

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, JANUARY 23, 2018
BRONX MUSUEM OF THE ARTS
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165th Street
Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Howard Algarin, Ms. Naimah Bilal, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mr. Maynard Charles, Ms. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Ms. Connie Morales, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Ms. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Sherrise Palomino, 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.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Ms. Ramatu Ahmed, Mr. Rolando Aviles, Mr. Napoleon Black, Ms. Brenda Dawson, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrows, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Teresa Wright, Dr. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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. Troy Outlaw, representing NYC Public Advocate Letitia James
Mr. Antirson Ortiz, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
Mr. Jose Ramon Perez Lopez, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano
Mr. Beny Poy, representing NYS Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner
Hon. Vanessa Gibson, New York City Council 16th District
Ms. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Councilwoman Diana Ayala
Ms. Josimel Del La Cruz, representing NYC Councilman Fernando Cabrera

GUEST PRESENT:

Areils Pineda-Resident, Alenedor Gonzalez-Resident, Linda Moshett-Volunteers of America, Rod Rodriguez-Resident, Adam Marc Benditsky-Resident, Angiolina's Restaurant, Ms. Evelyn Rivera-President 11 West 172 Street Tenants Association, Jenna Lauter-Volunteers of America, Steven Mangual-Common Justice, Marco Castro-WHEDCO, Maria Morales-Jhanelle Restaurant & Bar Corp, Joseph Frewer-Resident, Alix Fellman-WHEDCO, Kaushawn Bowens-CRF Cluster Model Program, Aileen Rosario-HELP Bronx Morris, Cory Shaw-West Bronx Recreation Center, Hector M. Tirado-Maribella Restaurant, James Rather-Bronx Department of City Planning, James Boyd-Resident, Arlene Hall-St. Simeon's Episcopal Church, Claudia Davila-BPHN, Lisa Grant-PGCMH, Jessica Jones-BPHN, Dr. Nicole Hollingsworth-Montefiore Health System, Bibi S. Karim-BronxWorks, Raymond Avicas-Bronx Parent Housing Network.

Public Session

1. *Alix Fellman*, Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation (WHEDco) – They are conducting a Community Needs Survey in order to identify the needs of the community. By knowing what people are looking for, it helps them make recommendations to the decision makers in the community such as elected officials. The survey is available online at www.whedco.org and it is for zip codes 10452 and 10453.
2. *Steven Mangual*, Common Justice – He came before the Board to introduce Common Justice, a program that's an alternative to incarceration and mostly for the youth ages 16-26. It is the only program in the nation that works with violent felony offenders. The participants must first be approved by their crime victim. If they obtain a yes from their victim, they can be participants. If a no, then other services are available. It is a 15 months rigorous program. Upon graduation, the felony gets removed and changed to a misdemeanor.
3. *Cory Shaw*, NYC Parks – Programs & activities for all ages that are free or low cost.
4. *Tierra Pais*, Woodycrest – This young woman collects prom dresses to donate to young girls in the community. Last year her goal was to get 50 donated and instead received 100 where she was able to distribute 70 of them. Her goal this year is to collect 200 dresses.

Welcoming remarks and announcements by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32 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, January 23, 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. Robert Garmendiz made a motion to accept the General Board Minutes for October 24, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leandro Monzon. After the vote, the motion carries. Ms. Zonia Ortiz made a motion to accept the General Board Minutes for November 28, 2017. It was seconded by Mr. Barry Niessen. The motion carries.

District Manager's Report

- Open enrollment for new board members. Application deadline is February 9, 2018. Applications can be obtained from CB4 website or Bronx Borough President's website. You may also contact the board office to get one e-mailed to you.
- Bronx Point formerly known as Lower Concourse North
 - Convened a Planning Committee with local stakeholders, Children's Museum, Councilmember's office, Board Members, and Bronx Borough President's office. The goal is to guide and development of process.
 - Phase I completion is 2022 and Phase II thereafter
 - Meeting in the spring to discuss open space and public space. Dates and location TBA
- Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Planning
 - City commitments on housing preservation, open space, certificates of no harassment, and Southwest Bronx Housing Task Force.

- Subcommittee hearing on February 6, 2018 at City Hall. City Council will vote in March.
- Youth Day is scheduled for May 17, 2018 and a rain date for May 29, 2018. Anyone wishing to be a sponsor can contact the office. The Committee will need volunteers for the day. Contact Mr. Delts.
- Downtown Initiative
 - \$10 million from the state
 - BBP Planning Committee has met twice so far.
 - Website: www.bronxciviccenter.com.
 - February 13, 2018 – From 4 pm to 6 pm. Location TBD – Focus: Priorities
 - March 27, 2018 – 4 pm to 6 pm. Location TBD. – Focus: Approval of projects
- Homeless and cluster sites. Rumors of other sites being brought to this community. We need to take a stand on this. We need to be proactive. These need to be spread out throughout the City not just in our district.

Presentation by Montefiore Medical Center, Dr. Nicole Hollingsworth, Assistant Vice President of Community and Population Health Overview, Montefiore Health System.

Presented on an initiative to have up-to-date data collection and reports on the community and the general population. This initiative collects data on design and implementing said program. They target health education. They implement community intervention and disease prevention. They look at chronic respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, obesity, smoking and bodega initiative, etc. They study surrounding factors that may cause Bronx residents to have the highest percentages. Their data can be identified by age, gender and ethnicity or community. More info is available at Montefiore.org/community. This data is updated frequently.

