

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, April 18, 2012
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent introduced herself and welcomed all in attendance to the Community Board #4 Wednesday, April 18th monthly board meeting at 6:35PM.

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent asked the District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted to call the first roll call.

Roll Call: 33 members present constituting a quorum.

Chairperson's Report:

Ms. Dent asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. The agenda was accepted by Ms. Martha Brown and second by Ms. Elvena Davis. All board members present were in favor.

Ms. Dent asked for the acceptance of the previous month's minutes. The previous month's minutes was accepted by Mr. Cyril Joseph and second by Rev. Grace Aytes. All board members present were in favor.

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent welcomed and thanked everyone in attendance to the Community Board #4's April 18, 2012 Regularly Scheduled Meeting. Due to the conducting of the Election of Officers, no Public Hearing items were scheduled. She asked that each committee chairperson read only the recommendations in an effort to move swiftly in order to accommodate the election.

Ms. Dent asked for a moment of silence in respect for the life of the late Ana Lucia Espinal, the mother of Assemblyman Raphael Espinal. Ms. Espinal passed away on March 31, 2012. Services were held on Wednesday, April 4th at St. Rita's Church located at 275 Shepherd Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11208.

Ms. Dent also asked that all say a silent prayer for the family of a local firefighter, Lt. Nappi from the 37th Battalion, who lost his life while combating a fire at 930 Flushing Avenue on Monday, April 16, 2012.

She asked that the community to please remember to always keep both the NYPD Officers and FDNY in their prayers as they risk their lives daily for our safety.

The Chairperson congratulated the board's very own Ms. Mary McClellan whose tireless efforts made it possible for the 83rd Pct. NYPD Officers who rescued a family from a burning building on Himrod Street to receive a beautiful certificate signed by Governor Cuomo. Ms. McClellan made it her quest to get proper recognition for these heroic officers. She continued pressing forward with phone calls to both the Mayor's Offices and the Governor's office. It was Governor Cuomo's staff who responded to Ms. McClellan's persistent calls.

Ms. Dent thanked Ms. McClellan for not forgetting those gallantly brave Police Officers of the 83rd Pct.

Ms. Dent asked that the Elected Officials and/or their representatives introduce themselves and state their respective addresses and telephone numbers.

- 1) Jason Otano Representing Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, 209 Joralemon St., 718-802-3862
- 2) Yamilka Mena Representing Councilmember Diana Reyna, 217 Havemeyer Street, 2nd Floor, 718-963-3141

Representatives from City, State or Federal Agencies:

- 1) Bill Fitchett, FDNY Battalion Chief – Battalion 28, 392 Himrod Street, 718-965-8328
- 2) Zulma Novoa – NYC Dept. Of Health & Mental Hygiene, 485 Throop Avenue, 646-253-5855

Representatives from Community Based Organizations:

- 1) Mr. Jones, Stockholm Family Residents
- 2) Stephanie Parnell, Shelter Director, Broadway House Women's Shelter

The Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council Inc. is seeking construction financing from HPD to facilitate the development of a new residential building containing affordable housing in the Bushwick neighborhood, Community District 4. The proposed project would help address the continuing need for affordable housing in New York City. The project site is located at 422 Melrose Street between Knickerbocker and Irving Avenues. The project site is currently vacant under private ownership and measures approximately 10,000 sq. Ft. in area. The proposed project would consist of a four story building containing 24 units of affordable housing with a 12 space accessory parking lot and an approximately 750 ft. rear yard garden. According to the Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS) the proposed project is expected to be completed in 2013 and would be developed pursuant to the regulations of the existing R-6 zoning district.

The board is in receipt of a letter from Housing Bridge Inc. notifying of their intention to apply for funding within their Neighborhood Program, from the Dept. of Homeless Services to operate a 16 unit building as a family residence located at 38 Cooper Street. (For more information see the letter in the Chairperson's report) The letter has been referred to the Housing and Land Use Committee.

Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School located at 2-12 Aberdeen Street is sponsoring Admissions Instant Decision Day on Thursday, April 26, 2012 from 4pm-8pm. The school's admission committee will interview applicants, answer questions and inform the applicants of their decision. Interested applicants should call 718-455-3555 immediately to schedule an appointment.

Brooklyn Public Library Services to the Aging include a variety of programs including: Lecture, films and performances that reflect the wide interest and diversity of today's 55 plus adults.

"Talking Needles": Seniors meet weekly and bring in their own projects such as knitting, crocheting or crafts while engaging in a friendly conversation.

The Brooklyn Public Library also provides a service to the aging called Books by Mail Services. This is a convenient service for homebound residents who have a physical disability that limits their ability to handle standard printed materials. These services are free of charge. Those interested in this service can fill out and application at: www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/seniors

The Summer Youth Employment Program for 2012 applications is available. To qualify for SYEP:

- You must be at least 14 - 24 years of age. You can not be over the age of 24 by July 5, 2012
- You must be a permanent resident of NYC (5 boroughs)
- You must submit an application online or in person to an authorized SYEP provider
- If selected you will need to provide further documentation to verify the information on your application (Birth record, Social Security, Proof of Income, working papers for ages 14-17)

You can apply two ways:

1. Visit www.nyc.gov/dycd and complete the online application
2. Download and print a copy of the application, complete and return it to a community based SYEP authorized provider. The local provider for the SYEP is the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council Inc. located at 1474 Gates Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11237, 718-381-9653 ext. 119

Seasonal Employment Opportunities are available at the New York Aquarium, Central Park Zoo and the Bronx Zoo for the 2012 Spring and Summer Season. The program teaches valuable employment skills and will provide a summer income. Apply online at www.nyc.gov/dycd

The deadline for submitting an application is Friday, May 18, 2012.

Deborah Brown a Community Board #4 member is an artist and the owner operator of Storefront Bushwick, located at 16 Wilson Avenue. Storefront Bushwick is a gallery that shows the work of emerging Bushwick artists. Ms. Brown is presenting Carol Salmanson and Stephen Truaz in two solo exhibitions at the gallery on April 20th – May 20, 2012. There will be a reception Friday, April 20th from 6-9pm.

District Manager's Report:

Meetings Attended

Thursday, March 21, 2012

The District Manager attended along with Ms. Mary McClellan the HHH Committee Chairperson: Wyckoff Heights Hospital – Positive Health Management Advisory Board Meeting

Various dignitaries representing the hospital spoke including Sonia Mercado, VP Ambulatory Care. Ms. Mercado stated that the community that Wyckoff Hospital services has been hard hit with HIV and AIDS. The importance of knowing your status was stressed and emphasized.

She also stated that the hospital is the recipient of seven grants (three are for prevention and the other four are for primary care)

The Positive Health Management Advisory Board of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center will be working with the board and Woodhull Hospital, the Department of Health and any other group or health care agency that is interested to host a HIV Testing Day in the district. (For more information see the HHH report)

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Housing and Land Use Meeting (See report)

Monday, April 2, 2012 -

Health, Hospitals & Human Services Meeting (See report)

Wednesday, April 4, 2012 –

Held the Executive Meeting

Wednesday, April 11, 2012 –

Chaired the District Service Cabinet Meeting – Agenda Items

1) National Grid Utility Company – Protocol on community roadbed obstruction, notification process, and sidewalk repairs, etc.

Ms. Whitted mentioned information regarding a Bushwick resident who notified the Community Board Office that her newly installed sidewalk was being destroyed by a contractor who had not given her any prior notification. The resident stated that the cost for her sidewalk was a very substantial amount and that she was worried about it being restored.

After investigating the problem, it was revealed that National Grid was in fact involved in a major job on Evergreen Avenue from Jefferson Avenue to Palmetto Street. There was no prior notification to anyone regarding this matter including the Evergreen Avenue residents or the Community Board.

