

East Side Coastal Resiliency Community Advisory Group ESCR CAG

ESCR CAG KICKOFF – MEETING SUMMARY¹

June 17, 2020 (via Zoom)

CAG Guidelines

- Tara went over drafted guidelines.

CAG Purpose and Role

- Paula explained the CAG's purpose, including its mission to track the City's progress.

Facilitator Purpose and Role

- Paula discussed the Pratt Center's role as facilitator. This includes making recommendations, and bridging the community and the project team.

DDC Project Team and Roles

- The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) is managing the project on behalf of the City.
- Q presented on behalf of the DDC team and expressed DDC's desire to keep the community updated as much as possible.
- HNTB/LiRo is the new consultant design team for the procurement and construction phase.
- No CCLs (Community Construction Liaisons) have been hired yet, but DDC will update the CAG once it's closer to construction time.

Current Project Status

- Project is on schedule for Fall 2020 but will not begin before September.
- Project design, procurement, and construction have not been impacted; preparing for fall construction.
- There was no pause on the project due to COVID-19, but they will need time to understand overall long-term impact on major construction projects like ESCR.
- There have been no delays on the project to date. We are currently on schedule to start construction this Fall as originally planned, however, need time to understand the overall impacts of COVID-19 on the City's major construction projects

¹ Prepared by Pratt Center for Community Development

- Project Area 2 starts in early to mid-fall; Project Area 1 will likely start in November. This means that the planned park closures would not take place until November.
- The first two months of construction will likely not have much of an impact on air quality and noise pollution. However, once construction is farther along, contractors will be creating environmental monitoring reports.
 - Environmental monitoring reports will be shared as they are rolled out.
- Many have expressed concerns about construction hours. DDC will make every effort to reduce overnight construction, including additional traffic routing to explore/detours that will reduce overnight construction hours. This item is in progress.

Community Engagement Strategy Status

- DDC provided an overview of their proposed community engagement strategy status, but are open to ideas and comments.
- Website and Social Media
 - Website and social media accounts have taken longer than expected to launch because DDC would like a comprehensive rollout. They are working with multiple City IT Departments, but hope to wrap this up in summertime (within the next month or two).
 - This includes expanding the current project website to include comprehensive project information on both construction and design phases (construction updates, meeting presentations).
 - DDC and other city agencies will utilize existing social media platforms.
 - Social media handles to be shared at the next meeting
 - Preparing draft content and process to start rolling this out over the summer
 - Website and social media are targeted to roll out before construction.
- Interpretive Resiliency Signage
 - They are currently preparing a conceptual design to be presented to the Public Design Commission for feedback. It will also be shared with the community and public.
 - This will also be shown to the CAG and there will be more details on the timeline within the next month or so.
- Web-based Public Inquiry Tool
 - This tool will allow them to roll out updates in a timelier manner and to receive comments from the community.
 - Residents will be able to log in, ask questions, and have their questions answered by the right people.
 - DDC is managing this project, so DDC becomes the hub, before distributing the questions to the right agencies.
 - DDC hopes to present the tool at the next CAG meeting.
- Community Information Center (CIC)
 - DDC is currently considering potential commercial spaces in the project area to establish this center.
 - The CIC will be a space for public and CAG meetings, and a space for the Community Construction Liaisons to be available in-person for questions from community members.
 - Two people will work there with iPads
 - The center may also be used as an exhibition space with posters and digital devices so that students and residents can learn more about the project.
 - They hope to allow the center to be booked by local organizations so that they can use it, when available, for meetings and events.

- DDC has already identified a handful of locations, but have not selected one. It will ideally be central to both Community Districts 3 and 6.
- Community Construction Liaisons (CCL)
 - They will serve as a bridge between construction crew, construction contractors, and the community on the other side and then DDC and HNTB/LiBro.
- COVID-19 Public Engagement
 - DDC is considering creative strategies for outreach.
 - They are considering what steps need to be taken so that they are consistently available and implement their community engagement strategies, given the health crisis and uncertainty.

Next Steps

- The next meeting hasn't been confirmed yet, but will likely be in September or October, right before construction starts.
- Pratt recommends quarterly meetings, but can increase meetings as needed.
- Pratt will be soliciting feedback from the CAG over the summer.
- Pratt has started interviewing CAG members individually, but hopes to wrap those up in the next few weeks.

Q & A

Pat Arnow

- Is there any way to request action in some way or another to report problems or issues? To make sure city officials are informed of what's going on, and see if we can make changes?
 - Trying to make ourselves available on multiple avenues (e.g., inquiry tool)
 - CAG is one of the primary vehicles to collaborate and discuss
 - Existing lines of communication: emails, social media accounts, phones
- Are we not supposed to say what goes on in CAG meetings?
 - This is specifically for the press, as it is okay to discuss the meetings within your organization.

