

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018
BRONX MUSUEM OF THE ARTS
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165th Street
Mr. Robert Garmendiz, 1st Vice Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Howard Algarin, Mr. Rolando Aviles, Ms. Beverly Bond, Ms. Jacqueline Calderon, 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, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Marissa Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Ms. Jodi Morales, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mrs. Zonia Ortiz, Mr. Jamal Patrick, Ms. Arelis Pineda, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr, Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Mr. Avery Smith, Mr. Jackson Strong, Dr. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mr. John Fielder, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Connie Morales, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Ms. Sherrise Palomino, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Ms. Kathleen Saunders.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Ramatu Ahmed, Ms. Genny Sanchez.

STAFF:

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

**Mr. Victor Martinez, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
Ms. Denise Vivar, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera
Mr. Karim Arab, representing NYS Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner
Ms. Yaz Duarte, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake
Ms. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Councilwoman Diana Ayala
Hon. Vanessa Gibson, New York City Council 16th District
Ms. Stacy Strong, representing NYC Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson**

GUEST PRESENT:

Nancy Prensar-BronxWorks, Margaret Fleesak-NYCPL Highbridge Branch, Marin McFadden-Volunteers of America, Yokasta Perez-La Sabrosura Restaurant Corp., Albin Infante-Mofongo El Mocano, Amber Kartalyan-Equity Environmental, James Heineman-Equity Environmental, Vanessa Camaro-Resident, Teresa Carrington-Resident, Anthony Matulis-Resident, Richard Lobel-Sheldon Lobel, PC, Tracy DaSilva Jones-HELP USA/HELP Morris, Lenny Dymond-Civic Builders, Christian Gibbs-Classic/Charter, Qiana Flynn-Bronx Parent Housing Network, Charlie Samboy-NYCEDC, Kathleen O'Malley-Mayor's Alliance for Animals, Lisa Grant-Post Graduate Center for Mental Health, Barbara Son-Resident, Dorothy Foster-Resident, Yvonne Marshall-Resident, Ricardo Cosme Ruiz-NAICA, Bibi S. Karim-BronxWorks, Modar Nyas-Resident, Don Daedalus-Resident.

Public Session

None

Welcoming remarks and announcements by the First Vice-Chair, Mr. Robert Garmendiz. He called the meeting to order at 6:14 pm on this Tuesday of September 25, 2018. The meeting was 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. Mildred James made a motion to accept the General Board Minutes for June 26, 2018. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rosie Dais. After a unanimous vote, the **motion carries**.

District Manager's Report

- Requested a moment of silence for the memory of Ms. Naimah Bilal who passed away over the summer.
- Welcomed our newest board members, Ms. Jacqueline Calderon; Ms. Arelis Pineda and Ms. Veronique Green.
- Correspondence and Letters of Support:
 - Must go through proper channels
 - Need record on how we are doing business
 - Need committee minute
 - Everything must be processed through the proper protocols
- 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.
- MTA – Redesign meetings. Asking for everyone to attend.
 - September 27, 2018 – Metropolitan College of New York
 - October 3, 2018 – Monroe College
 - October 9, 2018 – River Bay Corp in Coop City
 - October 15, 2018 – NYC Health & Hospital at Jacobi
 - October 18, 2018 – Christ Church in Riverdale
- Franz Sigel Ballfields Input Sessions with the Parks Department will take place on October 2, 2018 at Cardinal Hayes H.S. at 6:00 PM.

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

Economic Development Committee- 1) *La Sabrosura Restaurant – 25A E. 170th Street. New Application.* The Committee motioned to provide a letter of support and it was seconded by Dr. Grace Zarate. The vote was unanimous to grant a letter of support. The **motion carries**. 2) *Mofongo El Mocano Restaurant and Lounge Corp. – 985 Morris Avenue. Class Change.* The committee motioned to provide a Letter of Support and it was seconded by Mr. Jackson Strong. After a vote of 34 in the affirmative and 2 in the negative, the **motion carries**. 3) *Zero Lounge Restaurant Inc. – 1472 Ogden Avenue. Method of Operation (Add live music).* This request will be **tabled** at this time to be reviewed at a later date.