The Community Board then received an emailed letter from National Grid after the fact on April 5, 2012 (Letter was read)

2) The NYC Department of Parks and Recreation update on the following

- Rudd Playground under construction
- Maria Hernandez Dog Run construction has begun
- Maria Hernandez fence repair is scheduled to start any day soon
- Bushwick PG comfort station construction has begun
- Nothing on the supposed Dog Run at Irving Place
- We will try to keep an eye on the vendors at Bushwick and will hold leagues responsible
- Porta San which was at Bushwick must get proper approval or it will not be allowed.

3) NYPD 83rd Pct. Deputy Inspector Tasso was introduced – He highlighted some initiatives under way

4) The NYC Department of Health – Bureau of Pest Control is embarking on a district wide Rodent Indexing Program. A full presentation will be made at the May 2012 Public Hearing.

Thursday, April 12, 2012 –

Civic and Religious Committee Meeting (See report)

Monday, April 16, 2012 –
Nomination Committee Meeting

Park and Recreation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 17, 2012 –
Attended the 83rd Pct. Community Council Meeting

On Tuesday, June 19th the Community Council and the 83rd Pct. will have a forum for our young people particularly our men.

Dialogue: Invite young adults/men 13 years and up

1. To understand what the police go through
2. To allow the police in the 83rd Pct to understand how the young adults (men) feel
3. To allow young people to be taught how to respond when they are stopped by the police

This meeting will take place in a large auditorium not in at the 83rd Pct.

Other Issues

The Department of Transportation – Bureau has released the Summer Playstreet Guidelines. Applications MUST be received by the Community Board's Office by Friday, April 27, 2012.

NYC Department of Transportation – Curbside Public Seating Platforms an opportunity for local businesses to sponsor small temporary public spaces. Ground floor businesses may be eligible to apply to DOT to install a Curbside Public Seating Platform (a small seasonal temporary public space installed in the curb lane of the street in front of their establishment). COMMUNITY BOARD SUPPORT is required before any application will be considered. Consideration will be given only on streets that are relatively narrow and with low traffic speeds and or volumes. The platforms can not obstruct important access such as to driveways or fire hydrants. More information about the application process along with a full list of technical criteria and design guidelines is available on the DOT website.

Phillippa Schuyler Middle School for the Gifted and Talented Parent Teacher Association: The Community and Family 2012 PTA Health Fair, Saturday, April 28, 2012 form 10am-2pm

Activities will include free screenings of:

- Diabetes
- High Blood Pressure
- Vision and much more

Sponsors: MetroPlus, Woodhull Medical Center and American Red Cross

Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT): Evening GED Program
Now registering for Evening GED Preparation Course (Ages 19 and older)

Registration Dates:

Tuesday and Wednesday evening – April 17, 18, 24, 25 and May 1 & 2

Time: 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Fee: \$20 for each course (cash only/non refundable)

Classes will be held Tuesday and Wednesday evening from 6pm to 8pm for eight weeks, May 8, 2012 through June 27, 2012 for a total of 32 hours. All course fees are due in full the first night of class and must be paid in cash or money order only.

GED Preparation – Fee \$125 includes GED book and attest date. YOU MUST SCORE 8.0 OR ABOVE IN READING ON THE PRE-TEST AND BE AT LEAST 19 YEARS OLD BY THE END OF THE CLASS.

Committee Reports

Civic & Religious Committee (CRC): Ms. Elvena Davis, Committee Chairperson, Thursday, April 12, 2012, 6PM
Location: 315 Wyckoff Avenue, 2nd Floor

Members Attended: Elvena Davis, Avellar Hansley, Cyril Joseph, Rev. Grace Aytes

Others in Attendance: District Manager Nadine Whitted, Anita Haines, N. Farago-MTR-NY, Rev.. Hanna

Items Discussed:

