

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, JANUARY 22, 2013
BRONX MUSEUM OF THE ARTS
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165th Street

Pastor Wenzell P. Jackson, Chairman, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Naimah Bilal, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Emmanuel Cabrera, Mr. Felix Camero, Mr. Maynard Charles, Ms. Ernestine Davis, Ms. Brenda Dawson, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Mr. Winston George, Mr. Walter Harris, Mr. Ray Henry, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Pastor Wenzell P. Jackson, Ms. Mildred James, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Bishop Earl McKay, Ms. Marie McCullough, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mr. Michael Rendino, Ms. Martha Reyes, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr., Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Ms. Mary Sears, Ms. Shelly Wilson, Mr. Oshrie Zak.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Ms. Evelyn Arazu, Mr. Omar O. Ortiz, Ms. Rockyatu Otoo, Ms. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr Ms. Ramatu Ahmed, Mr. John Howard Algarin, Ms. Jahra Lara, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Dr. Karie Nabinet, Mr. Bourema Niamebe, Mr. Eric Soto, Mr. Jackson Strong.

STAFF:

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mr. Nivardo Lopez, representing Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Mr. Angel Santana, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano
Mr. Victor Pichardo, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera
Rev. Dr. James Fairbanks, representing NYC Councilwoman Helen D. Foster

GUEST PRESENT:

Ms. Miriam D. Tabb-Bronx Museum of the Arts, Mr. David Cruz-The Bronx Times, Mr. Richard Bass-Herrick, Feinstein LLP, Ms. Jennifer Dickson-Herrick, Feinstein LLP, Ms. Stephanie Afum-resident, Ms. Sonja D. Gracy-resident, Ms. Esther Goldberg-resident, Ms. Kesi Foster-The Fortune Society, Mr. Hassan Brown-Lily's Café, Mr. Carlos DeLaCruz-Team 16, Mr. Felipe DeLosSantos-Team 16, Ms. Shelia Sanchez-Team 16, Mr. Andres Mercado-Team 16, Mr. Bakary Camara-resident, Mr. Almany Bajaha-Islamic Cultural Center, Mr. Ishmael Bahaja-Islamic Cultural Center, Mr. Carlos Torres-Local 79, Mr. Marlon Molina-Bronx Volunteer Coalition, Ms. Desiree Joy Frias-resident, Mr. Uche Onyeukwu-Volunteer of America University Family Residence, Ms. Liandra Linares-New Settlement Bronx Helpers, Ms. Kandace Fifi-New Settlement Bronx Helpers, PO Roger Bennett-NYPD 44th Precinct, Ms. Betty Crawford-President 44th Precinct Council, Mr. John Laureano, Ms. Thayna Carrasco, Ms. Kamyell Carrasco, Ms. Patria Linares, Ms. Shelia Boyd, Mr. Juan Camarro, Mr. Jamaul L. Melville, NYPD 44th Precinct Explorer Program, Ms. Ebony Padovani-NYPD 44th Precinct Explorer Program, Mr. James Reddick-Woodcrest Center for Human Development Inc., Mr. Paul Philips-NYC Bronx Office Department of City Planning, Ms. Arlene Hall-Grand Concourse Academy Charter School, Ms. Chrelle Silvera-resident, Mr. Enrique Colon-CASA New Settlement Apartments, Ms. Simonoe Castro.

Welcoming remarks and announcements by Pastor Wenzell P. Jackson, Board Chairman.

Welcomed everyone and expressed that we made it to 2013 and many things have happened since our last meeting in November.

After our public session our official meeting commenced at 6:17 pm.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by Bishop Earl McKay.

Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting: The Chair announced that the attendance section of the General Board Meeting be corrected to show November 27, 2012 in lieu of October 23, 2012. Motion was made by Mr. Robert Garmendiz and seconded by Mr. George Robinson to approve the General Board Meeting minutes for November 27, 2012 with necessary corrections. All were in favor with one abstention. The Motion was carried.

Board Member Action: Important board member action was required at this time for the removal of three members that have not been active. Two of those members being Mr. Eric Soto and Ms. Jahra Lara. The third member will be addressed at a later date. The motion was moved by Mr. Robert Garmendiz and seconded by Ms. Mildred James. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

Report by CB#4 District Manager:

ADD DM'S REPORT

Second Vice Chair Committee Appointment:

The Chair advised of the currently vacant Vice Chair seat and its reappointment. He selected a nominating committee comprised of Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Walter Harris and Ms. Mildred James with Ms. Bond to Chair said committee. The Board is to vote in March on their recommendations.

