

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Howard Algarin, Mr. Rolando Aviles, Ms. Beverly Bond, Ms. Jacqueline Calderon, Mr. Maynard Charles, Mrs. Rossmery Dais, Mr. Spencer Edwards, Mr. John Fielder, Ms. Ariane Garcia, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Veronique Green, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes, 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, Dr. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mr. Jason Caraballo, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Ms. Connie Morales, Mr. Jamal Patrick.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Ramatu Ahmed, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Jodi Morales.

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. Terell Brock, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano
Mr. Karim Arab, representing NYS Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner
Ms. Yaz Duarte, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake
Ms. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Councilwoman Diana Ayala
Ms. Josimel De la Cruz, representing Councilman Fernando Cabrera

GUEST PRESENT:

Dorothy Hubbard-Resident, Betty Crawford-Resident, Miguel Yip-La Nueva Win Hing Restaurant Inc., D. Lee Ezell-Resident, Ben Goodman-School Construction Authority, Qiana Flynn-Bronx Parent Housing Network Inc., James Turner-Boys Prep, Yesenia Robles-Walk About Charter School, Belen Aranda-Alvarado-Resident, Ben Wild-Walk About charter School, Jhoan Castillo-Kanita Lounge Corp, Julio Castillo-Kanita Lounge Corp, Basihso Moreno-Post Graduate Center for Mental Health, Imani Darden-LISC, Detective Roberto Oviedo-NYPD 44 Precinct, Dan Whately-CUNY Journalism, Kimberly Jefferson-NYPL Melrose Branch, George Manesis-856 River Ave Rest Corp, Paulino Juan-Exotic Lounge, James Cogger-Legal Hand, Tracy DaSilva-Jones-HELP USA/HELP Morris, Julian Stephenson-Church of God of Woodycrest Avenue, Stasy Nivar-School Construction Authority, Leslie Canidad-School Contruction Authority-Linda V. Combs-Resident, Arlene Hall-Waisburd-Resident.

Public Hearing on the FY2020 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for Community Board Four

There were no item requests from the public.

Public Hearing on the NYC School Construction Authority (SCA) has proposed 1302 Edward L. Grant Highway as the site location for a new school district 9 primary school within Community District 4.

October 27, 2018 – SCA Act – noticed filed for Block 2871, Lots 61, 140 and any other property in the immediate vicinity for a 458-seat primary school. The site is 21,000 square feet. Any comments on the proposed actions for this site can be submitted to sites@nycsca.org until December 6, 2018. After the comment period an environment review will be performed within 6-8 months. This location is not a ULURP action.

Public Session

None

Welcoming remarks and announcements by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. She called the meeting to order at 6:19 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, October 23, 2017, 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. Robert Garmendiz made a motion to accept the General Board Minutes for September 25, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen. After a vote of 34 in the affirmative and 2 abstentions, the **motion carries**.

Discussion/Adoption: Capital and Expense Budget Priorities Request FY2020

- No changes from last year's budget priorities, but will see several additions. The Bridge is our #1 capital priority.
- There is a proposed soccer stadium at 153rd Street and River Avenue. The parking garage is one of the properties for this site along for other properties adjacent and surrounding it.
- There is a need for schools, open space and a recreation center; however, the city cannot fund brick and mortar. They can only fund programming. We suggest that if any get built on city property, the developer can fund them and then the city can fund the programming.
- Parks Committee requested horticultural funding and more PEP officers. Those have been added to the expense part side of the budget.
- Capital side:
 - Included Claremont Park, Merriam Playground, Mullaly Skate Park and the track at Macombs Dam Park (requesting additional funding for this).
 - Bronx Point: Asked city to fund the capital side north up to the exchange at the Major Deegan Express.
 - Board office relocation – asking for letters of support from both councilmember to DCAS
- We are allotted 40 Capital priorities and 31 Expense priorities.
- Bridge #1 priority; Elevator #2 and Schools #3 on our capital budget.

Mr. John Howard Algarin motioned to accept the Capital/Expense budget priorities as listed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen. After the unanimous vote, the motion carries.

Report by NYPD 44th Precinct – Detective Roberto Oviedo

- 44th Precinct Community Council Meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the Concourse Rehab Center – 1072 Grand Concourse.
- 44th Precinct Halloween event from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Goodie bags for the kids.
- New Settlement Apartments Halloween Event on October 31, 2018 from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm.
- 911 Operators applications are available. Deadline to apply is November 27, 2018. Starting salary is \$36,000. After three years, salary goes to \$49,000.
- Asked that anyone sending any letters/correspondence to the office include a return address, a phone number and/or email address. The office needs these in order to respond to the sender.
- He reminded everyone that it is really important to get out and vote. Also advised that the last date to register to vote is October 12, 2018.

