

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2011
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (Corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

The Chairperson Julie Dent began the meeting by announcing that there was no quorum; therefore no voting can take place until a quorum is reached.

The Chairperson asked the District Manager to call the first roll call since the representative from the U.S. Census Bureau has not arrived. She noted the presence of a representative from the Fire Department and asked him to give an update on what is happening regarding the Fire Department.

The Chairperson asked the District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted call the first roll at 6:50PM.

Roll Call: Members present does not constitute a quorum.

Joseph Schiralli – FDNY, 392 Himrod Street: The Fire Chief brought the Community Board some statistics of what is happening in Bushwick for the month of April 2011.

Today a list of units which included both Engine and Ladder Company that are in danger of being closed was released. Although Engine Company #271 which is located on Hart Street was not on the list as originally thought however, other Engine Companies located in the District of Bushwick were on the list. They are:

- Engine Company # 218 located at 650 Hart Street
- Engine Company # 233 located at 25 Rockaway, which services the Bushwick Community

There were a total of 684 incidences in the month of April:

21 Structural Fires

19 Non Structural Fires

286 Non Medical Emergencies

327 Medical Emergencies

20 Arsenal Fires

11 Auto or Transit Fires

0 Fatalities

There were 22 fatalities in Brooklyn; however none were in the District of Bushwick.

Questions were entertained:

Question: What is the difference between an engine company and a ladder company?

Answer: The Engine Company supplies water for the fire and the Ladder Company searches for victims in the fire.

Question: In reference to the fire that took place on Covert Street this past Friday, May 13th how many 3 quarter house does the FDNY respond to?

Answer: The Fire Chief does not have a record of those numbers.

District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted stated that the Community Board does not want any Fire Department to close. Timing means everything when it comes to a fire. It is a tragedy for anyone to die – no one should lose their life. When the Community Board speaks about trying to stop illegal conversions - we speak of houses which are converted to rooming houses that turn into three-quarter houses. It is for the safety of those persons living in them. Something needs to be done about it.

Ms. Julie Dent asked the board members and the public for a moment of silence for those who died in the fire on Covert Street.

-Public Hearing Items-

U.S. Census Bureau NY – 2010 Data Roll – Out Information Department Planning – Neighborhood Tabulation Areas

Ms. Rosemarie Fogarty, Information Services Specialist: The 2010 Census is now being published. Brooklyn's Kings County is the largest county in the city, and the largest county in the State of New York with 2,504,700 people. Kings County has grown by 39,374 people.

Included in her information:

- United States Census Bureau – Partnership & Data Services Program
- New York – 2010 Census Results

New York City Department of City Planning has for the first time put information together on a map by neighborhoods. The Department of City Planning has divided Bushwick into Bushwick North & South, with a population of 57,138 in Bushwick North and 72,101 in Bushwick South.

The Census Bureau conducts a variety of censuses and surveys, not just the once-a decade census. Every month, quarter and year the Bureau conducts surveys with households and businesses.

The Census Bureau uses a trained workforce of trained federal employees to conduct a variety of household surveys by telephone and in person interviews as well as the mail.

The surveys conducted provide information about social and economic conditions in the country, including employment, housing, manufacturing, trade, and many other topics. The questions asked are used to produce statistics.

Questions were entertained:

Businesses use this information to see if they will open up a business in the area, for example: K-mart, Target, etc.

Libraries look at the nationalities profile in the area to know what language of books they need to supply, for example: Spanish, Greek, Chinese, etc.

The Department of City Planning has separated Bushwick into two different sections: Bushwick North (BK77) and Bushwick South (BK78). Ms. Dent will contact the Department of City Planning to find out whether this listing will effect Bushwick's funding.

Chairperson's Report:

The Chairperson, Ms. Dent welcomed all to the May 18, 2011 meeting of Community Board #4. The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening.

