



Civic Alliance Minutes
Tuesday, April 08, 2003
Salmagundi Club

The meeting opened with an update on the bus garage location issue. The Port Authority was invited to talk about the issue but representatives of the organization were unable to attend due to a conflict of schedule. The Civic Alliance's recommendations for the bus garage concerning its size, location and impact continue and are to be addressed at next month's meeting on May 13 by the Port Authority.

LCAN's Job Presentation followed, presented by David Kallick of the Fiscal Policy Institute. David first described the context of the New York City Economy as one of serious recession. Figures for the Nation and the City were given showing that NYC is under a larger unemployment rate than that of the whole US. LCAN's proposal to tackle this issue starts with consideration of a Liberty Jobs strategy that would create and maintain public and private sector jobs while making the rebuilding process one that creates high road jobs that would tackle the effects of polarization of the 1990's economic expansion. As an alternative, LCAN proposes to stop firm to firm subsidies and replace them with a sector strategy that supports clusters of economic activities rather than specific firms. To download a copy of the LCAN Jobs Plan, see http://www.lcan.org/Text/LCAN_jobs.pdf.

A Q&A dialogue opened after the presentation in which several issues were raised. How to prioritize cluster sectors was a first concern of a member of the Civic Alliance. After considering green buildings as an example of how to address a specific sector and its effects in the economy, the common barriers for this strategy were characterized as real estate limits to locating firms, job creation and clustering. Manufacturing disinvestment trends and history in NYC was identified as a policy that is concerning, especially in this administration. The need and existence of a sector strategy towards which the city is moving was nonetheless discussed. Another member of the Alliance pointed to the fact that incentives should be considered by the proposal as well as subsidies. This would attract skill sets and specialized labor to sectors in a volunteer basis.

Bob Yaro expressed that a sector strategy should nevertheless have a set of fundamentals that support different sectors. These economic foundations are transportation, civic amenities, housing and education and workforce development. Emphasis on this sector should be a priority for the economy to have a productivity level in accordance to the needs of the City. Regulatory reform and technology development were mentioned too as specific sectors of these economic foundations. Ron Shiffman stated that the City's land use and zoning policies towards manufacturing should be more selective and surgical to address the real challenge of holistically improving the City. He also suggested that a sector approach isn't opposed to an economic foundation and common key sector development. Finally the status of the monies was raised as an issue of concern, since the proposal looks for government funding of its strategy. It was stated that \$1.3 billion left of CDBG funds could be used to fund the job creation strategy, however LMDC has identified this money to be used for the memorial, although it is unclear whether the memorial would cost so much. The LCAN proposal has stressed that the jobs created could support the implementation of the Mayor's Vision for Lower Manhattan.

A resolution for support of LCAN's proposal by the Alliance was proposed and it was unanimously endorsed by its members.

The next item on the agenda was discussion of the upcoming Civic Summit "Beyond 16 Acres", followed by a series of issue-specific forums. It should be an effort that supports the vision of the mayor and expands of the Civic Alliance's Planning Workshop by bringing together all civic

coalitions under a district-wide framework. Downtown Manhattan as a whole would be the focus of this summit and it could be timed with release of LMDC's studies on Fulton Corridor, Housing, and Chinatown that would serve as the focus of the subsequent forums over the course of the summer. Agencies should be involved thus in this effort to the extent possible and coordination with Imagine New York workshops on transportation and historic preservation should take place. There was discussion over the role of the forums as a tool of public information and education, or alternately, a targeted way to advance the Civic Alliance priorities for Lower Manhattan. All Civic Alliance members interested in working on the planning of the Civic Summit and forums should contact Petra Todorovich, at Petra@rpa.org.

The last item on the agenda was communication of the reinvigoration of the Green Buildings working group. A green building design competition such as the architectural competition was suggested as a possible idea to follow. The working group met briefly after the general meeting's conclusion. All interested members in joining this group should contact Gail Karlsson at gkarlsson@att.net.

Finally, several announcements were made. RPA will host its Regional Assembly on Friday, April 25 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, featuring two workshops of interest to Civic Alliance members, "Beyond 16 Acres" and the "Changing Face of Public Participation." The morning plenary panel will discuss the issue of congestion pricing and the lunchtime keynote, Pasqual Maragall, former Mayor of Barcelona will talk about the public realm strategy that Barcelona undertook in preparation for the Olympics.

Beverly Dolinsky announced several upcoming public hearings on the Second Avenue Subway, to take place:

May 12, at 4:00 PM at the Alexander Hamilton US Custom House, 1 Bowling Green and

May 13, at 4:00 at El Museo Del Barrio, Hecksher Building on 5th Avenue and 104th Street.

And a scoping meeting for Fulton Center on:

April 29, 6- 9:00 PM the Alexander Hamilton US Custom House, 1 Bowling Green, lower level

Finally, it was announced that the Community Board 1 meeting this evening will feature a talk by Dan Doctoroff on New York's Vision for Lower Manhattan at 6:00.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.