

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, April 21, 2010
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (Corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

-Public Hearing Items-

1) NYC – Public Advocate – Mr. Bill de Blasio’s Office – postponed

2) NYC – Department of Parks & Recreation “Dog Run” at Maria Hernandez Park-
Presenting is Portia Dyrenforth, representing the Brooklyn Office of the Department of Parks & Recreation-
Borough Commissioner Julius Spiegel.

“Dog Run” at Maria Hernandez Park is funded by NYC- Council Member Diana Reyna for \$425, 000. Present with her is Mr. Ilan Kutok the Deputy Team Leader for Brooklyn Capital Project, Mr. Tom Cleveland, Architect and Mr. Tony Rosa the new Parks Manager for districts 3 & 4.

Mr. Ilan Kutok noted the location of park: Knickerbocker & Irving Avenues and between Starr & Suydam Streets. The dog run will be at a location away from the trees. The small trees that are presently located near the dog run can be relocated.

There will be two different sides of the dog run - one third of the area will be for the smaller dogs less than 30lbs., other side will be for the bigger dogs that will need more room for running. The two sides will separate so that the owners’ of the smaller dogs will not be nervous. There will also be a vestibule area which will allow the dog owners to leash or unleash their dogs.

The vestibule can be entered through double gates either through the park or the street and the dog run will be fenced in with mesh located at the bottom so that the little dogs can not get out.

The two new waters fountains will be used for human drinking and for the dogs. A push button will allow for the bowl located at the bottom to be filled with fresh water for the dogs.

There will be a new entrance at Willoughby Avenue so that dog owners can enter right at the dog run without interfering or disturbing the rest of the park. The entire area will be treated with crush stone which containing a self service drainage system which drains underneath the gravel so that when it rains the water can be easily drain.

New Radio type benches will be installed in the park. Radio benches are designed to completely surround the tree itself which will prevent dogs from digging, eliminating waste or doing anything that can cause damage to the tree.

Signage will be posted in the vestibule area letting dog owners know that they are required to pick up after their dogs. Bags will also be available for a limited amount of time. Dog owners utilizing the area daily will be encouraged to pick up after their dogs or else they will be stepping in it.

A number of questions were voiced concerning dog waste and aggressive dogs. Ms. Dent stated that education is very important. Dog waste in the streets and on the sidewalk contaminates our water. Children also play in the park and we want to make sure that they are safe.

Mr. Tony Rosa stated that the Parks Department can work with Sanitation Enforcement to check to see if the dog owners have licenses and to enforce the laws relative to picking up dog waste. The Parks Department can make sure that those with dog use the dog run and not other areas of the park.

Mr. Villamar asked was there any type of registration or organization which could document the number of dogs in Bushwick.

Mr. Rosa stated that he has 4 dogs and he registers them every year with the Department of Health for a \$25.00 fee. They also get rabies shot once a year, however, as an agency the Parks Department is not prepared to enforce that law because it is not in their jurisdiction.

The construction cost for the dog run is \$425,000 and will not cause the entire park to be closed-only the affected area. The construction timeline is approximately 6-8 months; a fence will be built around the affected areas.

3) Request to Co-name Harman Street from Knickerbocker to Irving Avenue in Honor of Nilsa Roman
Ms. Nilsa Roman's sister Ms. Betsy Soto-Roman, oldest daughter, Ms. Loraine Rios and other various speakers spoke in behalf of Ms. Nilsa Roman. Many might have known Nilsa Roman as a loud out spoken woman who was everywhere stated her daughter. Ms. Nilsa Roman was a community advocate, dedicated volunteer and a family worker. Though Nilsa Roman did not run for any public office, she felt that her job was to listen and help others anyway that she could.

She walked the streets in order to get signatures, participated in parades, and worked in soup kitchens.

Ms. Roman died from cancer and it is also their mission to tell Ms. Roman's story in order to help others stated her sister. Their message is to encourage minority groups to participate in screenings; early detection has the best survival rate and demand quality care from physicians.