The 7th Annual Bushwick 2012 Parade and Community Bar-B-Que

- 1) The permit has been submitted to the NYPD 83rd Pct.
- 2) The following letters have been written
 - BOGOPA – For food and barbeque items
 - NYPD – School Safety – Tabling and literature, explorers
 - NYPD – Deputy Inspector Tasso - 83rd Pct. Commanding Officer, Community Affairs Officers, Youth Officers, Explorers, Service of the Youth Services Department
 - DEP – Water on the Go provides a water fountain
 - KCDA Office
- 3) The CRC decided to provide a plaque to the Grand Marshall
- 4) The resource department of Region 4 will receive a letter to provide resources for parents and children
- 5) The Banner will be purchased by the board
- 6) The board will incur the cost for transporting the “Soul Tigers Marching Band”
- 7) A press Release will be developed at the next meeting on May 10, 2012
- 8) The last meeting before the parade will be held on May 24, 2012 (Please call Community Board to see where the two meetings will be held)

The next meeting will be May 10, 2012 Avenue, 6PM

Health, Hospital & Human Services (HHH): Ms. Mary McClellan, Chairperson, Monday, April 2, 2012, 4PM

Location: 315 Wyckoff Avenue, 2nd Floor

Members Attended: Mary McClellan and Rev. Matthew Rae

Others in Attendance: Nadine Whitted, Lorena Hennon, Hazelin Hazel-Singh, Eleanor Lalor, Irma Lewis, Eric Fleischman, Maggie Mangual, Karen Campbell, Zulma Novoa, Sherry Davis

District Wide HIV Testing Day - After the compelling presentation given by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by Mr. Jacques, Bureau of HIV Prevention at March's Community Board meeting it has been overwhelming decided that Community Board #4 will host a HIV Testing Day.

Date: Saturday, August 18, 2012

Location: Thomas Boyland Park

Time: 11am to 3pm

Providers: Woodhull Hospital, Wyckoff Heights Hospital and NYC DOHMH

Current Needs: Tents and other providers to do screening

Next HHH meeting: Monday, May 7, 2012 at 4pm, 315 Wyckoff Avenue

Housing and Land Use Committee (HLU): Ms. Martha Brown, Chairperson, Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 6PM

Location: 315 Wyckoff Avenue, 2nd Floor

Members Attended: Martha Brown, Freddy Fowler, Anne Guiney, William Harris, Robert Camacho

Others in Attendance: Nadine Whitted (District Manager), Leonardo Arias (Pratt Institute Intern)

Due to the Election of Officers that was going to be held at the Community Board meeting, Ms. Brown asked board members to read her report. This is a summary of the HLU meeting.

Items Discussed:

- 1) The Committee discussed zoning issues within Community Board #4 and how to best distinguish the various heights, widths, and areas of current housing in the community and the new housing in the area.
- 2) Discussed were heights of building regarding M1-4 zoning, R1-6 zoning, C1-1 zoning and other related zoning issues which the Board needs to become familiar with in the vocabulary or contextual zoning for the Bushwick Community.
- 3) Loft Law, rent stabilization protections, evictions and eviction process through the Housing Court.
- 4) Manufacturing Zoning from the landlords and the tenant's perspectives and the laws regarding the habitation of persons/tenants in these zoned areas.

- 5) Areas that we want to keep the density of population, where people shop, walk, use the parks, and spend money and areas where we want to keep the “original” characteristics of the community.
- 6) Seeking the advice and the direction of the Elected Officials so that the zoning and re-zoning process can begin.

A draft of the letter that is to be mailed out to the Elected Officials was previously mailed to the Board Members for their support. Board members were asked to read the letter for their recommendation. For information see the Housing and Land use Committee report.

Parks & Recreation Committee (PRC): Mr. Robert Camacho, Committee Chairperson, April 16, 2012, 6PM

Location: 315 Wyckoff Avenue, 2nd floor

Member Attended: Robert Camacho, JoAnne Grant, Omar Lopez, Cirilo Nunez

Others in Attendance: Willie Morales (Community Board #4 District Office), P.O. Damarys Franco-NYPD 83rd Pct. Community Affairs Unit, Lucy Belardo – C.I.A.L. Inc., Robert Colon-BQ Sports Center, Enrique Garcia-Real Guadalupe Soccer League, Eva DeJesus-Eva’s Sports, Robert Cerver-Quebradillas, Carlos Feliciano-Quebradillas Baseball Org., Andrea Purligliotti-Irving Square Bark, Melissa Murray-Irving Square Bark, Marisol Garcia-Real Guadalupe Soccer League, Joseph Ramos-Field of Dreams Sports Club

Items Discussed:

- 1) The Irving Square Bark group seeks support and help from Community Board #4 for a dog run at Irving Square Park located on Halsey and Weirfield Streets between Wilson and Knickerbocker Avenues. Irving Square Bark has collected signatures and letters in support of the dog.

However the Board would like to have signatures and letters from residents in the immediate area of the park. For example: Residents from Wilson Avenue between Weirfield & Halsey

Weirfield Street between Knickerbocker & Wilson Avenues

Halsey Street between Wilson & Knickerbocker Avenues

Once the Board has received the additional signatures, then the issue will be brought before the board for a vote. If the Board votes yes, then the petition of signatures along with the Board’s recommendation will be forwarded to the Parks Department and to the local Elected Officials.

- 2) The designation of parks to the leagues was tabled until the next committee meeting.
- 3) PO Franco instructed the baseball leagues and organizations of the date and time of the parade.

Complaints:

- Mr. Ruiz stated that the dog owners are not picking up after their dogs causing the grass and the flowers to disappear. He suggested that a “Pick Up After Your Dog” sign be put there

The District Manager stated that all dogs should be on a leash. If anyone sees dog owners not picking up after their dogs or anything else, the police should be called. The park is not officially designated as a dog run and should not be used as such.

- Mr. Martinez stated that a few years ago this part of the park was designated by the Senator and the Elected Officials to be for the young children. The park and the grass has been destroyed by the dogs

Ms. Dent suggested that 311, Police Department and/or the Elected Officials can be notified about what is going on. She stated that the Community Board knows what is now occurring in the park and it is not right and it should not be happening. There are ways to get things done in the community. One can not just take things over she stated. She again suggested that 311, the Police Dept and the Elected Officials be told about what is going on and also that the residents in the immediate area rally together to get something done about it. In addition to the neighbors rallying together the Board can send out a letter.

Ms. Whitted stated that there is a process for everything; all calls that go to 311 regarding the police department she believe that the Deputy Inspector stated to the PSC that he reviews all 311 complaints every Monday morning and all the complaints are addressed.

The District Manager stated that the Community Board will not send out a letter of recommendation.

- Mr. Camacho stated that there is a gate that is closed and those persons walking there dog there are putting them over the gate or letting their dog jump over the gate. Since there is a gate these dog owners know that they should not be letting there dog use it. They have already been notified by the Parks Dept. to not let their dogs use it.

- Ms. Simmons suggested that pictures be taken of the illegal use of the park
- Ms. Grant stated that some dog walkers stated that if they are allowed to use the park this will stop them from letting their dogs eliminate in front of home owner's property.

The Chairperson welcomed and thanked the following NYPD Officers for attending the meeting representing the 83rd Pct.:

PO Fox, PO White and PO Van Adams

Public Safety Committee (PSC): Ms. Barbara Smith, Committee Chairperson, Tuesday, April 10, 2012, 6:00PM

Location: 83rd Pct., 480 Knickerbocker Avenue

Members Attended: Barbara Smith, Rev. Grace Aytes, Avellar Hansley, Linda Mckinley, Mary McClellan, Gladys Puglla, Vernedeaneer Shell

Others in Attendance: Nadine Whitted, PO Franco (83rd Precinct), DI Tasso-Community Affairs Officer Commanding Officer of the 83rd Pct., Lt. McCarthy, J. Bennett, Jared Cooper, Jean Sauvaire, Charles Verde, Daniel Ramero, Travis Bubredan, Courtney Rogers

