

Harlem Piers, Waterfront and Economic Development Committee Minutes for May 10, 2004

The entire meeting was devoted to an update from EDC regarding the development of the waterfront.

Pier Design:

EDC informed the Committee that the Corp. of Army Engineers has not signed off on the development plans for the piers. One member of the team, the person involved with Marine and Fisheries is concerned with the amount of coverage over the water that the recreational pier is taking. She feels that, the recreational pier is entirely too long and provides too much water shade for the fish.

One of the suggestions was to shorten the pier by cutting 2/3 of what is currently proposed and just have a smaller recreational pier. The entire committee and all present vetoed this suggestion. It is the feelings of the committee that any reduction in the recreational pier is unacceptable since we have already reduce the overall project by more than half. It was decided that a letter should be sent by the chair of the Harlem Piers, Waterfront and Economic Development Committee with a sign off by the board chairman, to Ms. Diana Rusanowsky regarding this problem.

RFP for Harlem Piers

EDC sent out 9 RFP's for the marine park and 11 for the upland. They received 4 responses on the marine RFP, and 2 on the upland. The responses that did come in were too high. The cost of steel has increased and this is one of the problems. The responses were well above allocated funds and EDC is rethinking the RFP. One thought to reduce cost is to use unit paving on the pier instead of wood. This would greatly reduce the immediate cost as well as the long-range cost of upkeep. They are still anticipating a May 24th return date for these bids. EDC is also considering taking the development of the piers and the development of the upland roadwork and merging it into one contract. This would leave the development of the park portion of the pier project to another entity. EDC will give further update at our June 14th meeting.

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RFP for Ferry:

Once again it was reiterated by all present that the concerns of the community regarding the ferry are as followed:

- o How often would the ferry dock?
- o What are the hours of operation?
- o What effect would the ferry operation have on the serenity of the park area?

EDC once again brought up the subject of a structure on Marginal Street that would facilitate the sale of tickets, storage, and a snack bar. It was again specifically stated to EDC that under no circumstance were there to be any building on Marginal Street. It was specifically requested that in preparing the RFP for the ferry EDC should not include any mention of a building on Marginal Street. EDC will come to the June meeting to offer further update on the waterfront.

It was decided by a unanimous vote of the Committee that the Harlem Piers, Waterfront and Economic Development committee would continue to meet throughout the summer. The July meeting will specifically deal with Economic Development and we should begin to prepare a list of various businesses to update us at the July meeting.

Meeting was adjourned: next meeting will be June 14th at 6:30 p.m.