

## Attendees

### **Task Force Members**

1. Nick Azadian, Sunset Park resident
2. David Bolotsky, Uncommon Goods
3. David Estrada, Sunset Park BID
4. Max Feld, Sunset Park resident
5. Damaris Gonzalez, DG Tax
6. Courtenay Granger, Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow
7. Dash Henley, NYCDOT
8. Russel Langman, Center for Family Life
9. Stephen Leone, Industrial Carting
10. Daniel Murphy, Brooklyn Community Board 7
11. Emily Riquelme Beaufort, NYCDOT
12. Summer Sandoval, UPROSE
13. John Santore, Sunset Park resident
14. Chris Taylor, Lilac Chocolates
15. Patrick Thrasher, Port Authority of NY & NJ / NYNJ Rail
16. Hannah Wade, NYU Langone
17. Pat Whelan, Sahadi's
18. Dan Wiley, U.S. Representative Nydia Velazquez's Office
19. Dr. Darlene Williams, Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow
20. Jenny Zhang, NYS Assembly Member Marcela Mitaynes's Office
21. Freda Zurita, NYS Senator Zellnor Myrie's Office

### **Members of Co-Convening Organizations**

1. Nse Esema, NYCEDC
2. Romulo Garza, NYCEDC
3. Marie Nachsin, SBIDC
4. Megan Quirk, NYCEDC
5. Christine Paglialunga, NYCEDC
6. Meredith Simon-Pearson, NYCEDC
7. Micaela Skoknic, SBIDC
8. Jesse Solomon, SBIDC
9. Eftihia Thomopoulos, NYCEDC
10. Justyn Turner, NYEDC

### **Guest Presenters**

1. Andel Koester, Karp Strategies
2. Cheryl Lim, Karp Strategies
3. Alba Pena, Equinor

4. James Colony, Steiner Studios
5. Debra Feinberg, Steiner Studios
6. Benjamin Tressler, Steiner Studios

### Members of the Public

1. Julia Foresman, Sunset Park resident
2. Tarry Hum, Sunset Park resident
3. Katie Walsh, Sunset Park resident

### Minutes

#### Welcome, Introductions

- SPTF co-convenor NYCEDC (Christine P.) opened the meeting acknowledging that an expected transportation conversation among the group would be held during a future SPTF meeting. Christine P. then noted that SPTF co-convenor SBIDC would take the reins in facilitating SPTF meetings on more of a regular basis, including this one
- SBIDC's Jesse S. introduced herself, and then went on to introduce the newest members of the Task Force. Each new member gave brief remarks on who they were, and why they were interested in joining the Task Force:
  - Nick Azadian, mechanical engineer and Sunset Park resident
  - Max Feld, currently completing his CUNY Master's thesis on industrial business zones and the geography of industrial jobs throughout New York City
  - John Santore, Sunset Park resident
  - Esther Sosa, Sunset Park resident
  - Stephen Leone, owner of a local business, Industrial Carting
  - Dr. Darlene Williams, Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow's new CEO
  - Marie Nachsin, SBIDC's new Deputy Director
- Jesse S. then went on to cover some housekeeping items:
  - A new SPTF [website](#) was launched
  - The SPTF co-convenors moved to establish a fixed, annual meeting calendar moving forward (with meetings slated for every March, June, September, and December moving forward)
  - Jesse S. reviewed the new membership process and its quarterly recruiting cycles (with parties interested in joining the Task Force to have the opportunity to do so every February, April, July, and October moving forward)
  - Jesse S. also noted that a few Task Force members suggested the creation of an SPTF contact listserv, and asked that any member who did *not* want their information shared to notify Christine P. via email

#### Steiner Studios Updates

- The Steiner Studios team (Debra Feinberg, Benjamin Tressler and James Colony) presented Steiner's submission to the Public Design Commission (PDC)
- Debra F. noted that they came before CB7 the week prior regarding a project design presentation to PDC. PDC is close to issuing a conditional approval. Debra F. also noted that they are submitting a park and playground design to PDC in another month

