

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, MAY 28, 2019
BRONX MUSUEM OF THE ARTS
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165th Street
Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Rolando Aviles, Ms. Beverly Bond, Ms. Jacqueline Calderon, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Martha Reyes, 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:

Mr. John Howard Algarin, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Yohanny Rincon.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Jodi Morales, Mr. Jamal Patrick.

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. Andy Toledo, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Ms. S. Hassan, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano
Mr. Karim Arab, representing NYS Assembly Latoya Joyner
Mr. Yaz Duarte, representing NYS Assembly Michael Blake
Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council 8th District
Ms. Neceida Gomez, representing NYC Council Vanessa Gibson

GUEST PRESENT:

Michael Parkinson-Bronx Office NYC City Planning, Dionisio Cueva, Kimberly Jefferson-NYC Public Library, Wanda Ellis-BPHN, Freddy Quezada-Ultra Radio Dispatch, Rafael Ramos-La Lechonera Criolla Inc., Chris Campbell-NYC, Jamie Bordan-BPHN, Kevin Woodhouse-Concourse Village, Edward Gajadar-Resident, Janet Peguero-SBS-NYC, Betty Crawford-Resident, Mohammed Ni Org, Mabintou Sissoko, Brandon Rivas, Julian Petersen-Resident, Jatique Brown-Resident, Daron Reed-Resident, Devon McKnight-Resident, Brenda Dock-Resident, Jessie Nunoo-Resident, Manuel Luna-Llama Limo, Yahairo Bermidez-Children Rescue Fund, Susane Diaz, April Agosto-Resident, Damarys Caba, Arlene Hall Waisburd-St. Simeon's Church, King Jeter III, Mariano Laboy-Resident, Evelyn Rivera-11 West 172nd Street Tenants Association, Ejiro Ojeni-Resident, Detective Roger Bennett-NYPD 44th Precinct, Anelle Morales-Rojas-A Plate 4 All, Bibi S. Karim-BronxWorks, Trevis Roberts-A. Philip Randolph HS, Astrid Rodriguez-Reyes-Resident, Katya Rodriguez-Resident, J. Cartergena, Ali Cruz, Enrique Colon-CASA New Settlement Apartments, Kuadiahou Diallo, Daniela Benavides, Beatriz Dominguez, Munira Begum, Liza Ali, Christian Williams, Tamara Mayfield-VOA-Eden House, Natasha Taffera-Resident, Rosie Pettway-Resident, Lon Wilson-N.Y. Walkers Club, Devon Greene, Leslie Segars-WestHab, Mouhamadou Diallo, Lisa Grant-Post Graduate Mental Health, Angela Rivera, Rasheida Alston-Resident, Ines Quezada.

Public Session - None

Welcoming remarks and announcements by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:04 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, May 28, 2019, 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: Mr. Rolando Aviles made a motion to accept the General Board Minutes for May 28, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Veronique Green. The **motion carries.**

44th Precinct Report by Detective Roger Bennett

- Youth Police Academy – For ages 10 to 15 years of age at the Mott Haven Campus from July 1, 2019 to August 20, 2019.
- Explorers – There are 80 kids in the program and once again they came in first in the national competition.
- June 1, 2019 – Highbridge Community Celebration. Free at Nelson Playground. There will be lots of activities.
- August 6, 2019 – National Night Out at E. 169th Street between Gerard and Walton Avenues from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

District Manager's Report

- The DM hoped all the mother's had a wonderful Mother's Day. He congratulated the two moms on the board that recently had newborn baby boys, Ms. Dais and Ms. Garcia. Additionally, he announced the passing of the former Municipal Board Chair, Ms. Brenda Dawson's passing and asked that everyone keep her family in their prayers.
- April 30, 2019 – He testified at the Landmarks Preservation Committee in reference to the American Dream Charter School and the concerns with the design of the building which will be located at 700 Gerard Avenue which is within the Grand Concourse Historic District. It is located between two Art Deco buildings. Other buildings on the block are either Renaissance Revival or Tudor Revival. The Board felt the architects design was out of character with the surrounding buildings. The DM met with the architect and developer prior to this hearing to express the concerns and to discuss issues related to the proposed design. The architect and developer have since hired a landmark consultant to assist in the redesign to this project. They will present their new design to the Housing and Land Use Committee in the fall.
- Jerome Avenue Update
 - Jerome Health Task Force – They have been meeting since December 2018 and have been examining the issues and concerns in Districts 4 and 5 with the goal to develop a Neighborhood Health Plan. It will identify short and long term goals related to health. A public meeting to inform the community and to gather feedback will take place at a later date.
 - Jerome Avenue Workforce Partnership – This was formed over a year ago with the goal to create a pipeline for employees and employers in the area. There's a mission, concrete goals and outcomes as well as a framework for service delivery. In March a community survey was distributed in the community to acquire feedback.
- May 8, 2019 – Field Recognition at Yankee Stadium for both the recipients of our Outstanding Service Awards for 2018 and the Yankee Youth Leadership scholarship recipients.