Municipal Services Committee – The Committee had a presentation on the reconstruction of the Grand Concourse service roads during the winter of 2017 through the fall of 2019. There will be upgrades and improvements of pedestrian walkways, resurfacing of the main roadway and service roads, widening of the medians, installation of water mains, sewers, manholes, catch basins and traffic lighting. Along with the Parks Committee, the Municipal Services Committee had a request from NYCEDC and NYCPD for a non-ULURP UDAAP to facilitate open space associated with the redevelopment of the Bronx Point project. This will include the expansion of Millpond Park and its use to function as an open space. The developer will be responsible for

maintaining the area as well as enhancing it to perpetuity. The motion to grant a LOS was motioned by Ms. Marie McCullough and seconded by Dr. Grace Zarate. The vote was unanimous. **The motion carries.**

Housing & Land Use Committee – The Committee had requests for two letters of support. The first was for a charter school at 757 Concourse Village West. At committee, the developers were asked to give a report on how to mitigate traffic in this area. This is a special permit area. Answers were provided for the overall concern of too much traffic that will be created to the existing traffic and congestion issues. Seven schools already exist in the area even though a need for a school is needed. The Committee motioned to provide a letter of support for a special permit for a charter school at 757 Concourse Village West. The motion was seconded by Ms. Reyes. After a vote of 32 in the affirmative and 4 in the negative, the **motion carries.** The second request was for restoration of windows at the façade of 1062 Clay Avenue. The original window had curved glass and the developer is requesting special permission from the Landmark Preservation to allow the use standard glass for cost effectiveness and without taking away from aesthetics. The Committee requests to grant a Letter of Support for the replacement of curve window to straight standard window at 1062 Clay Avenue. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lilliam Rosa. After the vote of 33 in the affirmative and 3 in the negative, the **motion carries.**

Parks and Recreation Committee- The Committee continues to work on the park survey to establish their physical needs. They had presentation and request for a LOS for the Bronx Point project. Additionally, there was an overview of work at Grant Park and Nelson Playground.

Health Services Committee – Welcome to all new members. The Committee didn't meet in September. It will meet on October 15 in lieu of October 8. Reminder: get the influenza vaccine now to prevent the flu.

Youth Services & Education – The Committee had a presentation on the Book Share Program. It is a program that provides audio/visual books for those visual impairments or reading disabilities. Additionally, they received info on the renovation of the Grand Concourse Library. There will be accessibility additions for the mobility impaired. Renovations will start later this year with completion expected for spring 2019.

Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.

NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano represented by Terell Brock

- Enhancement of natural conservancy by sponsoring several bills to protect the environment.
- September constituency hours will be offering training courses in preparation for emergency situations and natural disasters. Contact our office for updates.
- Any questions or information contact 212-828-5829X1477 or tbrock@nysenate.gov.

NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera represented by Denise Vivar

- At a later time will provide upcoming immigration fair and health fair.

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer represented by Victor Martinez

- Thank you if you attended our Town Hall meeting this past July
- We had an amazing African Heritage event on September 24, 2018.
- Release of New Study done between 2005 and 2017. This study shows that one million apartments renting at \$900 have disappeared. Rents have skyrocketed and it is affecting all of us. The study shows neighborhood profiles such as median household incomes, unemployment, population increase, population by bachelor degrees. Copy of the study is available at the Comptroller's website.

Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson

- Thank you to the 16th District
- Congratulations new board members
- Acknowledged Naimah Bilal's passing and her contribution to the community throughout the years

- \$1,000,000 Participatory Budget Recap
- School Construction Authority (SCA) awarded funds to make schools more accessible to all students
- Fair Fares – This pilot program will be offered to 800,000 New Yorkers with limited needs. It provides a reduced MetroCard. It will roll out in January 2019.
- Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) – 75,000 youth were employed during the summer and 10,000 more were offered jobs throughout the year. Additionally, many children that were not in SYEP from middle school were able to participate in Sonic & Compass summer camp.
- Parks & Sanitation received trash receptacles in the district. The current wire trash cans are being replaced by green peat cans or silver metallic round top. In the parks, big belly cans will be placed instead. These have a handle and lock that when completely full will send a message to sanitation to come and empty out.
- Town Hall meeting took place in April. Claremont Park was awarded \$2M; the Parks Department was awarded \$2.5M, particularly for Mullaly Park.
- Parks in Renovation
 - Ogden/Plimpton
 - Bridge Playground
 - Grant Park – replacement of sprinklers, seating area, basketball court and swing sets with additions of possible dog trails and amphitheater.
- Concourse Village awarded \$250,000
- Volunteers of America will be constructing a new affordable building for seniors on Clarke Place.
- P.S. 126 acquired a new principal.
- Two new schools opened in the Teller Campus
 - MS 593 – IB Initiative
 - MS 594 – English language learners
- The following schools received the following awards
 - PS 11 - \$50,000
 - PS 90 - \$50,000
 - PS 53 - \$150,000
 - PS 294 - \$150,000
 - Roberto Clemente Campus - \$300,000 to upgrade the auditorium
 - IS 218-Rafael Hernandez Dual Language School - \$600,000 for a science lab. This school received the most votes in this participatory budget.
- Bronx Museum of the Arts – \$2 million. The new Executive Director, Debra Cullins, is hosting a Meet & Greet on October 2, 2018 at 6:00 pm.
- Jerome Avenue Rezoning:

- Brand new school location at 169th Street and E. L. Grant. The SCA will come to the CEC and CB4 to start the development project.
- Corporal Fischer on the Nelson Avenue/170th Street awarded \$4.6M for park construction.
- On the other side on 169th Street and E.L. Grant/Shakespeare the construction of a new affordable senior housing
- October is *National Domestic Violence Awareness* and *National Breast Awareness* month.
- October 17, 2018 – Job Fair at East Bronx Academy for the Future, 1716 Southern Blvd at 6:00 PM. Sponsors are Sen. Sepulveda, Assemblyman Blake and CM Salamanca.
- October 18, 2018 – Hispanic Heritage Celebration – Bronx Museum of the Arts at 6:00 PM. Sponsored by Assemblywoman Joyner and Senator Serrano.
- Creation of a Campus Pantry at Findlay House which will give access to food and basic toiletries. A Community Forum will take place on October 11, 2018 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Findlay House Community Room. The program will ultimately be launched on November 5, 2018. The program is co-sponsored with Assemblywoman Joyner, Borough President Diaz, Jr., Bronx DA Clark and Sen. Sepulveda.
- October 10, 2018 – Highbridge Community Resolution Forum at PS 73 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- 16th District Community Councils have resumed.
- Establishment of a Bronx Public Task Force to address health disparities.

Councilmember Diana Ayala represented by Gloria Cruz

- Participatory Budget – Need information on what funds are needed in the community. Info can be provided to the office by contacting 347-297-4922. Also advise us of any quality of life issues.

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner represented by Karim Arab

- Free housing legal services every second and fourth Thursday from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
- Housing repair resources on first and third Thursday of the month.
- Free immigration screenings from Bronx Legal Services (Fridays) and Sauti Yetu Center for African Women and Families (Wednesdays) from 3 pm to 5 pm by appointment. Contact 718-538-2000.
- October 25, 2018 (English) and October 26, 2018 (Spanish) – Grant Information Sessions for Citizens, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Assemblyman Michael Blake represented by Yaz Duarte

- Housing issues on Tuesdays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.
- Our office still has book bags available. Contact us while supplies last.
- October 17, 2018 – Job Fair at East Bronx Academy for the Future, 1716 Southern Blvd at 6:00 PM. Co-Sponsored with Sen. Sepulveda, CM Gibson and CM Salamanca.

Announcements: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.