Allison Frost a representative of Assemblyman Vito Lopez read a letter from the Assemblyman in support of the co-naming of Harman Street in memory of Nilsa Roman. The Assemblyman knew her for over 20 years as a parent leader, community advocate, president of the parent teachers association of PS 86 and president of Harman Street Block Association for 15 years. The Assemblyman referred to Ms. Nilsa Roman as a "go getter" someone who gets things done.

Abby Bello representing NYC-Councilmember Erik Dilan stated that the Council Member also sends his support in co-naming Harman Street. Mr. Bello remembers how Ms. Roman was always at the office representing the children and asking so many questions that he would identify her as the "Mayor of Bushwick".

Ms. Dent mentioned that she was unaware of the death of Ms. Roman. However, she remembers her as wonderful woman who cared about the children and people in general, a people person who always made you laugh. Ms. Dent stated that Ms. Nilsa Roman was highly respected and she will be greatly missed.

District Manager noted that the board's protocol was followed in regards to the request of co-naming Harman Street in honor of the life of Ms. Nilsa Roman. On April 15, 2010 the family appeared before the Civic and Religious Committee and presented a petition in support of the co-naming of Harman Street. The committee will present its recommendation at the allotted time.

The Public Hearing portion of the meeting was then closed.

The Chairperson thanked New York Police Department finest for being present at the meeting. She acknowledged Sergeant Duffy and PO Laporte.

Ms. Julie Dent welcomed all in attendance to the Community Board #4's Wednesday, April 21, 2010 Community Board meeting.

The Chairperson then asked the District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted call the first roll.

Roll Call: 33 members present constituting a quorum.

The Chairperson asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. The agenda was accepted by Ms. Saundria Simmons and second by Mr. Cyril Joseph. All members present were in favor.

The Chairperson asked for the acceptance of the previous month's minutes with any necessary corrections. The previous month's minutes was accepted by Ms. Martha Brown and second by Mr. Freddie Fowler. All members present were in favor.

Chairperson's Report:

In acknowledgement and appreciation of "Administrative Assistant/Secretarial" Day the Chairperson and the District Manager presented staff members Willie Morales and Sharon Fludd - Community Associates of Community Board #4 with flowers on behalf of them board members.

The Chairperson then asked that the Elected Officials and/or their representatives to introduce themselves and give out their respective telephone numbers.

- 1) Alejandro Echeverri – Councilmember Diana Reyna, 217 Havemeyer Street, 718-963-3141
- 2) Johnny Joyner – Senator Martin Dilan, 786 Knickerbocker Ave., 718-573-1726
- 3) Rafael L. Espinal – Councilmember Erik Martin Dilan, 387 Arlington Avenue, 718-642-8664
- 4) Abby Bello - Councilman Erik Martin Dilan, 387 Arlington Avenue, 718-642-8664
- 5) Karen Cherry – Congressman Ed Towns, 107-04 Flatlands Ave. Office, 718-272-1175, Cell #: 718-309- 9755
- 6) Allison Frost – Assemblyman Vito Lopez, 434 South 5th Street, 718-963-7029
- 7) Maritza Davila – Female District Leader, 53rd Assembly District, Director at RBSCC 217 Wyckoff Avenue 718-366-3800

Ms. Dent acknowledged Matt Conner from the FDNY.

The Commissioners of Elections in the City of New York selected the Elections Systems & Software Inc., (ES&S) DS200 Scanner and the Auto MARK Ballot Marking Device as the new poll site voting system to be used in New York City beginning in the fall of 2010. The old voting machines are now obsolete and will not be used any longer.

Voters must now be trained and ready to use the new system as soon as possible. At the Wednesday, May 19, 2010 meeting of CB#4 there will be a demonstration on how to use the new system. The Board of Elections will begin a demonstration campaign starting in the month of May. Community Based Organizations, Churches, Civic Organizations and the like are encouraged to make arrangements to have the Board of Elections come to their site with their training vehicle.

During the month of July the 83rd Precinct Community Council will sponsor the training vehicle to be set up in the parking lot on Bleecker Street.

Anyone or organization wishing to schedule a training demonstration should contact: Ms. Valerie Vazquez at the Board of Elections Office of Communication at (212)487-5401 or by calling 866-VOTE-NYC (866-868-3692)

On Monday, April 19, 2010 a Rally was called by a host of elected officials concerning the Mayor's plan to close FDNY Engine Company 271 located at 392 Himrod Street. All those speaking noted how the communities both in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens can not afford to revert back to an era of fires. Life saving agencies should never receive cuts. With Wyckoff Heights Hospital in near proximity of the fire station closing of the fire station could reflect in the lost of lives. All were encouraged to write to the Mayor Bloomberg and to their Elected Officials.

On Tuesday, April 20, 2010 the newly appointed Charter Revision Commission hosted its first public hearing in the borough of Brooklyn at St. Francis College located at 180 Remsen Street.

Other public hearings are promised to be held in the future in Brooklyn. It is the hope of the Chairperson and the District Manager that members of the board as well as the public be present so that their testimony could be heard.

The Community Board is needed in the community. The District Manager and her staff work hard and diligently for our community and they understand the needs. Others city offices/agencies who may be affected by the Charter Revision Commission findings include the Office of the Public Advocate currently hold by the Hon. Bill DeBlasio. The office of the Borough Presidents our Brooklyn President is the Honorable Marty Markowitz. The Chairperson continues to encourage all to attend hearings and write letters to the Mayor, Elected Officials, and others.

The Elections of Officers for Community Board #4 will be held during the month of June. In preparation for the new "Arts and Culture" committee a description will also be prepared so that it could be added to the standing committees.

In July the City plans to displace 2000 children. This will cause the closing of 16 City run Day Care Centers totaling 31 classes. The plan to close these centers will lead to the permanent lost of child care student slots in low income neighborhoods at a time of great need.

Ms. Dent also noted that the Summer Youth Employment applications are now available online.

District Managers Report:

The District Manager attended several meetings this month.

April 2: meeting hosted at Council Member Reyna's Office concerning baseball organization

April 7: Executive Committee Meeting

April 12: City Limits Publication at Borough Hall

April 13: Public Safety Committee Meeting

April 14: Economic Development Committee Meeting

April 15: Joint meeting of the Civic & Religious and the Youth & Education Committees

April 19: Press Conference regarding the closing of FDNY-Engine Company 271 located at 392 Himrod Street

April 20: 83rd Pct. Community Council Meeting

April 20: Brooklyn Carter Revision Commission hearing. This hearing was the first of a number of meetings that the CR Commission will hold in Brooklyn this year. The board would like to show that they are active in local government and that they will fight to preserve and strengthen community board's roles in the structure of government in New York City.

The District Manager asked that the petitions that were given out at last month's meeting be returned to her as soon as possible. The petitions speak of the need to bring the Charter Revision Commission meetings closer to the Bushwick community or at a time when more people will be able to attend. The petition states that the proposed revision must be broken down. A question that we do not want to see on the Ballad is: Do you think the NYC Charter should be changed? A question such as that asks for a yes or no answer. We want questions that are concise and precise on the ballot. The voters who are our neighbors need to understand what this is all about and the board will need to help them. The Board will inform the public about upcoming meetings.

Community Board #4 Move: Please call Elected Officials to see if there is anything they can do to move forward. The present Community Board's office is in unprofessional conditions, boxes are packed and tiles are falling from the ceiling.

The current holdup is the building's C of O which is for welfare center. Although the mayor's office wrote a letter dated August 2008 for a zoning override approval for the Community Board's office move the board was told that a permit still must be filed by the building's operator. The 1420 Bushwick Avenue building is a city owned building and an architect is now needed which will cost a lot of money. The Community Board has been trying to move for the past 4 years.

Census Update- As of today, our community district is not doing the best job with respect to the census. Recent data reveals that we are at the same level for census returns today as we were the year 2000 on the very same day. Everyone is asked to help their neighbor fill out the Census form and mailed in.

The Municipal Art Society of NYC has a program called Livable Neighborhoods designed to provide communities with the resources needed to transform local vision into effective plans. Its components are a resource guide on a variety of planning topics relevant to city neighborhoods. A series of training workshops and an on-going web-based "practitioners network" is designed to facilitate an exchange of information and ideas among people who are enrolled in the program. Meetings are held on Saturdays. For more information and registration contact Sideya Sherman at ssherman@mas.org or call (212) 938-3960x1259.

Borough President Marty Markowitz will host the 9th Annual Assembly of the Federation of Brooklyn Block Associations on Thursday, April 22, 2010 at Brooklyn Borough Hall from 5³⁰pm to 8:30pm. Discounts offers will be available for your block party or family day.

April 29, 2010: Workshop will be presented on Sexual Predators. This workshop will be held at the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration located at 1368 Fulton Street at 6pm. Information will be provided on the Sex Offenders Registration Act and how to look up sex offenders in your neighborhood.

Asian Long Beetle Eradication Program Treatment notification has been issued. The Davey Tree Expert Company will be treating trees with insecticide within the district. The treatment began on April 5, 2010 and will continue through June 19, 2010. The scope of the project is the treatment of approximately 31,395 trees. The work entails applying insecticide directly into the soil surrounding the trees or directly injecting the trucks of the trees in all residential areas, wood lot areas, commercial sites, schools, government facilities and parks. There will be no spraying of trees or any form of aerial or broadcast application. Notification and access to the residential sites will be coordinated by the USDA and/or Davey staff. All Davey tree technician staff will be in a Davey uniform and will be carrying identification. Any questions can be directed to the USDA at 1-866-265-0301.

Committee Reports:

Joint meeting of the - Civic & Religious Committee, and Youth & Education Committee, chaired by Ms. Elvena Davis and Ms. Virgie Jones respectively. The meeting was held on Thursday, April 15, 2010, 6:00PM
Ms. V. Jones – discussed the following: The 5th Annual Bushwick Parade scheduled for Thursday, June 10, 2010 on Brooklyn/Queens Day. The committee has 30 students' names from district schools. Letters will be mailed out to their parents officially inviting them to take part in the festivity. Registration forms are available for all CBO, churches, daycare centers and others to submit names of youths who have done well in their organization. The deadline to submit names is Monday, May 17, 2010. Next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2010.

Economic Development Committee, Mr. Odolph Wright – Chairperson: Meeting held April 14, 2010. The committee is working hard and need the support/input of others in their effort of bringing banks to the Bushwick community. Mr. Wright has spoken to Assemblyman Darryl Towns who is on the NYS Banking Committee regarding the matter. The committee will need a letter from the board, clergy and the CRC chairperson. We have many check cashing services in the district, however full service banks are needed.

The Chairperson added that letters concerning this item should be addressed to all of the district's State representatives including Assemblyman Vito Lopez and Senator Dilan so that they can work together with Assemblyman Darryl Towns. Maritza Davila stated that a Bank of America will be opening on Knickerbocker Avenue in the near future.

Parks & Recreation Committee, Austen Martinez – Chairperson: Meeting held Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 6:15pm, 315 Wyckoff Avenue

Items Discussed:

1. Portia Dyrenforth and Ilan Kutok of the Department of Parks and Recreation Construction Division spoke about the new state of the art Dog Run to be built at the Maria Hernandez Park.
2. Tony Rosa the new park manager for all the parks in Bushwick tackled questions from the baseball leagues representatives present at the meeting. By the time of the meeting Mr. Rosa was able to inspect 3 parks: Bushwick Playground, Hope Park and Knoll Park. Thomas Boyland Park is scheduled to be inspected soon in order to get ready for the 2010 baseball season.
3. Agreed schedules are as follows:

B.Q. Sports baseball Organization

Hope Park:

Tuesday and Wednesday 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Saturday 8:00am to 8:00pm

Thomas Boyland Park:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Sunday 8:00am to 8:00pm

Quebradillas Baseball Organization:

Hope Park:

Monday, Thursday and Friday 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Sunday 8:00am to 8:00pm

Thomas Boyland Park:

Wednesday 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Friday 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Saturday 8:00am to 8:00pm

- **Robert Clemente Baseball Little League & United baseball League:**

Knoll Park:

Tuesday through Friday 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Saturday 8:00am to 8:00pm
Sunday 3:00pm to 8:00pm

The Executive Committee of Community Board #4 requested that the following baseball organization be added in the schedules for playing time at Knoll Park.

- **Aguadilla Baseball Organization:**

Knoll Park:

Sunday 9:00am to 2:00pm
Monday 6:00pm to 8:00pm

It is recommended that all organizations bring their permit to the park when in use. A sign will be posted stating which organization has use of the park and who is in charge at that particular time.

Mr. Tony Rosa will make sure that the permits are posted at site and he will forward a spreadsheet by month to month to the community board.

Public Safety Committee, Ms. Barbara Smith - Chairperson: Meeting held Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 6:00pm, 83rd Precinct, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue

Items Discussed: NY State Liquor Licenses

As stated in the State Liquor license Book no establishment can sell or retail alcoholic beverages on Sunday between the hours of 4:00am to 12:00pm and any other day between the hours of 4:00am and 8:00am.

The Next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held May 11, 2010 at 6:00pm

Recommendations for approval by the Board members

Item #1: NYC – Department of Parks & Recreation Dog Run at Maria Hernandez Park

The Motion was moved by Mr. Robert Camacho and second by Ms. Barbara Smith to Support the installation of the Dog Run at Maria Hernandez Park

Members voted: **Yes** – 30; **No** - 1; **Abstentions** -4.

Item #2: As presented by the Civic and Religious Committee: The request to Co-Name Harman Street from Knickerbocker to Irving Avenues in honor of Ms. Nilsa Roman.

Motion was moved by Ms. Elvena Davis and second by Mr. Cyril Joseph.

Yes – 35 by Unanimous Proclamation: all members are in favor

Item #3: Acceptance for the Parks & Recreation Committee for the scheduling for the Baseball season as presented for the various organizations.

Motion was moved by Mr. Cyril Joseph and second by Ms. Martha Brown

As stated by Ms. Saundria Simmons the motion would include the changes discussed at tonight's (4/21/10) meeting.

Yes – 35, by unanimous proclamation: all members are in favor.

Item #4: Acceptance for the Public Safety Committee approvals on liquor licenses for application # 2, 3 & 5 as stated in the chairperson report.

Motion for items # 2, 3 & 5 was moved by Mr. O. Wright and second by Ms. S. Simmons.

#2 - El Rey Del Pollo Restaurant inc. located at 354 Cornelia Street

#3 – Radio Bushwick located at 22 Wyckoff Avenue

#5 – Mr. Barbecue Churasqueria located at 178 Wyckoff Avenue

Yes – 35, by unanimous proclamation: all members are in favor

Old Business:

Alejandro Echeverri- representing NYC Council Member Diana Reyna's office: Update on half way houses. Halfway houses are legal licensed residences by OASAS (OFFICE OF ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES) IT IS THE ONLY STATE AGENCY THAT OVERSEES TREATMENT PROGRAMS. Halfway house are very expensive to create, they are very well staffed and very few of them are located throughout the city-only 15 houses.

The cases the board has heard about are more likely called sober homes which follow a very similar criteria which is a home were residents go, it is similar to a transitional houses were there is no oversight from any agency. Council Member Diana Reyna's office has looked into this problem and has approached the FDNY and the Department of Buildings, OASAS and others including the Department of Homeless Services. The finding is that there is no current legislation that oversees this type of residences. Council Member Reyna is now pursuing legislation to monitor these types of residences which would avoid them from being created in the middle of residential neighborhoods and which would provide oversight.

