

**Co-Chairs:**  
George Goodwill  
Michel J. Palma

**Committee Members:**

John Dooley-on leave  
Maritta Dunn  
Carolyn Hammond  
Sylvia Robinson  
Walter South

**Community Members:**

Gloria Allen  
3150 Broadway

Tom Demott  
West Harlem Coalition

Joan S. Levine  
Morningside Heights/West Harlem  
Sanitation Coalition Morningside Gardens  
Community Relations

Sara Martin  
Grant Resident Association

Martha Levy  
3150 Broadway

Diane Turner  
3150 Broadway

# Minutes of the The Harlem Piers and Waterfront Committee 6:30 PM, Wednesday, February 5, 2003

**Attendance:**

Committee Members: Maritta Dunn - Present  
Carolyn Hammond - Present  
Sylvia Robinson - Present  
Walter South - Present

**AGENDA:** Motion: To adopt Agenda. Seconded and passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion: Seconded and passed unanimously.

**CO-CHAIRS OPENING COMMENTS:**

For the sake of moving the agenda to our working session with EDC and the W architect firm, there are no comments from either chair.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Working session with EDC and W Architects on planned development of the Harlem Piers and waterfront area at Manhattanville.**

Jeannette Rausch started off the meeting by mentioning their work with other coordinating agencies with regard to approvals i.e. with the Army Corp of Engineers and the State Department of Environmental Conservation. Both agencies generally received the design as favorable and indicated slight changes. The disappointing news is that the agencies were not keen at all on the wharf piece of the design plan. These agencies do not usually allow coverage on the water unless there was a maritime need for it. EDC has also been coordinating with the Parks Department and they would like to support the project by constructing the Northern piece of the plan. Parks designers will talk to EDC designers and hopefully present something for the next committee meeting.

Goodwill asked if there is any decision by City Planning with regard to zoning. Jeannette answered that there has been no decision but they are working on it and with Housing and Land Use Committee. They are starting a dialogue and want to keep working on rezoning with that committee. DOT would come to a coordinating committee to discuss the traffic pattern in the area.

Len of EDC announced that NYC Dept of Cultural Affairs has already started to announce and solicit for artist to contribute to the design plan. On March 5 DCA along with EDC and other artist panels will review applications. There was some discussion as to how let everyone in the Community District 9 area know about this opportunity and it was resolved that CB9 would strategize and try to get the word out.

Baraba Wilks proceeded with her presentation of the design with new drawings, plans and elevations, including a new model. These revisions incorporated a lot of the suggestions with regard to the history and ecology of the area and its emphasis on educational activities. Barbara's presentation was to get more comments from the committee to make sure it incorporates the wants and desires of the community, to the best of the plan's ability and budget.

Barbara, of W Architects, proceeded with a detail explanation of the current design plan, section-by-section, emphasizing that these were ideas and not necessarily set in stone. The design elements can change based on work with other agencies and, of course, with comments and suggestion from this committee.

The biggest design change was the narrowing of the whole area by the removal of the wharf, which before was running along side the whole stretch of the waterfront from South to North.

An effort will be made by the Architects to try and save the wharf, but Jeannette seems pretty sure that the State Dept of Environmental Conservation will not allow it. An effort will be made nonetheless. Without the wharf, there is less space now along the narrow stretch of the waterfront. Tom Demott suggested that with less space, we should probably dispense with the idea of having certain designated spaces for education purposes, and instead have the whole area as a natural park, with its direct access to the water, be considered for the educational experience component to the plan.

Maritta Dun asked about the Northern area seating and also the replacing and conserving of the cobble stone street. DOT had agreed in writing to preserve the cobble stone street. Architects will try to incorporate as much cobblestone as is allowed by current rules and armed with DOT's agreement.

Seating in and around the park should be made in the normal fashion, that is, in normal height and with backs. Homelessness concerns with regard to seats or benches de damned! The community, especially the elderly want seats and benches with backs!

Walter South asked about the edge treatment in the Northern section, wanting to get rid of the railing. Planters could be used instead of the railings. Walter feels the "urban streams" is a kooky idea. Barbara explained that is "urban stream" works better than previous ones in that it's more like an elongated garden, which is better for plants and trees. They will also collect the runoff, and an ecological necessary and better for the immediate environment.

Vickie Golsen suggested that within one of the piers where a "triangle" is made between the pier and the waterfront that maybe that area could have a wharf so that the water within the triangle could be used for educational purposes, to observe a fish habitant maybe. Everyone thought this was a good idea and the architects would try and do something there.

Vickie also brought up the notion that since we lost so much of our waterfront area with the removal of the wharf, could we now move the building out from this area. The community generally and repeatedly stated that the building should not be in the part area, but maybe on the other side of Marginal Street or on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Jeannette once again pointed out that the present construction budget does not include the building, but W Architect has laid out the space for the building in the future. Walter asked if we could put a small temporary kiosk. Maritta did not want a kiosk. Eventually something has to be somewhere to house the things necessary to maintain the park.

The building will be approximately 8587 square feet over two levels with a foot print of about half that amount or 4294 sq feet.

Jeannette suggested a group of volunteers or concerned citizen adopt the waterfront area to care for it and be it watch dog. Jeanette shared with us other experiences with other waterfront projects. There is flexibility as to the maintenance structure to the park, which might include a non-profit organization to operate or watch over the area.

Walter asked what the middle edge would be without the wharf. Architects don't necessarily want to put railings in its place and needed time to figure this out. Walter objects to any railing on the waterfront.

The next couple of month will be looking at the detail to the design elements, Jeannette remarked. March meeting will be the presentation to finalize the plan so that they can go to construction. Next will be the design development phase, then it goes to construction documents.

Walter suggested that on the South side there be more dense foliage, around the bike bath.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

No new business.

**AJOUNTMENT: 8:30 PM**