Michael Marino

- What is the plan for DDC to start returning to Community Board meetings to give CB updates since we can't share the information ourselves?
 - DDC will be at upcoming CB6 (next week) and CB 3 (next month) meetings

Tony Rivera

- COVID-19's impact on budget – do we have a fully funded project to get us to completion?
 - Yes, the project is fully funded, which is why we've been allowed to move forward in this crisis.
- Air quality – how will that be tracked? Are you taking tests of apartments today, and tracking what it is today and then monitoring changes overtime?
 - DDC will circle back with details on air monitoring.
 - This is something that is under development and they are working with HNTB on this.
 - Contractor operations will be monitored.

Ayo Harrington

- Comment: Ayo clarified expectations that CAG members would not talk to the media on behalf of the CAG, but that members would still talk to the press.
- Permits and use on ball fields – She would like to be clear that those who will have priority to use the park are in fact local leagues and schools. She would like assurance that private schools and schools in other leagues outside this community are not prioritized. She requested that someone from Parks guarantee this.
 - Permits for ball fields will always be for local leagues.
 - Parks have started accepting applications for playground permits this fall to understand what the need is. These haven't been processed yet.
 - Priority has, and will continue to be, for local leagues.
- Ayo requested that Parks run through permits with this group (letting the CAG weigh in), before signing off

Christine Datz Romero

- The City's failure to update organizations and communities about the construction timeline was very disappointing. The City needs to be better with public notice.
 - DDC hopes that this CAG can be a platform to make themselves available.
- How can CAG members provide input on plans if we meet in November, when construction will have started?
 - The next CAG meeting will be earlier than November.

Dov Goldman

- There are other large projects going on at the same time (e.g., Williamsburg bridge). Will we get information on other projects concurrently?
 - If there are city projects, we will coordinate with city agencies to ensure we include them in our updates and in these CAG meetings.

Susan Steinberg

- Will we be provided with a copy of today's presentation?
 - CAG presentations will be posted online.
 - They will be uploaded on the ESCR website, and a link will be sent to everyone.

Attendee List

Name	Organization
Councilmember Keith Powers	City Council
Councilmember Carlina Rivera	City Council
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer	MBPO
Chris Collins	Solar One
Ayo Harrington	LES Ready!
Christine Datz-Romero	LES Ecology Center
Damaris Reyes	GOLES
Dov Goldman	East River Housing

Mathew Quezada	Hillman Housing
Richard Heitler	Village East Towers
Sam Moskowitz	Gouverneur Gardens
Frank Avila Goldman	LES ERRC
Rick Hayduk	Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Management
Susan Steinberg	Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Tenant Association
Peter Davis	Waterside Plaza Management
Francine Jean	Two Bridges
Dereese Huff	Campos Plaza I
Michael Marino	Friends of Corlears Hook
Martin Barrett	Stuyvesant Cove Park Association
Pat Arnow	East River Park Action
Molly Hollister	Community Board 6
Trever Holland	Community Board 3-Parks, Waterfront, & Resiliency
Dianne Lake	East River Alliance
Seth Coren	Peter Stuyvesant Little League
Anthony (Tony) Rivera	OLS Little League
Inez Robinson-Turpin	Campos Plaza II
Mercedes Harvell	Riis Houses
Camille Napoleon	Baruch Houses
Jeff Gillers	Hillman Housing
Mike Arnon	Waterside Plaza Tenant Association
Daphne Williams	Riis Houses
How Sheen Pau	NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC)
Thu-Loan Dinh	NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC)
Bobby Issac	NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC)
Mihir Shah	NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC)
Luis Caminero	NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC)
Eric Ilijevich	NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC)
Kiumars Amiri (Q)	NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC)
Fay Lee	NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC)

Jeffrey Margolies	NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC)
Ophelia Rivas	NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC)
Neg Lakew	NYC Dept of Transportation (DOT)
Jennifer Leung	NYC Dept of Transportation (DOT)
Ken Lam	NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Humberto Galarza	NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Scott Shostak	NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC)
Alda Chan	NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks)
Minelly De Coo	Office of the Deputy Mayor of Operations (DMO)
Cherry Mui	Mayor's Office of Resiliency (MOR)
Matthew Washington	Manhattan Borough President's Office (MBPO)
Stephanie Chan	Manhattan Borough President's Office (MBPO)
Brian Lewis	Manhattan Borough President's Office (MBPO)
Pedro Carillo	Councilmember Carlina Rivera's Office
Gigi Li	Councilmember Margaret Chin's Office
Anthony Drummond	Councilmember Margaret Chin's Office
Ben Jacobs	Councilmember Keith Powers' Office
Desiree Gazzo	HNTB/LiRo Team
Leah Wener	HNTB/LiRo Team
Melissa Johnson	HNTB/LiRo Team
Douglas Champlin	HNTB/LiRo Team
Robert Conway	HNTB/LiRo Team
William Marman	HNTB/LiRo Team
Joseph Petrocelli	HNTB/LiRo Team
Paula Crespo	Pratt Center
Tara Duvivier	Pratt Center
Elena Conte	Pratt Center
Jacqueline Ting	Pratt Center
Katherine Rivard	Pratt Center