

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, MARCH 27, 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, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mr. Maynard Charles, Ms. Rossmery Dais, Ms. Brenda Dawson, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Ms. Connie Morales, Ms. Jodi Morales, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Ms. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Sherrise Palomino, 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, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Mildred James, Mr. Leandro Monzon.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. John Fielder, Mr. Jamal Patrick, Ms. Teresa Wright.

STAFF:

Mr. Paul Philips, 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

Ms. Bharati Kemraj, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

Mr. Terell Brock, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano

Ms. Karim Arab, representing NYS Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner

Mr. Yaz Duante, 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:

Mario Renabe-Wildflower Schools, Detective Roberto Oviedo-NYPD 44th Precinct, Rekha Seepersad-Post Graduate Center for Mental Health, Patricia Edmiston-Tai Chi Healing Arts, Benilda Rosario-Resident, Theresa Doherty-Center for Faith, Thomas P. Glacken-Glacken's Bar & Grill, Thomas F. Glacken-Glacken's Bar & Grill, Yolanda Frederds-CRF Cluster Model Program, Karla Granado-NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, Alfredo Angueira-Bronx Drafthouse, Lon Wilson-NY Walker Club, Ariel Pineda-Resident, Ivette Melendez,MSW,CASDC-Success Counseling Services, Trena Aunders-Resident, Allison Palmer-New Settlement, Kevin Woodhouse-Concourse Village, Evelyn Rivera-President 11 West 172 Street Tenants Association, Myrna Phillips-Resident, Jacqueline Calderon-Hudson Housing, William Pena-BPHN, Tiffanie Darch-BronxWorks, Vivian E. Garcia-Lincoln Hopsital, Tamara Mayfield-Volunteers of America, David Rosas-Father& Families Coalition of America, Rosie Pettway-Resident, Enrique Colon-CASA, Candida A. Bido-Bronx Neighborhood Health Action Center, Micah O. Hasegana-Executive Towers, Demetrius Pipclin-Executive Towers, Ecroni Beckett-Executive Towers, Cheryl Thomas.

Public Session

1. *Theresa Doherty*, NYC Center for Faith & Community Partnership – The CFCP and their upcoming Speed Networking event for houses of worship and community based organizations in Community Board Four and neighboring districts on April 4, 2018 at Sheltering Arms, 565 Morris Avenue from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.
2. *Mario Benabe*, Wildflower Schools – Proposal for Pre-K through 6th grade public Montessori education under SUNY CSI. They are here to request a recommendation for a letter of support from Community Board Four to share to the general public the Montessori education of the Wildflower Schools. The school will focus on children with disabilities. The classroom typically has two teachers and 14-24 children. It will be a free public charter.
3. *Vivian Garcia*, Lincoln Hospital – She provided information on available training and prevention programs at Lincoln Hospital. Those being: Naloxone training on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM in Conference Room #2 and National Diabetes Prevention Program for staff and adults in the community. To sign up for this email Heather Brusseau at 718-579-5000, ext. 3256 or brusseah@nychhc.org.
4. *Patricia Edmiston* announced available Tai Chi availability through the Tai Chi Healing Arts at Mullaly Park on April 28, 2018 at 10:00 AM.
5. *David Rosas*, Fathers & Families Coalition of America – There will be an East Regional two day symposium on June 11th to June 12th at Columbia University School of Social Services. For more information you can reach out to david.rosas@fathersandfamiliescoalition.org or 424-225-1323.

Welcoming remarks and announcements by the Chair, Ms. Kathleen Saunders. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:36 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, March 27, 2018, the meeting is held at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by Bishop Earl McKay.

Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting: Mr. Barry Nissan made a motion to accept the General Board Minutes for February 27, 2018 with any corrections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robert Garmendiz. After the vote of 30 in the affirmative and 2 abstentions, the **motion carries**.

District Manager's Report

- Jerome Avenue Study
- Downton Revitalization Initiative
 - Civic Center/Hub \$10 million to spend
 - 13 projects – The state will review and select which will get funding.
- Parking – 158th Street median by yellow stripe are. Parking here is illegal and is not being enforced. The DM will write an official letter to DOT requesting No Standing signs along the Grand Concourse as well as lands for emergency vehicles.

