

Sunset Park Task Force
Thursday, February 23, 2023, from 6:00-8:00 pm

ATTENDEES

Task Force Members

1. Andrew Gustavson, Turnstile Tours
2. Ashley Ball, OBT
3. Carlos Calzadilla, State Senator Andrew Gouardes' Office
4. Chris Taylor, Lilac Chocolates
5. Cindy VandenBosch, Brooklyn CB 7
6. Damaris Gonzalez, DG Tax
7. David Bolotsky, Uncommon Goods
8. Edward Cerna, Council Member Alexa Aviles' Office
9. Elizabeth Yeampierre, UPROSE
10. Emily Riquelme Beaufort, NYC DOT
11. Emmitt Mendoza, State Assembly Marcela Mitaynes' Office
12. Esther Sosa, Sunset Park Resident
13. John Santore, Sunset Park Resident
14. Katherine Walsh, Sunset Park Resident
15. Max Feld, Sunset Park Resident
16. Mike Stamatis, SBMT

17. Nick Azadian, Sunset Park Resident
18. Sarah Elbakri, UPROSE
19. Steve Mei, CPC

Members of Co-Convening Organizations

1. Christine Paglialunga, NYCEDC
2. Jesse Solomon, SBIDC
3. Justyn Turner, NYCEDC
4. Brady Meixell, SBIDC
5. Isabelle Bui, NYCEDC
6. Jacqueline Ting, NYCEDC
7. Julia Zita, NYCEDC
8. Micaela Skoknic, SBIDC
9. Nse Esema, NYCEDC
10. Romulo Garza, NYCEDC

Guest Presenters

1. Aaron Baltich-Schecter, Equinor

MEETING NOTES

Part I: Welcome, Introductions

Christine Paglialunga opened the meeting and walked through the meeting agenda. She introduced new members of the Task Force and did roll call.

Select Comments from Task Force Members:

- Task Force membership needs to be more intentional in ensuring that there is proportional representation on this body.

Part II: Priority Setting for 2023

Christine Paglialunga and Jesse Solomon presented on the history of the Task Force and how the group has evolved to provide context for the priority setting discussion. Justyn Turner walked through the priority setting process going forward, laid out the discussion guidelines, and asked the group for any other guidelines that should be added. He then facilitated the discussion.

Select Comments About the Overall Process:

- The Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing need be incorporated into the priority setting discussion guidelines.
- All elected officials must be included in the priority setting process.
- There were concerns about a lack of accountability for the priority topics on screen, and that some priorities may not get any votes but is still important to the community.

Priority A - Developing and Implementing Strategies to Use the Special Purpose Projects Fund

Select comments:

- There is a lot of work to do on this and how to define milestones and outcome. The dollar figure is a little over \$30,000 over the last three years. Once Equinor moves in, that figure will go up from rent (five percent of Equinor's rent every year goes to this fund).
- We already engaged a subcommittee around this, but now we need to work on a process on how to utilize this fund. There may be enough time and/or resources to address this priority in the next three meetings of the year; a subcommittee may need to be reassigned to do this.

Priority B - Promoting Small Business Resiliency and Growth Along Sunset Park's Industrial Waterfront

Select comments:

- It is important to define what is a small business and be specific with language here.
- The group may want to add some M/WBE language to this priority and make sure we are promoting local businesses that are going to be more impacted by economic instability. This should be a priority but may need more specificity.
- The vast majority of M/WBEs are not certified, so we should make sure that we are not just defining it in a legal way so that not just a few can qualify. We should think more about the change that we can facilitate with these priorities when it comes to broad topics like resiliency of small businesses.

