



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

3024 THIRD AVENUE

BRONX, NEW YORK 10455

(718) 585-7117 • Fax (718) 292-0558 • E-mail: brxcb1@optonline.net

SERVING PORT MORRIS • MOTT HAVEN • MELROSE



RUBEN DIAZ, JR.
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

GEORGE L. RODRIQUEZ
CHAIRPERSON

CEDRIC L. LOFTIN
DISTRICT MANAGER

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

MINUTES

March 11, 2019

MAYOR'S FUND TO ADVANCE NEW YORK CITY

Mr. Ahmed Irfan Senior Programs & Policy Manager said that I'm here to present the New York City Soccer Initiative. So the New York City Soccer Initiative is a five year initiative to build 50 soccer fields throughout the city. It's all privately fund raised the sponsor of this project are the Mayor's Fund supported by the New York City Football Club, Etihad Airways, US Soccer Foundation and Adidas. We have partnered with the agencies where we can find feasible public land for these fields. We work in partnership with the Department of Education, the Parks Department and the New York City Housing Authority. The initiative comes with a maintenance fund so we use the maintenance fund in case there's cracks, issues related to nets being stolen. The property owner and site manager can contact us to come out on the field to insure its stat ability. So we work with these agencies to help us find potential places where this pitch can work. I will go into what is a composition of a pitch essentially it is not grass and it is not turf it is acrylic so think a basketball court kind of coating or tennis court kind of coating it's very popular in Latin America and Europe.

So far in this initiative we've built 20 pitches throughout New York ten pitches a year. Of course each of these pitches are important but they're even more important when we program them and this is the most important part. The New York Soccer Foundation is our partner to deploy after-school programming to kids of the community and kids of the school. Each site gets programmed and in the programming they get three days of free soccer clinic, they get mentoring and they also get free gear. But also we have a partner the New York City Football Club who provide some of their extracurricular activities.

Mr. Paul Jeffries New York City Football Club said that as Amed said it's one thing to put down a soccer pitch but you also have to make sure that they are safe places to play with youth development programs and pathways for young people to have healthy lifestyles. This February we deployed a robot soccer program, a stem program where we teach the kids how to build a robot to play soccer. Actually early this month we have a Young Leader training that trains High School kids in becoming community leaders themselves. We give them elements to run their own youth based soccer programs on the pitches. Let me say there's lots of opportunities it just doesn't stop with the soccer pitch.

Mr. Ahmed Irfan said that many of the programs from our amazing partners are for free. So let's move on to the space that we are targeting move on from programming and you're going to see a place called People's Park. So this isn't the first time that I've been at this Community Board it's the second

time. The first time was last year when I presented to you Hostos Lincoln Academy. We won support for a pitch at Hostos Lincoln Academy. So we presented and you guys supported it was a big hit there was a ribbon cutting and activities. So this brings us back to this amazing community of the South Bronx and we explored People's Park with the Parks Department. Now for the area it is a multi-purpose area it also has amazing soft-ball space which we obviously cannot interrupt. So we looked at the space that was the least used and this space is to the east of the playground. So we found a space that was perfect and a good fit for the soccer field, so you have your soft ball, you have your basketball and then you have a soccer space. The best part of this is that across the street which makes our job even easier there's a school and there's also a school to the west that means we can target two schools in proximity to this pitch. Of course the objective of the pitch is not in any way to compete against other priorities. We checked with the Parks Department to make sure that we're not going to rub up against Capital Investments and so no Capital Investments coming to the area.

So we think that this is a great opportunity for this neighborhood to bring this amazing pitch the second time we're bringing it to your district. We want to amplify the effects of what we're doing in the neighborhood. It will come with fencing so we can knock this out in less than three weeks over the summer. By September fall when school is back the kids can use it and go right into the after school program. So it takes about three weeks and you can see the before and after. The goal posts are plugged to the ground for safety reasons you can't have a goal going around because there's dangers to that so we secure it and then we open it up to the public.

Questions and Comments

NEW YORK ROAD RUNNERS

Mr. Lawrence Washington said that I'm here to talk about New York Road Runners and running and for me it's really about possibilities. Five years ago I was 450 lbs. I was on medication for diabetes, cholesterol and everything. I didn't see running as a possibility and what happened was I got into it and I started doing it myself and I found a community of runners. Once I found a community of runners I got into running and then it became I going to go run these races with the New York Road Runners which I said oh they do these races so I'm going to go do some of these races with them. So I got out there and started doing the races with them wait they do more than just these races and I started to learn about the different things that they do. So some of the things that they do just to tell you everyone knows about the marathon right, the marathon coming up the different races.

They also have programs inside of schools around New York City they have programs inside of senior centers and the program I'm going to talk to you about is Open Run. Open Run is a free weekly walk, run jog. I like to call it a community event because it's really similar to this where people get to come together and the idea is to move you. So we get you out there I had a Father say to me I'm glad that this is here because it gets my kids away from cartoons for a couple of hours and gets us moving together. So here in the Bronx we have St. Mary's Park on Saturday's we have a couple of more parks in the Bronx but I'm one of the Overseers for St. Mary's Park. It's 9 AM every Saturday and people come together and it's creating like a little community in the Park with these people and we really want to grow that and have more people come together. There's no pressure to be the fastest runner no pressure to be anything but to get out there be together and we say come with unity. So we've come to tell you about that bring you some of the flyers and invite you out and really to see of places and spaces that you know of that we are able to invite other people out.

Ms. Ellen Youpel said that another thing again it's not about speed but it's all about creating incentives for people so if you go ten times you get a tee shirt, twenty-five times you get a cool running tee shirt. So we kind of like to get people to commit to the program because then you actually feel like you have to go next week because someone's counting on you. The big thing here about St. Mary's that we really want to grow it because your park is beautiful and we kind of want to get more people to come out. So we'd love to kind of pick you guy's brains about what you think we should be doing to get more people to come out.

Mr. Lawrence Washington said that the program Open Run was created by New York Road Runners and is community led. We have a group of Run Directors who are from the community come out every week they lead the run. They're at the start at the same place every Saturday and there are volunteers that come to cheer on the people that are coming in. I go to some parks and its families the grandparents their children and they're all cheering the runners as they're coming around.

Ms. Ellen Youpel said that we actually have other community programs we have coach led groups for our citizens in different parks. We actually have a program for High School Girls for going into I'm pretty sure their Junior Year. A Scholarship based 5K where they actually train for a 5K with a coach and they get like a \$2,000 dollar Scholarship after being in the 5K and then at the end of it they become alumni and they actually get to meet new girls. Of course we have the rising New York Road Runners I think its 350 thousand kids across the nation. We actually have schools covering all the boroughs in New York. Open Run is across all of our boroughs and we have sixteen parks and we're going to be launching another park in Jersey City. The big thing is that we have another run. Yes St. Mary's is at 9 AM but we have parks on Sunday at 9 AM Pelham Bay Park is on Thursdays at 7 so it depends on when you guys can make it. We have one park on Tuesday which is in Brooklyn, we have some in Flushing on Thursday and then most of the rest are on Saturday and Sunday at 9 AM.

Questions and Comments

MTA NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT

Ms. Jacqueline Carter Assistant Director Government and Community Relations said that we have a program called the Group Station Managers and what the Group Station Managers is these are the people you contact when you have any particular concern in your station. This lady her name is Ms. Christi is a Station Manager so if you look at the back of the card you'll see that she has at least 23 stations that she's responsible for in the system. So if you ever see any concerns in those stations send her an email. She's the one that I reach out to anytime that I get any complaints in regard to the subway stations. This program has been out since last year. What we're going to do today is provide you with an actual update of what's going on since the last time we spoke to you about the Fast Forward Plan. Last year the New York City Transit MTA introduced the Fast Forward Plan as many of you may recall. One of the priorities in that plan is to reimage the network. Since we introduced it in May of last year we've had several community workshops of which you have participated. We've also been collecting data and

have created an Existing Conditions Report of 299 pages. We'd like to present today a little bit of what's in that report.

Ms. Jessica Cignarella Project Manager said that the first thing we're going to do is go into some findings of elements at the workshops I know that a lot of you turned out for the workshops. We had a great turnout we asked folks a few different kinds of questions and from that we found out where people start they begin their trip and where they end their trip. We asked them to consider some priorities as to bus service for them.

We know that you know but we know now and we're putting it out there the seats on the buses can often be unclear, at a lot of the bus stops there's no lighting present which is really important for a lot of people, there's congestion, bus bunching, they're going at really slow speeds and they're often very overcrowded, fare evasion that we've heard a lot from participants, bus lane obstruction whether it is a truck that standing in the bus lane, cars traveling in the bus lane when they shouldn't. Also travel challenges there aren't many east to west connections the fact of getting east to west or west to east is a challenge. Ferry service folks want more ferry service and a lot of folks wanted free transfers.

We then asked folks to try to tell us their priorities there is like a spreadsheet list. We said okay then tell us the top you get three green stickers we want you to prioritize which are the three most important to you. So this is the full gamut but what we saw people want service, they want real time information at stops they want to know when the bus is coming without checking their phone or reading a schedule and folks want the buses to be moving faster. There's three trade off questions we asked the first one was coverage versus frequency so what that means if you look at the left there's more routes and they're spaced out more so there's coverage you have service on multiple blocks, the other one frequency is showing the idea buses coming and intersecting each other but they're more concentrated on key streets, key corridors with that it was kind of a 50-50 split. Just over half of the participants wanted frequency and the other half wanted that coverage. The next trade off was simple direct routes against complex indirect routes. So this is the question are you willing to travel a bit further to your bus stop to get a direct route that's going somewhere and you may have to transfer to another fast route and walk a little further to your destination or prefer to have your stop closer and shorter travel path to your stop but it's going to be meander more kind of wind around and it might get you to your destination without a transfer but it will take you longer for all the turns and meandering. For this 70 percent of folks picked the simple direct route and 30 percent wanted the kind of more complex route. We acknowledge that in the Bronx there is for both even depending on street layouts but we just wanted to get a sense of what the participants really preferred. The last trade off was more stops versus fewer stops but there may not be rhyme or reason for the order of those bus stops sometimes there every other block or back to back of each other. The more stops so you don't have to walk as far to your bus stop. The other option was fewer stops about limited service yes it's going to get you where you want to go and it's not stopping as much so but you may have to walk further or do a longer trip to your bus stop. With that the majority of the people wanted fewer stops.

Mr. Thomas Pera said that so in addition to the workshops we also had in person and online surveys to capture more respondents and more answers. Our in persons surveys at 12 different locations in the Bronx and we had almost 2 thousand completed surveys and then we opened it up for an online survey again just to get more people responding for that we had almost 750 people. Travel within the Bronx trips beginning and ending in the borough most people were using local buses to get around to get to other

Pg. 5

Boroughs inter borough travel and people were taking the bus to the subways. A small number would use the service if improvements were made. So this are just some of the additional findings who were using the bus to get to and from work, dining, personal errands. For people back to the priorities list that Jessica was talking about the most important element of their bus travel was arriving on time, getting to their destination quickly and just knowing when the bus is coming. Some trip planning tools were google maps also the MTA provided maps.

Questions and Comments

The Chairperson called for a motion for a letter of support for the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City Soccer Initiative.

Motion made to approve a letter of support for the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City Soccer Initiative. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

The Chairperson called for a motion to adjourn.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED.