

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, JUNE 26, 2018
BRONX MUSUEM OF THE ARTS
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165th Street
Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Ramatu Ahmed, Mr. John Howard Algarin, Mr. Rolando Aviles, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Ms. Rossmery Dais, Ms. Brenda Dawson, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Ms. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Sherrise Palomino, Mr. Jamal Patrick, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Genny Sanchez, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong, Dr. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Ms. Naimah Bilal, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Bishop Earl McKay.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Maynard Charles, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Connie Morales, Ms. Jodi Morales.

STAFF:

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

**Mr. Joshua Cortes, representing Mayor Bill de Blasio
Mr. Antirson Ortiz, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
Mr. Terell Brock, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano
Hon. Latoya Joyner, New York State Assembly 77th District
Ms. Naffie Baldeh, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake
Ms. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Councilwoman Diana Ayala
Hon. Vanessa Gibson, New York City Council 16th District
Ms. Stacy Strong, representing NYC Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson**

GUEST PRESENT:

Khalek Kirkland-Boys Prep Bronx Elementary, Monica Major-LK Basketball Academy Charter, Jill Crawford-Type A Projects, Perfecto Alcantara-D'Alcantara Restaurant Corp., Arelis Pineda-Resident, Primavera M. Vasquez-Civilian Complaint Review Board, Belen Aranda-Alvarado-Resident, Vanessa Montilla-Resident, Donald Daedalus-Resident, David Gaul-Grow NYC, Charlene Francois-Grow NYC, Rigoberto Caraballo-Resident, Yadiel Rivera-Marvel Architects, E. Kelly-Resident, Vivian E. Garcia-Lincoln Hospital, Eliana Cruz-BronxWorks, Adam Charness-L&M, Isaac Alshihaisi-L&M, James Rather-Department of City Planning Bronx Office, Marilyn Manson-SOBRO, Dan Klores-Lewis Katz New Renaissance Basketball Charter School, Gene Edwards-Resident, Donnell Simon-NYC Veterans, Santos Sanchez-La Fuente, Marisa Berry-NYC Parks, Bibi S. Karim-BronxWorks, William Pena-BPHN, Angelica Capellan-Resident, Yokasta Perez-La Sabrosura Restaurant Corp., Gino Pacheco-Eagle& Cedar, Lisa Grant-Post Graduate Center for Mental Health, Pierre Correa-World System Builder, Victor Martinez-NYC Comptroller's Office, Arlene Hall-St. Simeon's Episcopal Church.

Public Session

1. Bronx Museum of the Arts – Announcement for upcoming Boogie on the Boulevard that will take place on Sundays in August from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. There will be many activities for the community.
2. Khalek Kirkland – Boys Prep Bronx Elementary. This is an all-boys public tuition free school in the Bronx. The school will be located at 151st Street and Grand Concourse. Visit their website at boysprep.org for further information.
3. Primavera Vasquez – Civilian Complaint Review Board. Free public independent city agency that investigates complaints about the police. On July 11, 2018 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the McKinley Community Center at 751 E. 161st Street there will be a Public Board Meeting.
4. Grow NYC/ Community Food Action – David Gaul and Charlene Francois. 170th Street Farm Stand opening will take place on July 11th at 170th and Townsend Avenue every Wednesday. A compost program will also run from this location. Food scraps will be collected.
5. Vivian Garcia – Lincoln Hospital upcoming events – concert series from 12 pm to 2:00 pm. Mentoring program on Tuesdays and Thursdays for teens 12 years and up.
6. Dan Klores – Lewis Katz New Renaissance Basketball Charter School. High School just for basketball and all facets of the game.
7. Marilyn Manson – South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp. Came to raise awareness about the SOBRO/DEP summer youth outreach program for community education about legal use of fire hydrants.
8. Vanessa Montilla – grateful for the assistance provided by CB4 and the NYPD in addressing and stopping of noise complaint they had been experiencing.
9. Gene Edwards, Jr. – Request for a stop sign be placed at 158th Street and Park Avenue for the safety of the community.
10. Donnell Simon, Outreach Coordinator at Bronx Borough President’s Office – NYC Veterans. Services for all Veterans at 851 Grand Concourse, Room 209, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Contact info: 212-416-5250 or www.nyc.gov/vets.

