

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, November 26, 2019
BRONX MUSUEM OF THE ARTS
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165th Street
Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Rasheida Alston, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Mr. Lionell Jackson, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Paul Onyx Lozito, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. James Boyd, Jr., Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mr. John Fielder, Mr. Anthony Nacerino, Mr. Jonah Nigh, Ms. Genny Sanchez, Dr. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Jacqueline Calderon, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mr. Michael Durant, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr.

STAFF:

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Ms. Surey Miranda, representing Mayor Bill DeBlasio
Khadim Niang, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
Ms. Alexis Ruiz, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Ms. Jane Soto, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano
Ms. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Council Diana Ayala
Hon. Vanessa Gibson, New York City Council Member

GUEST PRESENT:

Dr. James Fairbanks-Resident, Sharon Griffin-Resident, Keenen Willis-Citizens Committee for NYC, Betty Crawford-Resident, Khalek Kirkland-Boys Prep Bronx Elementary, Michele Cerwin-Boys Prep Bronx Elementary, Yvonne Gullen-Boys Prep Bronx Elementary, Uniqua Smith-SFCC, Kimberly Jefferson-NYC Public Library Melrose Branch, Tiffanie Dorch-BronxWorks, Maria Audrade Velez-NAICA, Detective Roberto Oviedo-NYPD 44th Precinct, Dion Powell, Danelli Lora-Resident, Fordmunth Frem, Victoria Paulino, Ester Lopez-Resident, Nayelin Adames-Resident, Sampson Obeng-Resident, Naomi Delphin-Department of Transportation, Dustin Khuu-Department of Transportation, Jessica Cignarella-MTA NYC Transit Authority, Delphine Paige-MTA NYC Transit Authority, Chelsae James-Department of Transportation, Ryan Feller-Department of Transportation, Matt Arancio-Department of Transportation, Commissioner Nivardo Lopez-Department of Transportation, Jacqueline Carter-NYC Transit Authority, Kevin J. Woodhouse-Concourse Village, Sandeh Sillah-Concourse Village, Gourdo Diabateu-Concourse Village, Aissetou Kaba-Citizen, Trancito Vivar-Community Garden, Carmen Tirado-Community Garden, Gus Stavrouanis-Resident, Kyle Vuille-Bronx Times, Kartika Fuentes-South Bronx United, Dan Leventhal-Bronx Lacrosse, Malik Garvin-Bronx Lacrosse, Enrique Colon-CASA, Lisa Grant-Post Graduate Center for Mental Health, Jennifer Clayton-NY Urban League Young Profession, Lon Wilson-NY Walkers Club, Rolando Aviles-Resident, Chris Campbell-Resident, Evelyn Rivera-11 West 172nd Street Tenants Association, Thomas Herrera, Daniela Feliz-Resident, Maya Barrera-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Shakira Pendley-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Brian Offei-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Laura Rodriguez-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Hillary Colon-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Edwin Pagan-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Mabel Rodriguez-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Sulia Rangel-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Cameron Davis-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Citlali Gonzalez-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Nayclin Disla-A. Philip Randolph HS, Esteban Callica-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Hamed Toure-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Andele Owon-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Kealyn Urena-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS, Zaira Hidalgo-A. Philip Randolph Campus HS.

Public Session

1. *Dr. Jim Fairbanks, Resident* – Dr. Fairbanks is concerned with the 106 tree pits without trees in the community. He is requesting for tree planting at these pits in Highbridge.
2. *Sharon Griffin – New Roots Community Garden at 153rd Street in Grand Concourse* – The community garden shares the space with International Rescue Committee. The original terms were to share the garden in as long as there would be a community garden membership. As of late, they have dismantled the garden and have not allowed any of the community garden members in the garden. She has not been able to get any answers and/or assistance and is seeking some answers as to where they stand.
3. *Dr. Khalek Kirkland, Principal Bronx Prep Bronx Elementary* – Help keep our boys safe. Requesting support in rezoning of Cedar Lane at 150th Street for student safety. The community board proposes to speak to the Department of Transportation to grant a special street activity permit which would be faster than rezoning. He was told to contact Lynn at the office for the necessary information.
4. *Keenan Willis, Program Coordinator for Citizens Committee for NYC* – Announcement of available neighborhood grants up to \$3000 for community gardens, tenant organizations, school recycling drives and art projects. Grants are for any grassroots groups working on community-based projects. Requests must be submitted by January 20, 2019.
5. *Kimberly Jefferson, NYC Public Library* – Upcoming events highlights at the Melrose Library: Free Adult Dance Fitness – Wednesdays at 10:30 am as well as other programs for children throughout the month.

Welcoming remarks and announcements by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:22 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, November 26, 2019, 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: Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow made a motion to accept the General Board Minutes of October 22, 2019. It was seconded by Mr. Leandro Monzon. After the vote, the **motion carries**.

District Manager's Report

- There will be no meeting in December except for the Economic Committee on December 9.
- The District Manager wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Additionally, he thanked the board members for their service in the community board.

