that was supposed available. Edwards stated that follow-up was needed on this item thru the WHDC.

- Follow-up

Member Edwards stated that additional follow was required in several areas and several questions that were raised by the SPC had yet to be answered by the WHDC. He further stated that some issues would require follow-up directly with Columbia and though should be given to setting-up a meeting directly with Columbia.

Old Business – none

New Business - none

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm
- Next meeting to held Wednesday November 20 2013