

**Mother Clara Hale Bus Depot
Re-Construction Task Force Meeting
March 18, 2008**

Agenda

Meeting: Tuesday, March 18, 2008
Time: 11:00 AM

Location: Esplanade Gardens, Inc.
129-133 West 147th Street
South Community Room

Welcome

Presentation from MTA

- Environmental Air Mentoring Companies

Old Business

- General Principle of Collaboration
- Form / Stakeholder
- Meeting Schedule
- Goals / Taskforce Mission

Invited Guests

WE ACT	Peggy Shepard Cecil Corbin-Marks Charles Callaway Yolande Cadore
Esplanade Gardens	Millicent Riddick Babbette Edwards
MTA	Lois Tendler Marcus Book Adrienne Taub
HCCI	Lucille McEwen Yvette Coar Andrew Lawrence
Community Board #10	Deborah Gillard Frank Perry
Community Board #9	Pat Jones
CHAMA Child Development Center	Robin Grant, Director
A. Phillip Randolph Sr. Center	Ruth Rudder
Seventh Avenue Daycare	Ms. Sylvia Primus

Elected Officials

Councilwoman Dickens	Lemon Mayes Justin Myers
Councilman Jackson	Martin Smith
Congressman Rangel	Vivian Jones Jeff Eaton
Senator Perkins	Linda Woods-Guy
Assemblyman Farrell	Earnestine Temple

Assemblyman Wright	Mignone Jones Carmen Perez Jeanine Johnson
Dunbar Apartments	Michael Drake Bobby Jones
The Washington	Wendy Frank Karen Emmanuel
NYC Parks Department	Steve Simon

Minutes

In Attendance:

Charles Calloway (WEACT)	Ruby Harmon
Earnestine Temple (Assemblyman Farrell Office)	Jacob Morris
Linda Guy (Senator Perkins Office)	Deborah Gilliard (Comm. Bd. 10)
Millicent Redick (Chair)	Estelle Daniels
Lermand Hayes	Wilhelmina Jones
Tom Lunke	Ruth Williams
Barbara Boken	Joe Young
Ted Lawrence (HCCI)	Linara Davidson

Minutes taken by Gwenee Allen (Assemblyman Farrell Office Intern)

Meeting Commences

Mr. Calloway stated what the Mother Clara Hale Bus Depot Reconstruction entailed. The new facility would be a larger structure that holds 150 buses. However, the concern is how to dispose of hazardous waste and the detection of toxic material. Furthermore he proclaims that a company will be designated to monitor the air flow from the dust particles. The chosen company is ATC.

- Topic of a Charrette arises.

Mr. Calloway: Does everyone know what a Charrette is?

Mr. Morris proceeds to answer the above question. Subsequently, he states it's a process of getting people from the community together and ask them questions on what they think should be on the design billboard for the project. Overall, the main mechanism is to give color to what the community demands.

Ms. Redick expands on his explanation by stating a Charrette brings request of community. Individuals come together to develop some sort of design that constitutes are apart of; collectiveness.

Mrs. Temple furthers the discussion by commenting on the community engaging to help MTA come up with a design for “looks, dynamics, space, offices, interior, and exterior.” Further input may evolve around traffic considerations, roof colors, windows, etc.

Mr. Morris states that the bottom line is to participate or not; Charrettes and meetings. Moreover, it is important for the community to understand that it is possible to be manipulated. He gave an example of how participation is affective. Accordingly, he recalls the positioning error of the Federick Douglass statue. The statue was facing the South, when it was suppose to be facing the North Star. As a result of the community participation, the statue was re-positioned. “The community must be knowledgeable and aware.”

Mr. Calloway stated (in the form of a question) Person independent of MTA to the Charrette?

Ms. Guy intervened: Where is the MTA?

Mr. Calloway responded by stating: The MTA isn’t here because they have nothing to report. I received a call from Marcus stating their were no current updates.

Ms. Guy: Even though there aren’t any updates, we might have wanted to report something to them.

Ms. Redick recalled previous experiences/encounters where the community was totally ignored. Therefore, we must fight and voice our opinion.

Mrs. Temple commented that everything must be in writing; community meetings etc. Drafts must be business oriented. Consequently, I have Gwenee (our intern) working on a sample letter head for the taskforce

*Draft of sample letterhead was passed around the room.

* Literature regarding the Goals and Purpose of the Taskforce was given out.

Mr. Calloway initiated conversation about the purpose of the task force. He recited section one from the Governance and Function document. Then asked if all agreed on the statement.

Mr. Morris commented that he would like a statement included that would imply the relevance, in addition to the description of the” best, cleanest, and greenest depot ;” last line of section one.

Ms. Harmon commented that in addition to the previous, something culturally significant that represent Mother Clara Hale should be included.

*Ms. Redick read section three from the Governance and Function document.

Mrs. Temple stated the importance of the community to participate from the front, middle, and back in. You guide us so we can make sure your words correct the conditions that raise concern.

Ms. Guy mentioned that the document should identify Esplanade as a prominent factor of the taskforce in section three.

Ms. Gillard asked for further definition and would like to add the community board to section three.

Ms. Redick suggested that the community members should be left out.

Mr. Morris introduced a small thought conveying the concerns of the union workers. Are the union workers not concerned with this project? It would be nice to invite TWU representatives to the meetings.

Ms Redick replied that they are concerned. A lot of them live in the building (Esplanade).

Ms. Guy commented that she didn't think it was a good idea for the union members might fear that participation in the taskforce would get them in trouble.

Mr. Morris suggested that the inclusion of the TWU as a liaison might be better instead of as members. Despite the fact that they may be subjected to MTA retaliation, they should at least be informed.

*Section Four of the Governance and Function was recited
All information regarding the meetings are available to the public. What's the best way of conveying community activity?

Ms. Redick: Will the board allow it to be put in the building?

Mr. Calloway expressed concern about placing literature under residents' door because everybody may not favor this method. However, WEACTION will put the minutes on their website.

Ms. Guy suggested that floor leaders and church tabling may be a sufficient way to convey information. Furthermore, the last line should be omitted.

Mrs. Temple inputted that copies will be available at the Assemblyman office.

Mr. Lawrence suggested sending emails to the church.

Ms. Redick concluded that this is important so that no one will be able to say, we're holding a private meeting. We don't want to hear that the community is not included.

Mr. Lawrence followed up by stating that we don't want to much of a time span between emailing the minutes to member and its availability on the WEACTION website.

Mr. Calloway commented that once the emails are sent, he would have the information posted on the website within two days.

- Ms. Jones recited section five of the Governance and Function

Ms. Guy stated that she thought the coordinators had been established in the last meeting. Accordingly, Millicent Redick and Barbet were the chosen Co-Chair. Charles Calloway was the chosen spokesperson (which needs further explanation on who he is speaking for).

Is spokesperson supported by Co-Chair?

Mr. Calloway commented that he would be speaking on behalf of the taskforce. The goal is to be voice of the taskforce. However, anybody could be the spokesperson if they want.

Ms. Redick comments on her previous involvements. Over the past five years I have been involved in media coverage coupled with chair of tenant organization. Residents constantly came to express concern over contaminants they were breathing in. Furthermore, a resident died of asthma, but it wasn't confirmed whether the atmosphere was the cause. We know there is an asthma and cancer problem in the area.

* HCCI recently lost a worker, who was 50 yrs of age. He just dropped dead and bronchitis was recorded as the cause.

Mr. Calloway reiterated that the reason why taskforce is here. The taskforce will be here to the end, not just one year. It is an ongoing process.

Mrs. Temple mentioned the technical aspect of how the depot will be rebuilt. WEACT voices echoed the concerns; team specialist.

