

Land Use & Waterfront Committee

Minutes Of Meeting Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Attending: Committee members: Fred Arcaro, James Collins, Colleen Curtis, Adam Hartke, Ellen Imbimbo-Vice Chair, Kathleen Kelly, Sandra McKee, Terrence O'Neal, Keith Powers, Lawrence Scheyer, Ann Seligman, Lou Sepersky, Sandro Sherrod (Chair), Letty Simon, Kathy Thompson, John Petit West.

CB6 Board Members: Reps: Ahmed Tigani (BP's Office) Bob Tuttle (DCP). Guests:

Meeting convened at 7:05 pm by Sandro Sherrod, Chair with a quorum present.

Lynn Wei and David Hopkins of the NYCEDC presented the East 34th St. Heliport: Special Permit Briefing

The ULURP for the site was certified last Tuesday and the NYCEDC is proceeding with the renewal of the special permit for the site which expired in 2012. The EDC is looking for a 10 year renewal that would coincide with selecting a new operator.

The existing heliport is owned by NYC, was opened in 1962 and is run by Atlantic Aviation. The current agreement expires August 31, 2017 with a probable 6 month extension. The city is preparing a new RFP and anticipates a new operator.

There will be 4 landing spaces, no tourist or sightseeing flights are allowed and the facility will operate from 8AM to 8PM Monday through Friday, with no weekend flights and a limit of 28,000 operations per year. (as a reference last year there were 16,000 operations, comprised of 8,000 flights).

- The committee questioned if the Heliport could be used for community events, previously this had been left up to the discretion of the operator and the committee requested that community use be made a requirement of the RFP.
- The NYCEDC clarified that if the site was used for events that have over 2,000 people it would require a temporary assembly permit and the community would be notified of the event.
- The DOT has a proposal to enhance the Greenway in this area that does not clearly identify the jurisdiction of each agency, a clarification is required.
- The committee requested that fencing, and built elements not protrude into the greenway and driving lane. This concern was documented in the committee's previous resolution.
- The committee also urged the NYCEDC to use this opportunity to upgrade the facility as it will be in place for 10 years.
- Committee member Lou Sepersky noted that previously helicopters have landed outside of the stated operating hours and requested information/data on out of hour flights and why they occurred. The NYCEDC stated that the secret service and several other agencies use the heliport and for security reasons they are not informed until after the use.

East Midtown Steering Committee Final Report

Chair Sherrod clarified that the discussion would be based on the issues that were identified in the list compiled by Terry O'Neal through his participation on the steering committee.

The discussion started with a request for members of the committee to present issues that they felt strongly needed to be discussed and were not addressed on the list.

Issues noted, were; the increase in ride hail services and their effect on traffic congestion within the zone, the use of POPS to contribute to open space.

George Janes an urban planner working with CB6 was introduced and his memo- Re: CB 6 Questions on East Midtown Rezoning was circulated.

The timing of the resolution was reviewed and the resolution must be ready for full board review on March 8. The Borough President's public hearing is taking place on March 2 and the input of the board will be incorporated.

Several items were defined as meriting further discussion but would not be included in the resolution:

1. Should ADA improvements be part of the MTA budget or developer funded
2. Interior spaces
3. Underground place making
4. The proximity of landmark transfers

The following issues will be developed for the resolution:

1. MTA improvements and Infrastructural importance
2. The Boundaries of the sub district and the encroachment east of Third Avenue
3. The priority of Open space and methods to achieve; pops, FAR increase, etc.
4. Inclusion of Mid block sites in the rezoning and the effect on daylight, etc.
5. Definition of above ground public realm improvements their defined & how they are materialized
6. The Affects on air, light and shadows that the rezoning will have.

The committee was divided into groups to address the issues and agreed to circulate their portions by Saturday evening. The committee will meet prior to the full board to review and adjust the resolution prior to the full board voting.

The committee voted by 1 vote to have the tone of the resolution be positive.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25

Minutes by Sandra McKee