

**ESCR CAG Meeting Summary -- December 3, 2020**  
(via Zoom)

**CAG Member Roll Call** (bold = present)

Anthony (Tony) Rivera <b>Ayo Harrington</b> Camille Napoleon <b>Charles Krezell</b> Chris Collins <b>Christine Bookin</b> Christine Datz-Romero Damaris Reyes Daphne Williams <b>Dereese Huff</b>	<b>Dianne Lake</b> <b>Don Hartley</b> (sub for Michael Marino) <b>Dov Goldman</b> Felicia Cruickshank Francine Jean <b>Frank Avila Goldman</b> Freddina Fulton <b>Jeff Gillers</b> <b>Martin Barrett</b> Mercedes Harvell	<b>Mike Arnon</b> <b>Kyle Athayde</b> Nancy Ortiz <b>Pat Arnow</b> Peter Davis Richard Heitler Rick Hayduk Sam Moskowitz <b>Seth Coren</b> <b>Susan Steinberg</b> <b>Trever Holland</b>
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**CAG - Pratt Center discussion (first of two parts)<sup>1</sup>**

- CAG letter to DDC; waiting for a response that should come shortly
  - Ayo: my understanding is that the soil questions were answered, maybe not to everyone's satisfaction, on the DDC website. Unsure if that resolves it.
  - Tara: question might still be open on a new 2019 report, DDC did indicate they would respond in writing again. DDC did respond to Pat's FOIL request with 2017 reports. Unsure of latest on the website.
  - Dianne: Community Board 3 was referred to EIS, which did include some 2019 data. Not sure if that's the same data as other 2019 reports being mentioned.
  - Ayo: when DDC joins the meeting, we can ask them to clarify latest data
  - Ayo: there have been some racist posts made, which are not acceptable and shouldn't be acceptable to anyone on the CAG. Posters in and around the area and on social media.
    - Pat: Apologizes for the posts involving Margaret Chin, deleted and removed the posts.
    - Ayo: Clarifies that apologies do not erase or undo the harm done.
    - Frank: Notes there is a discrepancy between how community members, including in public housing near the park/river, are experiencing ESCR, not an isolated incident or occurring in a vacuum.
  - Question log shared with CAG; some members noted missing questions
    - How frequently should Pratt Center share the ever-evolving log with them?

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<sup>1</sup> DDC and other City agencies were not present for this portion.

- Weekly construction bulletins have started, and Pratt Center will continue sharing them when we receive them
- Tara describes new model for shorter DDC presentation format starting next month
- Tara: First Thursdays of month remain the preferred meeting date to avoid conflict with Community Boards. Reminder that alternates/subs are always welcome in case of schedule conflict.
- Tara will share reports from Con Ed site environmental review (note: she did so on 12/3/20, after the CAG meeting)

## **DDC update with Q & A**

- Desiree describes change to shorter format based on feedback
- Question from elected official representatives about receipt of bulletins
  - Desiree solicits emails to ensure people are on the list. Also says public signup for emails is available online.
- Dianne: have not seen any bulletins posted in public near the site, are these only online?
  - Desiree: advisories are posted outside, but bulletins do not have a regular posting schedule. Can forward feedback to arrange a sleeve for bulletins to be slid into every week.
  - Desiree: construction signage from contractors going up in the next week
- Pat: why has the bid date changed for PA1 (Project Area 1)?
  - Desiree: Q addressed this well in the last presentation. More or less this is a normal practice in the construction bidding process.
  - Pat follow-up: worried that the 3-5 year timeline is unrealistic and this delay seems to confirm this concern, and this answer does not allay these concerns.
  - Q: clarifies this is not a delay; contractors were not supposed to break ground in Spring, but rather began the compost relocation. PA2 was always scheduled to be first and PA1 is on track and has several federal and external deadlines. Project not delayed by a year.
  - Pat: that timeline is not reflected in previous presentation material
- Q: bid process was extended to allow for more questions from contractors. Due to being at the end of the year, there is a delay of several weeks for opening and reviewing bids.
- Q: soil FOIL request being reviewed right now. Q clarifies a previous statement that FOIL requests are actually not being reviewed by DDC's legal department: they are reviewed by the FOIL review department and are not a legal process.
  - Q: for soil tracking it is easier/more organized to process these requests through FOIL.
  - The CAG as a whole should send questions/requests for DDC to Pratt Center
- Dov: question about construction staging information with regard to noise, traffic, truck loading/standing.
  - Desiree: will get more information
- Ayo: who is monitoring the hiring of Section 3 employees and MWBE contractors, subcontractors, and prime contractors?