District Manager's Report

- Sexual harassment training. Deadline December 14.
- EDC – Ferry feasibility survey
 - Part of Yankee Stadium project – this was disbanded because of funding.
 - A report will be released in early 2019
- MTA bus redesign
 - We have the highest bus ridership than any other boroughs
 - Recommend to go online and complete the survey
 - MTA Board President will be at Hostos Community to answer questions and any other plans the MTA has on November 7, 2018 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.
- SBS – Will be attending the Economic Development Committee in January
- Whedco will be attending the Economic Development Committee in February
- Bronx Point will be attending the General Board Meeting in January to provide updates
- Housing & Land Use will be getting training on zoning 101 from the Department of City Planning.
- Jerome Avenue –
 - Task Force comprised of our board reps, Ms. Reyes and Mr. Caballero.
 - Goal: Neighborhood health plan.
 - New community health profiles will be submitted.

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

Economic Development Committee- 1) *856 River Avenue Restaurant Corp. (AKA Billy's). Renewal.* The Committee motioned to provide a letter of support and it was seconded by Mr. Robert Garmendiz. After a unanimous vote, the **motion carries.** 2) *La Nueva Win Hing Restaurant, Inc. – 4 East 167th Street. Renewal.* The committee motioned to provide a Letter of Support and it was seconded by Ms. Lilliam Rosa. The vote was unanimous to grant a letter of support. The **motion carries.** 3) *Exotic Lounge, Inc. – 10 W. Mt. Eden Avenue. Method of Operation (Karaoke).* The Committee motioned to provide a letter of support. It was seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen. After a unanimous vote, the **motion carries.** 4) *1267 LRM Corporation – 1267 Jerome Avenue. Name Change.* The Committee motioned to grant a letter of support. It was seconded by Mrs. Zonia Ortiz. After a unanimous vote, the **motion carries.** 5) *Kanita Lounge Corp. – 136 East 174th Street. New Application.* The Committee motioned and it was seconded by Mr. Jimmy Rivera to provide a letter of support. The vote was unanimous and the **motion carries.**

Municipal Services Committee – The Committee is currently working on preparations for the 4+44 Police Officers and Firefighters Outstanding Awards. They are looking for volunteers to assist on the day of the event.

Housing & Land Use Committee – The next committee meeting will be on November 5. Everyone is invited to come and participate in the discussion. We will be discussing the uses of lots around Yankee Stadium at a future meeting.

Parks and Recreation Committee- The committee's next meeting will be on November 5. The committee had a presentation by the Parks Department on the Bridge Playground. The committee motioned to recommend a letter of support for the reconstruction project of the Bridge Playground. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lilliam Rosa. After the unanimous vote, the **motion carries**. The committee also invites you to check out the Claremont Walking Warriors on Instagram and Twitter.

Health Services Committee – The Committee had presentations from Bronx Health Link, a non-profit health networking system. They also had a presentation by NY Connects which links individuals to long term service and support. Additionally, there was a presentation by Archcare-Community Life which assists in enhancing the lives of the elders and others who need extra help in staying healthy. The Chair provided continued reminder to get vaccinated for the prevention of influenza vaccine. 53,000 were lost last year in the USA because of influenza.

Youth Services & Education – No Report.

Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.

Congressman Jose E. Serrano represented by Ms. Shayra Reyes

- Shared the address for services at the Congressman's office located at 1231 Lafayette Avenue. The office is opened Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. They can be reached at 718-620-0084.
- October 30, 2018 – Event for seniors at the Highbridge Senior Center at 11:00 am. This event will provide information for seniors to know the benefits available to them.

NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano represented by Terell Brock

- The Senator is focusing on connecting seniors and their families to supportive systems providing assistance with housing, transportation, accommodations, combating elder abuse and preparing for the flu season.
- Partnered with the Tenant Support Services of HRA for services in providing information on domestic violence and Access-A-Ride.
- For more information contact 212-828-5829X1477 or tbrock@nysenate.gov.

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer represented by Victor Martinez

- Proposes for MTA to reduce the fare for Metro-North to \$2.75. The same as the City transit system.
- Propose for an increase of service to stations like Melrose/Tremont. Of 36 trains that pass this station, only two make a stop there.

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: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.