

7/28/14 Task Force Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Diane Levitt, Cornell Tech
Andrew Winters, Cornell Tech
Jonathan Libutti, Cornell Tech
Jane Swanson, Cornell Tech
Aric Domozick, PAL Environmental Services
Peter Krokondelas, Kasirer Consulting
Jovana Rizzo, Berlin Rosen
Bridget Ryan, Forest City Ratner

Task Force Members

Christina Delfico
Minna Elias (for Tricia Shimamura)
Larry Parnes
Ellen Polivy
Matthew Katz
Jonathan Kalkin
Aldrin Bonilla (for Jesus Perez)
Judy Buck
Anne Marie Boranian

Members of the Public

Rick O'Connor
Fiona Taylor
Margie Smith
Howard Polivy
Amanda Bosworth
Ed Hartzog
Kaitlin Goodspeed
Donald Chesley
Sherie Helstien
Dr. Ali Schwayri
Dick Lutz
Barbara Brooks
Sheldon Brooks
Vicki Feinmel
Lynne Shinozaki
Lorraine Altman
Mogens Petersen

Milestones:

- Interior demolition and abatement is complete in all phase 1 buildings (the northern most buildings) and awaiting structural demolition; interior abatement and demolition is at various stages in the phase 2 buildings (the southern-most buildings); estimated completion date of structural demolition for Phase 1 buildings is November 2014 and March of 2015 for Phase 2 buildings;
- In the coming months, utility work will begin along the west roadway. Phasing specifics are still being developed, but the majority of work will take place inside the construction fence.
- Mural restoration work continues in the conservation studios;
- Barging continues. In total, nearly 2,800 tons of waste has been removed by barging so far; including mobilization, a total of 1,520 truck trips have been avoided as of July 1, 2014.
- Tree removals are complete with the exception of 7 trees in the southwest corner of the site. Cornell Tech worked extensively with a large team of experts to evaluate options to preserve trees on site. Of the 7 trees that remain, 2 are in poor health and must be removed. Five trees are slated to be removed because of extensive road work needed to widen the road and install utilities. (the task force discussed this and requested further action - see discussion notes below).
- Cornell Tech has been actively engaged with the Roosevelt Island community over the last couple of months; in June Cornell Tech was a sponsor of Roosevelt Island Day and enlisted Cornell partners Weill Cornell Medical College and Cornell University Cooperative Extension (CUCE-NYC) to participate as well; in May, Cornell Tech joined the Cornell Cooperative Extension at the National Health and Fitness Day program - co-hosted by the Roosevelt Island Senior Association (RISA) and the National Senior Health and Fitness Day Program; in June, Cornell Tech VP Cathy Dove participated in the Long Island City Partnership's first annual Long Island City Summit; Cathy sat on the "LIC as a Tech District" panel; in June, Andrew Winters made a presentation to the Queens Borough Board on campus construction and development; Cornell Tech's Jane Swanson has been appointed to the Queens Tech Zone Strategic Plan Task Force, a group of entrepreneurs, economic development experts, and community stakeholders set up by Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and the Coalition for Queens. The task force is working to develop a strategic plan that will foster a strong tech economy for the Western Queens East River Waterfront corridor; because of its close association with Roosevelt Island, the Borough President also appointed Roosevelt Island resident and Community and Construction Task Force member, Jonathan Kalkin, to this panel.

Presentations:

- Aric Domezick of PAL Environmental Services gave an update on interior demolition and abatement.
- Andrew Winters, Director of Capital Projects for Cornell Tech, presented an update and overview of the entire construction project.
- Diane Levitt, Director of K-12 Education for Cornell Tech, gave a presentation on her efforts and goals to create opportunities for K-12 computing curriculums in New York City, particularly at PS/IS 217 on Roosevelt Island.

Discussion:

- Regarding the 5 trees slated for removal, Task Force members asked Cornell Tech to investigate alternatives with the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, including the possibility of

extending the road onto their property in order to save the trees. Cornell Tech agreed to engage RIOCC in this discussion based on the strong recommendation of the members.

- Larry Parnes reminded Cornell Tech to make sure that all presentations and reports are posted on Cornell Tech's construction website, which Cornell Tech assured him will be done.
- Ellen Polivy asked about space in campus buildings for community groups to meet once the campus is open; task force members were assured that various rooms in the First Academic Building would be available for community groups to reserve if they were not in use by Cornell Tech.
- Ellen Polivy mentioned that she would appreciate Cornell Tech investigating the terrific sound system that is in the auditorium of the Lighthouse for the Blind; Andrew Winters, Director of Capital Projects for Cornell Tech said that he would do this;
- Ellen Polivy and Christina Delfico asked about Cornell Tech's commitment to provide computers and programming to seniors and the disabled on Roosevelt Island and were told that this is something Cornell Tech is currently working on and will provide an update at the October meeting;
- A question was raised regarding the possibility of a shuttle-like service on the West Road to South Point Park and Four Freedoms Park since this road is closed to regular traffic. Cornell Tech responded that they are in discussions with Four Freedoms park staff regarding this issue and would update task force members in the near future on their progress.
- There was continued discussion from the last meeting regarding the possibility of providing a "window into the construction" on the perimeter construction fence which task force members thought would be particularly good for educating children about the project; Cornell Tech assured task force members that they will look for a way to do this; however, safety is a concern;
- There was also continued discussion regarding a tour of the campus construction for task force members; Cornell Tech indicated to the group that they would consider it and look into whether a visit to the site can safely be arranged;

Meeting Dates:

- The next quarterly meeting will be Monday, October 27th, 6-8pm, 546 Main Street, 12th Floor