

*The City of New York*  
**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**  
**GENERAL BOARD MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021 | 6PM**  
**VIA ZOOM PLATFORM**  
**Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Chair, Presiding**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Rasheida Alston, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. James Boyd, Jr., Mr. Kweku Brew, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Michael Durant, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Mr. Lionell Jackson, Ms. Robin Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Ms. Anita Long, Mr. Paul Onyx Lozito, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. Anthony Nacerino, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Jonah Nigh, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Ms. Elba Rodriguez, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Kedisha Samuels, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Jacqueline Calderon, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Devon Greene.

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes, Mr. Constantious Stavroulakis, Dr. Grace Zarate.

**STAFF:**

Mr. Paul Philps, District Manager  
Ms. Lynne Thompson, Administrative Assistant  
Ms. Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Senior Secretary

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Hon. Luis Sepulveda, New York State Senate Member  
Hon. Vanessa Gibson, New York City Council Member  
Hon. Fernando Cabrera, New York City Council Member  
Cecil B., representing US Congress Ritchie Torres  
Khadim Niang-Representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer  
Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
Ritchard Ewings, representing NYS Senate Luis Sepulveda  
Nipa Royees, representing NYS Senate Luis Sepulveda  
Terell Brock, representing NYS Senate Jose Serrano  
Charlene Matos, representing NYS Assembly Latoya Joyner  
Emmanuel Martinez, representing NYS Assembly Chantel Jackson  
Stacy Strong, representing NYC Council Vanessa Gibson  
Justin Cortes, representing NYC Council Vanessa Gibson  
Russell Cheeks, representing NYC Council Fernando Cabrera

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Jennifer Steinberg-WSFSSH, Steve DeMarco-WSFSSH, Alex Mitchell-am NY, Kay Real-NYC HPD, Ted Weinstein-NYC HPD, Anna Driscoll-WSFSSH, Amy Shakespeare-Arch, Paul Freitag-WSFSSH, Bianca Cornelius-BronxWorks, Amy

Atzman-Arch, Chris Campbell-Resident, Stephanie Green-WSFSSH, Dinorah Bobet-New Settlement Apartments, Lyna Saad-NYC HPD, Dr. Yudy Persaud-Bronx Care Health System, Rolando Aviles-Resident, Elizabeth Parra-NYSLA Applicant, Deborah Allman-NY Public Library Grand Concourse Branch, Atiya Ward-Resident, Enrique Colon-CASA NSA, Malik Brown-Stagg Group, Galaxy 9 Note-Stagg Group, Kimberly Jefferson-NY Public Library Melrose Branch, Joanna Kokkinakos-NYSLA Applicant, M. Muller-Resident, Emilia Tineo-Resident, Confesor-Resident, Travis-SAVED 4 Life, Sherry Cranmer-WSFSSH, Chris Miele-Stagg Group, Desmar Guerara-Resident, Rachel Gill-BronxWorks, Reynaldo Punzalan-Friends of 4 Parks, Christopher Bell-Resident, Charmaine Graham, Jacqueline Altamirano Marin, Joanna Mendez, Charlene Freedman, Christina's iphone, Elliot Viera, NYC Yves.com, Pasual Matos, Sara Powell, ipad, iphone(2), ipad, Al Thompson's iphone, Jamaal Anthony, Pierina Sanchez, Hennessy Reyes, Marco Strings, Luis MMG, Nicole Levy, Sarahn O'uhuru, H. Martinez, Karen.

## **Key takeaways and agenda items**

*Public hearing commenced at 6:01 p.m.*

### **1. Public Hearing**

- Representatives from HPD and WSFSSH presented a ULURP application for 97 West 169th Street.
- WSFSSH gave organizational background and information regarding recent projects in the Bronx.
- Building profile:
  - Nine-story, 73,500 sq. ft, affordable senior housing development
  - Approximately 71,000 sq. ft for residential space; 2,500 sq. ft for community facility space; and 2,900 sq. ft for recreational space
  - 105 units
  - All units will receive Project Based Section 8 vouchers.
  - Tenants only pay 30% of their income towards rent; 0-50% AMI.
  - Reserved for households 62+
  - 30% formerly homeless seniors
  - 22 enhanced care units
  - Wide array of residential social services
- Board members asked questions pertaining to solar energy, ADA compliance, affordability, marketing plans, utility payments, crisis intervention, parking, among other topics.

### **2. Public Session**

- Reynaldo Punzalan reported from the Friends of 4 Parks Alliance.
  - The 2021 season will begin with an event on March 27th.
  - The event will feature free food and drinks at one of the parks and will be a socially-distanced.
  - They will provide free yoga classes at Franz Sigel park starting on Saturday May 8th and will continue every Saturday for 8-10 weeks.
  - In March it will organize its first "4 Parks 5k" (a running event that traverses Macombs, Kilmer, Mullaly and Franz Sigel).
- Bianca Cornelius presented for Bronx Works.
  - If community members are interested in the BronxWorks SNAP-ED nutrition workshops and/or Shop Healthy program contact her directly at 646-393-4000 ext. 2765.
- Dinorah Bobet presented for New Settlement.
  - It provides services for young adults ages 17-24.