- Youth Day 2018 is scheduled for May 17, 2018 and a rain date for May 29, 2018. We are in need of sponsors and volunteers. Please contact the office. .

Presentation: Center for Health Equity, The Bronx Neighborhood Health Action Center, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. – Karla Granado

Ms. Granado presented on risks of heart disease. She explained how hypertension works and the two numbers to look for such as the top one is the systolic (blood flow) and diastolic (resting between heartbeats). She advised that this can change several times during the day, and consuming caffeine tends to elevate it. Uncontrolled hypertension leads to an early death. Blacks are at higher risk than Whites, while Latinos two times more at risk. Some risk factors are increase in age, unhealthy diet, high sodium intake, alcohol, smoking, excess weight and stress. In order to lower it, one should start a healthy diet, start a moderate intensity exercise regime, look at nutrition labels for less than 23g of sodium per day and quit smoking, take any prescribed medication from your doctor.

There are several resources available: 311; nyc.gov/health and enter high blood; nychealthnow and enter your zip code and click on services in your area; quit smoking, use the NYC quits app. You can get more information on NYHealthNY, Facebook and Twitter, health bulletins by calling 311 or go to the Shape Up NYC website for physical activity classes.

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

Economic Development Committee- 1) *Glackens Bar & Grill, 135 E. 149th Street. Renewal.* The Committee motion to provide a letter of support. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robert Garmendiz. After the vote of 29 in the affirmative and 3 abstentions, the **motion carries**.

2) *Bronx Draft House, 884 Gerard Avenue. Renewal.* The committee motion to provide a letter of support. It was seconded by Mr. Jimmy Rivera. After the vote of 28 in the affirmative and 4 abstentions, the **motion carries**.

Municipal Services Committee – No Report.

Housing & Land Use Committee – No Report. There will be a joint meeting on April 19, 2018 with Economic Development Committee.

Parks and Recreation Committee- The Committee is embarking on a new Parks’ Survey for 2018. They will visit various parks in the community. They will share this survey with the Parks’ Commissioner and the elected officials. The millions donated to Corp. Fisher Park was a result of a prior survey. They will meet on April 7, 2018 by the greenspace in Highbridge by Ogden Avenue and Nelson Avenue. Once again, this year, there will be an installation of an art piece at Joyce Kilmer Park. Millpond Park and Claremont Park are getting barbeque grills. Currently there are 7 PEP officers in the parks and we will have 51 by this summer. Franz Siegel Park will have movie nights again starting in May through the Friends of Four Parks Alliance. Other events will include Jazz in July and June movie nights. Mullaly Park will be getting a filtration system and some painting.

Health Services Committee – The Committee had a request from Success Counseling Services, Inc. for a Letter of Support to submit an application for additional space at 1015 Ogden Avenue and, therefore, expand to 1038 Ogden Avenue. The new location will serve as the new patient intake/orientation facility and discharge center. The motion to grant a Letter of Support was placed by Ms. Marissa Jackson and seconded by Ms. Jodi Morales. A vote for 30 in the affirmative and 2 abstentions **carries the motion**.

Youth Services & Education – The Committee meets on the third Thursday of every month. The committee had a presentation from Wildflower Schools who are based on the same principals of the Montessori system. The Committee motioned to provide a Letter of Support to the Wildflower Schools and it was seconded by Mr. Jackson Strong. After the vote of 28 in the affirmative and 4 abstentions, the **motion carries**. Additionally, Lloyd Donders, Esq. provided a brief overview of his services for the special education community. The Committee is still finalizing the details for the Youth Family Day in May. They still need volunteers for that day. Please contact the Board office or the Chair, Mr. Delts.