These buildings are on an increase because of a lack of affordable housing and the rapid unemployment rate as well as the excessive over developments.

Allison Frost representing Assemblyman_Vito Lopez: Updated on 979 Willoughby Street- Ms. Frost spoke with the Department of Buildings today and all of the Elected Officials are working hard on the problem. 979 Willoughby does have a Certificate of Occupancy which is being violated. However since fire standards have not been violated they will not be told to evict the premises unless there is a safety issue. The building does have fire sprinklers systems and a means of egress. The next step will be to see where they are getting their monies from and if it meets with City standards. Ms. Frost hopes to have more information by the next board meeting.

Ms. Dent thanked all of the elected officials for working together for a common cause which is to help the citizens and residents of Bushwick.

New Business:

Mr. O. Wright: Adopt a neighbor adopt a block for the Census – Whatever block that you are on and whatever neighbor that you know they you can help them and they in turn can help other neighbors.

Announcements:

Roger Beckford: I.S. 296 Beacon Program has a new fitness program being offered on Saturdays from 12:30pm to 2:30pm at no charge for adults and children.

Ms. Barbara Smith: The 83rd Pct. Community Council will have a fund raiser "Mother and Father Day Dance" on May 21, 2010. It will be held two weeks after Mothers Day and two weeks before Father's Day. Tickets: \$15.00

Alejandro Echeverri: House opening for their new address located at 217 Havemeyer St, 2nd Floor between South 5th and Broadway on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at 11:00am. They will also have a blood drive at the event.

Laura Braslow: Bushwick Open Studio and Arts Festival- 4th year event on June 4-6, 2010.

Registration is now open online until May 2, 2010 at www.artsinbushwick.org

Board members that are interested in being on the Arts & Culture Committee were asked to see Ms. Braslow.

Jason Andrew: STOREFRONT, 16 Wilson Avenue, Brooklyn is now accepting inspiring art made by area youth ages 7 to 12 for exhibition at the gallery May 21-30, 2010. Four young artists will be selected to receive a \$25.00 award for their art work. For information contact Jason Andrew at 646-361-8512 or jandrewnyc@yahoo.com

Ms. Darly-Ann Saunders: The Brooklyn Arts Council in partnership with the New York Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the Department of Aging has launched an artist residency program that provides work space for artists at senior centers. Ms. Saunders will conduct her residency at the Diana H. Jones Senior Citizen Center. Have you lived in Bushwick since 1974? Or do you know someone who has? Participation will include a portrait sitting and the opportunity to have some of your Bushwick memories written down. All questions should be direct to Ms. Saunders only at das@dasaunders.com.

Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council: Are you at risk of losing your home? Foreclosure prevention service program can help! Free advice and counseling for home owners, free legal assistance, free pre-purchase counseling and budget repair advice. For more information call 347-985-2000 ext 1800 or email at afelix@rbscc.org. Location: 255 Wyckoff Avenue

Steven Ochoa, CEC 32: Parents were invited to a workshop on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the District 32 office located at 797 Bushwick Avenue, 3rd Floor. Please RSVP Ms. Elizabeth Hernandez at 718-574-1203 or via email at cec32@schools.nyc.org

Jessica Rivera, Municipal Art Society: City Youth Internship on learning how to project maps for the MAS. The program is available for Freshman, Sophomore & Junior High School students. If interested call Jessica at 718-300-2172. The program pays \$10.00 per hour.

Olivia Triana, State Farm Insurance Agency: The insurance company offers banking, car and home insurance, retirement investment accounts, etc. Located: 136 Wyckoff Avenue, 718-386-6800

Laura Braslow: "Stillwaters in a Storm" it is youths in a one room schoolhouse ages 7-20 where writing and other activities. Starting May 1st they will have their own full time space. Tutors and teacher volunteers are needed. Opening party and fund raiser will be held on May 1, 2010 from 4-7pm at 286 Stanhope Street.

2nd Roll Call: Meeting adjourned 8:55 pm