

Minutes of Meeting

Date: June 26, 2008
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: A. Phillip Randolph Senior Center
108 West 146th Street (Off Lenox Avenue)
New York, NY 10039
(212) 283-7904

In Attendance:

Ernestine Temple (Assemblyman Farrell Office)	Estelle Daniels	Pauline Fredrick
Charles Callaway (WEACT)	Marcus Book (MTA)	Fred Wilson
Carol Bell (Esplanade Gardens)	Merle Carroll	Hubert Collins
Lermand Mayes (Inez Dickens Office)	Mahalia Watson	Ted Lawrence (H.C.C.I)
Linda Wood Guy (Senator Perkins)	Ogonnaya Newman (WEACT)	Tom Lunke (H.C.D.C)
Collette Ericsson (MTA Regional Bus Operations)	Deborah Gillard (CB 10)	

Minutes Taken by: Cherisse Harris

The meeting commenced with everyone introducing themselves.

Air Monitoring Location

The task force went on a tour about 2 weeks ago with to discuss, where to put the air monitors for deconstruction of the actual building in December should be placed. They decided to put 7 air monitoring units around the Construction site.

Community Concerns

- Two of the major concerns are the results of the particles affecting the building and the collection of dust particles.
- The task force spoke with Pat Kenny from Columbia and is concerned about the air monitors properly collecting the dust particles to be floating in the air.

(contd.)

Community Concerns

- It has been suggested that some of the air monitors be put off site into the community
Some of the suggested locations are:
 1. The playground on top of the senior center which is 30 ft. away is essential because it will be in September when the children go back to school.
 2. In Esplanade Gardens (if possible) to do data collection of the dust particles to be floating in the air.
- The task force reiterated that for the health of the community we should ask the MTA to put at least 2 in the community area to collect the dust particles. (To Be discussed with the MTA.)
- It is important to keep in mind that the air monitors cannot be enclosed because they are there to collect the dust particles.
- The TF would like to get something in writing confirming the decision with Mr. Pat Kinney who specializes in air quality monitoring, and is also working on the Columbia Expansion/Columbia Air Monitors.
- It was noted that the Task Force should reach out to more people with credibility.

The Charrette

- The TF pushed the MTA to create community involvement of the bus depot which is very important.
- It was said that the TF pushed for A. Phillip Randolph Senior Center, so we must produce our part of the deal.
- The goal for the MTA is City College.
- The goal for the Task Force is A. Phillip Randolph Senior Center.
- If the Charrette is going to be at A. Phillip Randolph Senior Center the TF must take on most of the responsibility.
- It is noted this task force is the first of its kind, with more community involvement.

Ideas

- The depot is also the first of its kind, having agreed to possibly put the following environmental factors into place:
 1. Air monitoring to be exhausted from the depot (all year round)
 2. Solar panels
 3. Green roofing
 4. Filtration systems
 5. Gray water and Rain water tanks have even been mentioned.

- There are a lot of environmental factors to be put into place.
- First, as a collective we must decide on a location.

➤ **A. Phillip Randolph Senior Center**

Why should the Charrette be held at A. Phillip Randolph Senior Center?

The center is unique because there are/is:

- Special rooms set up for programs. (6 in total)
- A combination lunch room/dining room and auditorium.
- Folding screens/dividers to make 2 rooms.
- Lunch room alone holds 265 people.
- Electrical sockets in place.
- Lunches provided 2 times per day to accommodate the staff.
- Industrial refrigerators.
- Hot plates and stoves to heat/warm and serve.

➤ **Obligation to the Community**

- The Senior Center will be able to work and open on the weekends for the Charrette.
- The Center is also equipped with working air conditioners for comfort and convenience.
- The A. Phillip Randolph Senior Center is in the heart, and the center, of the community.

Questions/Answers/Comments/ Concerns Raised

- How do we deal with the day to day operations?
 - The project must be done as a collective (Task Force, MTA, and A. Phillip Randolph Senior Center.)
 - The Task Force must get the word out to the community to sit down with us and give their thoughts about what's going on, in order to make the community a better place for us all.
- For the record, the Task force would like to clarify and inform everyone that this project is not a rehabilitation project. It is the tearing down and building up of a new structure. The depot is a 7 story building, so some tenants will not have the same view from their apartments as before.
- The TF would like to thank Assemblyman Farrell's Office for their hard work and support.
- It was said that everyone must make a commitment for themselves and for the greater good of the project.
- Please take this into consideration.
- Everyone must pass the buck and get the word out to the community about what's going on and the meetings to take place.
- A comment was made that on a good day it is difficult and inconvenient to travel to City College.

- What is the criterion for the Charrette?
 - The Charrette must have large breakout rooms.
- Does a design already exist for the Charrette?
 - So, far as we are concerned, no design exists.
- The Community wants to make sure that everyone is impacted by having the Charrette.
- Is the MTA committed to the finances? What is the capacity of buses? Is there a written contract?
 - The beginning of the project started about 4 or 5 years ago. Capital assessment exists. The Charrette is one of many that exist. The MTA has informed us that the Charrette will be similar to the Charrette on 100th Street. They have an idea of the plan such as: The capacity of the buses, administrative capacity, and storage capacity. The MTA does have a written contract.

The TF is concerned that the MTA will take over the project.

- Is the MTA committed?
 - Almost definitely
 - They've identified facilitators and have a team to present.
- The task force wants to make sure that the Charrette is accessible to the community and that the community comes out in force.
- The TF suggested that there should be a plan B for the location of the Charrette.
- It was said that the TF meeting is to ensure that everyone is on the same page.
- It was acknowledged that the A. Phillip Randolph showed eagerness and happy participation on there part and that the senior understand the significance of this project.
- We must get the youth involved.

Community Concerns/Agenda

- Rodent Control
- Asbestos
- Airborne particles/dust

MTA

Introduction

- The MTA took a tour of the Senior Center.
- The task force will take a tour after the meeting is adjourned.
- The meeting commenced with everyone introducing and identifying themselves.
- The TF would like to clarify that the Charrette is in Central Harlem, not West Harlem.
- The MTA says they think that A. Phillip Randolph Senior Center is perfect for the Charrette.
- It was stated that we should go ahead and reserve one of the first two Saturdays in September to hold the Charrette meeting.

What the MTA likes about the Charrette

- The fact that the Charrette would be held in the Community makes people feel more comfortable.
- There is Large Assembly Space.

- Discussion leaders can take their groups to the breakout spaces.
- The MTA stated that laptops or recorders would not be an issue and that what's most important at a community Charrette is to have flipcharts and masking tape for visuals.
- Portable microphone systems will be o.k.

Next Meeting: Task Force

When: Thursday, July 10th, 2008
Where: Tioga Carver Democratic Club
201 West 148th Street
New York, NY 10039
Time: Community: 10:00 a.m.
MTA: 11:00 a.m.

Next Meeting: The Charrette

When: Tuesday, July 22nd, 2008
Where: A. Phillip Randolph Senior Center
108 West 146th Street (Off Lenox Avenue)
New York, NY 10039
Time: Community: 10:00 a.m.
MTA: 11:00 a.m.