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

- 1) Italia Guerrero – Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, 209 Joralemon Street, 718-802-4032
- 2) Roy Sawyer – Darryl Towns has been appointed to the Commissioner of the State of New York Homes of Community Renewal. 840 Jamaica Avenue, 718-235-5627
- 3) Abby Bello – Councilmember Erik Martin Dilan, 387 Arlington Avenue, 718-642-8664
- 4) Karen Cherry – Congressman Ed Towns, 104-08 Flatlands, 718-272-1175
- 5) Johnny Joyner – Senator Martin Malave Dilan, 17th Senatorial District, 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-573-1726
- 6) Antonio Renoso – Councilwoman Diana Reyna, 217 Havemeyer Street, 718-963-3141

Mr. Renoso stated that he had just received a message that a building located at 17 Troutman Street had just collapsed and he will have to leave the meeting early. He also stated that Engine 218 which is the firehouse that the Mayor has scheduled to close is the one that is responding to the collapsed building.

Representatives from City, State or Federal Agencies:

- 1) Evelyn Ortiz – NYC Department of Health Brooklyn District Public Health Office, 485 Throop Avenue, 646-253-5636

Representatives from Community Based Organizations:

- 1) Suzette Jules-Jack – HIV Program 718-713-6175
- 2) Beryl Williams – Brooklyn Hospital, 1280 Dekalb Avenue, 718-250-9000

Ms. Dent elaborated on the following meetings of which she had attended over the past month:

She stated that she has attended many meetings and hearings representing the board and the community. Many are aware that the planned budget cuts will have severely devastating impact on all services including: FDNY, Day Care Centers, Schools, etc. The Chairperson suggested that everyone be in communication with the Federal, State and City Elected Officials to ensure that the Bushwick community gets their fare share.

April 21, 2011: Engine Company 271 located at 394 Himrod Street delivered a baby at 10:30 in the morning. The Engine Company went to work and delivered the baby successfully. This is positive proof of the need to keep the Fire Houses open in the community.

The Chairperson stated that the Fire Fighters and the Police must remain in place; she encouraged all to let their Elected Official know that these services are important to the community.

May 3, 2011: The Borough President hosted the monthly Borough Board meeting. The Borough Board voted to pass a resolution to Renew and Strengthen Rent Regulations. (See report)

Agenda items were presented by the NYC Office of Environmental Remediation on Brownfields: (see report)

- NYC Green Property Certification Program
- NYC Searchable Property Environmental e-Database (SPEED)
- NYC Brownfield Incentive Grant (BIG) Program

The School Construction Authority will replace the fencing of P.S. 86. A notice was given to the residents surrounding the school. (See report for complete letter)

The letter dated May 11, 2011 stated that the project will begin shortly and is expected to be completed in August 2011, so as to not to interfere with the learning environment, during the school year. The work will take place after school hours and on weekends and during school holidays. During the summer, weather permitting, most construction work will take place on weekdays during daytime hours.

NYC Summer Youth Application is currently still available until Friday May, 27, 2011. (A copy of the application was attached to her report)

District Manager's Report:

One more member is needed for a quorum. Ms. Whitted thanked those board members that were present. Board membership applications are available at the Community Board's Office located at 315 Wyckoff Avenue for those who would like to become a member and also at the Borough President's Office website at www.brooklynusa.org.

Annual Parade is scheduled for Thursday, June 9th, Brooklyn/Queens Day. Those who can help are invited to do so.

One of the persons that were scheduled to be honored at the upcoming parade was Ms. Olivia Triana from State Farm Insurance Agency. Ms. Triana has been promoted to a higher position and she will be leaving the office that is located at 136 Wyckoff Avenue.

Ms. Whitted presented Ms. Olivia Triana with an award for her outstanding service to the Community. Ms. Traina was selected as an honoree for the June 9th parade. Ms. Whitted stated that she will always be a part of Bushwick and she will be missed very much missed.

Ms. Triana stated that she was very sad to be leaving the community and thanked everyone for their support. She introduced Mr. David Gonzalez and said that he will be taking over her agency.

