

Sunset Park Task Force
Wednesday February 28th, from 6:00-8:00 pm

ATTENDEES

Task Force Members

1. Katie Walsh, Community Board 7
2. Jeremy Laufer, Community Board 7
3. Edie Sharp, Sunset Park Resident
4. John Santore, Sunset Park Resident
5. Edie Sharp, Sunset Park Resident
6. Esther Sosa, Resident
7. Andrew Gustavson, Turnstile Tours
8. State Senator Andrew Gounardes
9. Councilmember Alexa Avilés
10. Carlos Calzadilla, State Senator Andrew Gounardes' Office
11. Emmitt Mendoza, State Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes' Office
12. Mayra Molina, US Representative Dan Goldman's Office
13. Pat Whelan, Sahadi's Fine Foods
14. Randy Peers, Brooklyn Chamber
15. Stephen Leone, Industrial Carting

16. Damaris Gonzalez, DG Tax
17. David Bolotsky, Uncommon Goods
18. Emily Riquelme Beaufort
19. Greg Rideout, OBT
20. Jeffrey Velasquez, PANYNJ
21. Mike Stamatis, SBMT
22. Nebraska Hernandez, UPROSE

Members of Co-Convening Organizations

1. Christine Paglialunga, NYCEDC
2. Jesse Solomon, SBIDC
3. Brady Meixell, SBIDC
4. Jackie Ting, NYCEDC
5. Tara Das, NYCEDC
6. Gregory Vayngurt, NYCEDC
7. Gigi Li, NYCEDC
8. Isabelle Bui, NYCEDC
9. Max Taffet, NYCEDC

MEETING NOTES

Part I: Welcome, Introductions

- Tara Das (TD) welcomes everyone to the meeting, reviews the agenda and housekeeping
- SPTF meeting cadence will remain quarterly, with each meeting's timing to rotate throughout the day to accommodate all members' availability. NYCEDC commits to continuing to talk about project updates but will focus the task force on the Special Purpose Projects Fund. Agenda and meeting times will not be voted on in advance.

Part II: Special Purpose Projects Fund

- Background: In 2015 NYCEDC entered into an agreement to establish the Special Purpose Projects Fund, funded by rent revenues from the SBMT sublease.
 - EDC has a master lease at SBMT. The site was reactivated and EDC issued an RFP to select an operator. SSBMT was selected to activate for offshore wind and maritime uses. SSBMT then issued an RFP and selected Equinor. As part of the 2015

Points Of Agreement for the project, EDC agreed that up to 5% of rent would go towards special purpose in community. Rent escalates each year so the level of annual funds goes up each year.

- The fund has \$116,000 as of November, 2023, and is expected to increase to \$358,000 by end of 2024.
- The Sunset Park Task Force had previously engaged a subcommittee on SPPF in 2018/2019, however the subcommittee made little progress on the process of envisioning purpose and parameters.
- Three topics need to be discussed: facilitation, engagement, and fund administration.
 - Facilitation: Proposal for a third party to facilitate conversations on questions that are central to the fund, including What kinds of projects should the fund support, and how frequently should fund be disbursed.
 - Engagement: Task Force members and CM will be integral to determining what projects are funded
 - Fund Administration: For 30-year lease, a framework for effective community engagement over course of that time frame is needed. NYCEDC, SBIDC, CM Aviles and several TF members support a 3rd party administrator.
- Next steps:
 - Q2 meeting: review best practices of fund set up, present comparative fund structures; finalize procedure for fund
 - Q3: ideate types of projects; finalize roles and responsibilities
 - Q4: Finalize procedure and governance for fund
 - If RFP procedure is pursued, it can take approximately ~6 months
 - EDC to get more information about:
 - Sources of funds to support facilitation and grant administration, including from the Mayor's office and CM's discretionary fund.

Select comments from Q&A

- Task Force needs to be substantially involved in creation and feedback process to set up the Special Purpose Projects Fund.
- CM Avilés would like to see Task Force focus efforts on Special Purpose Project Fund as its primary project. CM's expectation is to make sure there is robust community engagement on EDC projects in Sunset Park and that community voice is centered as decisionmakers not after the fact. Community engagement needs to happen in many ways not just in one particular venue.
- Concerns from several TF members that tapping into limited amount of funding would take away limited resource from community. Want to see funding come from a separate source.
 - EDC and CM to circle back on whether Mayor's Fund or council discretionary funds are a possibility.
- A facilitator could help come up with definition of "community" and how engagement with the Special Purpose Projects Fund is more representative of the full community.

Part III: EDC Updates (Christine Paglialunga and Max Taffet)

- Construction on MiNY North Campus fully completed by end of year.
- Steiner is expected to close financing in Q3 2024 and construction is expected to start shortly after. Started abatement on Unit G. Will start demolition in March.
- Park planning received PDC approval in December 2023
- Pier 6: Town Hall meeting held on Feb 12, 2024 to share early design concepts. A second town hall will be held this summer.
 - 5-acre pier in inaccessible condition. EDC plans to stabilize and turn into public space. \$25M available for design and construction
 - Last several months were spent focused on field and engineering studies. Several one-on-one and small group conversations with community organizations
 - Construction is planned to start in 2025
- Pier 7: Working on mitigation bank. Public comment period open.
 - Remnant of former earthen pier deeply eroded. Turning into mitigation bank. Remove fill, contaminants, and debris to create marine habitat.
 - Seeking state and federal approval to establish bank site. Released by US Army Corps of Engineers – public comment through 3/8/24.
- Green Economy Action Plan released on February 28th.
 - Establish climate innovation hub at BAT (100k sf)
 - Create Green Training Facilities in every borough
 - Activate harbor climate collaborative – other campuses on waterfront supporting climate solution programs.
 - Activate public sites for EV charging
 - Creating tax incentives for battery storage
- SBMT
 - Empire Wind COP approved in February for 80k square mile that begins 14 miles from Verrazano. Between 50-120 turbines.
 - Equinor expected to receive permits/approvals to commence construction this Spring; Groundbreaking to follow
- RAISE Grants
 - Federal source of funds to support transportation
 - EDC and DOT working on grant app to support: one way pair and reactivation of 51st St Float Bridge/Rail Yard.
 - In wake of hurricane sandy there was emergency borrowing of rail float to keep cross harbor rail system working.
 - While working on one-way pair, ensuring have well-functioning South Brooklyn Rail.
 - Next steps:

- Submitting application and reaching out to electeds/organizations/businesses for letters of support. Any implementations steps will be ironed out once we hear back on award.
 - Typically announced near end of year. October-December. Part of existing rail facility alongside first avenue. Has been rail float there out of operations due to hurricane sandy, which has meant no 51st street exit. So had to go down to 65th. This would mean fewer 51st to 65th st trains. Not interwoven with IBX, just bringing back to state of good repair. Goal of rail freight is to reduce trucks.
- Infrastructure Project
 - Started October 2022 and will be complete in Summer 2024
 - Street trees and furniture coming in soon

Part IV: Q&A

- The One Way Pair and 51st Float Bridge RAISE grant application went through competitive cross-agency process for this project to be selected to apply for the RAISE grant. This is indicative of the City prioritizing Sunset Park and getting trucks off the road.
- UPROSE concerned that Green Economy Plan is corporate-led top-down plan. The Climate Innovation Hub should not duplicate UPROSE's work and should support the community.
- Task Forces can be effective methods for effecting positive community change
- Original mandate of Task Force – the one articulated and signed in POA letter – was always to develop the special purpose project fund. This year's attention to the SPPF is a matter of refocusing.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.