

## **FULL BOARD MEETING**

June 26, 2014

6:00 PM

### **MINUTES**

**Attendance:** George Rodriguez, Carmen Aquino, Maria Garcia Baltazar, Carol Boddie, Betty Bryant-Brown, Passyna Bula-Bula, Josephine Fernandez-Byrne, Linda Duke, Isabel Figueroa, Linda D. Gaines, Brenda Goodwin, Lucas Henriquez, Richard Iyasere, John Johnson, John Lemon, Jorge Leon, Angel Lopez, Evelyn Munoz, Walter C. Nash, Arline Parks, Freddy Perez, Jr., Johnny Rivera, Justino Rodriguez, Carmen Santos, Alice Simmons, Betty Wessley, Tracy A. Woodall, Delores Waller-Worrell, Hakeim A. Yahmadi.

**Absent:** Carisa Alayeto, Joshua Amaro, Ngande Ambroise, Robert H. Barnes, Steven Benedith, Michael Brady, Jessica Clemente, Maura Cosme, Aracelis Lucero, Eileen Marquez, Nellie McKay, Mohammed Mutawakil, Jason Ortiz, Linda Ortiz, Tiara Williams.

### **Public Session**

#### **African Advisory Council**

Mr. Charles Cooper, Chairman said that first I would like to thank the Chairman, District Manager and the rest of the Board Members. I understand what it means to be on a Board because I myself at one time served as Vice-Chair of Community Board 9.

I am the Chair of the Bronx African Advisory Council for the Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz. I speak on behalf of the council and bring you guys greetings and to kind of inform you all of the work that we're doing on the council and what we're looking to do in September. The

council represents 120,000 Africans in the Bronx. The Bronx actually has the largest concentration of Africans and we're growing in numbers.

Six years ago the Borough President realized that the numbers were not decreasing and he needed a way to create a conduit between the African community and the Borough President so

he initiated the African Advisory Council. Our main goal moving forward is to do greater outreach to the community such as with the Community Board because we're looking to partner up with the various committees on Community Board 1.

My goal is to start this initial conversation to introduce myself, the council and let you guys know that we're here to partner with the community and work with you all moving forward.

### **New York City Department of Consumer Affairs**

Ms. Tanjila Rahman said that I'm here to talk about the Paid Sick Leave Law has anyone seen the ad we're getting them on bus systems on line, TV and in the subways. So the city passed the first Sick Leave Law and it took effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>. What that means is that it pretty much covers about a million New Yorkers under this law which gives them the right to use sick leave for the care and treatment of themselves or a family member. Sick leave is accrued 1 hour for every 30 hours worked. So if you have five or more employees and they work more than 80 hours in a calendar year the employer must give them up to 40 hours which is up to five days sick leave.

The employer can require up to 7 days advance notice when employees know they will be using sick leave. An employee may be required to give notice as soon as possible to the employer when they do not know that they will be using sick leave.

An employer can ask for documentation from a licensed health provider if the employee uses more than 3 consecutive sick leave days. But city law prohibits an employer from requiring the health care provider to specify the medical reason for the sick leave.

An employee can carry over up to 40 hours of unused sick leave to the next calendar year. However the employer is only required to let their employee use up to 40 hours of sick leave per calendar year.

The employer cannot retaliate against an employee for requesting or using their sick leave. If employees have any complaints related to the Sick Leave Law they can be filed with the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs. The website is [nyc.gov/paid sick leave](http://nyc.gov/paid-sick-leave).

### **Questions and Answers**

#### **Montefiore Medical Center**

Ms. Miosotis Munoz said that she was the new liaison for Montefiore Medical Center. I've worked extensively as an advocate and also as a staffer to make sure that our residents in the Bronx and throughout the city have the best quality service available and not only the best healthcare system but also improving the quality of life.

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What I would like to share with today in particular is that as your liaison I want to be that bridge. We want to be able to work in partnership not only with the Community Board but with the community leaders who are the eyes and ears to help us improve the new reform. A lot of people do not understand that with the reform it's about taking control of your life and making sure. It's about creating partnerships even with the other hospitals. We're trying to improve our systems but we need your help.