Welcoming remarks and announcements by the Chair, Ms. Kathleen Saunders. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 70 Section 2800 of the City Charter the actions and procedures 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 (4th) Tuesday of the month. This Tuesday, June 26, 2018, the meeting is held at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by District Manager, Paul Philps.

Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting: Dr. Grace Zarate made a motion to accept the General Board Minutes for May 22, 2018 with any corrections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen. After a vote of 31 in the affirmative and 3 abstentions, the **motion carries**.

Nominating Committee - Election of Executive Board Members

The Nominating Committee Chair, Mr. Rolando Aviles called upon the nominees of positions that had more than one candidate to take two minutes and express why he/she would be the best candidate for the executive position.

First Vice-Chair – Mr. Robert Garmendiz and Mr. Leandro Monzon.

Second Vice-Chair – Ms. Mildred James and Mr. Rolando Aviles.

Treasurer – Mr. Barry Nissen and Ms. Marissa Jackson.

Health & Human – Ms. Martha Reyes and Ms. Ramatu Ahmed.

Housing & Land Use – Bishop McKay and Mr. Jackson Strong.

Municipal Services – Mrs. Zonia Ortiz and Mrs. Rosie Dais.

After the voting took place and the votes were tallied by Ms. Lilliam Rosa and Mr. Avery Smith, the results were the following:

Board Chair – Ms. Kathleen Saunders

First Vice-Chair – Mr. Robert Garmendiz

Second Vice-Chair – Mr. Rolando Aviles

Treasurer – Ms. Marissa Jackson

Economic Development – Ms. Beverly Bond

Municipal Services – Mrs. Rosie Dais

Housing & Land Use – Mr. Jackson Strong

Parks & Recreation – Mr. John Howard Algarin

Health & Human Services – Ms. Martha Reyes

Youth Services & Education – Mr. Greg Delts

District Manager's Report

- Met with Bronx Department of Transportation Commissioner and discussed the plantings on the medians along the Grand Concourse. In the fall, they will all be replaced and will be aesthetically the same. DOT will take responsibility for their maintenance.
- Phase III of the Grand Concourse has almost completed the repairs of the side roads and the water main.
- New street lights will be installed from 161st Street to 174th Street. The upgrades will be done by the third quarter of 2018.
- 153rd Street bridge work will take place by October.
- Work on under path at 174th Street will be done after work is completed at the 174th Street MTA Station.
- 158th Street and Concourse Village West will have a new left turn signal and the lanes going straight and right will have appropriate markings.
- Garbage - We ask that we be stewards of where we live and make a good impression.

- New member to our board, congratulations to Ms. Marissa Jackson on the addition of her new baby to her family.
- Congratulations to board member Ariane Garcia on obtaining her Master's Degree in Urban Studies.

Update on Bronx Point (AKA Lower Concourse North) – Marvel Architects, 59 Architecture and Bronx Point Development Team (Type A and L&M)

The presenters provided updates on the park design, the façade, community engagement and input. The timeline for the project is three years. The completion is scheduled for 2022. The plan is to expand the park by adding playgrounds, bike and running paths. Additionally, the plan is to have a 7500 square foot educational facilities/community space. The Open Space will consist of a plaza, playground and esplanade. There will also be additions of a bathroom, plaza lighting, fitness area and shaded seating.

Bronx Museum of the Arts request for a letter of support for Boogie on the Boulevard:

Mr. Walter Harris motioned to provide a letter of support to the Bronx Museum of the Arts for their upcoming event, Boogie on the Boulevard on August 26, 2018. The motion was seconded by Ms. Martha Reyes. After a unanimous vote, the motion carries.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES- HOUSING & LAND USE- MUNICIPAL SERVICES & EDUCATION - PARKS- YOUTH SERVICES

Economic Development Committee- 1) *La Chiqui Restaurant – 760 Grand Concourse. New Application.* The Committee motioned to provide a letter of support and it was seconded by Mr. Walter Harris. After a vote of 26 in the affirmative and 8 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 2) *D'Alcantara Restaurant Corp. – 9 East Mt. Eden Avenue. New Application.* The committee motioned to provide a Letter of Support and it was seconded by Mr. Leandro Monzon. After a vote of 26 in the affirmative and 8, the **motion carries.** 3) *Eagle Group LLC – 1404 Ogden Avenue. New Application.* The Committee motioned for a letter of support for this establishment. Mr. Barry Nissen seconded said motion. After the vote of 27 in the affirmative and 7 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 4) *Dugout, Inc. – 880 River Avenue. Renewal.* The Committee motioned to grant a letter of support to this establishment. It was seconded by Mr. Rolando Aviles. With a vote of 31 in the affirmative and 3 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 5) *La Sabrosura Restaurant Corp. – 25A E. 170th Street. Renewal.* The Committee motioned for a letter of support and it was seconded by Dr. Grace Zarate. After a vote of 31 in the affirmative and 3 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 6) *La Fuente Steak House Corp. – 1306 Jerome Avenue. Renewal.* The Committee motioned to grant a letter of support. Ms. Lilliam Rosa seconded said motion. After a vote of 28 in the affirmative and 6 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 7) *Mi Rinconcito Restaurante – 131 E. 169th Street. Renewal.* This establishment has several conditions with the building exterior that have to be corrected. Therefore, it will be **Tabled** for the time being.

Municipal Services Committee – No Report.

Housing & Land Use Committee – The Committee had a joint meeting along with The Parks & Recreation Committee. The Committees had a presentation on the Bronx Point project. The Committee motioned for a letter of support to the Public Design Commission acknowledging updates were provided to the Board on the Bronx Point project. Dr. Grace Zarate seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The motion carries. The Committee requests for a letter of support to City Planning for special permit to the M1 hotel zoning Text Amendment. The motion was seconded by Dr. Grace Zarate. Because of uncertainty and further questions about vote during committee, this request for letter of support has been tabled.

Parks and Recreation Committee- The Committee had a joint meeting with Housing and Land Use. They had a presentation on the Bronx Point greenspace. They also had a presentation from Green Thumb who has 17 different gardens located throughout CB4. The gardens have to be available to the public and are supposed to be open 24 hours a day. Green Thumb has one event per season. All the gardens are on volunteer basis. The Committee finds them to be a great program for the community and they intend to visit all these gardens. The Chair announced the upcoming Jazz in the Park events at Franz Sigel Park from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm on June 14, June 28, July 12 and July 26. These are all free events.

Health Services Committee – The Committee had a presentation by the Circle of Prayers who provides professional support for families with Alzheimer's disease. Free counseling will be offered along with a

multitude of other services through the Department of the Aging. Additionally, the Committee advised on the National Night Out taking place on August 7, 2018 with NYPD and the community.

Youth Services & Education – The Committee requested for a letter of support on behalf of Lewis Katz New Renaissance Basketball Charter School. The school will concentrate on basketball skills and other aspects of the game such as coaching, managing, recruiting, etc. It is projected to open in September 2020. The motion was seconded by Dr. Grace Zarate. After a vote of 33 in the affirmative and one abstention, the motion carries.

Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.

NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano represented by Terell Brock

- The Senator is concerned for families separated at the border. He is currently working with the governor and other colleagues to identify the locations of all children brought to NYC by the federal government.
- Any questions or information contact 212-828-5829X1477 or tbrock@nysenate.gov.

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer represented by Antirson Ortiz

- Victor Martinez will be representing the Comptroller at this board meeting starting in September.

Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson

- Budget updates:
- June 14, 2018 – The budget for the City of New York passed with \$89.3 billion.
- Serves as Chair of the new subcommittee of finance with a focus on capital budget. The committee will look into agencies and how they manage and spend their money; and any deficiencies in the system. Detail funding under Schedule C is available on the city's website.
- Fair Student Funding - \$125 million for principals to have enough money in their budget to hire counselors and other support staff.
- Fair Fares - \$106 million. The program will start in January 2019. 800,000 New Yorkers will benefit from a reduced MetroCard. This program will make a serious impact and it will be a permanent program.
- Accessibility in schools – Many schools are not ADA compliant. \$275 million is in the adopted budget.
- Summer Youth Employment Program – 75,000 slots are available for youth ages 14 to 24 years of age.
- Sonic & Compass – Middle School summer camp free slots for children that are not in SYEP.
- Adult Literacy - \$16 million invested.
- Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAB) – added \$8 million to the existing \$14 million. Supports pantries and other food services that feed the hungry.
- Schools Guidance Counselors - \$2 million for the schools that have the greatest need.
- NYCHA - \$500 million commitment to focus on an initiative that was led by SOBRO and East Brooklyn Congregation to look at under-utilized NYCHA property and build affordable senior housing.
- Orchard Beach - \$5 million.

- For the construction of the Hip Hop Museum - \$4 million.
- Children's Museum - \$300,000.
- Bronx Museum of the Arts – \$2 million (\$500,000 each from Councilmember Gibson, Bronx Borough President Diaz, Councilmember Ayala and NYC Council Speaker Johnson).
- Jerome Avenue Rezoning:
 - Brand new school location in District 9
 - Contract will be signed in next few weeks
 - Location: E.L. Grant Hwy and 169th Street formerly self-storage lot.
- June 28, 2018 – Small Business Outreach Services
- Friday Movie Nights starting July 3, 2018 throughout different locations in the community.
- June 29, 2018 – Caribbean Heritage Celebration - Bronx Museum of the Arts, 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm.
- July 14, 2018 – LGBT Pride month at the Bronx Museum of the Arts
- Jazz in the Park at Franz Sigel Park from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm on June 14, June 28, July 12 and July 26.
- March of Peace with Catholic Charities and Allianza Community for a solidarity march.

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner

- This year focused primarily on women and children. Also had a lot of different legislative victories.
- Legislature on Maternal Mortality Review Board. Women who have had complications before and after birth. Serving with mid-wives and other health officials to address this issue.
- \$250,000 awarded for the Safe Motherhood Initiative. This is affecting women throughout the state.
- Focus on *childhood trauma* and how it impacts children in schools. Working on addressing this with the Department of Education and the Commissioner and narrowing in on what implementations we have in place in the classrooms and what may be our best practices to combat these issues.
- Physician Protection Act – This legislation will allow physicians to have protection as well as others in the health field. Additionally, it will increase the penalty for those that commit an assault on a physician.
- Events:
 - Summer Reading Challenge
 - June 28, 2018 – partnering with Councilmember Vanessa Gibson for a small businesses forum
 - July 10, 2018 – Mental Health First Aid Training
 - July 31, 2018 – Homeowner Forum
 - Working with the Mayor and NYPD to have playstreets with PAL for the community
 - Park Pride month in August – focusing on cleaning different parks
 - “We welcome any ideas the community has. We are here to serve you and appreciate your voice.”

Assemblyman Michael Blake represented by Naffie Baldeh

- Looking for volunteers to work in the Assemblyman's office.

- Providing internship opportunities. Contact the office at 718-538-3829.
- Tenant Specialist – Tuesdays 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at 780 Concourse Village.
- Also encouraging young individuals to register to vote and requesting the community board to assist in spreading the word.

Announcements: None

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.