***It was noted that a board member entered the meeting therefore, constituting a quorum.

Committee Reports

Civic and Religious Committee (CRC), Ms. Elvena Davis – Chairperson: Meeting Held Thursday, April 28, 2011 at Iglesia Metodista Unida Nueva Jersualen (The New Jerusalem United Methodist Church) located at 484 Knickerbocker Avenue

Items Discussed:

Bushwick Community Diversity Parade being held on Thursday, June 9, 2011 (Brooklyn/Queens Day)

- 1) Volunteers are needed
- 2) Next scheduled meeting, to be announced.
- 3) Honorees

Housing and Land Use Committee (HLU), Ms. Martha Brown – Chairperson: Meeting Held Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at 315 Wyckoff Avenue, 6:15PM

Member Present: Cyril Joseph, Julio Salinas, Freddy Fowler, Victoria Fernandez, Robert Camacho, Lola Robinson, Gladys Puglla-Jimenez, Rev. Matthew Rae, Sharline Moore

Others Present: Nadine Whitted, District Manager, Adam Schwartz, Kevin Ribot, Elmer Rodriguez – Academy of Urban Planning, Ward Dennis, Heather Hanshornm Alsont Lafsuer, Kelly Corwall, Sara Rosenblatt, Asaka Ogawa, Lauren Perez – Columbia University.

District Manager Presented -

Items Discussed:

Students from Columbia University's Graduate Program in Historic preservation developing preservation plan for the Bushwick Avenue corridor in the Bushwick Community.

Key Points as presented: The study area Bushwick Avenue/Myrtle Avenue to Eldert Street/Bushwick area character mixed residential and mostly low-scale buildings.

They identified neighborhood threats as: Current zoning, Out of character and large – scale development, Gentrification, Poor maintenance, and Alterations Vandalism and Safety issues.

Their proposed recommendations:

- Contextual Zoning
- Potential Creation of formal historical districts and individual landmarks
- Community workshops and outreach
- Further recommendations

The committee seemed somewhat ambivalent due to the way in which the presentation occurred. The feeling was that outsiders were making recommendation and decisions for residents of this community. Condescending statements as, 'Bushwick' the poorest neighborhood in the city and displaying pictures of homes as neighborhood threats set a very negative tone.

On a positive note, this plan as presented highlighted several concerns for Community Board #4:

1. The Board must familiarize themselves with key term used by city planners, agencies and the like. We will call upon the Department of City Planning to conduct a session which should prove quite educational and beneficial.
2. The Board then must determine what it would mean to the community to have a Preservation Plan on Bushwick Avenue. How will a historical district and individual landmarks affect local residents and property owners?
3. We would then outline the issues that need to be addressed; thereafter, we can then invite both academia and others to work and assist us throughout the process.

Parks & Recreation Committee (PRC), Mr. Austen Martinez – Chairperson: Meeting Held Monday, May 2, 2011

Members Present: A. Martinez, Iluminda Belardo, Carlos Feliciano, Eliseo Ruiz, Robert Camacho

Others Present: Nadine Whitted, Roberto Clemente, Marisol Garcia - Real Guadalupe Academy, Eva Dejesus-Field of Dreams, Jose Diaz – Roberto Clemente

District Manager Presented -

Items Discussed:

Each person present had an opportunity to discuss and/ or vent their concerns regarding the playing schedules. Many had concerns and expressed their opinions about the other leagues.

As in the past the agreement was to work together for the benefit of the children.

Relative to the Parade's scheduled for Saturday, May 21, 2011 the following agreement was achieved:

1. Brooklyn Queens Sport organization will relinquish Hope Field to Quebradilla on Saturday, May 21, 2011. This was done to accommodate Quebradilla's Opening Festivities. Brooklyn Queens Sport noted that they will only host a raffle on that date; therefore it was asked of Quebradilla to announce it.
2. In exchange Quebradilla was asked to relinquish Sunday May 29, 2011 to Brooklyn Queens Sports.
3. The agreement was signed by both Mr. Carlos Feliciano and Mr. Roberto Colon and was witnessed by Ms. N. Whitted and Mr. Robert Camacho.
4. Mr. Eliseo Ruiz, Adquadilla Organization - Requested the committee supports in allowing his organization to have an additional 6 hours of playing time on Sunday from 2pm to 8pm.

