

Wednesday, July 31, 2002 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Salmagundi Club

47 5th Avenue

New York City

1. The meeting opened at 8:35 AM. Bob Yaro welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for turning out on such a hot July morning. He quickly outlined the meeting's agenda, which including ratifying the Planning Framework, Debriefing from Listening to the City, and passing a resolution regarding next steps for the Civic Alliance.
 - 1.1. Bob also took the opportunity to thank the partners in organizing Listening to the City, which included Arthur Fried, Ron Shiffman, Carolyn Lukensmeyer, and Ed Blakely. Ron and Arthur also added words of thanks to the partners and to the Civic Alliance. It was mentioned that the event was incredibly well covered in the media, and by last Thursday had received over 700 media hits including print, audio, and television.
 - 1.2. Ron Shiffman remarked that it is incumbent on all of us to balance the results of outcomes from July 20, which includes the "rebuilding lives" section of the discussion. Moving forward, it's not just about rebuilding 16 acres but rebuilding the lives of people across the region that lost their jobs, many of whom were low wage earners.
2. Petra Todorovich led a short discussion about the finalization of the Planning Framework. She stressed that the latest version of this document, which is now available on the civic alliance website (<http://www.civic-alliance.org/pdf/Framework072002.pdf>) is the product of a 4 month process during which the document has evolved and been revised by each of the eight working groups. The eight chapters represent the consensus of the respective working groups, and are significantly more cross-referenced with the other chapters than the original draft. The executive summary is new and has been approved by the Steering Committee of the Civic Alliance.
 - 2.1. The Alliance members discussed whether we should continue to adapt this document as an online "work in progress" or if we should "put it to bed." It was suggested that since the document is now so long, it may not be in a good format to continuously update, and that we ought to finish it, print it up, and move forward. Additional position papers can be drafted and released by working groups as needed.
 - 2.2. There was a suggestion that some wording be added to better convey the relationship of all the member of organizations to the Planning Framework—that the organizations may not endorse every word of the document, but have participated in an iterative process that gave birth to the findings and recommendations within. It was also suggested that a hyperlink version be available on the web that "hotlinks" to organization websites with counter view points.

- 2.3. The Planning Framework will be open for additional comment to Petra Todorovich (Petra@rpa.org) through Friday, August, 2, and to Alexis Perrotta (Alexis@rpa.org) through the following Wednesday.
3. Listening to the City: Bob Yaro opened the discussion by expressing his thoughts on the outcome of Listening to the City. He noted that the event was “an incredible exercise in democracy” and that we received news coverage from Seattle to Saigon, which also attested to the appeal of this forum to diverse people. Finally, Bob noted that it was his impression that the public resoundingly rejected the six options because they were all based on the same program.
 - 3.1. Roger Herz noted that he was impressed at how many comments of his table made it up to the large screens.
 - 3.2. Alice La Brie commented that this large public meeting was part of her healing process, and helped her hear many divergent viewpoints.
 - 3.3. One person noted that if we have essentially rejected the program that the six options were based upon, we should now plan for a new program. We have a big charge ahead of us.
 - 3.4. Bonnie Harken characterized LTC as “very inspiring.” She noted that it brought participatory planning to a new level, and personally took him three messages from the forum: be bold; challenge assumptions; and get it right. This is history, a public sit, and *not* a private real estate deal. We must challenge the concept of a memorial. You cannot separate the memorial process from the planning process.
 - 3.5. Ilene Skeen echoed Bonnie’s comments and noted that while the audience at LTC said that the pace of rebuilding was going just about at the right speed, they also rejected the six options, which will most certainly delay the process. Ilene also presented an idea of hers that would conceptualize the 16 acres as a “memorial circle” and symbolize courage as an overarching theme of the site. Ilene can be contacted for more details about her concept plan at iskeen@nyc.rr.com.
 - 3.6. Tova Wang asked, “Is LMDC planning on issuing a new RFP for new architects and planners?” Also, we should be sure to get the economic report of the Civic Alliance to the LMDC as soon as possible.
 - 3.7. Ron Shiffman noted that at LTC there was an outpouring of thanks and appreciation to LMDC and the Port Authority for participating in this public process. We should certainly thank them, but perhaps not as much as we were doing. Government and quasi-government has a responsibility to function that way and engage the public in its plans. Also, LTC was an important event but in the future we need to use it carefully. When and how we plan for another one is very important. In writing the report we need to also look at outlying ideas from the discussions, which were often the most creative points.
 - 3.8. Nancy Owens made several comments: She found the open space in the six site plans poorly executed, but was relieved when the six options were rejected, even though they were rejected on the basis of a setting for a memorial (which, in the plans was equated with open space.) She also noted that moving forward, even though we should focus on the program, systematic drawings and massing renderings are helpful to visualize the program. Finally, she was appreciative of the perspective of New Jersey participants at the LTC forum.
 - 3.9. Holly Leicht pointed out that July 20 & 22 were not the beginning of the process. In looking for a new program, we should look no further than Imagine New York, which

generated 49 visions through a public process involving 3500 people, which amounts to a “viable program to use” on the World Trade Center site. We also proved at Listening to the City that credibility lies with the public.

