

Lower Manhattan Development Corporation
Meeting of Residents Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
April 18, 2002, 5:45-7:30 p.m.
New York City Partnership
1 Battery Park Plaza
LMDC Board Members: Paul Crotty and Madelyn Wils

Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) Board Members Howard Wilson and Madelyn Wils opened the meeting and gave welcoming remarks. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Wils then asked each member and ex-officio member of the Residents Advisory Council to introduce themselves. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Wils indicated that LMDC is in listening mode and want members to share their concerns and ideas. The Draft Principles and Blueprint was a direct result of that input. More public input will be sought from all Advisory Councils, Community Board 1, and a public hearing will be held.

Amy Peterson of LMDC then updated the Council Members on the Draft Individual Assistance Plan. The Plan provides financial assistance to attract and retain residents to live in Lower Manhattan. It had been revised based on comments received and is now subject to another comment period. Many of the suggestions from this Council were incorporated into the Plan, e.g. expanding the zones and creating incentives for families. The LMDC Board approved the revised Plan at the last Board meeting.

A question was raised concerning the eligibility of NYU students. It was responded that the grant is intended for more permanent residents. It was pointed out that 2-year leases were not offered between 9/11-12/11/01. A few indicated that rents in many buildings were reduced following 9/11 and were later restored. This might conflict with one of the Individual Assistance Plan criteria which restricts rent to no higher than 90% pre-9/11 level in Zone 1.

Andrew Winters of LMDC then presented the plan for a Viewing Wall around the WTC site. The Wall will be constructed of high quality, durable materials, including galvanized steel. It will be people centered with high visibility, and communicates to all visitors the memory and dignity of the site. A series of solid panels will be incorporated at various points along the perimeter of the Wall. Alcoves will also be built in to help prevent bottlenecks and provide a more personal space for viewers.

Questions were raised as to when the sidewalk on the west side of West Street will be open. Some suggested a pedestrian flow study be done to minimize congestion, in particular, preventing viewers from clashing with office workers during rush hours. It was proposed to use soundproof materials for the Wall. Some pointed out that glowing lights (beacons) might obstruct the view from Broadway and become a distraction. Another suggestion was to post directional signs, maybe even building a kiosk or information center.

Mr. Winters also briefly spoke on the Draft Principles and Blueprint. He emphasized that it is still in the drafting stage and welcomes all ideas and suggestions. One recommendation was to put a map in the document. Other recommendations include adding a green market, libraries, office spaces and a community center. It is also thought that the favors of local communities should be preserved.

With all agenda items covered, Mr. Crotty and Ms. Wils thanked the members for their participation and the meeting adjourned.