The District Manager stated that no team should have had playing time on the day of the parade. Next year it should not happen.

All were cordially invited to the Grand Opening Day Parade of the baseball leagues in Bushwick on Saturday, May 21, 2011. The parade will start at 9:30AM and the ceremony will be held at 11:30AM. The ceremony will be held at Hope Park, located on Knickerbocker Avenue between Menahan Street and Grove Street.

They will also be honoring the Fire Department for their 10th anniversary of the 911 tragedy. Also be honored will be Mrs. Carmen Gonzalez and Ms. Maria Mercado for their support and contributions to the league and the community. There will be other events at the various parks after the parade.

Public Safety Committee (PSC), Ms. Barbara Smith – Chairperson: Meeting Held Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at the 83rd Pct. located at 480 Knickerbocker Avenue at 4:30PM

Members Present: Barbara Smith, Mary McClellan, Freddy Fowler, Mary McClellan, Victoria Fernandez, Gladys Puglla and Avellar Hansley

Others Attending: Nadine Whitted, D.I. S. Capasso, PO Franco, – NYPD 83rd Precinct

Items Discussed:

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of the NYPD and thanked them for attending the meeting.

The Chairperson asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. The agenda was accepted by Ms. Saundria Simmons and seconded 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. Linda McKinley and seconded by Mr. Robert Camacho. All members present were in favor.

Recommendations

NY State Liquor License Requests:

1. The Committee does not support at this time: 234 Knickerbocker Avenue – “Chuchara Mama Restaurant”
2. The Committee support: 691 Knickerbocker Avenue – “Aris Pollos a la Brasa” Restaurant
3. The Committee support: 108 Central Avenue – “Café Central Brooklyn”
4. The Committee support: 234 Starr Street - “The Shop Brooklyn”

The PSC recommendations were motioned to be accepted by Mr. Cyril Joseph and second by Rev. Grace Aytes. All members were in favor.

Ms. Whitted announced that there were 26 members present at 8:16PM.

Election of Officers for the year of 2011-2012 - Results:

Chairperson: Ms. Julie Dent

1st Vice Chairperson: Ms. Martha Brown

2nd Vice Chairperson: Ms. Victoria Fernandez

Recording Secretary: Ms. Saundria Simmons

Correspondence Secretary: Ms. Virgie Jones

Financial Secretary: Mr. Eliseo Ruiz

Treasurer: Ms. Avellar Hansley

Parliamentarian: Mr. Odolph Wright

Announcements:

Sharline Moore - National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Brooklyn Section – 26th Annual Harambee Awards Celebration, “Harnessing Intergenerational Power, Moving Towards Greater Heights”

Was held on Saturday, April 30th at the Fleur De Lis located at 870 Cypress Avenue, Ridgewood, NY

Ms. Moore thanked the Community Board and everyone else that participated for making the event a success.

Odolph Wright: June 24-25, 2011 Grand Reopening of Bushwick Miniature Golf – Friday, June 24th from 11am-1pm & Saturday, June 25th from 1pm-3pm.

Evelyn Ortiz, Brooklyn District Public Health Office – The Community Board #4 was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for their valuable contribution to the residence of Bushwick. Ms. Ortiz thanked the Community Board for always being there when needed.

Barbara Smith, President of the 83rd Pct. Community Council – Thanked all the board members for supporting her meeting and representing Community Board #4.

Ms. Dent thanked Hope Gardens for letting Community Board #4 have their meeting at their facility.

Ms. Dent thanked Ms. Sharline Moore and the National Council of Negro Women for hosting a very professional event honoring young people for being successful. She mentioned that board member Ms. Virgie Jones nominated someone and she was very proud to see that young person being given an award at the event.

Also in attendance at the meeting were:

- Sam Goldman – Ridgewood Times
- Aaron Short – Bushwick Currier

2nd Roll Call: Meeting adjourned 9:20PM