

ESCR CAG Meeting -- November 5, 2020

4:00-4:15 Wait for people to arrive in the waiting room - Tara to let them in

4:15-4:25 Agenda - quick overview

Roll call for introductions: bold = present

Anthony (Tony) Rivera Ayo Harrington Camille Napoleon Charles Krezell -had challenges joining Chris Collins Christine Bookin - had challenges joining Christine Datz-Romero Damaris Reyes Daphne Williams Dereese Huff Dianne Lake Dov Goldman Felicia Cruickshank Francine Jean Frank Avila Goldman	Freddina Fulton Jeff Gillers Martin Barrett Mercedes Harvell Michael Marino Mike Arnon Kyle (New Chair - CB6) Nancy Ortiz Pat Arnow Peter Davis Richard Heitler Rick Hayduk Sam Moskowitz Seth Coren Susan Steinberg Trever Holland
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Paula acknowledges City team + consultants:

Mayor's Office of Resiliency
Deputy Mayor's Office of Operations
Department of Design and Construction (DDC)
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Transportation (DOT)
Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Economic Development Corp. (EDC)
Department of Sanitation (DSNY)
HNTB/ LiRo Construction Program Management
New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM)

Paula acknowledges electeds' offices:

Councilmember Carlina Rivera
Councilmember Keith Powers (present on call)
Councilmember Margaret Chin
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer (present on call)

State Senator Brad Hoylman
State Senator Brian Kavanagh
Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou
Assemblymember Harvey Epstein
Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez
Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

1. [4:25] DDC/HNTB - LiRo Presentation on Package areas 2 and 1, Parallel Conveyance, and Local Hiring
 - Desiree presents highlights/presentation overview
 - John Lynch (HNTB) presents on notice to proceed (NTP), site preparation, construction. (He presents PA1 instead of Mike because of a technical issue.)
 - Section 3/MWBE presentation
 - Updates on live website, NYC parks resources website page, web-based public inquiry tool
 - Introduction of Nadine Harris, Community Construction Liaison
 - Questions:
 - *Ayo Harrington: What outreach is being done to recruit, as the primary contractor, M/WBE companies - not just as subcontractors?*
 1. *John Lynch:* PA2 is open solicitation available to MWBE companies
 2. *John Lynch:* PA1 was pre-qualified list, which MWBE companies can apply to as well
 - *Ayo Harrington, follow up: My question was not answered. Let me ask it this way. Has there been any special recruitment outreach done for MWBE companies or individuals?*
 1. *Ophelia:* Outreach has not been done yet -- once the contractor is taken on board, then the MWBE hiring/outreach will begin
 - a. There are separate bids for each project
 - b. DDC has the office of Diversity and Industry Relations and within their office is the MWBE Compliance Unit that makes sure many of our projects such as ESCR procure MWBE's. They go out to the public to recruit, through e.g. job fairs for construction projects.
 - *Pat Arnow: What is the definition of "applicable projects" as outlined at the Community Board 3 meeting Sept. 10 when DDC reported that "30% of all new hires on applicable projects will be Section 3 (low-income) individuals."*
 1. *The existing projects are funded by HUD -- Section 3 requirements are applied*
 - *How are "new hires" defined? For instance, if a contractor is engaged and already has a crew, does that mean only additional crew members hired for the project are subject to the 30% requirement?*

1. **Trang:** If the contractor joins the project, they could deliver the scope of services with their existing staff, then Section 3 doesn't apply... but if they are coming on board, they know they need to hire new individuals, then Section 3 will kick in.
 2. **John Lynch:** Each of the projects has some portion of HUD funding, so each project will have Section 3 kicking in.
 - a. The requirements will be for each of the projects to have Section 3 hiring.
 3. **Trang:** If there are opportunities to hire local community members for subcontractors, they will get first priority.
 - a. DDC will have a list of attendees/firms that attend each meeting -- this is a great opportunity for networking.
- **Tony:** *Are we certain there are sufficient funds over the next x years for the project?*
 1. **Q (DDC):** No concern there. The funds for this project are committed both at the city and federal level -- fully funded, not impacted by COVID.
 - **Charles:** *How is the public supposed to comment?... Who gives the notice to proceed?*
 1. **Q (DDC):** DDC - everything comes through DDC. Contractor is required to submit all their deliverables to DDC, who reviews for compliance for state, local requirements
 - **Charles:** *How is the public going to have an opportunity to comment? Construction starts in two weeks and there is not even a sign up.*
 1. **Q (DDC):** working on signage, once the contractor is certified (November 16) they can put up signs and begin
 - **Charles:** *How is that enough time? That is in two weeks and this group meets monthly, this is only our third meeting.*
 1. Project team will put out flyers
 2. Councilmembers will relay info
 3. Unprecedented project here -- we are using all council members and elected officials to get the word out, via emails
 4. Community Boards will be updated at their meetings
 5. CAG meetings
 - Parallel conveyance question
 1. Updated sewer system in order to handle future storms -- refers to slide 31 of presentation for construction sites
 - **Trever:** *Is there a plan for site material reuse (e.g. benches, plant material)? And can you explain a recent delay?*
 1. The project is not delayed, we are on track with schedule and federal funding. The one piece that got pushed back was the PA1 bid review period to allow contractors more time in order to capture qualified and wider net of contractors. This will push back

