

# Advisory Committee Meeting #2

## Details

- Date: Tuesday, April 11
- Time: 2:00-3:30pm
- Virtual Zoom meeting

## Attendees

Council District 35:

- Casie Addison
- Andrew Wright

Hester Street:

- Casey Peterson
- Cinthia De La Rosa
- Amron Lee
- Vanessa Monique Smith
- Utsa Ramaswami

Advisory Committee:

- Maximillian Dor, Greater Directions
- Dante Arnwine, CB 9
- Taya Mueller, CB 2
- Darold Burgess, Ingersoll Houses
- Eli Cohen, Crown Heights JCC
- Tara Duvivier, Pratt Center for Community Development

## Notes

1. Introductions
2. Project updates
  - a. Review project goals and Advisory Committee role from first meeting
  - b. What we accomplished since the last meeting
    - i. Hosted first public meeting
    - ii. Hosted first focus group, with five more planned for April

- iii. Launched survey
- iv. Conducted outreach: LinkNYC, social media campaign, focus group participants, flyering, civic meetings
- c. What lies ahead
  - i. Remaining 5 focus groups
  - ii. 2nd and 3rd public meetings
  - iii. More outreach: more civic meetings, social media campaign, literature drops, backpack stuffing, etc.
  - iv. Development of the land use framework
- d. Discussion: what else can we do to expand outreach?
  - i. Block associations, homeowners
  - ii. Promote with news blogs read by Hasidic community in Crown Heights
  - iii. Libraries, train stations
  - iv. Target large developments with tons of units (Mitchell Lama, NYCHA, etc)
  - v. Open Streets tabling
  - vi. Community centers
  - vii. Neighborhood organization listservs and newsletters
  - viii. Myrtle Ave BID works closely with neighbors, developments, public housing, and others along the corridor - they could help get the word out
  - ix. BRIC has great advertising
  - x. Do a pop up at Ebbets Field and Ronald McNair park where we had good success in the past
  - xi. Email survey flyers to assist with outreach
  - xii. Myrtle & Fulton BIDs would be great resources for distributing flyers
- 3. Synthesis from first public meeting
  - a. Discussion - what input resonates with you?
    - i. Bus and transportation issues are huge in our neighborhood, especially for people with health issues or other pressing responsibilities
    - ii. Libraries will be hugely important in the future
      - 1. Use of space isn't being used well
      - 2. They could be libraries plus non profit space or other uses
      - 3. Finding free public space for public meetings is also very difficult - as we grow in terms of community engagement, infrastructure for it will be very important
      - 4. We have wonderful libraries that would love to host more meetings if they had a modest staffing budget to support those extra hours from 6-9pm
    - iii. I'm not sure how the focus on public space is very relevant for land use - normally we're discussing development, density, affordable housing, etc.

1. Our parameter is that we're working at the development scale, but we can definitely still address some of these broader problems
  - iv. Homeownership is nearly impossible for new development, and I hear this is a big problem
  - v. There are many large families in the area, and most apartments are tiny with 0-2 bedrooms
  - vi. The affordable housing isn't affordable at all, and these buildings are going up at an alarming rate
    1. Who are they for? Brooklyn natives, or new residents who can afford them?
    2. They're tiny, not worth the price, and we can't even get them if we wanted to
    3. One possible approach we heard was using median income of neighborhood and not NYC AMI to calculate affordable rates
      - a. Since AMI is set by HUD, do we have federal electeds part of this conversation?
      - b. This process isn't going to change how NYC AMI is calculated - rather, we can use data about D35 median income to determine which rent ranges we want to prioritize in our land use vision
  - vii. If an area doesn't have a library, then the elected should be collaborating with residents, stakeholders, developers to bring a library to the district.
  - viii. Audit of the District to see what's missing
    1. Noticed there's a lack of banks, pharmacies
    2. There are tons of commercial vacancies - how could these spaces be used?
4. Closing and next steps
- a. Advisory Committee meeting schedule
  - b. Hester Street to send focus group details so AC members can identify more participants
  - c. Hester Street to send flyers for the survey and will work on implementing some of the outreach methods brought up on this call
    - i. Can arrange a mailing/drop off of flyers and data snapshots if needed
  - d. Hester Street to send May meeting details when available
  - e. AC members should take survey if they haven't already and distribute it in their networks