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

Economic Development Committee- 1) *Jhanuelle Restaurant & Bar Corp.* 213-215 E. 170th Street, **New Application**, Full liquor license. The Committee motioned for a Letter of Support, seconded by Mr. Jackson Strong. The motion carries. 2) *Excellent Car Service*, 144 E. 174th Street, **Renewal**, Base Operating License. The Committee motioned for a Letter of Support, it was seconded by Mr. Robert Garmendiz. The motion carries.

Municipal Services Committee - The Committee had a presentation by the Department of Transportation where they were informed of upcoming reconstruction of 20 step streets in the Bronx. Additionally, they were advised of the 161st Street corridor reconstruction where the streets where cobblestone are visible will be smoothly paved.

Housing & Land Use Committee – 112 E. Clarke Place is a proposed development consisting of 14-story building with 122 units for seniors. 49 of the units will be allocated to the homeless senior population. 100% of the units will be project based which means the occupants will pay only 30% of their income. This development will provide several amenities and supportive housing. The Committee motioned for a Letter of Support for the proposed project to get funding from Bronx Borough President and CM Vanessa Gibson for this development for seniors. Ms. Mildred James seconded said motion. The motion carries.

Parks and Recreation Committee- Borough Commissioner, Ms. Iris Rodriguez-Rosa of the Department of Parks met with the committee and presented to them the 2018 Parks Planning Sheets for CB4. Priorities included are, the relocation of the Doughboy Monument to Macombs Dam Park at a cost of almost \$3 million. Mullaly State Park reconstruction of the bronze doors at \$300,000. Mill Pond Park - the Bronx Children's Museum construction. The cost is yet to be determined. This is still going through design and the project will be managed by DDC. Grant Park, the reconstruction of the playground and basketball court at \$3 million and it is scheduled for completion in May 2018. The Highbridge Park step street and landscape restoration at a cost of \$5 million with completion in March 2018.

Health Services Committee – No Report.

Youth Services & Education - The Committee had a presentation from the Advance Charter School which is scheduled to open in August 2019 in Community School District 9. It is targeted in enrolling 120 grade six students and ultimately 800 students in grades 6-12 when at full capacity. It will have a rigorous academic structure. Through funding, they will receive \$14,400 per student enrolled. This program will run in partnership with Hunter College. It will have student teachers from Hunter College. There will be two teachers in every classroom. The ratio will be 15:1. The program mandates these students do something educationally enriching

in July. Students will earn an International Baccalaureate Diploma. The Committee motioned to grant Advance Charter School a Letter of Support. Ms. Beverly Bond seconded the motion. The motion carries. Youth Day is scheduled for May 17, 2018 with a rain date of May 29, 2018 at Mullaly Park. The Committee is asking for 15 to 20 people to volunteer throughout the day. Contact Mr. Delts. Additionally, the NY Yankees want to participate and be more active at this event. The theme for this year is "Health and Wellness."

Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner represented by Beny Poi

- Neighborhood Association for Inter-Cultural Affairs (NAICA), 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.
- February 23, 2018, Black History Month celebration at the Bronx Museum of the Arts at 6:00 pm.
- Career Coaching Session – February 13, 2018 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm and February 22, 2018 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.
- February 10, 2018, West African Celebration at the Latino Pastoral Center, 14 W. 170th Street from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm.
- Speak Out took place on January 18, 2018. Discussion was on MTA and Transportation issues.
- You may contact our office at 718-538-2000.

Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson

- The Councilwoman was thankful to everyone for working with her and as she starts her second term as councilmember.
- No longer Chairing Public Safety Committee
- Chairing Subcommittee for Finance
 - Will deal with every city agency's capital budget
- Sits on 7 committees
- Member of Speakers Leadership Team
- Member of Budget and Negotiating Team (BNT)
 - Deals with budget priorities
- Jerome Neighborhood Rezoning Plan.
 - City Planning voted in approval of the plan.
 - They included expanding the retention areas for auto businesses.
 - Include more schools
 - M/WBE provisions
 - Local jobs, local hiring and pre-apprenticeship
 - In 50 days plan comes to City Council.
- February 7, 2018, Public Hearing at City Council Chambers at 9:30 am.

- February 10, 2018, ThriveNYC and First Lady will host a Mental Health First Aid Training from 10 am to 6 pm. Those that attend will get a certificate at the end of the training.
- February 23, 2018, Black History Celebration with Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner and Senator Jose Serrano at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, South Wing at 6:00 pm. We will be honoring residents from the district.
- NYCHA issues – heat and hot water. New Regional Manager, Vito Muscatello. \$13 million will be infused in NYCHA development for boilers and windows that need to be sealed. There will 57 new hires for Claremont Houses to focus on boiler repairs and maintenance.
- January 29, 2018, Budget Workshops for 501(c)3, 1370 Inwood Avenue Auditorium at 6:00 pm.
- Participatory Budget update in April.

Comptroller Scott M. Stringer represented by Antirson Ortiz

- NYCHA issues
- Announced audit of NYCHA
- Access-A-Ride complaints. Lack of a system to track them.
- Not enough money or contracts going to M/WBE

Announcements:

1. Ms. Marissa Jackson: NYC Commission of Human Rights is hiring. Bachelor of Human Rights required. Can apply at NYC.gov/humanrights.
2. Ebrahim Ndure: Citizenship spring classes will start on March 12, 2018. It is a 16 week program. It will conclude on June 27, 2018. Classes will take place at the Highbridge Library. Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.