

The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021 | 6PM
ONLINE VIA ZOOM PLATFORM
Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rasheida Alston, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Kweku Brew, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Michael Durant, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Ishaira Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, 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. Jonah Nigh, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Ms. Elba Rodriguez, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong, Ms. Kinanda Williams-Murray.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Jacqueline Calderon, Ms. Ariane Garcia.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, 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. Chantel Jackson, New York State Assembly Member
Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Ritchard Ewings, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda
Maria Guillen, representing NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda
Latanya Christian, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera
June Soto, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano
Emmanuel Martinez, representing NYS Assembly Member Chantel Jackson
Lanita Jones, District Leader 79th District AW Chantel Jackson
Stacey Strong, representing Council Member Vanessa Gibson
Russell Cheeks, representing NYC Council Member Fernando Cabrera
Stephanie Herrera, representing NYC Council Member Diana Ayala

GUESTS PRESENT:

Reynaldo Punzalan-Friends of 4 Parks, Enrique Colon-CASA New Settlement Apartments, Karen Madrid-Resident, Deborah Allman-NY Public Library Grand Concourse Branch, Kimberly Jefferson-NY Public Library Melrose Branch, Kerry Gould-NYPL Capital, Amy Geduldig-NYPL Media Relations, Amr Kotb-NYPL Government & Community Affairs, Lesle Williams-NYPL Capital, George Mihaltses, VP NYPL Government & Community Affairs, Risa Honig-NYPL, Doug Nash-NYC Parks, Marina Fedorova-NYC Parks, Renata Sokolowski-NYC Parks, Samir Roy-NYC Parks, Mike Ortiz-NYC Parks, Jackie Carter-Resident, Chris Campbell-Resident, Joyce Hogi-Harlem River Working Group, Rachel Gill-BronxWorks, Detective Roberto Oviedo-NYPD 44th Precinct CAU, Winnie Campbell-NYC HPD, Kedisha Samuels-Resident, Kathleen Saunders-Resident, Wendy Gallegos-MADDD Equities LLC, Esther Sanchez-Polanco-Cromwell Avenue Safe Haven, Hector Gerardo-1 Freedom For All, Lawrence Silberman-Victory African & Caribbean Market LLC, Tyrone Ashby-University Family Residence-VOA Greater NY, Erol's iPhone-Zona De Cuba, Danesh Jaiprashad-Resident, Sofia Costa-Resident, Tony Acosta-Resident, Charmaine Graham, Thierno Younoussa Bah, L Moshett, Der, arielfra27@gmail.com, iPad, H. Martinez, Michael, David, Call-In-User 1, Gene Edwards.

KEY TAKEAWAYS AND AGENDA ITEMS

Public session commenced at 6:06 p.m.

1. Public Session

- Enrique Colon from CASA presented.
 - CASA Workshop on Succession Rights/Section 8/Leases is tomorrow Wednesday, April 28th, from 6-8pm.
 - Bronx Legal Services will also provide an attorney to answer questions.
 - Workshop will be in English/Spanish.
 - Contact Enrique directly at 646-301-2131 or e.colon@newsettlement.org.
- Karen Madrid, community member, presented.
 - Discussed recent issues with noise pollution and crime.
 - A robust conversation concerning the community's relationship with the NYPD occurred.
 - Senator Sepulveda offered to host a forum on crime and criminal justice reform.
- Reynaldo Punzalan from Friends of 4 Parks presented.
 - Invited community members to attend the Dog Run Revamp on Saturday; summer yoga series starting on May 8; and park clean up on May 15 at Mullaly Park.

2. Welcoming remarks and announcements by Robert Garmendiz, Board Chair

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Bishop Earl McKay

4. Roll Call

- 34 Present; 3 Excused, 2 Absent

5. Review/Correction/Adoption of General Board Meeting minutes

- The March 2021 minutes were approved as corrected (i.e. one typo).
 - 31 approved; 2 abstained

6. Report by NYPD 44th Precinct

- Detective Roberto Oviedo presented.
 - Shootings are up.
 - Will ask another representative from the 44th to join the next board meeting to discuss how elected officials, clergy, and other community stakeholders can work together to address rising crime and overall relations.
 - Recruitment is at historic lows. Had to cancel a class in July.
 - The deadline for filing is May 4. The examination fee has been waived for those people who are interested in taking the test.
 - Starting salary is \$42,500. After five and a half years, it goes up to \$85,292.
 - Usually have a class of about 1500 to 5000. They did not reach 900 recently.
 - A lot of veterans are retiring at a high rate.
 - Reach out directly at 917-318-9186 or Roberto.oviedo@nypd.org.

7. Presentation re: Reconstruction of Goble Playground located at corner of Macombs Avenue & Goble Place

- Marina Fedorova - NYC Parks, presented.
 - Full presentation can be found at <https://www.nycgovparks.org/planning-and-building/capital-project-tracker/project/9276>
 - The project will reconstruct Goble Playground, including the play equipment, swings, basketball and handball courts, drainage and water systems, landscaping and park security lighting.
 - Currently in the design phase, usually 10-15 months.
 - A survey will be online until May 7 so community members can weigh in on the design options. They will try to extend the deadline to May 14.