- Debra F. stated that, while this was a challenging process, it was moving along
- Benjamin T. then walked the TF through the studios' layout and designs
  - He reminded the group that Steiner Studios was building 8 new soundstages for studio film and TV production, as well as production support space, a new parking structure for approximately 550 vehicles, a renovation of historic buildings 57 and 58, a green roof design, enhancements to Bush Terminal Piers Park recommended by community members including children, \$25,000 in annual funding for park programming, and a rain garden. On the west elevation, a muralist and consultant would be hired to create artwork, with input on that art derived from community board engagement as well
  - He noted that the buildings would be built with red brick and ribbon windows, to distinguish them from the Steiner campus buildings at the Brooklyn Navy Yard
- Debra F. noted that, as part of their Workforce Training and Career Pathways commitments, they would collaborate with SBIDC's Workforce 1 Center and HireNYC, and would also aim to work with SBIDC to identify, train, and hire locally as much as possible
  - Steiner noted they were working closely with Brooklyn Workforce Partners (BWI) to support their efforts hire and train local community member for jobs in production and post-production roles. In addition, Steiner Studios runs its own 10-week summer internship program, and noted they were working to develop either a career and technical education programs in schools, or perhaps out of schools as enrichment in an effort to create a pipeline from which to source local talent
- The Steiner team then took questions from the Task Force
  - Katie W. asked about the comments, questions and issues that CB7 raised in the committee meeting last week., including questions on access to the park from 1st Ave , and other question on trucks emissions
    - Benjamin T. noted that, with respect to the relocated South entrance to the park, it is written very clearly in the agreement between Steiner Studios and NYCEDC that the existing entrance not be closed down until the relocated entrance is fully constructed and accessible. The details, location and nature of the alternative entrance are to be determined, and their hope is that the new entrance will be at least as nice, if not nicer, than the existing one
    - The Steiner team is also contemplating various traffic interventions including traffic signals, stop signs, enhanced pedestrian walkways, etc.
  - The Steiner team also discussed their local hiring goals, committing to follow up with SBIDC to look more closely at workforce questions. What is currently expected is as follows:
    - 1,800 temporary construction jobs through HireNYC (an NYCEDC program to be heavily marketed in Sunset Park)
    - 2,200 permanent jobs, all associated with film production, Steiner working with WF1 Center and with PA program to develop locally
- A motion was made by the moderators to advance to the next part of the meeting agenda in the interest of time

## Equinor Updates

- Nse E. of NYCEDC and Alba P. of Equinor presented on the OSW subcommittees:
  - Equinor has committed to \$5M in green energy innovation and a community fund. The fund will be governed by two sub-committees, the Strategic Development Sub-Committee and the Selection Sub-Committee, to help advise how the money should be spent. Alba reviewed what would be expected of committee members, and noted that elected officials could participate in an advisory capacity
  - Nse E. and Alba P. went into the nuances of each committee, and noted they were looking to recruit 3 members from the Task Force for the Strategy Development Committee (the Selection Committee would be formed in 9 months)
  - Nse. E. also explained what roles Equinor, NYCEDC, the Committee, and the Committee's facilitatory, Karp Strategies, would play and the responsibilities each entity would hold
  
- The OSW team then took a few questions from the Task Force:
  - John S.: Will the Strategic Development Committee meetings be public? Will they produce minutes? Will the public be able to comment on them?
    - Nse E.: The progress of the meetings will be shared though a website.
    - Christine P.: The Committees will be presenting updates at each SPTF meeting
  - John S.: Reading from a former presentation, in terms of decisions made, does the final authority for decisions lie with NYCEDC and Equinor?
    - Nse E.: Correct. EDC and Equinor have final authority and "veto" power, but SPTF representatives are there to inform the conversation
  - Esther S.: Is going to be a periodic update to the community through a public forum?
    - Christine P.: The Committee will present at SPTF meetings and at CB7 meetings
  - Nick A.: Could there be more input from the SPTF on the City-wide perspective?
    - Nse E.: The chart indicates the party that takes the lead on that, but the perspective can be informed by other members
  - John S: Please provide clarity on the Committee structure and the \$5M Fund. What elected officials were part of this? Do NYCEDC and Equinor have the last say in how the money is used?
    - Nse: This fund is not part of the 2015 RFP. This fund was established as a result of negotiations between Equinor and NYCEDC, as part Equinor's lease at SBMT
    - Dan W.: There is openness to getting more community input on how to spend the fund
  - Katie W.: Could there be both a governance structure and a management structure to manage the resources?
    - Alba P.: Equinor is open to exploring this, but NYCEDC would need to agree to it
    - Nse E.: NYCEDC is open to exploring this, but a lot of questions are opened up with this possibility. She noted that the Strategic Development Committee could consider this idea

