

Attendees:

Andrew Winters, Cornell Tech
Jane Swanson, Cornell Tech
Jovana Rizzo, Berlin Rosen
Stephen Noone, Cornell Tech
Lynette Jordan, Cornell Tech
Diane Levitt, Cornell Tech

Task Force Members

Christina Delfico
Matthew Katz
Judy Buck
Katerina Matic
Sushant Harite
Ellen Polivy
Anne Marie Boranian
Terrell Brock (for Greg Meyers)

Members of the Public

Rick O'Connor
Judy Berdy
Howard Polivy
Albert Salas
Lynn Shinozaki
Vicki Feinmel
Howard Polivy
Lynne Shinozaki
Dick Lutz

Presentations**Diane Levitt, K-12 Education Director, Cornell Tech**

- Last summer Cornell Tech piloted a summer camp designed to teach computer science in the context of environmental science, specifically ornithology, developed with the American Museum of Natural History. The two week course taught students data collecting skills in Central Park and on Roosevelt Island; they students analyzed and reported their data using code they wrote in Python.
- 70 Cornell Tech students went to PS/IS 217 on Oct. 30th to run a coding project for the middle school students; they built a Halloween themed game using a block coding language called Scratch;
- This school year Cornell Tech made a commitment to professional development at PS/IS 217 by bringing in a consultant who gave professional development to the entire PS/IS 217 teaching staff; Over 6 sessions the consultant focused her instruction on what computer science is and what it looks like in a k-8 context; teachers had their own hands-on experiences;
- In December Cornell Tech held a parent coding night as part of Computer Science Education week; Diane gave a presentation on computer science education for parents; and then parents and students all went up to the computer lab; the same scratch game taught at the Halloween event was used so students could teach their parents;
- Cornell Tech brought the 4th grade class at PS/IS 217 to Google for two labs; in one lab children built electronics with a tool called "little bits" and did an innovation challenge called "the marshmallow challenge" where they built the tallest building they could using marshmallows and tooth picks; the students toured Google, had lunch at the Cornell Tech campus at Goggle and heard from a panel of Cornell Tech students about their academic work as well as from Cornell Tech Dean Dan Huttenlocher;
- Diane taught a lesson this spring to the Brownie troop at PS/IS 217 using hide and seek as a way to teach them about algorithms; created a storyboard with pictures and coded it with language; at the end laptops were set up with a hide and seek game built on scratch;
- In April, 15 Cornell Tech students taught an algorithm lesson to the entire 8th grade at PS/IS 217;

they taught the students what an algorithm is, played Simon says and then asked the students to write an algorithm for making a turkey sandwich; they then made the turkey sandwiches, which were donated to older adults at the senior center;

- Moving forward, Diane is working with the Roosevelt Island Youth Program to think about after school programs to bring to the Beacon program; Diane has recommended Big Code which enables students to edit videos using java script; and also Codesters; Diane has also identified two Cornell Tech alums to be mentors for a robotics program next year;
- Diane is working on getting an in residence consultant for PS/IS 217;

Discussion/Questions:

- How do you choose which classes to work with? The principal decides
- Do you use Amazon Smile for orders, so some money goes back to the school? Ans. Yes
- Is there a long-term plan for curriculum? Ans. Close to having a teacher in residence one day per week, more info on that soon. We are going above and beyond requirements, and sharing our lessons learned with NYC DOE.
- You're meeting quarterly with the principal, instead of every six weeks? Ans. We decided with the principal that quarterly meetings were enough.
- Are you working with DOE on curriculum roll out? Ans. We are not creating DOE curriculum, we are curating curriculum with them.

Milestones - Construction

- Start of Façade at Bloomberg Center: May 2016
- Start of Grading at Phase II: May 2016
- Electrical Service to Campus: Summer 2016
- West Roadway Operational: Summer 2016
- Bulk Soil Barging Operations: Fall 2016
- The residential building and the colocation building were topped off within the last couple of months;
- Major super structure work in all 3 buildings is completed;
- Steel for the Bloomberg center and residential building is all brought in by barge;
- Facades for the Bloomberg Center and the residential building also coming by barge
- The Bloomberg Center and Colocation Center solar canopying is being installed;
- Geothermal fields will provide heating and cooling for the Bloomberg Center; in process of installing the geothermal wells now; so far about 55 of 80 have been installed; the wells are 400 ft deep;
- Two of the four transformers in the Central Utility Plan (CUP) have been energized; all will be by the end of the summer;
- Hotel/Executive Education Center update: Might have an MOU with a hotel developer May or June, and a design at the end of the summer. The building will be reviewed by the Public Design Commission;
- Tree plan: the loop road around the campus must be a certain width and in the SE corner that width cannot be achieved without removing 4 trees; rather than transplant them, the proposal is to replace them with trees and landscaping that will thrive and adapt in its environment - eg; trees that can withstand salt spray, etc.; 59 trees will be planted; the larger trees would be willow oak; all trees are native or adaptive native and do well in this environment; also some grey and white birch trees and a sprinkling of holly and evergreen; Cornell Tech consulted with Dr. Schwaryi and Christina Delfico before drafting the plan;

Discussion/Questions:

- What about roadway access for the Red Bus? Ans. No access yet.
- Will there be access for July 4th? Ans. Yes
- How many apartments on each floor? Ans. 22 student floors with 500 beds, 2 floors on top for faculty with 50 beds
- Is the electrical dependent on Con Ed upgrades? Ans. That's separate but the campus is dependent on that
- What's the level of power on campus? Ans. 2500 kva
- Re the plan to replace 4 trees: What about cherry trees? Ans. They require a lot of maintenance.

