

PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL
MINUTES of the Economic Development Committee Meeting
January 28, 2021 via Zoom

Attendees:

Committee Members: Moses Esema, Nick Fazio, Camelia Tepelus

Guests: Laura Spalter (CB8 Chair), Brandon Adams (Lloyds Carrot Cake), David Gellman (CB8 Board Member), Ed Green (CB8 Board Member), Francisco Aguilar (Bronx Chamber of Commerce), Anna Reyes (Bronx Chamber of Commerce), Jennifer Sproull (Kingsbridge BID), Erica Rosero (SBDC), Alberto Roldan (Department of Consumer Affairs), Orlando Kross (Marble Hill Merchant Association), Pierina Sanchez, Shajada Brown

- I. Meeting Called to order: 7:05pm
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Chair's Report –
 - a. Introduction of Moses Esema as Vice Chair.
 - b. Nick shared that City council passed Intro 1116 and is awaiting signature from the mayor. The legislation expands the number of street vending permits and establishes an "Advisory Board" and "Enforcement Agency."
 - c. The Economic Development Committee (ED) has referred many Bronx Community District 08 businesses to the Bronx Small Business Development Center at Lehman College (SBDC) and the South Bronx Economic Development Corp (SOBRO). The organizations are actively supporting small business, particularly with SBA Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan application and processing.
 - i. Camelia Tepelus mentioned that Small Business Services (SBS) has PPP webinars every day in English and Spanish on their website so there is a lot of information from the city on this effort.
 - ii. The ED committee discussed the challenges of the application process and highlighted the need for "Financial Literacy" focus for small businesses.
 - d. Our community has new storefronts vacancies but has also newly leased spaces to new businesses. The turnover is an opportunity for entrepreneurs. The ED committee is working with SBDC director Clarence Stanley to find businesses in need of a physical presence.
 - i. There has been huge surge in new business development according to new EIN filings with the IRS and IPO filing reports.
 - e. Laura Spalter & Nick Fazio met with Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp (BOEDC) concerning Chase closing (scheduled for May 17, 2021).

- i. Expecting further meetings to see if the community can get a long-term commitment.
 - f. Broadway and 242nd St. merchant corridor – DSNY moved the basket for pick-ups, this has been a source of problem. The committee will discuss this issue under “New Business.”
 - g. The next meeting date was changed to March 4th due to Purim holiday.
- IV. Most Valuable Merchant Award Renaming
 - a. The economic development committee announced that the Most Valuable Merchant Award would be renamed the “Betty Campbell-Adams Award.”
 - i. Words from Brandon Adams: Thankful for the effort and supportive of the renaming.
 - b. We will work on the template together for the next meeting and then brainstorm for changes and timeline.
 - c. The committee agreed to try to coordinate the timeline to coincide with the community service award.
- V. Street Vending – Department of Consumer Affairs and Worker Protection (DCWP) – Guest Speaker: Alberto Roldan
 - a. Intro 1116 is passed by NY City Council.
 - b. DCWP is working on the details.
 - c. Resources are still being negotiated with City Hall.
 - d. Education will be a heavy part of initial roll-out of law.
 - i. Particular focus on Community Boards in early Spring (Feb/March) including community walkthrough for hot spots.
 - ii. Materials are coming. Will need to partner with DOH and other advocates
 - e. Camilla Asks – How will enforcement actually be handled?
 - i. Response: Advisory board will play a role.
 - ii. No formal role for NYPD, instead will just be used for extreme circumstances.
 - f. Moses Esema Asks – Where will funds from fines/application go in the coffers of DCWP?
 - i. Response: TBD
 - g. Ed Green (Public Safety Committee Chair) Asks: What are some of the issues people have raised so far?
 - i. Response – Mainly around competition, and there will be a great need for education.
 - h. Ed Green Asks: Does DCWP have the resources to actually follow through on the enforcement work?
 - i. Response: It will be a challenge, and this is an ongoing conversation they are expecting with City Hall.
 - i. Laura Spalter (CB8 Chair) Asks: What is the relationship with the Department of Health (DOH) on food venders?
 - i. Response: Primary responsibility there remains with DOH but we will coordinate with them.

