



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Present: Abunoman Rahman, Alizia McMyers, Andrea McLoed, Angel Martinez, Anne Johnson, Antionette Vereen, Brent Woodie, Chandra Moore, Chiene Jones, David Marin, Derrick Holman, James Tynan, Janelle Harper, Julio Quinones Jr, Juan Torres, Lena Johnson, Lorenzo Van Ness, Loretta Masterson, Mitchell Halpern, Mohammed Mujumder, Nellie Santiago-Rivera, Ram Halder, Robin Kelly, Sadie Davis, Shante Chamblee, Sharyn Brown, Shereese Trumpet, Wajied Hakim

Meeting Start Time: 6:30pm

Public Session

1. Julio Reyes from Citizens Bank, Citizens Financial Group, Inc. is one of the nation's oldest and largest financial institutions, with \$222.0 billion in assets as of September 30th, 2023. Head quartered in Providence, Rhode Island, Citizens offers a broad range of retail and commercial banking products and services to individuals, small businesses, middle-market companies, large corporations, and institutions. Citizens helps its customers reach their potential by listening to them and by understanding their needs to offer tailored advice, ideas and solutions. In Consumer Banking, Citizens provides an integrated experience that includes mobile and online banking, a 24/7 customer contact center, and the convenience of approximately 3,200 ATMs and approximately 1,100 branches in 14 states in the New England, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest regions. Consumer Banking products and services include a full range of banking, lending, savings, wealth management and small business offerings. In Commercial Banking, Citizens offers a broad complement of financial products and solutions, including lending and leasing, deposit and treasury management services, foreign exchange, interest rate and commodity risk management solutions, as well as loan syndication, corporate finance, merger and acquisition, and debt and equity capital markets capabilities. More information is available at www.citizensbank.com
2. Andre Green requested limited street activity permits on Starling Avenue. Chairman addressed this concern.
3. Sylvia Gardener announced upcoming Castle Hill Resource Center Virtual Round Table April 16th at 6pm
4. Daniel Flores from SBS, The NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) helps unlock economic potential and create economic security for all New Yorkers by connecting New Yorkers to good jobs, creating stronger businesses, and building thriving neighborhoods across the five boroughs.

Elected Officials Report

1. Councilmember Amanda Farias Report
Introduced the following bills:

- 0676- A local law to amend the administrative code of NYC in relation to requiring taxi and limousine commission to conduct a study and report on increasing the use of electric for-hire vehicles and installing new charging infrastructure.
 - 0675- A local law in relation to the establishment of a task force to study the gender pay disparity and economic self-sufficiency among the labor force in the city.
 - 0693- A local law to amend the NYC charter in relation to requiring the office of urban agriculture to create and implement a plan to convert unused industrial areas to urban agriculture sites.
 - 0694- A local Law to amend the NYC charter in relation to long-term citywide bathroom strategy
 - Bill 0172 was passed – In relation to the compensation received by for hire vehicle drivers for advertising on the interior of for hire vehicles.
 - The Council Members Office also shared upcoming events
2. Senator Nathalia Fernandez Report
 - Free tax prep workshop March 27th 10am-2pm at Sotomayor center
 - Fafsa and student debt relief workshop at united community center in new Rochelle.
 - Easter extravaganza March 30th 11am to 2pm
 - City island Easter egg hunt, March 30th at 1pm
 - Annual Castle Hill Easter Egg Hunt March 30th 11am to 2pm
 - Throggs Neck community church easter kids' fest March 30th 12pm to 3pm
 - Iftar Dinner, April 16th, 5pm at PS 106
 - HRA workshop April 12th 4pm to 7pm 475 Swinton Avenue.
 - Potential Korean war veteran trip to Albany April 4th 10am
 3. Bronx DA Report
 - The Bronx DA is hosting a Prom Dress and Suit Drive, until April 19th. Donations can be dropped off at the designated bin located in the welcoming lobby of 198 E 161st Street.
 - The 7th Annual Bronx Child Safety Fair will be on April 27th at 11am to 3pm at PS 211 (located at 1919 Prospect Avenue).
 4. Congressman AOC Report
 - Last week, along with Senator Durbin and Representative Mace, the Congressman formally introduced the DEFIANCE Act
 - On Saturday, March 9, 2024, the President signed six government spending bills that include funding for 14 projects for NY-14, amounting to \$12 million for our district.
 - The congressman invites high school students to participate in the 2024 Congressional Art Competition
 - The IRS launched its new Direct File pilot, a new free service that offers an easy-to-use and secure way to electronically file your 2023 federal tax return directly with the IRS.
 5. Senator Serrano's Office shared a newsletter with events and updates
 6. The Comptroller's Office
 - The Comptroller's Office released a report analyzing the City's major emergency staffing contracts for asylum seeker services
 - The Comptroller announced a lawsuit against the NYCT/MTA for failing to pay prevailing wages to workers hired to clean the subways during the pandemic.
 - The Comptroller's Office released an HPD staffing and capacity report.
 - The Comptroller's Office released an Audit exposing major management gaps in intensive mobile treatment (IMT) for New Yorkers with severe mental health challenges.
 - The Comptroller's Office released a monthly update to its Department of Correction Dashboard.
 - The Comptroller's Office launched an Online Form for members of the Public to Aid Investigation into 60-Day Shelter Limit for Asylum Seekers
 7. Bronx Borough President's Office

- Last week the Borough President hosted an annual Iftar Dinner.
- The State of the Borough will take place on Thursday April 18th at Cardinal Hayes HS at 5:30 pm. Please remember to RSVP.
- The Borough President is hosting an Irish Heritage Celebration on March 27th at The Rambling House. It will begin at 5:30 pm. To RSVP, please reach out to events@bronxbp.nyc.gov
- The Borough President is hosting a Greek Heritage Month Celebration at St. Peter the Apostle Greek Orthodox Church (3245 Kingsbridge Ave) on Friday April 5th at 5:30 pm.
- Our office is accepting donations for the 2nd annual prom dress & suit drive. We are accepting donations through May 9th.

Paul Philips, DCP Borough Director

Bronx Metro North Neighborhood Plan As per DCP presentation, The East Bronx today lacks regional rail access, it is also a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to thoughtfully plan around new transit service in the East Bronx. Re-envision key corridors as places for the community to meet and grow housing, facilitate new open space, and plan for improved public connections to and from nearby communities.

Proposed Actions:

Zoning Map Amendments

- Rezone automotive-focused areas to allow for transit-oriented development
- Modify the boundaries of the Parkchester Special Planned Community Preservation District

Zoning Text Amendments

- Establish and map the Special Eastchester – East Tremont Corridor District
- Establish R6-1 and M1-1A districts
- Apply Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH)
- Remove language that exclusively applies to C8-4 districts within Parkchester Special Planned Community Preservation District
- Extend the Transit Zone City Map Changes New open space, expanded sidewalks, and improved street connections for more details on the proposal please visit:

<https://zap.planning.nyc.gov/projects/2022X0431>

*There was a motion to approve the Bronx Metro North Neighborhood Plan, the vote was unanimous (27 votes in favor) and the motion was passed.

Committee Reports

1. Youth & Education Committee Minutes were submitted as is.
2. Land & Zoning minutes were submitted as is
3. Parks & Recreation minutes were submitted as is.
4. Public Safety Minutes were submitted as is.
5. Social Services minutes were submitted as is.
6. NYCHA minutes were submitted as is.

Meeting adjourned: 7:45pm

OFFICE INFO

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