



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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MINUTES

March 12, 2019

BRONXWORKS

Ms. Kimberly Wong Program Director said that BronxWorks is a social services organization here in the Bronx and we primarily serve the South Bronx. Today I'm her to present about our initiative it's a collaboration of BronxWorks and Community Based Organizations and city agencies including the Department of Health. We have an initiative Healthy and Livable Mott Haven which looks at the food environment also physical activity with the goal of improving the community that lives here in Mott Haven. Even around improving the food that is available, educating people about healthy eating and nutrition. We work with Farmer's Market the Farmers we have our own Farm stand at the Belvis Health Center and we also do a lot of work around St. Mary's Park. At the Farm stand we get fresh produce from Farms and we sell the produce any kind of healthy produce that you would want. We also have workshops for nutrition and nutrition education. When you come to the workshops you get a \$2 dollar coupon ad then the can spend those on the produce. So the program is not running right now because it's only in the summer. We will be providing this information when we open up and have our flyers ready. It's just like the Farmers Market they have at Lincoln Hospital just a little smaller. Also on the Healthy eating side of things we're working and partnering with Bodegas. You may know about Betances Community Center on 146th Street that's one of the BronxWork sites that the kids from the center go out and partner with the Bodegas and encourage them to offer healthier options because a lot of people get their food from Bodegas. So Bodegas traditionally don't really have a lot of healthy options and so in order to kind of change that and start to increase the healthy options available. We have our youth involved and get them to ask for those changes and then help promote them. So last week we had an event where we got all the different healthy options from the Bodegas near the center and then we had a tasting. So we had people come by and taste the different options like chicken wraps and salads. So that's another thing we do with Healthy and Livable Mott Haven.

Then getting into the work around St. Mary's Park because we have the healthy eating and then the active living. So St. Mary's Park is this beautiful Park but it's quite underutilized and under resourced so BronxWorks and our partners which are listed on the bottom here and it's not a closed group we're always opened to adding more people and we want to involve more people as well. We meet every month about St. Mary's Park and trying to get more of the community involved so we planned an event called Second Saturdays. It's an event that's every second Saturday from May through October in St. Mary's Park and we have fitness activities, art and culture activities and we have all the different partners come out and provide resources. We're also well aware of the increase of needles that are being found in the Park and so we have the team from the Department of Health train people in prevention and kind of

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giving information on what do you do if you see syringes or if you see someone that looks like they may be homeless to help them. They have resources that you would call to get the Homeless Outreach Team to come and see if the person needs help. We're activating the Park with really positive things like music and are but also providing additional resources that are very much in need. This is going to be our fourth year and we're starting up in May so we'd love for you to come out. If you want a table or know of anyone else that wants to come out we're open to that usually we want somebody that's going to host an activity. We're also trying to get people more involved in doing volunteer projects, youth and people of any age to come out and do either cleanup or projects. We've found that there is a lack of people who see St. Mary's Park as something that they want to take care of even though it's right here in the community and it's such a resource.

So one of the major goals for them to be like Community Stewards and really care for the Park and see it as their Park and take on like the improvements of the Park. We're also aware that the Park is getting a big reconstruction so the Parks Department is in the middle of this large construction project that the Mayor allocated \$30 million dollars. So there's been a number of different plans and planning meetings and all the community input was put into a plan and the first project broke ground in January.

We welcome anyone that can come and help us with either the promotions of the programs you know getting more people to attend the Second Saturdays event and also to be involved in the Stewardship and be more involved with the Park. There's no Friends of Group for St. Mary's Park but any big Park usually has a Friends of Group that's a resident like group that will take on planning, cleanup days or like fund raising and advocating for improvements which St. Mary's doesn't have that committed group of people to do that. So we're just trying to let people know the work that we're doing and see if there's interest in the community for founding a group like that because there's definitely a need. So if you know anybody that has an interest in Parks and lives in Mott Haven or maybe lives around St. Mary's Park and might be interested then I would love to talk to them or invite them to the meeting as well. The meeting is this Friday at St. Mary's Park Recreation Center at 10 o'clock. So for the Second Saturday we're going to get posters and flyers made.

Questions and Comments

The Chairperson called for a motion to adjourn.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED.