

*Minutes of Harlem Piers, Economic Development,
Waterfront Committee
October 5, 2004*

Citarella

Mr. John Carbo of Citarella once again came without the owner and stated that they could not get the little store on 125th Street pulled together before January or February of 2005. What this means is that a retail store carrying the specialties that this store should be carrying would miss the largest holiday seasons of the year, which is Thanksgiving and Christmas. When asked about the number of people the store would employ he stated that the retail store would generate 70 jobs when it is opened. It is difficult for us to see where these 70 jobs would be.

Since no other work has been done anywhere else on their major project, the committee wanted to know once again what was the hold up, why would the opening of the retail store should take so long. Mr. Carbo said they wanted to do it right and not rush it. This has been their response for some time regarding this project and nothing ever seems to be getting done.

They were asked to submit at our November meeting a more detailed outline of the plans for the store, the number of employees the store would have, and what their specific jobs would be.

Mr. Carbo stated that Citarella had had a met with Mr. Steven Haze of EDC Real Estate but he was not at liberty to discuss the details of the meeting. Mr. Carbo said he would return in December with correct information about what Citarella and EDC are planning to do with the rest of the property they have on 126th Street, which is the bulk of the property under their control.

What we do know is that Citarella has not lived up to the agreement or the lease by which they received the property. It was decided that a letter should be sent directly to Mr. Haze at EDC regarding their meeting with Citarella.

The Piers

Mr. Len Greco from EDC gave an update regarding the Harlem Piers Waterfront and the mitigation request from the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Greco stated that the design that EDC had submitted for the placement of 365 pilings was rejected. He wanted to present to the committee a different design for the 365 pilings before they were submitted to the Army Crop of Engineers to address their concerns about the fish habitat at the piers.

Once again we reiterated to Mr. Greco that first and for most we do not want any pilings in the Harlem Piers area what so ever. Secondly we asked Mr. Greco not to appear so ready to give in to the Corp of Engineers and attempt to force the community to accept the pilings because we will not.

Several members attempted to address, what would we do if we were forced to accept 365 pilings. How could we address placement, design, lighting, etc so as not to have such a horror in our Harlem Piers area. Several ideas were suggested such as lighting them, having them be a re-, turning waterfall, which means that the same water would be recycled over and over creating some sort of a design, at least attempting to offer an interesting view pattern. These are some of the thoughts expressed in the event that all else failed and the pilings were forced down our throats. First and foremost however, was "no" to any pilings in the Harlem Piers Area.

The community requested that EDC call a meeting with the Army Crop of Engineers, the Harlem Piers Committee and interested Community Board organizations. This way the problem could be discussed with everyone involved present. It was also recommended that we contact Congressman Rangel directly to discuss this matter.

Next Meeting of the Harlem Piers is on Tuesday, November 9th, 2004.

Respectfully submitted
Maritta Dunn, Committee Chair