- Christine P. then noted that they had received more than 3 submissions to join the Subcommittee and would have to move to a vote. She then asked each person who expressed interest in joining the Subcommittee to give a short pitch to the rest of the Task Force on why they want to
  - Nick Azadian noted that he wants to ensure green investments are made in a way that makes sure folks in the neighborhood are not left behind
  - Pat Whelan noted that he cares deeply about what happens in the neighborhood
  - Jesse Solomon noted that SBIDC's mission is to connect folks to the working waterfront, and thus wants to make sure the fund will represent residents and workers in the community
  - Summer Sandoval noted that UPROSE has been active in the Sunset Park community for 55 years, has done much community-led organizing and planning, and has been pushing for large scale investments in the community for a long time. They are committed to being part of the decision-making group for accountability and the optimization of resources
  - Courtney Granger: noted that Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow were excited for opportunity to participate, and were trying to connect young adults to more opportunities
  - John Santore withdrew his nomination
- Christine P. thanked everyone for their pitches, and reminded the TF members to send their nominations to her by email

## **District Updates**

### **Made in New York**

- Christine P. then provided updates on MiNY North, MiNY South, and Bush Terminal Piers Park. She noted NYCEDC is responsible for fixing a sinkhole at the park; work on the sinkhole is slated to begin Winter 2022.

### **Pier 6**

- Christine P. reported that the NYCEDC design team is currently assessing the pier's condition

### **Brooklyn Wholesale Meat Market:**

- Christine P. reported that the NYCEDC team is in the process of doing a condition assessment of the 215,000 SF campus of buildings

### **One Way Pair Study**

- Megan Q. reported that the draft feasibility report was presented to NYCDOT for review in August

### **Brooklyn Army Terminal**

- Christine P. reported that the NYCEDC team were finalizing an agreement with NYCDOT for a new Citibike dock besides ferry station
- In addition, BAT welcomed some new tenants (RVinyl Expansion, Artistic Furniture and Arch Furniture)

## Workforce Trends

- Jesse S. reported that, from Dec 1, 2020 to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, SBIDC's Workforce 1 Center connected New Yorkers to roughly 100 jobs.

## Q&A + Comments

- Jesse S.: When will comments on the One Way Pair Study be addressed and what's the implementation timeline?
  - Megan Q.: Comments should be addressed within the next couple of weeks, which will then be incorporated into our report and presentation to the Community Board. The team doesn't have an implementation timeline yet
- Pat W.: Did the One Way Pair Study include NYU Langone's input?
  - Megan Q.: Yes
- Katie W.: What is the status of pending outstanding infrastructure needs at Bush Terminal Piers Park?
  - Christine P.: Completing the park is part of NYCEDC's agreement with Steiner; they are working on a design, which was recently presented to NYC Parks. Completion will be in line with completion of the rest of the campus (around 2025). The reason the park has not been completed is because NYCEDC had lacked funding, and the deal with Steiner presents an opportunity to leverage private funds to complete the park.
- Katie W.: How will the flow of vehicles, Steiner's included, work at the 50<sup>th</sup> Street & 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue intersection, given the existing presence of a municipal waste transfer station there and the high level of activity already present on the streets? Where will staging happen, how will truck and car and people movement flow?
  - Benjamin T.: The existing configuration of truck and commercial vehicle access works at 50<sup>th</sup> Street. The south entrance of the park is combined with that entrance, which is not ideal, since it means having pedestrians and bikes at the same commercial entrance. The Steiner team intends to separate both access points and move the south entrance further south, so that pedestrians and cyclists enter at a different point than trucks and commercial vehicles. The Steiner team is also looking for ways to enhance the intersection, and will provide more detailed proposals when they have them. The bottom line is that having safe intersections is in both the community's and Steiner's best interests
- Daniel M.: In general, derelict and idling private trucks, which often idle all around rather than in one location, should be encouraged to move along. Additionally, why not let NYC Parks oversee Bush Terminal Piers Park completely?
  - Christine P.: NYCEDC have talked to NYC Parks about this in the past, but there are operational reasons for NYCEDC to want to maintain oversight of this park