NTP (notice to proceed) a few weeks, and DDC projects building in time cushions to their schedules in anticipation of such events.

- *Pat Arrow: Please tell us what is the soil? How much particulate matter is a risk? I submitted a FOIL request for the soil information over a year ago.*

1. Q (DDC): I don't have the details

- a. FOIL request process is still happening.
- b. Legal team on DDC is handling these details -- no one at this meeting knows this information.
- c. Ophelia from DDC is going to circle back.

- *Ayo: ~emphasizes the importance of knowing this information (FOIL results) -- community needs to know! Otherwise they are uninformed and at risk of inhaling potential particulate matter, etc.*

2. [5:37] Internal CAG Business - Meeting frequency, future meetings, guidelines

- Charles: we should have more meetings, construction is starting this month
- Tara: clarification that construction isn't starting on November 16, but rather that is the beginning of making real schedules, signage, etc. Construction is probably set to start in December/January. But we agree that more meetings would be good.
- Damaris: What is the point of meeting often when the community has no influence on the decisions? "I don't want to be in another meeting where I don't have any meaningful input" -- majority of group participants agree with this statement.
- Frank: agreement
- Tara: based on feedback today, it seems that local hiring and soil content are still important (to CAG members). We can integrate more emails and other communications
- Ayo: would like Pratt Center to not feel like answering on behalf of the City, but stay in the lane of facilitator. Would like my question asked to be answered in writing by the City. They did not answer the question in particular, but in general. They also did not answer Pat's question.
- Ayo: not interested in meeting more but am interested in a regular meeting schedule.
- Charles: don't feel that the City is particularly forthcoming with information, don't even know what the purpose of this whole thing is.
- Ayo: agrees, how do we get this close to a project and not have information? Suggesting CAG ask questions in writing
- Tara: notes that is within the purview of the CAG
- Trever: interject to discuss internal structure of meetings, noting that previous meetings often run out of time before this can be discussed.
- Ayo: suggests discussing CAG decision-making first
- Damaris: not entirely sure what decisions we're making anyway. Not interested in a process where we're just being spoken at.

- Dianne: these meetings have largely been rehashing of information presented at Community Board meetings. We could be using this time to discuss the CAG's strategy and role rather than watching presentations again.
 - Charles: Maybe we will get more substantive information after November 16.
 - Michael: Reminder that this CAG was formed because of poor information and part of our job is to disseminate information among our complexes and community. If we're not getting any new information other than what's on the website, what's the point?
 - Tara: suggestion to set time up to discuss more with City rather than be presented at, could also commit to written demands
 - Someone?: agreed with Trever that the next meeting should be CAG business first - the city can wait.
 - Damaris: maybe there's a halfway point between meeting fatigue and wanting more info. In interim, there could be email updates, but not too many.
 - Tara: proposes first Thursday of the month moving forward (starting December 3, then January 7)
 - Dov: check for holidays, disseminate to others with regard to calendar. Think City should still come for updates
 - Other agreement that City shouldn't be uninvited but just moved back in the agenda.
 - Tara: suggestion to schedule/confirm meeting dates in two month increments
 - Damaris: request to share others' questions among group, maybe in a weekly email.
 - Kyle: new observations as first timer
 - Could benefit from stronger structure, moderation
 - Come into each meeting knowing what we want to get out of it, even if it requires work beforehand
 - Meeting devolved into public hearing, if we were more concrete could have been avoided.
3. Wrap up, Pratt Center to:
- Circulate a draft document for local hiring and soil questions,
 - Work on a draft proposal for email updates/information sharing in between meetings
 - Revise format of meetings moving forward to allow more time for discussion and strategy