



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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DISTRICT MANAGER

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-LAND USE & HOUSING

MINUTES

March 14, 2018

NEW YORK CITY RESTORATION PROJECT

Provided a Power Point Presentation

Ms. Bethany Hogan said that the New York City Restoration Project is a non-profit which is dedicated to transforming open spaces in the under-resourced of our communities by creating a greener and more sustainable New York City. Since our founding in 1995 we have planted trees, renovated gardens, restored parks and transformed open spaces throughout the five boroughs in New York City.

We're working with DCP, DOT the Parks Department and the Economic Development Corporation will be a big partner as well as constant communication is going to be really key. We have a design team that are really engaged in the Hunts Point Lifeline project so they're really familiar with like the ecological psychology of the Southeast Bronx. We're also working with a partner to try to evaluate what impact various capital improvements have on other things like does it cause asthma in the long term or obesity does it improve social connectedness or safety trying to get a sense of what the relationship is with those types of things.

We're at the point now where we're trying to build phase 1. This is by no means going to be the programming of these spaces but just to give a sense of what's possible. There are lots of opportunities for shoreline resilience, lots of opportunities for community gathering spaces but for now we don't want to bite off more than we can chew. So some basic street level improvements along East 132nd Street as well as building a new pier on East 132nd Street. I'm sure that everyone knows that there used to be a pier there but no longer so really regaining that space for public facility leaving opportunities for really active programs there is really the vision.

So over the summer we basically said the money is secured what should we do. We had a lot of meetings we went to the Port Morris Distillery, the Metropolitan College of New York. We really just said what kind of programming should be happening what types of access issues should be considered as it gets developed what's generally the vision for the waterfront. Some of the things we heard like wanting a space that everyone could use really something that was functional for everybody definitely lots of facilities for young people but also for older people that have issues with access and generally speaking a space that feels that it's for everyone. There was a lot of concern/conversation about accessibility, safety

Pg. 2

how do we make the space feel welcoming especially in a neighborhood that has like some pedestrian access issues at the moment and who is going to manage it in the long term. NYRP our vision the entire time would be that we would maintain the space like we do with community gardens and parks that we're responsible for but definitely understand that kind of maintenance has to be based in from the beginning.

Thinking about what kinds of things people wanted to do there was a lot of interest in opening up the water so that people could get down to the waterfront and that schools could use as a classroom. Thinking about flexibility ways that there could be artistic partnerships where people could run their own programs and not be dependent on somebody else. So this is the 100 year old shoreline really why I think we included this particular image really making a statement about how important the shoreline resiliency is for this neighborhood and that there are a lot of functions this space is going to have to fulfill in the longer term to really achieve resilience. This is just like a very overly detailed plan.

Basically this is where we're at right now and we'd love to hear people's feedback and what they think. This is by no means the absolute end all this is really intended to be as much detail so that we can begin moving forward figuring out like what permits we need. Trying to get a sense of how we can get this approved and also getting a much better sense of how much we need to make it happen and like where that money needs to be allocated.

People might have seen these around basically is there new green spaces ultimately being opened and promoting access to the spaces that already exist. Working closely with our parks partners St. Mary's Park and Randall's Island Park Alliance. This is really something people are doing a lot of really capitalizing on work people are doing with these spaces and having a place where all this fits. So this is a map that shows where the parks are and kind of key routes to get to them and a list of programs particularly programs that will be going on during the warmer months. We'll be out a lot at St Mary's Park this summer where we will be having community meetings to find out what the next steps are. We're trying to do all we can to get the word out we would appreciate any help you can give.

Questions and Comments

WAVECREST MANAGEMENT LTD.

Ms. Susan Camerata Owner said that I'm here just to give you a brief outline. I have been in contact with several of the residents that spoke at the last meeting. We have also been in contact I think that there was a representative from HRA that was here as well Ms. Cruz who was here and some of the Board Members who have reached out to me over the last few weeks. We did submit a list through Mr. Loftin of all the buildings we manage in Board 1.

So just to review and give you some of the things that were brought up at the last meeting some of the outcomes. One of them was about the Park the Children's Park whether that was going to be refurbished. I can tell you that a contract was signed for the refurbishment of that Park and I did let the resident know and Ms. Cruz had also contacted me about that. They're waiting for the proper weather obviously to install it and they were hoping at the end of March. We also met with Ms. Taylor as the Resident Leader of her building 520 Concord Avenue. One of our staff members met at the tenant meeting which I think was about 3 weeks ago on a Friday and we did commit that we would be meeting her and her residents it's going to be on the first Friday of every month at 6 PM. We did work on several issues that she had

Pg. 3

brought up which was the cleanliness and to see if we could get an additional Porter a part-time Porter for the weekends. We did meet and speak to the owners and that in fact has happened. I did confirm with Ms. Taylor that the upkeep of the building since the last time has definitely improved and with the new staff member it should improve even more. From the buildings that we do manage just to let you know we also met with the residents of the building St. Francis which is about 200 units on 142nd Street they came to our office the Tenants Association and also with the residents of Christopher Court which is on Morris Avenue.

Our staff did go to the Public Safety forum held by the 40th Precinct last week and had several of our Managers of the various buildings to go there and participate and engage with the Community Affairs Officer. I have also been asked for applications by several of the Board Members for various friend and I've brought some applications with me. We're trying to rebuild a relationship and I would like everything to at least go through me. I said to Ms. Taylor I want the relationship with the Manager but I'd like to still be copied so I'm aware of the things that are happening.

But I did want to bring up and I mentioned to Mr. Loftin on a phone call that w3e are going to be doing and I did say that I would like to send out a description of that and I'll give it to Mr. Loftin so that he can post it here and if anyone else is interested to post to their properties.

I'm here really to ask if there are any other problems, questions or any other issues that have come up I the last 3 weeks so that I can be able to address them.

Questions and Comments

The Chairperson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made to adjourn. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.