- 3.10. Paul Epstein remarked that had the responses been more nuanced and varied, we may not have gotten the incredible press coverage that we did. He agrees that this is not a “one-time thing” but rather the pinnacle of a long-building crescendo.
- 3.11. Rick Bell: We should involve the City Planning Commission and the City Council in our plans. He also reiterated the need for integrating the memorial with the planning process and noted, “You can’t just make something into a memorial by putting the word memorial in front of it.”
- 3.12. George Penesis brought our attention to the issue of West Street and pointed out that this complex project depends on a lot of different assumptions that have not yet been tested by proper studies. We need to look at traffic simulations, cost, and a host of other factors.
4. The meeting then moved on to consider a memo from Bob Yaro to the Civic Alliance which outlines next steps for the Alliance and forms the basis for a Resolution up for consideration. The memo outline that the Civic Alliance should:
 - 4.1. Build upon the important work already done by the civic organizations such as the Civic Alliance, New York New Visions, Imagine New York , R.Dot, LCAN, and others. As a first step, develop a “Policy Matrix” that identifies what each coalition has advocated or recommended for major policy issues.
 - 4.2. Reject the six options. Advocate for the LMDC and the PA’s official retraction of the six options and the program requirements that they are built upon.
 - 4.3. Develop an alternate program or programs for the World Trade Center site in light of regional economic considerations, urban design and transportation principles for all of Lower Manhattan. Work with the Civic Alliance, LMDC, and the Port Authority to craft this new program.
 - 4.4. Explore opportunities for a Civic Alliance-sponsored Community Planning Workshop to visualize development options around a new program for the site, after a new program is developed.
 - 4.5. Recommend that a Master Plan be undertaken by the City of New York for all of Lower Manhattan in partnership with the City Planning Commission.
 - 4.6. Urge the LMDC to integrate its memorializing process with the planning process for the WTC site.
 - 4.7. Call on Governor Pataki to commit to a job creation and job training program before the November election.
 - 4.8. Issue a press release around the Listening to the City *Report of Proceedings* and the Civic Alliance *Planning Framework* when these two documents are complete.
 - 4.9. Institutionalize the lines of communication between the Civic Alliance, LMDC and the PA.
5. Discussion around the memo and resolution included the following comments:
 - 5.1. A lower Manhattan master planning study must include Chinatown and the Lower East Side.

- 5.2. The call for a job creation and job training plan might be rephrased as a “jobs-oriented economic development action plan.”
- 5.3. Energy and electricity need to be considered in the overall plan for downtown. We might consider hydro-electric opportunities on Governors Island.
- 5.4. We should consider a WPA-like project that creates jobs as well as job training.
- 5.5. To move the program for the WTC Site forward we need to understand all the legal contracts. We may be able to move some of the 11 million square feet off the site.
- 5.6. LMDC and the Port Authority should be responsible for synthesizing all the results of the civic work.
- 5.7. We should undertake a method of measuring performance accountability.
- 5.8. Some sort of ecological statement should be added.
- 5.9. How will we arrive at a new program? We might consider using workshops and open forums.
- 5.10. With all the studies that have already been done, the basis for a new program is already there.
- 5.11. Some wording on transportation infrastructure should be added to the resolution.
6. Marcia Bystryn moved that the Civic Alliance adopt the resolution with some small wording changes. Maurice Paprin and several others seconded the motion. The motion was adopted by a majority of the Civic Alliance. The Civic Alliance plans to issue a press release around its resolution.
7. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 AM.

Attendance

A Piccolo	Bowling Green Association
Abble Suckle	New York New Visions
Adam Beckerman	Columbia University, Center on Organizational Innovation
Albert Papp	NJ Association of Railroad Passengers
Alice La Brie	
Arielle Goldberg	Center for Urban Research
Arthur Fried	Center for Excellence in New York City Governance
Barry Benepe	Fine Arts Federation
Bill Shore	NYU
Bonnie Harken	American Planning Association
Bruce Herman	CWE
Chris Jones	Regional Plan Association
Clara Lipson	Financial Planning Association
Daniel Peterson	
David Kallick	Fiscal Policy Institute, and LKAN
Diana Balmori	Van Alen Institute
Douglass Taggart	The Bond Market Association

Ed Falterman	ASPA – New York Metro Chapter
Francis B. McKenna	
George Penesis	New York New Visions
Heide Alexander	On Com
Holly Leicht	Municipal Art Society
Ilene Skeen	Salmagundi Club
Jeff Zupan	Regional Plan Association
Jeremy Reiss	Central Labor Council
Jim Morgan	
Joan Byron	Pratt Institute
Karen Kahn	Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Laura Engler	Manhattan Borough President's Office
Marcia Bystryn	New York League of Conservation Voters
Marian Imperatore	Regional Plan Association
Maurice Paprin	Business Labor Community Coalition
Michael Bradley	Riverside South Planning Corporation
Michelle Bicek	Environmental Defense
Nancy Owens	Community Board One
Nanette Rainone	
Nicolas Ronderos	Regional Plan Association
Paul Epstein	NY Metro American Society of Public Administration
Paula Gerrard	ASPA – New York Metro Chapter
Petra Todorovich	Regional Plan Association
Phippe Schmidt	
Rick Bell	American Institute of Architects
Rivka Mazar	New York New Visions
Robert Pollard	Information Habitat
Robert Yaro	Regional Plan Association
Roger Herz	TIME/ To Improve Municipal Efficiency
Ron Shiffman	PICCED
Sandy Hornick	City Planning
Sandy Waltuck	
Sara Newman	
Sheila Darnborough	Women's City Club
Steve Davies	Project for Public Spaces
Steve Weber	NYC DOT
Sudhir Jain	WTC Residents Coalition
Tara Colton	Center for Excellence in New York City Governance
Ted Byfield	Reconstruction Watch
Tim Byfield	Reconstruction Watch
Tom Wright	Regional Plan Association
Tova Wang,	Century Foundation