

Lower Manhattan Development Corporation
Joint Meeting of the
Restaurants, Retailers and Small Businesses Advisory Council
And the Residents Advisory Council
June 27, 2002, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
1 Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor
LMDC Board Members: Roland Betts, Bob Harding,
Paul Crotty, Madelyn Wils and Sally Hernandez Pinero

Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) Board Members Roland Betts, Bob Harding, Paul Crotty, Madelyn Wils and Sally Hernandez Pinero opened the meeting and gave welcoming remarks. Mr. Crotty and Mr. Harding then asked each member and ex-officio member of the Restaurants, Retailers and Small Businesses Advisory Council and the Residents Advisory Council to introduce themselves.

Mr. Harding said LMDC thought it would be useful to hold a joint meeting of the two Advisory Councils to discuss some common items. He then invited Amy Peterson, Director of the Housing Assistance Program (HAP) at LMDC to give the councils an update of the program. Ms. Peterson said that the HAP was approved by HUD on June 7. Some of the major amendments included extending the family bonus to Zone 3 residents and reducing lease commitment for one-time grants from two years to one year. Four contractors have been hired to run the program. One member commented that rents for residential apartments in Lower Manhattan have risen since the HAP was announced; though it is still lower than pre-September 11th level. Ms. Peterson indicated she would follow up on this.

Mr. Harding then asked Geraldine Kelpin from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to give the members an update on the air quality initiatives. Ms. Kelpin articulated that DEP had identified 290 buildings to be cleaned of debris on their facades. So far 40 buildings has been cleaned. The rest are expected to be cleaned in the next few months. Ms. Kelpin had brought a map showing the work progress and it was passed around for members to look at.

After that, Eileen Mildenberger from the Empire State Development Corporation updated the members on the business recovery and retention programs in Lower Manhattan. Ms. Mildenberger briefly described the Business Recovery Program and the Small Business Retention and Attraction Program. On May 15, these programs were approved to expand the funding to include businesses with one to nine employees. Ms. Mildenberger also informed the Council about ESDC's Employment Training Program and Technical Assistance Program. Responses from members included that 5-year leases, as a prerequisite for the program, and reasonable insurance premiums below Canal Street can be hard to get at this time.

Jane Berkow from America Speaks addressed the Council on "Listening to the City" event coming up on July 20. It is a citizens' summit jointly convened by the Civic Alliance, other major civic and governmental organizations and America Speaks. It will allow for face-to-face, roundtable discussions with all of the various stakeholders on the Phase 1 Plans that will be released in mid July by the LMDC and the Port Authority. This summit, which is expected to draw approximately 5,000 participants representing a demographic diversity from the Tri-state region, will provide valuable input on the LMDC and Port Authority planning options.

Those citizens that will participate will include all of the various stakeholders, most importantly the victims' families, residents, small and large business owners, planning organizations and others. LMDC partners, the Port Authority, ESDC, EDC and the MTA will also be asked to participate. All members were encouraged to attend the event and inform others about it.

Next the members talked about the memorial process and ideas about the memorial. Two items were on the agenda-ideas for a memorial process and a memorial program. Some suggestions from the members included: mourning should not be the dominant theme; incorporate the '93 bombing in the memorial; the memorial should be integrated into the community; create a magnificent memorial at the WTC site but also encourage communities around the country to create smaller memorials; and lastly, restore the skyline.

Having covered all items on the agenda, Mr. Harding adjourned the meeting.

These plans are included to stimulate a conversation on the questions raised in this planning process. They mark the beginning of a public dialogue on the various component elements of any future plan for the site.

The LMDC and the PA invite you to examine these alternative concept plans. None of the plans is final; in fact, the various elements are intended to be mixed and matched. It would be highly unlikely that any one of the alternatives in this study would be selected in its current form as the final plan. Rather, the end product will be the result of combining different elements from each of the six alternatives into one composite plan. The LMDC and the PA seek input, ideas and reactions from the public to refine the plans, determine priorities and rebuild Lower Manhattan better than it was before.