

RIRA – ISLAND SERVICES COMMITTEE (ISC) REPORT TO COMMON COUNCIL MEETING, 3/7/12

The ISC met 3/1/12.

Our principal business was to organize and get functioning the new RIRA sponsored Advisory Committee – Main St. Retail Stores (AC-MSRS):

° Initial membership totals 17 people representing Retail Stores and Commercial interests, Non-Profit organizations, RIRA officers and Common Council representatives, and RI residents.

° The AC-MSRS accepted the proposed Mission (see attachment). Mission might be changed somewhat after the AC is fully functioning.

° Fred Plastino will be the interim Chair. At the first meeting of the AC, a permanent chair will be elected.

° The AC-MSRS expects to meet on their own later in March, probably during the weeks of 3/19 or 3/26.

Meanwhile, we are awaiting a Hudson-Related announcement on the first stores (5 or 6) that will be granted leases.

Full-Service Pharmacy on RI

This is a new issue which ISC will pursue. In summary, RI no longer has a full-services pharmacy. Duane Reade will not accept prescriptions managed by Express Script drug plans. Soon this may be extended to Medco plans as Express Scripts is trying to acquire Medco. In addition, DR will no longer deliver. Gristedes will accept prescriptions from all plans and will deliver (but only to pre-registered customers). However, Gristedes maintains a limited variety of drugs in the store. So, many customers have to wait one or two days for the particular drug(s) to be delivered to the store.

We will initially attack this problem by dealing with Hudson-Related, the controllers of the leases for both Duane Reade and Gristedes.

New Public Library

Jessica Lappin has informed us that New York City will contribute \$1 million toward the new Public Library at the 504 Main St. site. Also, RIOC has promised \$750 thousand. Combined with the \$300 thousand grant from Se. Serrano, we will have over \$2 million for the project. Total cost of the project is expected to be \$8-10 million. Most of the balance of funds needed will have to come from the New York Public Library.

Other Updates

° Cornell wants an additional 2.6 acres of land at their site to extend their boundaries to include the sidewalks around the site. RIOC and Cornell are expected to begin negotiations on this proposal.

° Tram – Renovations of both stations are expected to begin later in March or in early April.

Aaron Hamburger, Chair - ISC