- May 9, 2019 – The kickoff for Bronx Week and the Community Board Appreciation Dinner. The Bronx Borough President thanked all the Board members for their service.
- Transportation Updates
 - Critical work along the Grand Concourse as part of Vision Zero.
 - i. June 3-June 21 – work in front of Bronx Lebanon Hospital. The buss will be temporarily relocated and some parking will also be affected. There are posting throughout the location as well as our webpage.
 - Grand Concourse Bridge over 174th Street Rehabilitation
 - i. Around May 28, 2019 Stage 3 of the project will begin and continue until June 24, 2019. The right southbound lane on the Grand Concourse mainline will be closed for a work zone. The southbound service road left lane and right parking lane will remain closed. The right lane of the southbound service road lane will be open.
 - Please note that the flowers are blooming along the Concourse north of 165th Street thanks to DOT and DDC.
 - Performed a walkthrough of Concourse Village West from 153rd Street to 161st Street with DOT to discuss some proposed traffic improvements. They will be presenting their ideas to the Municipal Services Committee on June 5, 2019.
- May 20, 2019 – The DM along with members of the Executive Committee met with the developers of 1164 River Avenue, a 500 unit, 17-story, affordable housing development. It will include 40,000 sf of retail space and 45,000 sf community facility space and 125 parking spaces. Some of the discussions that took place were local hiring, training and workforce development. They will present to the Housing and Land Use Committee on June 3, 2019.
- May 29, 2019 – Grant Park Public Input Session at 6:30 pm at the Silverstein Little Sparrow School located at 1340 Sheridan Avenue.
- June 1, 2019 – Highbridge Community Celebration at Nelson Playground. There will be activities such as basketball, bouncy houses, rock wall, DJ, dance contest, food and prizes.
- June 11, 2019 – Public Meeting at the Highbridge Green School-200 W. 167th Street from 6 pm to 7 pm.
- Next month will be the last of all our committee meetings until September.
 - The June 25, 2019 General Board Meeting is scheduled to take place at Concourse Village in the Community Room.
 - Housing & Land Use and Parks will meet on June 3, 2019.
 - Municipal Services will meet on June 5, 2019.
 - Health and Human Services will meet on June 10, 2019.
 - Economic Development and Youth & Education will meet on June 20, 2019.

Anyone from the public can attend committee meetings and after attending three (3) meetings can become a voting member of said committee.
- Happy Father's Day to all the amazing dad.

Presentation: Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Plan – Update. Michael Parkinson, Dept. of City Planning

Jerome Avenue is introducing HPD's pilot program, the Partners in Preservation Initiative. They are partnering with CASA and the Clergy Coalition.

Advance development of publicly owned land. Revised construction RFQ and RFP for 97 W. 169th Street.

New Construction

1. Jerome Avenue construction (1776 Jerome Avenue) 175 units
2. 29 Featherbed Lane. 161 units
3. 97 W. 169th Street RFP
4. 1337 Jerome Avenue
5. 1184/1159 River Avenue
6. Star Hill (1600 McCombs Rd) 350-500 units

- Create southwest Bronx Housing Task Force
- Economic and workforce development

- New Jerome program manager position
- Workforce training for auto workers
- Launch auto business compliance and Retention Initiative
- Conduct Workforce Outreach
- Deploy mobile unit to the Jerome Avenue Corridor monthly
- Create Jerome Avenue business grant program
- Work with Jerome Avenue businesses to connect them to capital access
- Streets & Transportation, Parks & Community Resources
- School Commitments
 - 2355 Morris Avenue
 - Stand-alone gymnasium at PS 246
 - Poe Center School
 - 169th Street & E. L. Grant Hwy
 - Completion of P.S. 33 Annex in September 2021
- Open Spaces
 - Bridge Playground
 - Develop new park at 1801-1805 Davidson
 - Develop Corp. Fischer Park
 - Renovate and expand Grant Avenue Park
 - DPR Green Thumb community garden
 - 181st Street park renovation
- Vision Workshop, May 29, 2019 at PS 88 at 6:30 pm – 1340 Sherman Avenue

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

Economic Development Committee- The Committee were presented by the below listed establishments and motioned to grant a letter of support as follows:

Renewal of Taxi & Limousine Base License Renewals,

- 1) Chan Yui Po, *Llama Limo Car Service, Inc.* 49 W. 170th Street.
- 2) Julio Lara, *Ultra Radio Dispatch Service, Inc.* – 277 East 165th Street.