- j. Laura Spalter (CB8 Chair) Notes: Perhaps we can coordinate on how to put your priorities into the budget priorities.
 - k. Jennifer Sproull (Kingsbridge BID) Asks: Can Kingsbridge BID be part of the “Advisory Board” that is being proposed?
 - i. Response: Will look into this further once bill is signed by the mayor and circle back.
 - ii. Also, DCWP is working on how 311 complaints can be routed to them. Complaints can also be emailed directly – through Street Vendor Link (<https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-02152>)
 - l. Camelia Tepelus Asks: Do you anticipate your agency has enough staff to enforce this effort at this moment?
 - i. Response: Any request for resources would be welcome as they are currently asking city hall for resources.
 - m. Nick Fazio Asks: Are they going to create a new agency for this?
 - i. Response: It is a new Department/Office (not agency). Consequently, the mayor will have to decide where it will best sit (potentially DCWP).
 - n. Ed Green Asks: Concern over brick & mortar merchants on their ability to survive given increased prevalence of street vending. Were there any reviews of impact on brick & mortar?
 - o. Jennifer Sproull Asks: Is there any plan about the frequency of review?
 - i. Response: This is something they are still working out.
 - p. Pierina Sanchez Asks: Can the city institute creative ways for issuing permits to vendors relative to brick & mortar businesses?
 - i. Response: Specific limits didn’t make it into the bill but there are other limitations that they will have to think through – too early to tell how it fits into rule making process.
- VI. Bronx Chamber of Commerce (BXCC) – Guest: Francisco Aguilar
- a. NYC Small Business Resource Network
 - i. Presentation given on resources available with BXCC.
 - ii. Significant impact on minority & women owned businesses.
 - iii. Of 230,000 small businesses in NYC, 53% will struggle to stay open in the next 6 months.
 - iv. Small businesses tend to shy away from loans (and grants are very limited).
 - v. Main purpose of program is to save as many small businesses as possible.
 - vi. Leveraging network to get as much help as possible to small businesses:
 1. Financial Investments
 2. Marketing Expertise
 3. Technology Support
 4. Legal Counsel
 5. Mentoring Resources

- vii. Visit link that references information and resources available:
(<https://www.bronxchamber.org/back2business-nyc>)
- b. Camelia Asks: How long will this program be in place and is there a plan for the focus outside of Kingsbridge BID?
 - i. Response: Program was launched in October 2020 and lasts for 1 year – potential talks to continue but nothing formal yet. And will continue outreach whenever possible to businesses directly.
- c. Jennifer Asks: How does SBS differ from your organization?
 - i. Response: SBS is a resource for BXCC but they primarily provide their own resources.
 - ii. Most resources have a specific coordinator in BXCC to help and can facilitate where the network exists.
- d. Ed Green Asks: Does BXCC have a stance on the expansion of the Street Vendor?
 - i. Response: BXCC has a stance and that stance was shared online. A representative can come back to discuss later.

VII. Budget Priorities:

- a. Committee walked through initial ideas for budget priority proposals.
- b. David Gellman – Suggests making focus narrower to district concerns.
 - i. Also try to separate capital priorities from expense priority lists.
 - ii. \$30-35K is cutoff for Capital vs expense.
- c. Camelia Tepelus agrees that wording of ideas need to be refined to be specific to Community Board 8.
- d. Adds Graffiti is through elected discretionary budget.
- e. Additional ideas to be added prior to next Committee Meeting.

VIII. Outstanding Business:

- a. None

IX. New Business

- a. Nick Fazio raised that Manhattan College (MC) Professor Amira Annabi wants to collaborate on doing a Financial Literacy Day (post COVID-19) for the local businesses.
 - i. Camelia Tepelus Asks: Can this be done virtually as well? Also, how can we encourage businesses to participate?
 - ii. CB8 will invite Professor Annabi to present the meeting on March 4.
 - iii. David Gellman – Suggests that it may be good to bring the same program for our youth and older residents.
- b. Nick Fazio notes meeting held concerning recommendations from the Special Committee on Racial Equity for the economic development committee to investigate ways for the private sector to help address food insecurity.
 - i. DSNY to help on education campaign to see how merchants will be impacted on food insecurity, food recycling, and donation programs.

- ii. E&S Chair Fanuzzi suggested a joint meeting with the Economic Development Committee and the E&S Committee on how DSNY/DOH regulations impact the constituents of our committees.
 - iii. Camelia notes: This is a significant issue where Bronx elected officials are coordinating 1000s of boxes of food (including BIDs) and this is something we need to get Community Board 8 more engaged.
- c. Open Restaurants (Camelia Tepelus reminds):
 - i. There is last opportunity for outdoor seating to get free orange barriers from DOT. Deadline is October 10th. Information will be shared with office to communicate with the vendors so they are aware.
- d. Nick Fazio raises the Broadway at 242nd Street Issue – Island and service lane trash pickup.
 - i. DSNY wasn't picking up the trash on the sidewalk so they moved that baskets to the island.
 - ii. However, people are not walking over to island and instead littering on the sidewalk where the baskets were originally placed.
 - iii. Potential Solutions:
 1. Changing parking regulations: It was determined through correspondence with DSNY that this would not solve the problem.
 2. "Adopt a Basket" as potential solution recommended by DSNY: The ED committee will see if DSNY and merchants would be supportive.
 3. Committee to discuss the issue further with additional input from merchants and in coordination with E & S committee.
- e. Nick Fazio raises proposal from Manhattan College and Claudy's Kitchen:
 - i. The Parties are working on collaboration to create commercial plaza on the area next to the small park off of Broadway and 242nd street as permitted by a DOT program:
<https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/short-term-retail-market-concession-opportunity-info-sheet.pdf>
 - ii. The Parties would potentially need to form a Merchant Association – because they would need to have an entity to get funding.
 - iii. Committee notes that we should investigate who is paying for the planters – it is on shared DOT and Parks land.
 - iv. Committee notes that we should look into Manhattan College or KRVC to take the lead as entity.
 - v. Committee agrees to discuss the point further with additional input from Manhattan College and/or KRVC.

X. Adjourned

a. Meeting Adjourned at 9:10pm