Concerned about creating a mono culture. If one tree gets a disease, the rest are prone. Ultimately, this is RIOC's decision.

- Would it be RIOC's responsibility to maintain the new tree plantings, etc.? Ans. Yes, this plan is our recommendation but is RIOC's decision what is planted there;
- Were linden trees considered? Ans. No.
- Was Dr. Schwaryi consulted? Ans. Yes.
- Will the hotel be full service? Ans. Yes
- Do you see the hotel as an attraction to bring people to the island? Ans. Yes.
- Will the hotel be open to the public? Ans. Yes
- How many stories will the hotel be? Ans. Around 15 stories, there is a maximum number of rooms in the environmental review.
- Will there be separate parking? Ans. We are trying to limit parking.
- What is the need for a conference center? Ans. It's part of the Cornell Tech mission to connect with the professional community.
- How much space would be used for the conference center? Ans. It will be 20,000 square feet over four levels, including classrooms and a ballroom for events.
- We're almost finished with construction, and now there's more? Ans. Construction is always disruptive but this will be less so – we won't have to dig up roadways, etc.
- Will there be a reduced hotel rate for Roosevelt Island residents? Ans. We will have to get back to the group on that.
- Why is there a new statement about bargaining in the NYC EDC report? Ans. Statement is directly from the lease, and it is outdated - it was written before we had approval for the bargaining.

Community Updates – Jane Swanson

- In February Cornell Tech coordinated a roundtable discussion at Coler Rehabilitation and Nursing Care Center with the goal of learning more about each other as organizations and possible future collaborators; we shared information about our respective missions, programs and operations and how we view the role of technology in improving the lives of individuals with disabilities and how the lives of people with disabilities could be improved with the creation of new technologies to be applied to their everyday life and well-being.
- In March, a team of Cornell Tech students interviewed a group of older Roosevelt Island adults about a service the students were creating - called ELROY, an app intended to help seniors better engage with technology and the services it enables - empowering seniors to live better, more independent lives: in essence, to help seniors get stuff done in an increasingly digital age.
- In April, The Cornell Tech Community and Construction Task Force hosted a recruitment event by *Nontraditional employment for Women* to introduce Roosevelt Island women to their programs. NEW prepares women for nontraditional careers in the construction, utilities, and transportation industries and serves as a direct pipeline for construction trades unions, providing women with skills and access to high paying jobs. Cornell Tech is extremely proud to have signed on as a NEW signature project. This means that we have committed to ensuring that at least 15% of the construction jobs on campus go tradeswomen. 20 women attended the event and 18 followed up with NEW to take the next steps in the program.
- Another group of Cornell Tech students are creating an app to help build social ties in local urban communities. The app is called MOVEMENT and it is meant to help people get to know their neighbors. With MoveMeant you can see the places that people in your building visit the most. Only people in your building can join your network and everyone shares their data anonymously. For each place you have visited, Movement can tell you how many people from your community have also been there. In addition, each place you visit has its own private guestbook that you can sign into if you want to. When you sign the guestbook for a particular place, you can see the names of other people from your community who have also signed it and they will be able to see your name too. Then you can choose to connect with the people who have been to that place if you want to; The students set up shop in the lobby of one of the Riverwalk buildings for a couple of hours a few days in a row to catch people coming home from work.
- 5 Cornell Tech students working on a device called pallette went to Coler to interview 3 residents with quadriplegia and some of the staff who work with them. The goal was to see what the residents thought of the device and how it could be improved. Pallette is a tongue controlled, wireless blue tooth device that sits on the roof of a user's mouth. It allows people with

quadriplegia to interact more independently with the world around them – such as turning on the lights, the tv, an air conditioner.

- Also in April, Cornell Tech coordinated with Cornell University Coop Extension NYC to present a workshop on nutrition to the Roosevelt Island Brownie troop.
- Barbara Parker with the Roosevelt Island Senior Association (RISA) asked for Cornell Tech's assistance in developing a website for RISA. Cornell Tech bridged RISA to Peter Kaplan, a RI resident who had expressed an interest in getting involved both with Cornell Tech and the RI community;

Additional Questions:

- When will we hear about what to expect for campus opening? Ans. New Operations Director will be working on that.
- Any news on tenants for The Bridge? Ans. Not yet, Forest City Ratner Companies is in discussions.
- Will Cornell Tech use sports park facilities? Ans. New Operations Director will address that.
- How much truck traffic will the hotel construction generate? Ans. All traffic was evaluated in the EIS.

Community Engagement:

- A Town Hall will held be June 13th, 6:30 p.m. at Manhattan Park. Cornell Tech will introduce its new Operations Director.
- The next quarterly task force meeting will be Monday, April 25th from 6-8pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St.