44th Precinct Report by Detective Oviedo

- April 11, 2018 – Community Council Meeting at 811 Walton Avenue Community Room at 6:30 pm.
- How to acquire Street Permits for events. Apply online with enough time.
- Provide the Detective with your email to be included in group email
- Missing 79 year old senior, Eddie Foster of 1145 University Avenue. Missing since last week. Contact NYPD.
- Any accident report access is available on line
- On March 21, 2018 at 10:38 PM a black female was shot at 1434 Ogden Avenue. She was pronounced dead at the hospital. The shooter, a correction officer stated his weapon discharged while he was cleaning it. The incident is currently under full investigation.
- Any school is taken seriously. On March 26, 2018, a juvenile was arrested for making terrorist threats at her school. The police advise that anyone will be arrested regardless of age. However, after consultation and careful consideration, it was decided not to continue with arrest as a result she is emotionally disturbed and a psychiatric evaluation was provided. If anyone is aware of any kids with issues, it is recommended to bring this to the attention of the school principal.
- Opioids – On March 22, 2018 at 9:21 am, NYPD was successful in administering Narcan to a 24 year old male at the McDonald's at 170th Street. The event was successful.
- On March 23, 2018, at 1315 Sheridan Avenue, a 57 year old male was shot in the back while sleeping in his bedroom. The bullet came through his bedroom window.
- On March 26, 2018 at 5:50 pm a male sustained a slashing on the face at 759 Gerard Avenue. Though there were several witnesses no one was able to provide any information.
- NCO Sheets
 - 5 Sectors A – E
 - Quality of life issues.

Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.

NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano represented by Terell Brock

- The Senator will focus in this upcoming month on Environmental Awareness
- Any questions or information contact 212-828-5829X1477 or tbrock@nysenate.gov.

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner represented by Karim Arab

- Monthly Services
 - Free legal housing clinic, second and fourth Thursday from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
 - Tenant Support Unit, first and third Thursday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.
 - Immigration screening
 - Rent freeze – SCRIE/DRIE
- Free Tax Services at the district office from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM for those who earned \$66,000 or less. Dates: March 31, 2018 and April 7, 2018.

- Senior Week – April 3 to April 6, 2018
 - Legal information, life time planning, Medicaid fraud, etc.
- You may contact our office at 718-538-2000.

Office of Mayor Bill de Blasio represented by Joshua Cortes

- April 18, 2018 – Mayor’s Town Hall Meeting with Community Board Four and CM Vanessa Gibson at Bronx School for Government and Justice at 6:30 PM.

Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson

- Appointed in January as the Chair of the Subcommittee under Finance that focuses under Capital.
 - Ten year plan is \$79.8 billion.
- Goal:
 - Look into greater detail the capital budget process
 - Length of projects
 - Cost of construction, ie: comfort station cost \$4 million
- Hearings in March
- City Council response will be developed in next few weeks
- Currently sitting on seven committees at the City Council
- City Council Speakers Leadership Team
- Budget & Negotiation Team
- March 29, 2018 – Building A Better Bronx Job Fair at Harriet Tubman Charter School, 1176 Franklin Avenue from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- NYC Council Participatory Budgeting project. Vote week is April 7 to April 15, 2018. Voting available at Morrisania and Highbridge Libraries, Council District Office and South Bronx Neighborhood Center.
- April 12, 2018 – Garifuna Heritage at the Council Chambers in City Hall at 6:00 PM.
- April 4, 2018 – Senegalese Independence at Council Chamber in City Hall at 6:00 PM.
- Thankful for the Jerome Avenue Neighborhood rezoning.
 - Points of Agreement (59 points). Available on website.
 - Working session will be available with stakeholders
 - \$189 million
 - Two brand new schools in DS7 and DS9.
 - DOT \$29 million Jerome Avenue corridor
 - Grant Park
 - \$4.6 million for Corp. Fischer Park
 - \$1.6 million Bridge Playground
 - Aqueduct Walk and Morgan Playground

- Hiring of a new Jerome Avenue Coordinator who will work with SBS. Will work with business owners.
- Three working groups
 - Responsible with contracting. Will establish clear criteria for this project.
 - Public Health – not #62
 - Southwest Bronx Housing

Comptroller Scott M. Stringer represented by Antirson Ortiz

- There have been many reckless drivers in a 26 month period with five or more violations. 1 of 4 received violations for running red lights or speeding on a school zone.
- 1100 drivers skipping red lights and putting pedestrians in danger. The Comptroller wants to set tougher regulations to prevent two or more violations from license suspension.
- Homeless students: There are only 110 staff members responsible for 32,000 students. The Comptroller wants to set up better regulations to address the individuals.

Announcements:

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.