

Harlem Piers, Waterfront, & Economic Development Committee
Minutes November 1, 2005

Mr. Len Greco, EDC Waterfront, reported that the permit from Army corp. of Engineers, should be received by Nov. 2nd, 2005. Once the permit is received, EDC will start renegotiations with the contractor for the piers. Hopefully an agreement can be reached by our next meeting Dec. 6th, 2005. He also stated that work could be done over the winter, (weather permitting). They can start driving piles into the river as well as start work on the upland. The work would start after the Holidays, so as not to obstruct Fairway during the Holiday Season. Work can start in the river before the beginning of the New Year. A request was made that the entire Piers area be Wi-Fi equipped.

We should investigate educational docking activities at the Piers. Walter South stated that if there is permission for a Kayak launch or floating piers, he will be able to get a floating dock.

It was suggested that during the construction period there would be informational signage that included information on the Piers themselves, and a history of the area. As the project progressed the signage would be updated. This will help address the upheaval and inconvenience that the people of this area will experience, and add a level of sensitivity. EDC indicated that this was something that would be done. EDC informed us that the entire Harlem Piers site will be used as a holding area, and that they will put up a fence to secure it

Helen Chin made a presentation on transportation issues as it pertains to the narrowing of Marginal Street; transportation needs for the area; Streetscaping, and the intermodal hub. Traffic would have to be refigured by DOT and signage for entering and exiting the highway would be added.

The Committee should attempt to get a copy of the Harlem Morningside Heights Transportation Study. The Committee will address financing for maintenance of the Piers in the coming months, and identify placement for the intermodal center. The Committee should investigate acquisition of the Marine Transfer Station as a Learning Center for Marine life and water related issues.

It was requested that EDC have someone come to a HP meeting to discuss current and future plans for the intermodal station including the Proposed Amtrak/Metro North stop. The Committee should meet with the MTA to discuss current and future routing of the Bx15 bus and possibly the M60 bus.

The issue of entering and exiting the Henry Hudson Parkway at 133rd the northern end, and St. Clair's place, at the southern end, was discussed and it was decided that the Committee would continue to address this. It was also suggested that the committee revisit funding for the steps at St. Clair's place that lead to Riverside Drive.

The Committee learned that contractors have been allowed to remove cobblestones from various projects and place them in other projects or resell, as a negotiation tool when bidding on contracts. The cobblestone area to be address is the space on 125th Street from 12th Avenue to Marginal Street. The community expressed their desire for cobblestones in the area to remain and if any are removed, they be replaced. EDC indicated that there was a cost factor in replacing the cobblestones and DOT should be approached regarding this. It was decided that DOT should be invited to a future meeting to discuss this issue. EDC was asked to look into the contract regarding the cobblestone issue and get back to us. Also DOT should be asked to upgrade the asphalt so that the cobblestones eventually disappear. This has been done in the past when DOT was made aware of the historic interest of the area.

We should also investigate additional public art in the area.

Respectfully submitted by: Maritta Dunn