Ms. Gilliard go back to question at hand and ask: How do we select a chair/co-chair? Spokesperson?

*Tenants expressed the need for persons who are knowledgeable.

* Motion is set forth for the positions to say as they are

Ms. Gilliard states that we need to check with Babett for her approval as Co-Chair.

Ms. Guy commented that a determination of how words will get in Charles mouth shall be questioned. All activities should be communicated as a taskforce thing and not WEACT.

Mr. Morris: Is there going to be a separate website link? It should be a separate page on the website where individuals can click once from the homepage. In addition, the site should have "blogging" capacity, items for discussion?

Mr. Calloway states that the website belongs to WEACT, therefore he doesn't know if "blogging" will be possible.

Ms. Redick states that we need to give the residents a chance to understand what “blogging” is?

Ms. Guy gave a short definition which referred to “blogging” as an electronic box where individuals post comments.

Mrs. Temple stated that if anyone wants to come to the Assemblyman office for a quick Blog 101 lesson, they are more than welcome.

*Overall, The option of “blogging” was deemed a bad idea for words might be twisted.

Mr. Calloway commented that it may be discussed later and lets stay on point.

- Section 8 of the Governance and Function was recited

Ms. Redick commented that the idea is to formulate this process. In defense of Charles, as to be the facilitator.

Mrs. Temple stated that Charles expertise will make sure our voice is appropriate.

Ms. Guy commented that there are co-chairs who serve together. They are not subordinate for they work together.

Mr. Calloway commented that since we have co-chairs, it is a team effort.

Mrs. Temple commented that we are forty minutes into the meeting and need to keep it at a minimum of two hours.

Ms. Guy suggested that professional facilitator is misleading and need further discussion.

Ms. Redick referred to the minutes of last meeting and mentioned HTC, who would monitor air quality. Furthermore, the group majority talk about the need for an outside tester. A test needs to be conducted on the window seals if possible. Our health is important. There are approximately forty-three vacant apartments, Can monitors go there to prevent nuisance? The tenants need to be clear on the potential hazards. Possibly, we (the residents) could get together and pay for the monitors to be stored in the vacant apartments.

Mr. Morris suggested that this could be a separate agenda.

Ms. Daniels suggested that we need a monitoring agency separate from the governments’ own. They don’t always work.

Mr. Calloway commented that the chosen monitoring company was thoroughly researched. HCT was the best out of the three. WEACTION will be on board when the monitors are set up.

Mr. Young stated that he would like the monitors to face the Bus barn.

Ms. Gillard mentioned two aspects of monitors needed, an independent monitor coupled with MTAs' monitor. A letter should be sent to independent firms requesting their service. Comments about receiving funding from elected officials and other agencies was presented.

Mr. Calloway: The best we can do right now is use HTC.

Ms. Redick commented that if our voices become loud enough money will be found. We can't get anything if we are quiet.

When does the work start in the barn?

Mr. Calloway stated the interior work will begin sometime in April.

Comments were made about the tanks inside that will be removed. Ms. Redick mentions a past experience when the water in Esplanade houses was constantly brown. If the roof falls apart will be notified? Asbestos is present, for specialized roofers informed me. In addition, there is also two types of hazardous materials present on the roof, ash fault and one that I can't remember. If workers have mask, what are we breathing in? What are the danger potentials?

If monitors aren't in place by April, What will happen?

Mr. Calloway commented that the work won't proceed, but that is a good question. They were going to start construction with no considerations, but our voices made a difference. The initial reconstructing was set for July, but we got it moved to September.

Mr. Calloway suggested April 7th 2008 at 11:00am, same location, as the next meeting date. MTA will be here no matter what.

Mr. Morris commented on his concern of Harlem keeping their historical presence. Subsequently, he mentioned placing panels of the greatest heroes alongside the new building, being that it is going to be so seven stories high.

Meeting Adjourned