Presentation of New York Yankees Scholarship Awards:

Five young persons from our community were presented with the NY Yankees Scholarship Award for services to our community. The scholarships were in the amount of \$750 for each individual. Congratulations to Jennifer Mateo, Liandra Linares, Ishmael Bahaja, Jamaul Melville and Ebony Padovani.

Presentation: U.L.U.R.P. Application # C 130064 ZMX regarding 580 Gerard Avenue by Ms. Jennifer Dickson, Representative of Herrick, Feinstein LLP.

An U.L.U.R.P. application has been submitted to the Department of City Planning for a proposed re-zoning of 580 Gerard Avenue from a manufacturing zone to a R7A residential zoning district. The site is a 147,000 square foot building with 24,000 square feet dedicated to retail space. The building will consist of 124 total residential units. Currently it is being used as a storage facility. It will include an inclusionary tax amendment which allows for a larger building. The current Floor Area Ratio (FAR) is 3:45 and owner is seeking a 4.6 FAR to get a larger building. 20% of the units (24 apartments) will be affordable. A studio will be \$950; one bedroom \$1180, two bedroom \$1425 and three bedroom \$1580. These rates can be lower dependent on which program is used to finance. Marketing units will be: studios - \$1000; one bedroom - \$1200-\$1300; two bedroom - \$1500-\$1600 and three bedrooms - \$1700-\$1800. An underground parking lot will be available for 50 % of the residents only. 50% of the units will be allocated to Community Board 4 residents. *The application is for re-zoning from a manufacturing to residential district.* The U.L.U.R.P. process takes 60 days. If it is the Board's request to make changes to the proposed site/building, the presenters will have to come back to committee. However, because it is private land, they do not have to come back. Under the Inclusionary Program, the owner will get a bonus only if affordable units are created at a minimum of 20% of units. Motion was made by Bishop Earl McKay for a letter of support for U.L.U.R.P. application #C 130064 ZMX re-zoning of 580 Gerard Avenue from manufacturing to residential and seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen. All in favor except for one abstention.

Report by the Offices of the Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz, Jr. (Electronically)

- Applications for community board memberships are currently available and due.
- NY SAFE Act.
- NY Daily News Gun Petition
- Robert Powell appointment to Panel for Educational Policy (PEP)
- New funding (\$400,000) by Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council.

- Martin Luther King Tribute – January 21, 2013 at Trinity Baptist Church, 808 East 224th Street at 10:00 am.
- Bronx Borough President’s Ruben Diaz, Jr. State of the Borough address on February 19, 2013 at 11:00 am at James Monroe High School, 1300 Boynton Avenue.

Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s Office represented by Mr. Nivardo Lopez

- Citizen’s Committee for NYC along with the Mayor’s office is sponsoring an initiative on unity award grants up to \$3000 for coming projects such as tree planting, street cleaning, etc. Requirements are to have at least 20 participants for each project. The deadline for the application is January 31, 2013. The application and information can be found at www.citizensnyc.org/programs/grants/communitygrants.html.

NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano represented by Mr. Angel Santana

- NY SAFE Act – Legislation on gun control.
- Appointed Chair of the Senate Democratic Conference by Senator Democratic Leader, Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the first female ever appointed to this position.
- Concerns over the conditions of Animal Care & Control in NYC
- Celebrated El Barrio Culture at the 36th Annual Three Kings Day Parade in East Harlem.
- Participated along with Council Member Gale Brewer at the Upper West Side & Clinton Town Hall Meeting.
- The Senator and his staff will be in our area at the High Bridge Library, 78 West 168th Street on January 30, 2013 between 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera represented by Mr. Victor Pichardo

- Community Board 3 will be hosting a Defer Action Pathway to Citizenship on January 31, 2013, specifically for victims of domestic violence and is undocumented who wants to continue their status in this country. Location is PS 57 at Crotona & 180th Street
- Free Federal & State tax preparation in our office on February 28 & March 26 by appointment only. Applicants’ income cannot exceed \$56,000.