Item Discussed:

Request for NYS Liquor Authority Licenses

- 1) Charles Verde, 254 Irving Avenue – Verde Oven Inc – Approved
- 2) Daniel Romero, 101 Wilson Avenue – Miles Tavern - Approved

Recommendations:

1) HLU – A rough draft letter was previously mailed to the Board Members regarding the re-zoning and down zoning of the District. A letter will be mailed to the District's Elected Officials has the letter has been corrected. Ms. Martha Brown and Ms. Nadine Whitted and a few other board members are working on the letter.

The character of the community has been taken away by the building of tall building in the community and therefore down zoning is considered necessary. As the community grow and develop some of the character of the community the board would like to maintain. The letter is to inform the local Elected Officials of the board's intent to start the process of rezoning the neighborhood. This will allow the Elected Officials to understand where the board is going and to make sure that they are on the same page.

Motion to send a letter to the Elected Officials was made by Ms. Saundria Simmons and second by Mr. Robert Camacho. All members present were in favor. Motion passed.

2) The Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee-Barbara Smith asked the board to approve recommendations for the 2 locations in her report.

Motion to accept the PSC recommendations were made by Ms. Saundria Simmons and second by Ms. Elvena Davis. All members present were in favor. Motion passed.

Election of Officers

Roll call: 33 members present

Nominating Committee:

Ms. Barbara Smith

Mr. Raul Rubio

Ms. Mary McClellan

Ms. Saundria Simmons

Ms. Elvena Davis

Mr. Cyril Joseph assisted the committee.

The Election of Officers was conducted and yielded the following results:

- 1) Chairperson – Ms. Julie Dent
- 2) 1st Vice Chairperson – Ms. Martha Brown
- 3) 2nd Vice Chairperson – Ms. Victoria Fernandez
- 4) Recording Secretary – Ms. Brenda Lee Tramble-Johnson
- 5) Corresponding Secretary – Ms. Virgie Jones

- 6) Financial Secretary – Mr. Cirilo Nunez
- 7) Treasurer – Ms. Avellar Hansley
- 8) Parliamentarian - Mr. Odolph Wright

Announcements:

Decatur Street between Central & Evergreen Avenues: Vacate lot cleaning event from 11am-3pm
Bushwick High School: Earth Day Workshop- From 3:30pm-6:30pm
Light refreshments be served

Raul Rubio: ACS Public Hearing:
Monday May 7, 2012, 209 Joralemon Street at 5pm
Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 125 Worth St, New York, 2nd Floor, Health Building

The Bushwick Community Partnership Presents Foster parent Information Event - Helping Build Your Community & Learn how to become a foster parent, Monday, April 23, 2012, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, 347 Stockholm Street, 5th Floor conference room (A,B and C) 6pm-8pm
Speak with foster parents and find out how to join the network of resource parents. Light refreshment and childcare will be provided. Please RSVP to Andre Lucy @ 718-237-9865 to confirm your attendance

National Council of Negro Women: Honoring Youths, Saturday April 21, 2012, 9am-1pm, Fluer de lis,
This year 6 young men and 3 young women are being honored

Brooklyn Public Library: Authors and Artists Join us for a fun afternoon of reading and art making! Saturday, March 10 at 1pm-2:30pm and Saturday, April 21, 1pm-2:30pm
Bushwick Public Library, 340 Bushwick Avenue @ Seigel Street, for questions call Jason Andrew at 646-361-8512
Monies are also need to support the Brooklyn Public Libraries; any money that you can give to support will be appreciated.

Ms. Dent: Rally – Thursday, April 19, 2012, Borough Hall Park, Brooklyn, NY at 4pm to prevent/stop further cuts to daycares and after school programs. Please support!!!

Also in attendance at the meeting were:

- Sam Goldman – Ridgewood Times – 718-821-7500

2nd Roll Call: Meeting adjourned 9:05PM