

Brownfield Opportunity Area Program Advisory Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

Location: Harvest Room
90-40 160th Street
Jamaica, NY 11432

Date: June 8, 2006

Time: 9:00am – 12:00 pm

Subject: Kick-off Meeting

Drafted by: Christopher C. Woods, Jr.

Attendees:

Distribution: All attendees/invitees/file

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) project and discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team and the advisory committee. Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook and Carlisle Towery gave brief introductory comments for the meeting, which included a summary of the projects and efforts that have occurred in Jamaica and those that will continue into the future. Curtis Cravens, representing the New York State Department of State, gave some brief comments summarizing his agency's role in the BOA Nomination Study and the BOA Program's emphasis on public participation. Dan Pollay gave a summary of the contents of the Study and the process through which it will be developed. Chris Woods provided an overview of the public outreach process. The following is a summary of pertinent issues and queries:

- **How does the advisory committee access the Project Team?**

Christopher Woods, Community Outreach Consultant, will be the main point of contact for the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation (GJDC) to address all community concerns. Additionally, Mr. Woods will be responsible for implementing the Community Outreach Program. He will work in the areas of program development and dissemination of information. Mr. Woods will be readily accessible throughout the process to ensure an open flow of communication.

- **Have sites been identified for re-development?**

The boundaries of the BOA have been defined per the grant agreement with New York State Department of State, however, no sites have yet been identified for redevelopment within the BOA Program. Currently, the BOA Project Team and

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consultants will be gathering information and analyzing it with the intent to make recommendations for individual sites.

- **Has the Project Team identified the types of businesses it believes would be appropriate for redeveloped properties?**

The Project Team has not made such a determination. The eventual recommendations for redevelopment, including land use, will be based upon analysis of the data gathered by GJDC, the consultants, and the advisory committee.

- **Has there been community notification prior to this meeting?**

Per GJDC's agreement with NYS Department of State (DOS), this meeting begins the public participation and community outreach process. GJDC has informed a number of community stakeholders about the BOA Program. The BOA Program, and its potential impact on redevelopment efforts near the AirTrain facility were discussed at a recent GJDC membership meeting.

- **Is the BOA process part of the overall redevelopment plan for Jamaica?**

Although the BOA Program operates independent of other redevelopment plans, the impact of these initiatives will be carefully analyzed and incorporated into the Nomination Study.

- **Will state agencies be involved in the redevelopment of the properties?**

The state agencies represented on the advisory committee will be involved in the redevelopment planning process in collaboration with other members. The agencies will be involved only to the extent that any project qualifies for a particular State program, such as the Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP).

- **There appears to be an imbalance of government agencies and elected officials on the advisory committee. Can additional community groups and block associations be added?**

Yes.

- **Should economic development be the top priority for the BOA process as opposed to public health implications associated with possible contamination?**

The Project Team does not currently possess the data that would be required to assess the public health issues associated with any brownfields in the Study Area.

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Public agencies such as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, an agency represented on the advisory committee, often consider public health issues as they relate to brownfields and have taken action to address them in the past.

- **What impact will the discovery of other brownfields outside of the Study Area have on the selected boundaries?**

There is nothing to prevent the community from preparing an application for more funding to work towards the designation of another area of the community as a Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA).

- **Is this project a duplication of previous studies and initiatives commissioned in Jamaica?**

Yes, other development studies have been completed for a part, but not all, of the Study Area. However, the BOA Program is a new initiative by NYS Department of State and this Nomination Study is the first known attempt in Jamaica at examining brownfield redevelopment, in particular, on an area-wide basis. A major component of the process will be to gather information, where available, from prior studies.

- **Can data compiled from previous studies be incorporated into the BOA Nomination Study?**

Yes.

- **Is the aquifer work/remediation part of the process?**

Data that is available from other studies and initiatives, including any investigations of the aquifer, will be incorporated into the Study where appropriate and relevant.

- **Why is it necessary to employ additional consultants to analyze previously identified properties within the boundaries of the BOA and will the community be able to interface with the consultants?**

Some of the consultants involved in the drafting of the Nomination Study will have direct experience in brownfield redevelopment and the development of such strategies for brownfields requires a form of expertise not before utilized for other redevelopment planning initiatives. The need to avoid duplication of previous efforts has been acknowledged by both DOS and GJDC. The consultants will be communicating with the community and presenting their findings at the advisory committee meetings.

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- **Will additional funds be requested from NYC to complete the Study?**

No, but additional State funds may be requested for the next phase of the project if our work on this Nomination results in the State approving our Study Area as a Brownfield Opportunity Area.

- **Will NYC agencies be involved with the redevelopment process?**

NYC agencies invited as members of the advisory committee will be involved in the planning process. After BOA designation has been granted, agencies will assume their traditional roles in the redevelopment process.

- **Are there lists of brownfield sites identified in NYC?**

Currently, there is no complete list of brownfield sites, as there are many undocumented brownfields throughout the City. There is a list of potential sites that are participating in New York State brownfield programs.

- **Is the West Side site an example of a BOA?**

The West Side site is an example of a brownfield that is in the process of being remediated. Such remediation may occur, much later in this process, if and when brownfields are identified for redevelopment in this BOA Study Area. The West Side site is located outside of the boundaries of our Study Area and, as a site currently being remediated with committed State funding, it is not necessary to apply for additional State funding for that project under BOA.