Priority C - Promoting Workforce Development Opportunities That Connect Sunset Park Residents to Emerging Jobs Along the Waterfront and Pathways to Employment

Select comments:

- This is important and another priority where specificity is important when we are talking about it. Any kind of workforce could come to the industrial waterfront and displace the community. If we can call it green development, we make sure that it is not things that can be done anywhere else in the city. If we talk about industrial jobs and green development, and are clear about this, then this is a priority.
- Can we also clarify what type of jobs? Are they union jobs? What is the intent on the types of jobs that we are hoping to create.
- What we heard from the job fair in Red Hook was that they provide job programs and/or training, but it isn't connected to a job at the end. This isn't very beneficial. We need to ensure that we are promoting or enabling our neighbors to get to these jobs. There needs to be an incentive for businesses to attract and retain workers. We could also invest in cooperative businesses and train people to get them started and get them jobs.

Priority D - Promoting Safe and Accessible Transportation Options in Sunset Park, Particularly Along 3rd Avenue

Select comments:

- This is one of the most immediate impacts we can have. [The redevelopment of the BQE] is a once in a generation opportunity to make sure that our minority community is not marginalized, and it can make an impact in the lives of our community.
- We need to encourage pedestrian safety, and concerns along 2nd and 3rd Avenue could benefit from additional attention and focus.
- We need to ensure accessibility in transportation.

Priority E - Promoting Sustainable Last Mile Delivery Via NYC Waterways and Rail

Select comments:

- This is an issue in Sunset Park. Air pollution is only going to get worse. There is so much opportunity to get these trucks off the road, and more modern ways to get our packages. The use of waterways is a very significant way to reduce pollution.
- The priority may make more sense to promote electric trucks or something else—maybe it should just be transportation. This is also a workforce topic, and warehouses are not job dense, they are not union, and are being automated as quickly as possible.
- If we talk about alternative transportation, it doesn't mean more trucks off the roads in Sunset Park. We can't just think about it in these terms of last mile.

Priority F - Promoting Climate Resiliency Through Clean Energy, Circular Industrial Economy, and Just Transition Principles

Select comments:

- It is critical for us to use our waterfront space for this.
- This should be added to Priority C. They work in tandem with each other in terms of jobs.

Priority G - Understanding Offshore Wind Community Investments

Select comments:

- This is a priority. The Task Force was created for SBMT, and we are going to need to make this a priority for the next three or four years. If we want to be credible, we need to address SBMT, OSW, and the EDC portfolio. I support everything on here, but we don't have enough time to focus on everything.
- Proposal to combine Priorities C, F, and G because they are all about green energy, wind, and job creation, and combine Priorities D and E into transportation. These priorities are interconnected. You can't have workforce without transportation. They are all keys to the success of the transformation of the waterfront.
- In the past, the Task Force was not democratic, and that made it very effective. I am glad we are more democratic, but we need to remain effective. The goal should not be about having meetings and discussions, but to enact results. Without a specific mandate, there is not a specific task to be effective on. There is power and access in this room of community leaders, business leaders, and elected officials. We need to be clear about what we can achieve and be aligned on what is achievable.

Priority H - Connecting Upland Small Businesses with the Industrial Businesses West of 3rd Avenue

Select comments:

- We support it because it is very possible to have two sectors not engaging that need to connect. The uplink connector is tremendously important. When we were creating the greenway, we knew we needed to connect community and interconnect and bring in economic justice.

Priority I - Exploring the Creation of a Community Land Trust to Preserve Land in The District from Certain Kind of Development

Select comments:

- There have been discussions on this, what it could mean for affordable housing and different purposes. This could be interesting for the Task Force to take on.
- It would be good to determine what is being built, housing or other.

Task Force members discussed about combining certain priorities. Note that representatives of elected offices did not participate in this. The group voted, and the results are:

- **14 votes for Priorities CFG**
- **10 votes for Priorities DE**
- **8 votes for Priority A**
- 5 votes for Priority I
- 5 votes for Priority B
- 1 vote for Priority H

Part III: Closing Remarks

- Submissions for the Offshore Wind Ecosystem Fund RFP are due April 1.
- The Co-Conveners will slightly rework Priorities CFG and DE to make them more cohesive. They will also wait for feedback from elected offices.
- For now, Task Force members can contact Christine and Jesse about any comments or concerns that may need to be addressed with the full group. We can discuss further in a future meeting on how we want to communicate with one another going forward.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.