Presentation – MTA Bronx Bus Network Redesign Final Plan – Jacqueline Carter, Assistant Director, Government & Community Relations, MTA New York City Transit.

Outreach for this plan will be via flyers, stakeholders and community groups
Strategies

- Direct routings

- Bus Stop Balancing – stop removal and adjustment. Currently, 400 routes are scheduled to be removed.
- Bus Spacing
- Speed up buses
- Improve Connectivity – ease of transfer locations
- Increase frequency on Bx 11, 18, 35, etc.
- Expanded Bus Stop Priority

For a total of 18 route changes.

Review My Route is available at the MTA website for further clarification about your specific route.

Next Steps

Outreach

- CB4 Presentation, Pop-up Events and Info Sessions, In-Station Open House and Alternative Trip Planner

Implementation

- Winter 2020 (Jan – Feb) - Public Hearing
- MTA Board votes on plan

NYC DOT Bus Priority Corridors – all 46 major corridors were analyzed

- Create new bus lanes
- Upgraded bus lanes
- Protected bus lanes
- Bus boarders
- Bus queue
- Curb management
- Pedestrian safety
- Bus stop accessibility

Implementation of this plan is expected to take place in Summer/Fall 2020.

Discussion – Bronx Lacrosse – Dan Leventhal, Founder and President

The Bronx Lacrosse organization is requesting support in obtaining a permit for the availability and use of field time for their practices and games. They have previously spoken to Michelle Young of the Bronx Parks in order to find a way for Bronx Lacrosse to obtain field time at Mullaly Park as well as access to another football-sized field in the community. Specifically, they are asking for four hours per week both in the fall and spring semesters on one of the Mullaly Park soccer fields on Mondays from 4pm to 5pm, Wednesdays 4 pm to 5 pm and Fridays 3 pm to 5 pm. Additionally, they are requesting two hours every Saturday on any local football-sized field during the fall and spring semesters where they can play their games. The program is currently available to 130 boys and girls from Highbridge Green and P.S./I.S. 218.

Report by NYPD 44th Precinct by Detective Robert Oviedo

- The 44th Precinct Council meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2020.
 - In lieu of a December meeting, the Council will be at Bronx Care Hospital to deliver toys to the Children’s Ward.
- December 13, 2019 - Children’s Holiday Party at 1175 Findley Avenue from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.
- The NYPD is now hiring. Pre-registration at nyc.gov/dcas. The exam will be held from 11/1/19 to 12/14/19.

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

Economic Development Committee- The committee had a presentation by Ms. Janet Peguero, the Senior Rezoning Manager for Small Business Services. She provided updated on the Jerome Avenue Neighborhood

Study on tools, training and assistance available to local small businesses. They also had another presentation from David Beller on the 2020 Census and possible outreach and education initiatives as well as jobs for the community. Additionally, *El Calderon Restaurant & Sports Bar* located at 1267 Jerome Avenue had a request for a Renewal of their liquor license. Notices were announced for requests from the 44th precinct for special permit for New Year's Eve to extend the hours of operation for the following businesses: *El Patron Nightclub Cabaret Restaurant Inc.*, -1465 Jerome Avenue and *Bestia Kitchen*-1353 E. L. Grant Hwy. The motion was set in place by the committee and it was seconded by Ms. Lilliam Rosa. After the vote, the **motion carries**
Municipal Services Committee – Provided update on the 4+44 event.

Housing & Land Use Committee –. The committee had presentation from HPD on two properties owned by NYC for parcels at Gerard Avenue and Anthony Avenue for affordable housing and homeownership. There was also a presentation for the charter school, American Dream School at 700 Gerard Avenue which is located at the Historic Landmark District. The presentation consisted of the exterior look of the school to include a look that matched the look for this district. Additionally, discussion went underway at committee of the possibility of a soccer stadium in our district on city owned land. The Urban Land Institute (ULI) is spearheading this discussion.

Parks and Recreation Committee- No Report. The committee had a request for a Letter of Support to the Parks Department for more field space to allow their lacrosse team to practice and hold games in local parks in our area. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paul Lozito. After the vote the **motion carries**.

Health Services Committee – No Report. Invitation to attend their monthly meetings at Bronx Care Hospital.

Youth Services & Education – The committee had the 2020 Census presentation previously presented at the General Board Meeting.

Report by the Bronx Borough President's Office represented by Alexis Ruiz

- Community board members application is available online.
- Reappointment letter will be sent out soon
- Applications are due in early 2020
- Tree lighting event on December 5, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.

Councilmember Diana Ayala represented by *Gloria Cruz*

- Constituent hours for Highbridge
 - Second and last Friday of every month at Bridge Builders

Mayor Bill DeBlasio represented by Surey Miranda

- NYC Health & Hospital
 - Therapeutic housing unit for specialty care

City Comptroller Scott Stringer represented by Khadim Niang

- Contract for Minority Women in Business

Announcements:

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.