

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 28, 2023 | 6 pm
Bronx Museum of the Arts
1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY
MR. ROBERT GARMENDIZ, BOARD CHAIR, PRESIDING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Ellen D. Abraham, Mr. Howard Brown, Ms. Tricia Claxton, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Ms. Leticia N. Dinkins, Ms. Brenda Dock, Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Towona Joye, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Ms. Veronie Lawrence, Ms. Prettystar Lopez, Mr. Julian D. Lopez-Leyva, Ms. Marie McCullough, Ms. Monique McMahon-Stancil, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Ms. Michelle Mootreddy, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Ms. Elba Rodriguez, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Mr. Jackson Strong, Ms. Jessica Toro.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Beverly Bond, Ms. Maria Cuevas Mateo, Ms. Veronique Green, Mr. Daniel Jimenez, Ms. Keyana Lundy, Ms. Hillary Pena, Ms. Davina Phillips, Rev. Julian Stephenson, Mr. Dorian E. Waltower.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Ms. Priscilla Alexander, Ms. Shekera Algarin, Ms. Rasheida Alston, Mr. Isidro Bernabe Arguello, Mr. Dustin L. Carter, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Mr. Avery Smith, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray.

STAFF:

Thomas Alexander, District Manager
Lynne Thompson, Administrative Assistant
Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Senior Secretary

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Hon. Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President
Leonardo Coello, representing Mayor Eric Adams
Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson
Gina Williams, representing Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
Greer Mayhew, representing City Comptroller Brad Lander
Courtney Aubain, representing US Congressman Ritchie Torres
Terell Brock, representing NYS Senate Jose M. Serrano
Nicol Aguila, representing NYC Council Oswald Feliz

GUEST PRESENT:

Ciara Gannon-Office of Bronx Borough President, Vanessa L. Gibson - Office of Bronx Borough President, Sonja D. Gracy-Community Resident, Mariano Laboy-Morrisania D&T, Reverend Nafisa Sharriff-Entering the Holy of Holies, Inc., Samuel Pugo-Student at CUNY School of Public Health, Keith Gordon-NCV Capital Partners, Chaplin Travis Thomas, Jacqueline Carter-Community Resident & CB4 Parks Committee Member, Esther Polanco-Volunteers of America, Captain Ortiz-NYPD 44th Precinct, Police Officer Damir Cirikovic-NYPD 44th Precinct, Shakeema Rogers-NYPL Grand Concourse branch,

Luis Nunez-El Patron Nightclub Cabaret Restaurant Inc., Eulalio Vasquez-EV Catering Corp/M&J Catering Hall, Johan Rosa-167th ST. Billiard and Café Inc., Andre Prep, Gino Pacheco-Eagle and Cedar Group LLC, Cristian Reinosomontes-NYPL Highbridge Branch.

Public Session:

1. Samuel Pugo, Student of CUNY School of Public Health
 - Advocating for Sugary Tax NY Bill A05107 and was invited by Board Chair, Robert Garmendiz, to the next Health & Human Services meeting.
2. Sonja D. Gracy, Community Resident
 - Spoke about the implications of public safety professionals' exemptions from federal and state electronic harassment laws. Advocated for the needs of public safety to be more accountable in Bronx Community Board 4 because the technology public safety is using.
3. Reverend Nafisa Sharriff, Founder and CEO of Entering the Holy of Holies, Inc.
 - Announcement about annual year-end fundraiser hosted by Entering the Holy of Holies, Inc., Dancing Into The Light A Time of Healing for Our World on Sunday, December 10, 2023 from 1 PM – 6 PM at the Andrew Freeman Home (1125 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10453).

Welcoming remarks and announcements by Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair. The Chair called the meeting to order at ~6:15pm. Pursuant to Chapter 70 Section 2800 of the City Charter the actions and procedure of Community Boards and their committees are governed by the applicable provisions of the City Charter and New York State Open Meetings Law (OML, Section 100-111 of the New York State Public Officers Law) and Freedom of Information Law (FOIL, Section 84-90 of the Public Officers Law). Each Community Board Shall meet at least once each month. Community Board 4 shall meet every fourth (4) Tuesday of the month, in person. This Tuesday, November 28, 2023, the meeting was held at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, located at 1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by Ms. Martha Reyes.

Roll Call for Board Members: Present 26, Excused 10, Absent 9 = Total Board Members 45

Report by NYPD 44th Precinct: Damir Cirikovic-NYPD 44th Precinct, Captain Ortiz-NYPD 44th Precinct reported the crime and theft rate in the district. According to the report, as of November 28, 2023, the crime rate has gone down; thefts and robberies have gone down, however issues with scooters continue to persist. The NYPD 44th Precinct is tasked with apprehension for those that are problematic. Illegal parking is also an issue. Kia and Hyundai continue to be targeted due to a popular social media challenge.

Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting minutes:

- Sharon motioned to approve the October 24, 2023 minutes. Leandro Monzon seconded the motion.
- No one opposed, and there were no abstentions. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee Report: Ms. Ishaira Garcia gave the report for the Nominating Committee. The Committee reminded the Board that positions of 2nd Vice Chair, Treasury and Recording Secretary are open on the Executive Committee. For those who are interested, the Nominating Committee will be taking nominations from the floor for either someone else or oneself. All members nominated must be in good standing and do not have to have a specific tenure on the Board. Those elected into these open positions

will serve an abbreviated term since we're already in our fiscal year and this abbreviated term will be 5 months. When we reach the start of the new fiscal year, which will be June 2024, the positions will re-open for a 2-year term going forward. All nominations should be emailed to either the Board or someone on the Nominating Committee.