- 46th Precinct sponsoring Women Against Violence Everywhere at St. Simon Stock - 2191 Valentine Avenue 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm.

Councilwoman Helen D. Foster's Office by Rev. Dr. James Fairbank

- 2013 Parking Calendar
- CASA's Know Your Rights about Repairs

Report by NYPD 44th Precinct

- Appreciation for all the coats and food donated
- Location of NYPD sky tower on Nelson and 165th Street
- Two dozen new police officers joined the 44th Precinct.
- 44th Precinct Community Council meeting will take place on February 13, 2013 at 1072 Grand Concourse.
- Two of the Explorers received NY Yankees Scholarship tonight. The Explorers are prepping up for the Winter Jam by the Parks Department taking place at Central Park on January 26, 2013 at 10:00 am.
- Cops & Kids All Sports - basketball competition against other precincts on January 23, 2013 and for the next two months.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES- HOUSING & LAND USE-

MUNICIPAL SERVICES & EDUCATION - PARKS- YOUTH SERVICES

Economic Development Committee- The committee is requesting that a 30 day waiver be granted to Lilly's Café Incorporated located at 53 E. 167th Street for a liquor license for wine and beer only. Motion made by Mr. Michael Rendino and seconded by Mr. Winston George. All in favor. Motion carried.

Municipal Services & Education Committee- Highbridge Community Life Center requesting a letter of support for continued services such as nutritional workshops, food pantry, English, math and writing classes, GED preparation, Certified Nursing Assistance program, health care services and CPR training (for a minimal fee). Services are in the 10452 area and for those in the community. Motion made by Ms. Mildred James and seconded by Mr. George Robinson.

Housing & Land Use Committee- Highbridge Community Development Corporation who previously requested a letter of support for senior housing at 169th Street and Nelson Avenue came before the committee to update their request and change it to family housing because of the overwhelming need in the community. They may need to go through U.L.U.R.P. at a later time but came before the committee to update us on the change.

Parks and Recreation Committee- NYC Department of Design & Construction (DDC) provided report on the High Bridge. It is a two year project. Both parks on each side of the bridge are completed. The Parks Committee is requesting that DDC come back in September or October for an update. Cameras in the park and requesting cameras for bridge itself. Completion of the project is expected fourth quarter of 2014. There is an incentive to finish as quickly as possible.

Youth Services- No Report.

Health & Human Services Committee – Ms. McCullough will speak to the captains and board of Concourse Village so that at their next event we can provide flyers, condoms and information. We will include Ms. Bido of the Board of Health.

Announcements

Mr. George Robinson – Information on Hope of Israel Senior Center located at 1068 Gerard Avenue for senior 60+. Participants can have lunch for \$1.50. There are birthday parties, trips and social services, assistance for benefits and entitlements are also available.

Pastor Jackson – The CB4 office has lots of condoms available. Not too many organizations in our area are distributing condoms.

New Business

Request was made to try and get jobs for those in our community that are construction workers to work on the projects going on in our community. They are hiring other unions when we have workers in our neighborhood. Economic development would need an active site to investigate who the sites are currently using.

Has board received any information about Whole Foods coming to Concourse Plaza - No

Why are stores in Concourse Plaza shutting down?

- The store leases state that they can be kicked out at any time
- Privately owned property, therefore, they can seek who they want to place there.
- Possible large store to be placed there

Bid meeting on January 23, 2013 at 161st St from 3 pm to 5 pm.

Public Session

Team 16, Mr. Felipe De Los Santos – To raise public awareness of programs such as rent freeze, savings on over the counter medication and notifying residents of their quality of life rights.

The organization was recently involved in rallying against school closings in the community. For further information contact www.team16.org or follow on twitter: @team_16.

The Bronx Times, Mr. David Cruz, Reporter – Seeking newsworthy stories.

The Fortune Society, Ms. Kesi Foster – Re-entry services for former prisoners such as GED, family treatment and substance abuse counseling.

Bronx Volunteer Coalition, Mr. Marlon Molina – Immigration Forum on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals at the Claremont Neighborhood Center located at 489 E. 169th Street on January 30, 2013 at 6:00 pm.

The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Ms. Miriam Taab – Upcoming events and Open House on January 26, 2013 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Local 79, Mr. Carlos Lopez – Community laborer fighting for construction jobs in our community.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.