



General PTA Meeting Minutes 3/10/21

9am, Zoom

1. Meeting Start – Call to Order – 10 seconds
 - a. Announced meeting is being recorded.
2. Approval of Minutes, 2/10/21 - 10 seconds
3. Treasurers' Report – 1 minute
 - a.
4. Co-Presidents' Report – 1 minute - appeal for Tech help
 - a. PTA to send emails through their own account, not via Denise anymore.
Appealed for tech support for newsletter design.
5. Principal's Update – 5 minutes
 - a. Having conversations around how to maximize in-person learning. They will be in touch with parents soon. Morning with Maggie postponed until next Friday.
6. Bridge the Gap Update - 1 minute
 - a. Gave brief overview to Bridge the Gap due to size of meeting. \$750 per kid is suggested donation, but encouraged people to give what they can. 18% participation from the school so far.
7. Committee Briefings - 5 minutes - LOTS of events in the next two weeks!!
 - a. SO Fun City Series - 3/15, 3/18, 3/23 (& 4/15, which is for 5th grade only)
 - b. Comedy Night - 3/11 (this Thursday!!)
 - i. 8:15 pm. Thanks to Ashley for planning.
 - c. Pilates - 3/13, 3/14, 3/21
- 8. Howard Hughes 250 Water Presentation - 10-15 minutes**

- a. Chris Cooper architect from SOM, working with HHC presented. Working past 8 weeks on revision of proposal and presenting to LPC on Thursday night. Showed renderings to show scale in terms of PSS. Working on 2 projects (parking lot and museum). Unused dev rights were transferred (445, 000 sqf of air rights). Need to think of height in district and typology. Have made dramatic reduction as per the LPC and have taken height to 345 feet from 470 feet. Comes with district wide benefits (70 affordable housing units, museum support, district character). Focus on Pearl and Water Streets and borrow from historic block structure. Showed renderings of the height of the tower.

9. Children First - 10-15 minutes

- a. Emily Hellstrom, Megan Malvern, and Grace Lee co-founders of this grass roots group presented. Aim is to protect children from the toxins and noise from the construction. Background: lot is former site of one of the largest thermometer factories in the country. Elemental mercury is a neurotoxin and highly toxic to children. Learned from Brownfield study that there are other toxins present. Want an engaged parent body advocating for our children. Peck Slip will have lack of sunlight for most of the day.
- b. Dr. Arline Bronzaft presented on noise disruption in the classroom. Studies find that students exposed to high levels of noise were one year behind those who were not exposed to the same noise. Bottom line noise is detrimental to students' learning. Noise is harmful to mental and physical health and post pandemic with a population who is already stressed out this construction will be catastrophic. This could be a child's whole elementary school experience.
- c. Paul Goldstein spoke. Said we should look into an acoustical engineer. Councilmember Chin needs to be on our side and Community Board 1.

10. Q&A for HHC and CF

- a. See recording for Q&A for in depth breakdown. A follow-up meeting will be planned.
- b. Saul from HHC said that all issues brought up are fair and will be considered throughout the process. Megan contradicted this claim.

- c. Key questions (and some answers) brought up:
 - i. When will remedial work plan be available for public to view?
 - 1. Langan is in process of evaluating alternatives. Not sure how soon they will be able to work through.
 - ii. When will you survey the school building's existing conditions?
 - 1. No specific date yet. Will look into it.
 - iii. Safe plan for traffic in construction site?
 - iv. Sinkhole. Snow on top of it, there are more cracks. Worried about it, what is parking lot aware?
 - 1. Mimi said they are aware. Where the larger sinkhole is there isn't an environmental issue there so they claim.
 - v. How deep will the foundation go?
 - 1. Can't answer this yet.
 - vi. When there is pile driving expected to make the ground shake? And how deep is it 120 ft vs. 300?
 - 1. Will come back with answer. Still in schematic design phase
 - vii. Will there be specifics on decibel levels expected? How much will it lessen and what it will be in terms of sound expected and will this be done after construction on increase of sounds after buildings are built?
 - 1. Yes decibel level is part of noise and sound impacts. AKRF is doing work.
 - viii. How much space will be walled off during remediation?
 - 1. Fences are either offset on to sidewalks if allowed or just along the perimeter of the construction/remediation. This is still tbd.
 - ix. Can we get an independent consultant to monitor this process?
 - 1. Saul said waiting to get information.
 - x. How much noise from remediation process?
 - 1. Mimi from Langan said pile driving is tbd; it can be quieter than construction. Soil removal is tbd will involve use of backhoe and dump trucks.

- xi. Is there a sun/shadow study?
- xii. Is there a noise study/plan in place?
- xiii. Is there a reason to separate the affordable housing from the other units?
- xiv. Sinkhole is worrisome.
 - 1. Saul said they will address it. Langan is watching the lot closely.
- xv. Air quality control on the rooftop. Please address.
- xvi. Will the Peck Slip street remain closed due to traffic? What about the lobby to the school?
 - 1. Ongoing conversations with DOT and school; there will not be a vehicular drop off on Peck, it will be on Pearl; so hoping it will be a pedestrian street. Although need access for emergency vehicles to get through (similar to what is already in place).
- xvii. Why doesn't design include an extra wide street?
 - 1. LPC wants to preserve the historic block structure so having set back off street is not considered in character.
- xviii. When will construction start?
 - 1. Will come back with more details and a detailed timeline. It is not 5 years but possibly 3 years (interior vs. exterior). Start time dependent upon approval process; want to do it all at once (remediation and construction). Middle of next year is hoped start time. Will know more in 3-4 months.
- xix. Did the community room change?
 - 1. It is still the same size although the configuration changed. Targeted around 5000 sqft. On corner of Peck Slip and Water Street.
 - 2. Welcome input on how the community space will be used.

11. Meeting Finalized – Meeting close – 10 seconds