

Business Development Committee

Minutes, January 7, 2014

Committee Members Present: Anina Young (Chair), Jason Miller, Ellen Ackerman, Richard Allman, Ariel Ferreira

Committee Members Excused: Christopher Smith

Committee Members Absent: Victor Santos, Rud Morales

CB12 Staff Members Present:

CB12 Members Present: George Fernandez

Community Members Present: Jerry Castanos, Small Business Owner

Guest Speakers:

A. Welcome & Opening Remarks by Anina Young

Re-cap of November and December 2013 meetings.

Rebecca Karp, Government and Community Relations, The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey spoke about MWBE certification for The PANYNJ.

She gave an overview of the bus station project and how the process is conducted.

They had an event in September inviting the public to learn more about the process

B. New/Old Business

The future of the Business Development committee and where we want it to go. We discussed having workshops, holding events to benefit incoming businesses i.e. a Small Business Entrepreneur Forum.

Jason Miller raised the issue of trying to reach out to landlords of vacant space to see whether they would be willing to temporarily lend out their space to local arts groups. The concept of a pop-up store or an art gallery – a moving art gallery. It would provide vibrancy to the area other than a bar or restaurant.

Ariel Ferreira suggested looking at the Small business Committee at the city and state levels to learn about what they are discussing as they may be topics we would want to address or would be something we would want to design a resolution on.

What is the role of the Committee?

Ariel cited Education and Advocacy.

Anina cited Small Business Expo for existing businesses as well as businesses that are contemplating starting up.

Jason raised the idea of starting a mentoring program for small businesses.

Everyone agreed on finding a way to connect resources to small businesses.

An idea for harnessing tourism.

Discussion around a Business Incubator.

Curiosity about the new Administration's agenda related to businesses.

C. Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 pm.