

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, NOVEMBER 27, 2018
BRONX MUSUEM OF THE ARTS
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165th Street
Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Howard Algarin, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Ms. Marie McCullough, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Ms. Jodi Morales, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Mr. Jamal Patrick, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong, Dr. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mr. Rolando Aviles, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Connie Morales, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Genny Sanchez.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Ramatu Ahmed, Ms. Jacqueline Calderon, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Bishop Earl McKay.

STAFF:

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

**Ms. Shayra Reyes, representing Congressman Jose E. Serrano
Mr. Victor Martinez, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
Mr. Justin Sanchez, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Mr. Terell Brock, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano
Mr. Yaz Duarte, representing NYS Assembly Michael Blake
Ms. Stacy Strong, representing NYC Council Vanessa Gibson**

GUEST PRESENT:

Milton Schwartz-Midway Living, Perry Stein-Department of Education, Dr. Jim Fairbanks-Therapy in the Shelters, Nancy Prensa-BronxWorks, Karen Ford-Department of Homeless Services, Valerie C. Smith-WestHab, Merlyn Almonte-El Nuevo Valle III Restaurant Inc., Dorothy Hubbard-Resident, Nataly Zambrano-Resident, Moises Vizarre-Citizens Committee for NYC, Kevin Cepero-Tomorrows Leaders NYC, Sara Powell-NYC Parks, Bibi S. Karim-BronxWorks, Kianmy Garcia-Resident, Jonah Nigh-Resident, Ramatonloye Diallo-Resident, Adam Lessuck-FDNY/Community Affairs Unit, Paloma Medina-Kalopsia Restaurant Corp., Irma Fontaine-FDNY/Facilities Management, Kadidjatou Bambaliglu-Resident, Fritz Penn-National Action Network, Susan Shields-Resident, Evelyn Rivera-11 West 172nd Street Tenants Association, Jose Santos-OGLWD, Allen Shaibani-Pratt Institute, Lori Boozer-Department of Homeless Services, Kyung Mi Bac-Department of Education, Jeancarlo Sotomayor-NY Construction Alliance, Lissette Paulino-CUNY SPH, James Coughlin-WestHab, Rekha Seepersad-Post Graduate Center for Mental Health, Jean Cloxton-Resident.

Public Session

1. Perry Stern – Department of Education: Pre-K / 3 – K for all children in District 9 who were born 2015/2016. Starting fall 2019. Information session will be available at the Melrose Library on 12/1/18 and 12/15/18 as well as at the Sedgwick Library on 12/20/18 and 1/17/2019. For more information contact Jimmy Rivera at 212-637-8021 or jrivera118@schools.nyc.gov.
2. Dr. Jim Fairbanks – Therapy in the Shelters: Request for a Letter of Support to bring mental health providers into the shelters to provide therapy on site. The program will be no cost to the City since all billing would be through Medicaid. Dr. Fairbanks has been referred to make a formal request via one of the Board's Committees.
3. Moises Vicente – Citizens Community for NYC: Grants available for community organizations and groups from \$1000 to \$5000.
4. Sara Powel – NYC Parks: Harlem River Watershed Plan – upcoming community meeting on November 29, 2018 at the St. James Recreation Center at 6:30 pm. More info: harlemriverplan.eventbrite.com.
5. Bibi S. Karim – BronxWorks: Available funds up to \$100,000 for anyone facing crisis. Proof will be required. Contact Genesis Mejia at 718-508-3169 or gmejia@bronxworks.org.
6. Kevin Cepero – Tomorrow's Leaders, NYC: One-on-one mentorship for middle schoolers. Additionally, the program is sponsoring a basketball tournament from December 8, 2018 to March 2, 2018 on Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Welcoming remarks and announcements by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. She called the meeting to order at 6:27 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 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 Mr. Robert Garmendiz.

Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting: Mr. Barry Nissen motioned to accept the General Board Minutes for October 23, 2018. The motion was seconded by Ms. Arelis Pineda. After a vote of 30 in the affirmative and 6 abstentions, the **motion carries**.

Presentation: Department of Homeless Services Siting at 1401 Edward L. Grant Highway – Karen Ford, Deputy Commissioner of Families, DHS and James Coughlin, WestHab

This site will be operated by WestHab who have extensive experience with transitional housing facilities. Onsite services will include mental health services, supportive housing, tier II housing, permanent housing, provide employment services and childcare services. The site has 44 mixed used population units. 30 of the units will be for homeless families from the Bronx and the other 14 units are permanent affordable. Otherwise, most families will stay there for one year. Units will be studios to two-bedroom. The building plans to open for the families

the first week of January 2019. Onsite security will be provided. WestHab is looking forward to work with the community.

District Manager's Report

- 1401 Edward L. Grant Highway: Encourage all to be involved and engaged with this project, DHS and the provider. The DM took a tour of the facility and he asked them if they have a way of tracking their clients once they leave in order to measure the success of the program. The project will have an advisory board and everyone is encouraged to participate.
- Many set out to the polls on November 7 to make their vote count. The democrats gained 32 seats.
- In January the Civil Court of New York is getting a new judge. Their new judge will be none other than our own board member, Ms. Connie Morales. She will no longer be with us. We wish her the best.
- Jerome Avenue Study Update
 - We met with CM Gibson last month who provided some updates on the Jerome Neighborhood Plan.
 - The Certificate of No Harassment Pilot Program Implementation went into effect in October 2018
 - This is a law that requires buildings to meet certain criteria to ensure that there is no tenant harassment taking place.
- Jerome Workforce Partnership has been convening since March 2018. Their goal is to develop a framework around workforce and job training. Their next scheduled meeting is December 11, 2018 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at the New Settlement Community Center.
- Local Hire and Contracting Task Force will launch in late 2018/early 2019. Their goal is to implement contracting language and local hiring practices within the new developments along the corridor.
- Jerome Public Health Task Force will kick off in early 2019. Mr. Jason Caraballo and Ms. Martha Reyes are participants.
- January 7, 2019 – City Planning will be attending the Housing & Land Use Committee to present ULURP and CEQR, a follow up to the Zoning 101 presentation earlier this month.
- January 17, 2019 – Small Business Services will be presenting “Train the Trainer” an overview of its programs and services for small businesses.
- February 2019 – Whedco is coming to CB4's Economics Committee to share the business data they collected as it relates to the Jerome Neighborhood Study.
- Construction on Plimpton Playground begins on November 29, 2018.
- Parks Department Input Session on December 11, 2018 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm for Cpl. Fischer Park.
- Parking on the medians is illegal. Will keep pushing for the enforcement of no parking in these areas.
- Commended the members of the Economic Committee for working together and moving forward for requests for liquor license letters of support while the Chair attended business with the Board of Elections.
- Shout out to the Municipal Services Committee for their diligent work on the 19th Annual Outstanding Police Officer and Firefighter Award ceremony. The event will take place at Yankee Stadium on November 29, 2018.

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

Economic Development Committee- 1) *Legends Hospitality at Yankee Stadium – 1 E. 161st Street. Renewal.* The Committee motioned to provide a letter of support and it was seconded by Dr. Grace Zarate. After a vote of 36 in the affirmative and 1 abstention, the **motion carries.** 2) *Vicnat Diner Corp. – 948 Ogden Avenue. New Application.* The committee motioned to provide a Letter of Support and it was seconded by Mr. John Howard Algarin. The vote was 33 in the affirmative and 4 abstentions to grant a letter of support. The **motion carries.** 3) *Kalopsia Restaurant Corp. – 1324 Jerome Avenue. New Applicant.* The Committee motioned to provide a letter of support. It was seconded by Ms. Arelis Pineda. After a vote of 35 in the affirmative and 2 abstentions, the **motion carries.** 4) *El Nuevo Valle III Restaurant, Inc.-268 E. 167th Street. New Application.* The Committee motioned to grant a letter of support. It was seconded by Ms. Veronique Green. After a unanimous vote, the **motion carries.**

Municipal Services Committee – The Chair thanked the 4+44 committee and the volunteers for their participation in said committee. The committee had a presentation from FDNY on a proposed new EMS station

at 1259 Morris Avenue to replace its current structure at Ogden Avenue between 165th and 166th Street. Said station will serve for restocking ambulance supplies. It will support 11 units of which three units will serve overnight and the remaining six during the day. The committee motioned to grant a Letter of Support to FDNY for construction of a new EMS Station 17 at 1259 Morris Avenue whilst the current DCAS property at Ogden Avenue is included in further conversation with CB4 as to what to do with said property. After a vote of 35 in the affirmative and 2 abstentions, the **motion carries**.

Housing & Land Use Committee – The committee was presented by the Department of City Planning on the how the zoning code works and they will be presented again on the ULURP process, a very important fundamental we dealt with during the Jerome Avenue Rezoning. The DM suggested for the committee to advise DCP to increase the community board’s review to 90 days and decrease the Borough President’s to 60 days. This could be further discussed at committee.

Parks and Recreation Committee- The second part of the Park’s Survey was cancelled due to inclement weather. The committee discussed and proposed to invite Bronx Lebanon Hospital and the Park’s Department to discuss the idea of creating a memorial for Dr. Traci Tam who was slayed this past year. They propose to explore the possibility of discussing this further. This idea has been tabled pending additional information and who it can be discussed with further at the Parks Department and Bronx Lebanon Hospital.

Health Services Committee – No Report

Youth Services & Education – No Report.

Report by the Bronx Borough President’s Office represented by Justin Sanchez

- Introduction of Bronx BP’s new liaison, Justin Sanchez.
- BBP amending capital funding in order to buy tablets for students.
- Mandatory Sexual Harassment Training dates on December 4, 2018 at 5:30 pm and December 12, 2018 at 11:00 am at the Bronx Courthouse. Additionally, board members can make an appointment at BBP office or board office.
- Applications for new members are available.
- December 6, 2018 – Holiday Tree Lighting at the Bronx County Building at 5:30 pm.

Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.

Congressman Jose E. Serrano represented by Ms. Shayra Reyes

- December 4, 2018 – Highbridge Senior Center – Workshop on Best Practices for Seniors from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Their office is currently accepting internship applications. Call their office at 718-620-0084 for information on where to submit resumes.

NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano represented by Terell Brock

- The Senator is focusing on providing family support services for his constituents. The next constituent hours will be held on December 4, 2018 at BronxWorks at 515 Jackson Avenue.
- Tenant Support Services.
- Bronx Legal Services.
- For more information contact 212-828-5829X1477 or tbrock@nysenate.gov.

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer represented by Victor Martinez

- Summer Internship for undergraduates and graduate students. Applications will be processed from January 7, 2019 to March 8, 2019.

- Claremont Houses – The Comptroller is helping families experiencing rat infestation issues. His office is helping distribute food to families affected by this situation.
- His office is open to inventory control of tablets distributed to schools throughout the City. They are assuring that they are stored properly and are well used by students.

Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson represented by Stacy Strong

- December 5, 2018 - Civil Legal Services – Mobile unit located in front of 1377 Jerome Avenue from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- December 7, 2018 – Annual Holiday Party at Mullaly Recreation Center at 6:00 pm.
- December 18, 2018 – NYCHA-Know Your Rights Clinic from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Claremont Neighborhood Center-489 E. 169th Street.
- December 21, 2018 – NYPD Appreciation Luncheon at Bronx Community College’s Colston Hall at the lower level from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner represented by Karim Arab

- Legal Services – Every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 3pm to 6 pm.
- Tenant Support Specialist – Every 1st and 3rd Thursday from 11 am to 3 pm.
- Immigration Screening services are also provided contact the office for further information at 718-538-2000.
- Sponsorship for community neighborhood improvement grants. The sessions will take place on October 25, 2018 in English and October 26, 2018 in Spanish. Both sessions are at 6:00 pm at the Assemblywoman’s office.

Announcements:

Ms. Saunders: Congratulations to our former board member, Llinet Rosado-Beltre, for her promotion and election to judgeship to the Bronx Supreme Court.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.