- Desiree: Trang will be a big part of this effort, in coordination with DDC's Office of Diversity and Industry Relations (ODIR)
- Trang: the contractor is just coming on board, and we will be reviewing the subcontractor plan which should include MWBEs. As registrations come in, we will monitor commitments. Will communicate this back to you.
- Ayo: due to monthly intervals between CAG meetings, would it be possible for you to report on status on the way with respect to hiring, opportunities, outreach goals? We know that you will be able to do monthly reports, but think we need awareness in the moment
- Trang: hiring and subcontracting opportunities will be posted on ESCR website as well as other distributions as appropriate. Envision a monthly reporting schedule which should coincide with CAG schedule.
- Ayo: posting is great but I'm asking for something more specific: the more we know the sooner, the better.
- Trang: yes; right now we're only starting up and we will tailor the project as the project progresses.
- Ayo: yes, but I'm asking if you will be able to report to the CAG on issues, problems, outreach efforts as they are ongoing - in between the monthly CAG meetings.
- Desiree: will take this concern back and talk about how we can best facilitate it. Notes that a lot of times MWBE goals can be hard to evaluate in the short term due to staggered subcontractor phasing and hiring.
- Ophelia: DSNY continuing work on relocation of the compost site. CM Rivera's office is coordinating meeting with Parks/DSNY to discuss further.
  - Melissa (Parks): city is working together to find an alternative location
    - Christine: appreciate this is being mentioned, also asking to clarify whether it is in current construction plans and if it will return to East River Park. Have not heard an answer yet.
      - Melissa: City and Parks have committed to good faith negotiations of compost return to the park after construction. Don't have information beyond that.
- Q: confirms that soil FOIL request has just now been responded to.

### **CAG - Pratt Center discussion (second of two parts)<sup>2</sup>**

- We've heard you about not wanting to be talked at through long presentations that are largely redundant of recent CB presentations -- we're working with DDC to get you information in advance of meetings -- though that didn't happen today.
  - We're trying to get DDC to send what they have in advance of the meetings (at least 24 hours), even if the info. is not complete and marked "draft"
  - Martin: thought it went well

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- Tara: would advanced documents help? Or does a shorter presentation suffice?
  - Ayo: slides in advance would be helpful
  - Frank (via the chat): appreciate sticking to script like tonight, and yes preferable to have advanced documents
  - Dianne: agree because with the new CAG meeting schedule this info. will precede information presented at Community Boards so lead time will be helpful to process new information
  - Dov: maybe an update slide at the end tracking CAG back and forth
  - Michael: advanced docs would be preferable, but not if it impacts ability to receive newest info
- Was there anything that came out of the DDC portion of today's meeting that needs to be addressed?
  - Martin: question about wall between Solar One and the river -- but could be personal oversight. Interested in whether it impacts pedestrian access to riverfront
  - Borough President Brewer: know that compost is a recurring issue. The Parks Commissioner does not like compost in parks, so it could be an uphill battle but I support bringing it back. Could be a fight.
  - Katie (of CM Rivera's office): Rivera and Kavanaugh and some other electeds have called a meeting with agencies to discuss and reiterate that compost is a priority. Will continue to advocate for the compost site to remain in place until a temporary site is confirmed and there is no interruption in service. Thanks Christine for their advocacy on the issue.
  - Christine notes concern about a sustainability project (i.e., ESCR) that is removing compost. Have to push Parks that it is important to their own operation/mission.
  - Frank: can't conceive of an alternative location to Ecology Center other than East River Park. Emphasize that it doesn't make sense to put it next to a residential community. In a park there is a significant enough distance from organic rotting processes and odors.
  - Damaris (who arrived during the DDC portion of the meeting): did appreciate the follow up and work to make the process better, noting that it is still ongoing. Acknowledging improvement.
    - It is CAG's job to note issues that are not appropriate for this space.
    - Condemning the racist posts, and that the racist attack on a woman of color significantly affected her and is unacceptable (she notes she joined after the initial conversation).
  - Nancy (also joined late): seconds Damaris
    - Will not sit with members who participated with the racist posts
    - The phrase "minority" is offensive and should not be used
  - Tara: notes that Pratt Center did not know about this and condemns. Notes there was discussion at the top of the meeting and a member claimed responsibility.

Without calling on anyone by name, she opens the floor to members who might want to address the issue.

- Ayo: notes that enough has been said on the subject, and the last word on the issue should not be from someone involved with the poster and should be from a person of color who has already spoken on the issue.
- Tara: recaps weekly bulletin schedule discussed at beginning of meeting. Thanks attendants for sharing concerns and being open.