After the vote, the **motion carries.**

Additionally, the Committee requested to grant a Letter of Support to the following **Renewals:**

- 1) *Marisco Centro Steak & Seafood House* – 610 Exterior Street.
- 2) *El Timbirichi Restaurant Corp.* – 168 E. 174th Street.
- 3) *La Lechonera Criolla, Inc.* – 1709 Webster Avenue.

After the vote, the **motions carries.**

Municipal Services Committee – No report.

Housing & Land Use Committee – The committee had a presentation from HPD for Partners in Preservation, a pilot program in the spring/summer of 2019 for a period of 18 months. This program will target areas that have been rezoned. It will provide addition code enforcement in order to prevent landlords in these areas of tenant harassment. They will assess yearly to make sure it is working and thus make it a permanent program. Additionally, another request was made for a review of the Board of Standards and Appeals for a special permit for a physical culture establishment to be operated as Blink Fitness within a commercial building located at 1417 Webster Avenue. This business was a no show at the Housing & Land Use building. At the next meeting there will be a presentation from MADD Equities on the 1164 River Avenue, a 500 affordable housing units, 17- story mixed use building.

Parks and Recreation Committee- There were no voting areas. There is an art rendition across from CM Gibson’s office on Jerome Avenue and 170th Street. The Park Committee invites everyone to go see it. On June 8, 2019 the Committee will have walkthrough of as many parks as possible at 10 am.

Health Services Committee – The Committee Chair advised that there is an outbreak of Legionnaires’ disease. It is a type of pneumonia caused by bacteria. It is not spread by one person to another. It can easily be treated with antibiotics. Those persons 50 years of age or older are at a greater risk at getting the disease. The Chair also attended the 15th Annual Bronx Health Summit on May 9, 2019. There were panelists discussing Aids,

Chronic Disease Prevention & Tobacco Control, Alcohol and drug use prevention, care and treatment, Maternal, Infant & Reproductive Health and Systems Partnerships. Additionally, there was an introduction to new community health profiles. All information is available online. Many health initiatives are taking place in order to combat health issues and bring down #not 62. The Chair invited everyone to the Health Committee meetings.
Youth Services & Education – No Report.

Report by the Bronx Borough President's Office represented by Andy Toledo

- Reappointment letters will go out on Thursday and Friday.
- Thanked the Board Members for coming out the Appreciation Dinner.

Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.

New York State Senator Jose M. Serrano represented by S. Hassan

- Office hours every Tuesday at the High Bridge Library
- Census 2020 Complete Count Committee along with BP Ruben Diaz, Jr. in order to improve turnout for the 2020 census.
- Child Safety

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner represented by Karim Arab

- Air and Clean water legislation
- Expand rights of crime victims
- Domestic violence victims for an alternative contact information to access their claims and benefits information.
- Free Housing Legal Services
- Medicare and Medicaid Assistance every Wednesday
- Free Immigration Screening – April 23, May 21 and June 25.
- Seniors in the Community every 2nd Monday for SCRIE services.

Mayor Bill de Blasio's Office represented by Joshua Cortes

- NYC is the first City to offer personal time off
- Safety cameras around schools as part of Vision Zero. They will be active until 10 pm.
- Universal Health Care for all regardless of immigration status.

Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson represented by Neceida Gomez

- June 8, 2019 – Youth Summit 2019 at Alianza Mosaic Beacon Center-1257 Ogden Avenue from 11 am to 4 pm.
- June 15, 2019 - U.S. Wallball Association-E. 170th Street & Clay Avenue. Check in at 9:00 am.
- June 28, 2019 - Silent Disco at Macombs Dam Park.
- Family Lawyer available once a month.

Councilmember Diana Ayala

- June 11, 2019 – Mount Sinai Mobile mammography van from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm for age 40+.

- Soccer Stadium in the Bronx. Three possible sites. One of them being Willis Ave & 153rd Street. There is no concrete proposal as of today.
- Rikers – two possible sites.
 - Either District 4 or District 1
 - District 1 logistically makes sense
 - Have city-owned land (Parks) or at the Tow Pound (facing the highway and partially residential).

Announcements:

Enrique Colon-CASA – June 11, 2019 at 5:00 pm– Rent Guidelines Bronx Public Hearing at Hostos Community College. There will be an opportunity for all to be able to testify.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.