



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



PAUL FOSTER, CHAIRMAN

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 12th, 2010 @ 6:30PM

- I. **Discussion about Temporary Uses for the Kingsbridge Armory**
 - A. The Committee discussed current and possible uses for the Armory until a plan is adopted for its redevelopment. The committee noted that, in general, uses on the property outside the building may be more viable for interim uses.
 - B. Filming – Currently some film productions are using the Armory. This activity goes through the Office of Film, Theater and Production. Parking at the Armory minimizes impacts on the community. Catering for the productions may be an opportunity for local businesses if they can take advantage of MWBE provisions.
 - C. Farmer's Market – The large space at the corner of Kingsbridge Road and Reservoir Avenue has been discussed as a location for a farmer's market. The committee will try to arrange a discussion with Grow NYC to explore this possibility.
 - D. Large Events – There may be opportunities for concerts, film festivals, flower shows, or other events, if the City provides a manager.
 - E. Sidewalks – A broken section of sidewalk needs to be repaired and snow removal will be necessary during the winter
 - F. The Chair will try to arrange with the Economic Development Corporation to discuss the management of the Armory at a future meeting.
- II. **Letter to Department of Consumer Affairs**
 - A. There have been delays by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) in responding to complaints about overcharging at a supermarket. The Committee discussed a draft letter, and unanimously passed a motion to send the letter with revisions, and to invite a representative from DCA to the next meeting. The revised letter was emailed to the Committee after the meeting for final review.
 - B. The District Manager reported that DCA and the Department of Small Business Services recently conducted educational visits to businesses in the Jerome/Gun Hill area. Business owners were informed about problems at their stores that could result in violations.
- III. **Comptroller's Task Force's report on Public Benefit Agreements**
 - A. The Chair informed the Committee that the report of the Comptroller's Task Force is available online. Community Board 7 previously voted to include a benefits agreement with the Armory project, and the recommendations from this report may help inform future discussions about large projects. The report is available at: <http://www.comptroller.nyc.gov/bureaus/opm/pba/pdf/Task-Force-Report-Final.pdf>.
- IV. **Capital and Expense Budget Items**
 - A. The Committee reviewed the previous year's requests and completed this year's requests for Economic Development. In order of the Committee's importance:
 - B. Capital
 1. Acquire space on Jerome Avenue for the mandated animal shelter
 2. Develop the old Fordham Library for community uses
 3. Establish a water taxi at Fordham Landing
 4. Create retail space in the Fordham Road station on the D Train
 - C. Expense
 1. Staff management for interim uses of the Armory



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2. Provide business education for energy sustainability
3. Create a LEED certification training center
4. Create a business incubator

V. Future Topics

- A. There was a brief discussion of future topics:
- B. Economic development along Webster Avenue will be discussed in greater depth as the land use process moves further along.
- C. The owner of Foodtown will be discussing his rebuilding plans at the General Board meeting this month. Recovery from the fire and greater diversity in businesses for 204th/Bainbridge will be a topic of an upcoming Committee meeting.