Report by CB4 District Manager by Thomas Alexander

- This is Mr. Alexander's first report so he gave the Board insight to his onboarding, which has included many trainings, the opening of BronxPoint, and the developing local economic opportunities in cannabis.

Update by Special Guest, Hon. Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

- Ms. Gibson joined the Board's meeting and gave an update about her office's strategic plan and arms in economic development. Ms. Gibson also spoke about cannabis applications in the Bronx, the circulating City of Yes proposal, and an open invitation to her office's Winter Wonderland community event.
- Introduced her staff members, Alexis Ruiz and Ciara Gannon.

Committee Reports (Called by the Board Chair):

HOUSING & LAND USE:

Report was made by Committee Chair, Mr. Jackson Strong

1. Meets 1st Monday of Each Month
2. Discussion/Review: Committee received an overview of City of Yes proposal which will become a voting item for the Board in the future.
3. No voting items.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES:

Report was made by Committee Chair, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Committee Chair and stated the Committee meets the 1st Wednesday of every month.

1. The Committee did not meet this month; however, Mrs. Dais mentioned being in discussion with FDNY about lithium batteries and including DOT in future meetings again. DOT has been absent at the Committee's recent meetings.
2. No voting items.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES:

Report was made by Committee Chair, Ms. Martha Reyes

1. Letter of Support request from Unique People Services, Inc. & NCV Capital Partners for HHAP funding to a supportive housing project located at 1415 Ogden Avenue (between West 171 Street & Dr. M.L.K. Jr. Blvd.) Bronx, NY. (Motion: Ms. Marie McCullough, second by: Ms. Monique McMahan-Stancil). 0 in favor, 25 opposed, 1 abstain. The motion did not pass.

PARKS:

Report was made by Committee Chair, Ms. Yohanny Rincon

1. The Parks Committee meets every 2nd Tuesday of every month.
2. No voting items.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Report was made by Committee Chair, Mr. Leandro Monzon.

Mr. Monzon announced the removal of one voting item: the application for corporate change by NUEVO TULCINGO AZTECA CORP (located at 134-138 East 170th Street) for Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

NYSLA – Renewal

1. ESB KITCHEN & BAR CORP./Emergency Snack Bar (located at 1372 Jesup Avenue) for Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider (Renewal)

NYSLA - New Application

2. CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL OF COLORADO, LLC/Chipotle Mexican Grill #4636 (located 557 Grand Concourse) for Wine, Beer & Cider (New Application)

NYSLA – New Application and Temporary Retail Permit

3. EV CATERING CORP/M&J Catering Hall (located at 948-950 Anderson Avenue) for Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider (New Application and Temporary Retail Permit) 4. 167th ST. BILLIARD AND CAFÉ INC. (located 185 East 167th Street) for Wine, Beer & Cider (New Application and Temporary Retail Permit)

NYSLA - ALL NIGHT PERMIT For NEW YEARS EVE 2023/2024

5. EL PATRON NIGHTCLUB CABARET RESTAURANT INC (located at 1465 Jerome Avenue)
6. EAGLE & CEDAR GROUP LLC (located at 1404 Ogden Avenue)
7. VOGUE RESTAURANT & LOUNGE INC (located at 1472 Ogden Avenue)

Motion made by Michelle Mootreddy for the approval of all six applications, second by Jessica Toro. All in favor, no abstain.

YOUTH & EDUCATION:

Report was made by Committee Chair, Ms. Rodriguez and stated the committee meets the 3rd Thursday of each month.

1. Committee did not meet this month, but will resume with regular schedule in January 2024
2. Reminder that the Board is putting together a resource manual and is still accepting referrals.
3. No voting items.

Report by the Office of the Bronx Borough President and Local Elected Officials:

1. Leonardo Coello, representing Mayor Eric Adams, attends Bronx Community Board 4's general Board meeting for the first time as part of his new role. Discussed his new role with the Mayor's office, specifically for the Bronx; which will include attending all Bronx Community Board Meetings moving forward.
2. Courtney Aubain, representing Congressman Ritchie Torres

- Discussed that government shutdown was avoided so the office will remain open. Office is open Mon-Fri. from 10AM to 5PM.
- 3. Greer Mayhew, representing City Comptroller Brad Lander
- 4. Terell Brock, representing Senator Jose M. Serrano
 - Reported on a listing of events and happenings the Senator is doing.
 - Free Covid Test and face masks, arrange for pickup at the office.
 - District Office- 335 East 100th Street bet. 1st and 2nd Avenues, Mon.-Fri. 9AM to 5PM, (212) 828-5829 or serrano@nysenate.gov
- 5. Nicol Aguila, representing NYC Council Oswald Feliz

Announcement:

1. Board Chair, Robert Garmendiz, wishes everyone a happy holidays.
2. Reminder that we will not meet again until January 2024.
3. The Executive Committee will be meeting independently to vote on cannabis licensing before the deadline.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:53PM

Submitted by Michelle Mootreddy