

Sunset Park Task Force
Thursday, November 20th, from 6:00-8:00 pm

ATTENDEES

Task Force Members

1. Edie Sharp, Sunset Park Resident
2. Ross Joy, Councilmember Alexa Avilés' Office
3. Pat Whelan, Sahadi's Fine Foods
4. Esther Sosa, Sunset Park Resident
5. David Bolotsky, Uncommon Goods

5. Hazel Balaban, NYCED
6. Tara Das, NYCEDC
7. Nicklaus Smith, NYCEDC
8. Gabe Lefferts, NYCEDC
9. Mary Beth Williamson, NYCEDC
10. Mikelle Adgate, NYCEDC
11. Nse Esema, NYCEDC
12. Jessenia Cagle, NYCEDC
13. Annelies DeJong, NYCEDC
14. Preston , NYCEDC
15. Oscar Olvera, NYCEDC
16. Nolen Scruggs, NYCEDC

Members of Co-Convening Organizations

1. Gregory Vayngurt, NYCEDC
2. Jesse Solomon, SBIDC
3. Brady Meixell, SBIDC
4. Jennifer Brown, NYCEDC

Zoom Participants

Hazel Balaban, NYCEDC
Nse Esema, NYCEDC
Esther Sosa, Sunset Park Resident
Max Taffet, NYCEDC

Wei Zhang, CPC
Adam Rei Siegel, NYCEDC
Mikelle Adgate, NYCEDC
John Santore, Sunset Park Resident

Maria Ferreira, Center for Family Life
Mary Benedetto, NYCEDC
Daniel Veliz, OBT

Wendy Star, NYCEDC
Andrew Gustafson, Turnstile
Adam Rei Siegel, NYCEDC

MEETING NOTES

Part I: Welcome, Introductions (Gregory)

- Welcome by Greg – please use the mic if you are in the room – review housekeeping items in room versus zoom – panelists from EDC will be in room and online.

Part II: Councilmember – TF Achievements & Next Steps

- Looming question about what's next. Thank you to all the TF members -some who have left and some who are still here. Review accomplishments slide since 2015. We have deliberated over many months on what's next with the task force. Original TF accomplished a great deal but it's time to sunset that as it existed and look at new opportunities. When TF had focused projects, it was effective and brought different stakeholders to the table. Past life will sunset. Its new life will continue with EDC providing updates on the assets. Quarterly basis, agendas co-facilitated and informed by what the community wants to hear about. Pier 6 listed as an example. Will call it something else – neighborhood assemblies, etc. to continue to engage the community. Just reporting to the community board is not enough. We don't lose anything with this change – advisory role stays the same – but opens up to other community members.

Part III: Key Initiatives Continued & Asset Updates

- BATWorks
 - NSE presented the slides
 - BATWorks Community and Stakeholder Roundtable on December 16
- Economic Mobility Network
 - Jesse presented the slides
 - First full network on December 11th
- Sunset Parks Special Projects Fund – Council Member Aviles describes this process and the money from SBMT – democratizing this process – similar to participatory budgeting process. Uncompensated work in the past for nonprofits. Attempt to open it up again – not insular. RFP for entity to hold and administer the fund. One holder hopefully for Red Hook and Sunset Park but separate resources per community. These resources will stay with the community and be guided by it. Exciting opportunity to create something different. Climate and relationships – anyone who still wants a deeper dive or understanding on any issues
 - Emmitt (AM Mityanes) asked if the administrator is making decisions? No – just administering not making the funding decisions. CM mentions again participatory grant-making process. CM says we want to stay flexible.
 - Katie – RFP says the funds to pay for it will come out of fund itself – she thinks we discussed in the past that it would be covered outside of the fund. What is the percentage that will be taken out of it? Preston responds that the RFP responses will address the costs and fee but emphasis is on maximizing the money to the grants and projects versus fee. CM – economies of scale with one administrator.

- Edie – if the intention is to engage more of the community – how will we bring more people to the table? How can TF members help in this effort? CM Aviles replied that the administrator and EDC and her office will participate in outreach.
 - Edie – neighborhood assemblies – what are we hoping to get out of it? Not specific enough to react to – specificity matters. CM – form and function of what TF has become. We want to keep sharing information and not just with the Community Board being the main platform. The agenda shaping based on what community members want to see. Relieving a nonprofit partner from having to co-lead on the agenda and they can participate as a stakeholder (SBIDC). Remains an information-sharing body but is not a decision-making body. If there are specific topics that the community wants to see, should they bring them to the CM office? CM Aviles says yes but we need to figure out the exact mechanism.
 - Evelyn (OBT) – consistency is important, assemblies feel like sporadic engagements and the TF was consistent and that was important. SPPF – equal disbursements of fund or RFP, scaled, etc.? How can this be disbursed equally?
 - CM Aviles – the most important thing is the fund will be flexible and local.
 - Emmitt asks what the three funds are. Preston responds with breakdown of three. Will there be the same admin for all 3 sites. No just an admin for the SPPF
 - Katie – new Mayoral administration – implications for EDC and CM, etc. What is the bearing on the things that we are talking about today? Appreciate the vision but we don't know what the accountability will be outside of that. New administration – changes about to happen is the elephant in the room. CM – can't promise the future, trying to move things along. If there is a transition we will reorient but the community will always hold the accountability.
- NYC Ferry – Tara reviews ferry optimization plans –

Andrew – will the Rockaway ferry come once an hour? No, every 45 minutes.

Edie – access to Governors Island directly – connections have already been challenging – South BK – encourage direct Gov Island to BAT. Replicating current route would be a benefit to the community.

Andrew – are there ways to increase capacity at 34th Street?

Tara- yes, upgrades at 34th street will address capacity and queuing issues, etc.

Jesse – funding for stop at MADE? New capital funding that could be shifted by new admin?

Tara says she has to get back to her.

Katie – climate perspective – huge loss. Tara – addition of the MADE stop also gives up the opportunity to rethink the system.

CM Aviles– second the importance of the Governors Island to SP connection. Need shade structure for ferry landing.

- Economic Mobility Network – Jesse walks through the network.
 - Kaite asked who the current members

- BAT – Hazel reviews BAT slide followed by Jessenia going through summer events schedule, Adam chimes in on Rooftop Films

- MADE Campus – Waverly presents MADE
 - Katie asked about Pier 6 and if design is intact and the new Ferry landing will not be on the Pier
 - John Santore asked about Steiner, Are the elected officials offices here? Are they still supportive of that project, do you believe in this project? CM staff – take question back
 - John Stantore asked are you tracking jobs created, economic impact, etc. Waverly responds that yes, we collect that information upon lease signing - Eastern Effects – any updates, are we intending to move forward with that project? Still in the legal process

- SBMT – Nicklaus reviews slides
 - Katie asked about visiting the site again
 - Jesse SBIDC has a program to pair local businesses to the site – Equinor has been great at window tours from Windscape Nicklaus will become a TSA-style facility in February
 - Edie asked about IBX conversations and our thoughts on the siting
 - John Santore asked about SMBT jobs – how is that envisioned – jobs linked to the site. Nicklaus responded Skanska has been collecting data on workforce on site – Equinor to share publicly – happy to look into sharing.
 - John commented on it being the last task force meeting – thank you to the members of the task force – inconsistencies in how involved the public has been for certain projects versus others – encourage consistency and public involvement in all projects and initiatives – involved in decisions.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.