

OANA minutes

May 5th, 2015

The meeting commenced by Richard Khuzami stating that the planner of Department of Transportation had a walkthrough to discuss the issues at the intersection at Astoria Blvd and 21street (in the participatory budget to extend sidewalk); also discussed the 'truck route' signage which is a positive sign compared to the 'no trucks allowed' negative sign. Another thing was 'seasonal no standing' on Shore Blvd; in order to deal with a lot of problems, the 114 precinct asked the D.O.T. to have 'no standing overnight' on Shore Blvd - which is good but not needed in the winter months so the association is asking to make it seasonal, similar to what is happening in the Rockaways - so far the 114 precinct has been against this and approval from them is needed to help pass it. Also - by the EXO apartments traveling down 21street, are always delivery trucks or a FedEx truck parked, causing traffic to back up passing the Triborough Bridge because it reduces it to one lane at that intersection; asking that they create a commercial vehicle only spot to make their deliveries and not block both lanes of traffic. However, since that is a residential building - it looks unlikely.

Jay Valgora, Studio B Architecture, architect and certified planners; responsible for the Hallets Point project among others and seeking to create addition connections with the waterfront, shown with PowerPoint presentation. Create a public square on 27ave, adding a big lawn surrounded with commercial spaces that could be restaurants and cafes and even a boardwalk that would connect to the waterfront. Creating areas with picnic tables, parking, lift up the sideways from flooding during storms, stoop gardens, adding more trees and furniture. Astoria Cove - waterfront site overlooking Astoria Park and Hell Gate Bridge - create something better. 26ave and 9th street stops at a parking lot; they are planning on rebuilding it and turn it back to a street. The city suggested that in order for the waterfront to be really accessible, to create a small waterfront street to connect 4th street and extend Shore Drive that is along water, to let everyone knows that it's a public waterfront. 9th street will connect, two way street coming off 4th, and a one way street connecting to 9th and is the proposed location for the water taxi, though Richard mentioned that the pier is not going to be on 9th street but the full details were not yet known at this point. EDC is supposed to be coming next time to answer more questions about the pier and water taxi.

Richard asked, at this point, is anything is released or any information on how these building actually look, what kinds of materials, colors; and are you getting close to starting the Hallets Point project. To which it was answered that the public spaces are fixed and matter of public records, all the tree and benches and all the details are known to the public, the buildings themselves have to conform to the laws and codes of New York so they elect to design them as they wish. Which was answered that their

goal is to begin construction on 'building one' which is in the building between 1st and 2nd street this fall, incorporation green components into the building that include saving water system, electricity and heat onsite generation system, etc; roughly 7 year period for the entire development completion in 2022. The public spaces in the park must be exactly as they are shown as meditated by law.

It was also asked if they were to incorporate a dog run for the people with pets. To which was responded that the two projects that were fully detailed do not include dog runs but would be taken into consideration for future projects. Another question asked was would someone from the neighborhood such as Socrates Sculpture Park have any influence on some of the outdoors art sculptures or facilities that they build. Jay answered that though he was very open minded in arts, the upcoming projects did not include any of this, but would also be taken into in for the future. It was also mentioned that all the buildings would be rental/residential units. The meeting ended with a gift to the presenter of a map of old Astoria.