8. Presentation regarding full renovation of NYPL Melrose Branch located at Morris Ave & E. 162nd Street

- Kimberly Jefferson, George Milhaltses, Amr Kotb, Kerry Gould and Leslie Williams from NYPL presented.
- Project details
 - Bid: Ongoing
 - Construction Start: June 2021
 - Construction Complete: Summer 2023
 - Branch Reopening: Early Fall 2023
- Working with the New York City Economic Development Corporation to manage the construction
- Adding a third floor.
- Adding about 5,300 square feet (for a total of 16,800 square feet).
- Building will be fully accessible.

- Adding new restrooms, flexible spaces, community room, new electrical, finishes, lighting, collections materials, etc.
- Working to engage a more diverse group of contractors. They partner with SoBro.
- Reach out if you know of qualified candidates as there are still some opportunities open (e.g. plumber).
- Target for MWBE participation is 38%.
- Will look into adding Spanish language courses in the future.

9. Report by CB4 District Manager by Paul A. Philips

- Commented on wide availability of vaccines.
- Noted that Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver will be moving to North Carolina.

10. Committee Reports

- Parks
 - No formal report
- Economic Development Committee
 - Committee Chair Beverly Bond reported.
 - Renewals of liquor licenses
 - Tularcito Bakery
 - 1470 Estrella Bar & Restaurant Corp
 - Victory African & Caribbean Market LLC/My Place African Restaurant
 - Motion carried. 91% in favor. 3% opposed. 6% abstain.
 - New application
 - Emergency Snack Bar
 - Motion carried. 88% in favor. 3% opposed. 9% abstain.
 - Tabled
 - Marisco Center
 - Zona De Cuba
 - Marie McCullough motioned for the voting in groups. Martha Reyes seconded the motion. Votes were done via Zoom poll and by voice vote for those using the Zoom phone app.
- Municipal Services
 - Committee Chair Rosie Dais reported.
 - Gave update regarding the CB4/DSNY/NY Yankee Organization Community Cleanups
 - Four locations will be 168th and Shakespeare; Clay Avenue and East 168th Street; Girard Avenue between 157th and 161st; and the Mount Eden Malls by Grand Concourse
 - Final dates TBD.
 - Tabling awards ceremonies for now.
- Housing
 - No formal report.
 - Multiple zoning text amendments will be coming before the board.
 - The May meeting will focus on the zoning for accessibility.
- Youth Services & Education

- Committee Chair Zonia Ortiz reported.
- Work on the community resource manual continues.
- Jimmy will create a Google doc to share with other committees.
- Subcommittees were formed. They include: homeless services, education, after school programs and extracurricular activities, special education, and LGBTQ education and services.
- Health & Human Resources
 - Committee Chair Jason A. Caraballo reported.
 - Presented COVID stats update.
 - Raised an issue concerning the new landlord of 7 buildings on Shakespeare and Woodycrest Avenues.
 - The landlord has applied to remove the rent stabilization protections from all of these units that they now own. A robust group discussion followed.

11. Report by the Office of the Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz, Jr. and local elected officials (or their representatives)

- Hon. Luis Sepulveda and NYS Assembly Member Chantal Jackson (*reported immediately after Goble Playground presentation*)
 - Took questions from Board members directly.
 - Both supported eliminating the ban on accessory dwelling (see Senate Bill 4547 and Assembly Bill 4854).
 - Senate passed legislation to increase the eviction moratorium until August 1.
 - Assembly Member Jackson is looking into creating legislation concerning noise pollution originating from cars.
 - Senator Sepulveda was open to the idea of using any discretionary monies he had access to assist with park clean ups and maintenance.
 - Assembly Member Jackson is thinking about creating a restaurant district near the new music hall (around 161st) and doing something akin to an adopt-a-block program to keep the area clean.
 - Senator Sepulveda said he would like into what steps were necessary in order to initiate a resident permit parking program.
 - Contact Senator Sepulveda directly at 718-991-3161 or Rltchard@senatorsepulveda.com.
 - Contact Assembly Member Jackson directly at 718-583-5150.
- Stephanie Herrera, representing NYC Council Member Diana Ayala
 - Reported on food and PPE distributions and services for small businesses along the 161 corridor.
- Stacey Strong, representing Council Member Vanessa Gibson (via Zoom chat only)
 - Phone: 718-588-7500
 - Email: District16Bronx@council.nyc.gov
 - Partnering with Montefiore to present a webinar on “Navigating Cancer during COVID-19”.
 - This webinar will take place 4/28/2021 at 12pm. RSVP to cancersupport@einsteinmed.org

- Will hold a Covid-19 vaccination pop-up event in partnership with Concourse Village board and Morris Heights Health Center at Concourse Village Community center. Moderna vaccine will be distributed on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 9 AM.
- Latanya Christian, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera (via Zoom chat only)
 - On April 29th, at 6PM, Senator Rivera will be hosting a Virtual Immigration webinar to discuss the latest policy updates for Immigrants at both the federal and state level.
 - He will be joined by several experts in immigration policy and law from Make the Road NY and Bronx Legal Services.
 - This webinar will be streamed in Spanish, with English translation will be available on Zoom.
 - To register, visit bit.ly/foroinmigracion
 - Contact directly at 718-933-2034 or grivera@nysenate.gov or lachrist@nysenate.gov

12. Old Business/New Business

13. Announcements/Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by Mr. Jonah Nigh