- High school diploma and/or high school equivalency is not required; they provide those courses if needed.
- Services include job-readiness workshops, leadership development, professional skills, CPR and first aid certifications, NCCER certification (i.e. construction), among other services.
- If interested, contact Dinorah directly at [D.bobet@newsettlement.org](mailto:D.bobet@newsettlement.org) or 862-267-1128.

### **3. Welcoming remarks and announcements by Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair**

### **4. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Bishop Earl McKay.**

### **5. Roll Call**

### **6. Review/Correction/Adoption of General Board Meeting minutes.**

- The November 2020 minutes were approved.

### **7. Report by NYPD 44th Precinct.**

- No representatives present.

### **9. Report by CB4 District Manager Paul A. Philps**

- Reported on COVID updates, city budget cuts, meeting etiquette, among other topics.
- Noted that we will partner with DSNY to do community clean-ups this summer.
- Complete this survey to suggest clean-up sites:
  - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CB4locations>

### **10. Committee Reports**

- **Economic Development Committee**

- Committee Chair Beverly Bond reported on three renewal applications:
  - Hard Rock Stadium Tenant Inc.
  - Hard Rock Café
  - NYY Steak
  - All three approved.
- Reported on a presentation by Brian E. Smith, Yankees Senior Vice President, Corporate/Community Relations
  - Gave an overview of the Yankee Organization Foundation/Community contributions to the Bronx.
    - Examples included community outreach, young recognition, Youth Leadership Core, complimentary tickets, distress funds to Yankee Stadium employees, and emergency grants.
    - Paul will ask Brian to continue his updates via a one-pager or presentations at full board meetings.

- **Parks**

- Committee Chair Paul Lozito reported.
- NYC Parks made a presentation about the design of Bridge Park South (Harlem River Greenway).

- The Bridge Park South project restores and activates an area along the Harlem River that provides opportunities for passive recreation along the river, along with the extension of the existing Harlem River Greenway bike path.
- They requested a letter of support for the NYC Public Design Commission, and the committee approved.
- Other parks updates:
  - Claremont Park- construction started in the Summer 2020.
  - Bronx Children’s Museum at Mill Pond Park will be completed in late Summer / Fall 2021.
  - The High Bridge Park Steps reconstruction will be completed in the Fall 2021.
  - Jerome Playground South Skate Park is under construction.
  - Franz Sigel Park Ballfield reconstruction and lighting / scoreboard is under design.
  - Bridge Park Harlem River is under design.
  - Grant Park is under design and construction will start at the end of January 2021.
- **Municipal Services**
  - Committee Chair Rosie Dais reported.
  - Detective Oviedo provided the 44th Precinct monthly activity report. Highlights:
    - A new Neighborhood Community Officer listing sheet will be sent by email.
    - 44<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council meeting will continue virtually due to COVID.
    - Four police officers affected by COVID are quarantine.
    - Police officers were promised vaccination Wednesday January 6; however, the vaccines were not forthcoming.
    - CB4 has accepted the task to help by enlisting the help of elected officials, presenting a motion before general board to construct a letter ensuring police officers, our essential workers can receive the COVID vaccine now.
    - Quality of life issues should be directed to NCO to resolve.
  - Mr. Brian Smith (Yankees) presented and discussed partnering with CB4 to achieve goal of a cleaner community (e.g. they can assist with Public Service Announcements emphasizing the importance of a clean community)
  - Ideas and strategies to address sanitation and maintenance issues on local streets, and parks in CB4 were discussed.
  - Department of Transportation requested a Letter of Support for a Safety Improvement Project at the intersection of east 170th Street and Teller Avenue. The letter was approved.
- **Housing**
  - Committee Chair Jackson Strong reported.
  - Reviewed presentation on ULURP C-210195HAX (97 W. 169th Street). Letter of support was approved.
  - Reviewed Stagg Group’s request for an After Hour Variance for 1073 Summit Avenue (i.e. construction start time at 8:00 AM on Saturdays).
    - Board members raised questions about regular weekend hours, revised timeline, four-month condition, delivery schedules, extra traffic, community noise, among other topics.
    - A representative from Stagg (Kathleen) discussed their commitment to minimal noise, deliveries, and traffic.
    - Letter of support was approved.
    - A board member and others made the point that even though this was not an HPD project, developers should notify community boards about their work as a good-neighbor policy.
- **Youth Services & Education**
  - Committee Chair Zonia Ortiz reported.
  - Set priorities for this year. Highlights include:

- Compile a list of all the CBOs and their services in the District
- Equip the homeless youth in the community with electronic devices
- Seek for more virtual fun activities for the youth
- Encourage School Administrators, Teachers and Parent Coordinators to join the Committee
- **Health & Human Resources**
  - Committee Chair Jason A. Caraballo reported.
  - Discussed telehealth services at BronxCare
    - Patients may call 99-Bronx for a BronxCare appointment and will be offered the option for telehealth or in-person visit.
    - Telehealth services have grown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing many patient visits to be conducted remotely.
    - All BronxCare providers have been trained to conduct telehealth visits, with the most common visit types including evaluation for acute symptoms (mostly COVID), triage, and primary care.
  - Reported on Montefiore and United Healthcare.
    - As of 1/1/21, Montefiore is no longer in-network with United Healthcare after United refused to negotiate with Montefiore on reasonable reimbursement rates.
    - Approximately 60,000 people have their access to healthcare disrupted as a result.
  - Discussed engaging community residents in a simple competition that promotes healthy activity, with the incentive of a prize for those who are most active. More to come.
  - The H&HS committee will prepare a list of 3-5 social issues in our community that have an impact on the health of its residents and work in collaboration with the other committees to settle on one issue to advocate for improvement.
  - COVID positivity rate update (January 17-23)
    - 10451-9%; 10452-11.19%; 10456-10.83%
  - Dr. Yudy K. Persaud, Chief, Division of Allergy & Immunology, BronxCare Health Systems presented “Vaccine Allergy Myths: From Past to Present”
    - Full presentation was 17 minutes. Transcript available by request.
    - Reported on vaccine mixed messages, number of vaccinations in U.S., strategies for building vaccine confidence among healthcare personnel, among many other topics.
    - Questions and topics raised by the board included mRNA technology, impact on transmission, the need for future iterations of the vaccinations, mutations, and more.

### **13. Report by the Office of the Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz, Jr. and Local Elected Officials**

- Hon. Fernando Cabrera (*reported immediately after Public Session*)
  - Reported on proposed cuts to community board budgets
    - \$3,628 for this fiscal year 2021; \$8,153 for 2022—about 20% when combined
  - Asked board members to pass a resolution or write a letter to OMB, the mayor, etc. to reverse this course of action
  - Discretionary funding applications are due middle of February.
- Council Member Vanessa Gibson (*reported immediately after Public Session*)
  - Reported on COVID testing, PPE giveaways, 2021 and 2022 budgets, among other topics
  - Supported 97 West 169th Street with local discretionary dollars
  - Announced that there will be a public hearing regarding the renaming of Mullaly Park

- Yankee Stadium will be used as a mass distribution site for vaccines, hopefully by February 1 as a target
- FY22 capital and discretionary process is all online
- Contact directly at 718-588-7500 option 0.
- Email is District16Bronx@council.nyc.gov
- Hon. Luis Sepulveda (*reported immediately after Public Session*)
  - Reported on the following, among other topics:
    - PPE giveaways, COVID testing, vaccinations, legislation pertaining to expanding absentee ballots in 2021, expanding the eviction and foreclosure moratorium to include commercial properties, expanded unemployment insurance protections for people that are employed and places restrictions on third party food delivery companies.
  - Contact directly at 718-991-3161 or [RItchard@senatorepulveda.com](mailto:RItchard@senatorepulveda.com).
  - Hardship Declaration Eviction Form: <http://nycourts.gov/courts/nyc/SSI/images/corona/HardshipDeclaration.pdf>
  - Hardship Declaration Foreclosure Form: <https://nycourts.gov/whatsnew/pdf/Foreclosure-Notice.pdf>
- Emmanuel Martinez, representing NYS Assembly Chantel Jackson
  - Townhall coming up soon to address COVID concerns, housing, jobs, and more.
  - Contact information: [martineze@nyassembly.gov](mailto:martineze@nyassembly.gov)
  - Constituent matters can be directed to: [help79districtbx@gmail.com](mailto:help79districtbx@gmail.com)
  - Scheduling request: [schedulingbx79@gmail.com](mailto:schedulingbx79@gmail.com)
  - Office number: 718-538-3829; Mobile: 347-491-7731
- Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
  - Community board applications and reappointments is February 5, 2021
  - EEO certification forms now due
  - Forms can be found at: <http://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/community-boards/>
  - [aruiz@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:aruiz@bronxbp.nyc.gov)
- Terell Brock, representing NYS Senate Jose Serrano
  - Reported on Senator Serrano's bill S899
    - Prohibits unnecessary applications of the herbicide glyphosate on state property
    - Prohibits state applications that may result in direct human exposure
  - Reported on Senator Serrano's bill S528
    - Amends article 1 of the NYS constitution, in relation to the right to clean air and water and a healthful environment
    - Contact directly at 212-828-5829.

#### 14. Old Business/New Business

- Paul Philips, Paul Lozito, Robert Garmendiz, and Rasheida Alston will draft a letter regarding the proposed community board budget cuts.

#### 15. Announcements/Adjournment

*Adjournment at 9:04 p.m.*

*Prepared and submitted by Mr. Jonah Nigh.*