- Dan W. (comment): Is there a proposal to close the waste connection stations and start using the railways and waterways to move refuse? Perhaps this is something the SPTF might look into.
- John S.: Can the SPTF get the full data of Workforce1 Center placements?
  - Jesse S. SBIDC does not have the full authority to share those, and will have to see if NYC SBS would allow it
- John S. where did funds for the Pier 6 project come from?
  - Christine P.: a pool of money that is part of the City Capital budget
- John S.: Can you share the full data on Brooklyn Army Terminal jobs between 2011 and 2020? Has that data been provided to the Task Force and elected officials?
  - Christine P.: No one has asked for this information before
    - [Addendum: Christine P. asked if other SPTF members were interested in receiving the data, no one responded except for Pat Whelan who said no]
- John S.: What is the height of Buildings 57 and 58?
  - Benjamin T.: approximately 80 feet, and the mid-rise section is 110 feet
- The group ran out of time to address every question asked and comment made; as noted below, Steiner Studios noted that they would follow up via email on the questions the group did not get to. These questions included:
  - From Stephen L.:
    - What is projected timeline for completion of construction?
    - Is Steiner's project related to the Made in NY project, which was to include space dedicated to the apparel manufacturing industry?
  - From John S.:
    - How tall are the new studios at their tallest point?
    - Can all available ITC Center hiring and placement data be provided to all Task Force members ASAP?
    - Can the Production Assistant (PA) Training Program and Post-Production Training Program data be provided to all Task Force members ASAP, along with associated MOUs requiring data collection?
    - Did NYCEDC evaluate the veracity and applicability of the HR&A TV and film industry data presented to CB7 in November 2020? If so, can it explain its analysis ASAP?
    - Did Steiner Studios provide NYCEDC or the Task Force with evidence backing its job projections for its project? If so, can that evidence be provided to the Task Force ASAP?
  - From Summer S.:
    - Comment: UPROSE are very concerned about how it appears that Steiner Studios is only interested in dictating the type of "benefits" for the community instead of being truly committed to working with the community to ensure development is in alignment with community concerns, needs, and priorities
    - Comment: She wanted to re-iterate the multiple concerns regarding energy and Steiner's commitment to work with the community that she preciously

shared on the Community Board 7 meeting the week prior. 1. In the CB7 meeting, Steiner shared that they have plans to build a new substation that was not mentioned here. 2. There are no plans for energy storage. 3. The planned 2 megawatts of energy include NO portion dedicated to community solar i.e. no direct savings/economic benefits shared with the community. UPROSE has worked tirelessly to create an equitable solar market. In the CB7 Meeting last week, Doug Steiner claimed there was no "economic" way to share even a small portion of the giant project for community solar, even though we helped create a state incentive they would qualify for if they worked with CBOs to have community solar. 4. On the site plan it shows solar + green roof, but when questioned, Steiner studios said it would either or but not both

### Conclusion

- Representatives from Steiner Studios noted they would follow up via email on the questions addressed to them that the group did not get to before the meeting's conclusion
- The SPTF co-conveners reminded the SPTF members to vote on who they would want to be on Strategic Subcommittee via email to Christine P
- The SPTF co-conveners reminded the SPTF members to let Christine P. know if people would not want to be included in the list serve proposed by John Santore
- The SPTF co-conveners thanked everyone for attending and concluded the meeting