A lot of people that are undocumented immigrants are not qualified to apply for the Obama Care. That does not mean that they don't have access to healthcare there is still emergency Medicaid and that's going to go year around and we have to get the word out there. There is a misconception going on and it's important that people understand. If you're not qualified to apply for emergency Medicaid but you still want to see a Doctor we have federally qualified clinics all throughout the Bronx which have specific standards set by the federal government. Which means a person who goes in there with proof of income based on what they earn and what they can afford to pay for that Doctor visit we have our federally qualified sliding scale clinics and it's very important that we get this information out there to the community. We really try to get the word out there that it's about prevention.

The next part on our list of new initiatives is about Montefiore opening up new clinics. We understand that there is an issue with the emergency room primarily because a lot of people use it. We have some of the best Doctor's that has made Montifiore one of the top ten hospitals in the nation. So no longer do residents have to go to other boroughs to get the best quality healthcare. One of the things we want to do to reduce the waiting time in our emergency room is our Urgent Care Centers that are open throughout the weekend from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturdays and Sundays and during the week until 10:00 PM at night. Then we have our Family Health Center which advocates for children with special needs.

Again please let me know if there is any way that I can provide you with assistance as your liaison.

**Questions and Answers**

**End of Public Session**

**The Chairman called for the roll.**

The roll was called and there were twenty-eight members present constituting a quorum.

**The Chairman called for a motion on the agenda.**

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Motion made to approve the agenda as presented. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously.

**The Chairman called for a motion on the prior meeting minutes.**

Motion made to approve the prior meeting minutes as presented. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously with three abstentions.

**Chairman and District Manager's Report**

The District Manager said that tonight we have a Public Hearing on an item that has come before the Economic Development-Land Use & Housing committee three times and approved related to a ULURP Application that we received from the Department of Parks. I will read it into the records.

**Public Hearing Opened 6:30 PM**

**IN THE MATTER OF** an application submitted by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, for the site selection and acquisition of property located at 850 East 138<sup>th</sup> Street (Block 2589, Lot31) for a repair, maintenance and storage facility.

Overview by Ms. Coleen Alderson, Director Parklands  
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

A power point presentation was provided and the ULURP Application explained.

We are here for approval of the site selection and acquisition of the property at 850 East 138<sup>th</sup> Street, between Walnut and Willow east of the Bruckner for purposes of our Five Borough Shops.

Five Borough Shops was created to meet the construction and repair needs of a growing Parks Department. The employees are a range of skilled maintenance workers carpenters, blacksmiths, machinists, plumbers, electricians and painters that make specialized repairs to parks and pools citywide. The Shop maintains a storehouse for raw materials, equipment and supplies to manufacture specialized parts that facilitate repairs. At this site there will be approximately 141 employees. There will be a certain amount of official vehicles that will be stored on site mostly passenger vans bringing workers to the park sites to make repairs and we will have a number of dump trucks.

The Environmental Assessment Statement was completed culminating in a negative declaration which means that there is no environmental impact that will occur as a result of our use of this

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site. We've worked closely with the New York City Department of Transportation and have a plan for traffic and parking.

We are looking forward to implementing a green rooftop as part of the division and the building provides the framework where that could happen.

**There were no persons who requested speakers.**

## **Questions and Answers**

**Public Hearing Closed 7:00 PM**

**The Chairman called for a motion on the ULURP Application submitted by the New York City Parks and Recreation and New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services for the site selection and acquisition of property located at 850 East 138<sup>th</sup> Street (Block 2589, Lot 31).**

Motion made to support the ULURP Application submitted by the New York City Parks and Recreation and the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services with the following modifications (1) certain specifics in the hiring that individuals from the community when openings occur will be considered; (2) truck traffic amount, level and types of trucks; (3) improving local parks in the area; (4) amphitheater in St. Mary's Park; and (5) to change some of the dynamics in the football and baseball fields. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed with 26-yes, 1-no, and 1-abstention.

## **Election of Board Officers**

The District Manager said that the vote would be for Chairman, First Vice-Chairperson and Second-Vice-Chairperson. Current Board Officers are Chairman George Rodriguez, First Vice-Chairperson Betty Bryant-Brown and Second Vice-Chairperson Carmen Santos.

The District Manager said that the time was now 7:08 PM

The District Manager opened the floor for nominations for the first position of Chairperson.

Nomination made to reelect Mr. George Rodriguez as the Chairperson. Nomination duly seconded.

The District Manager called for any other nominations from the floor. There were none.

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The District Manager opened the floor for nominations of the position of First Vice-Chairperson.

Nomination made to reelect Ms. Betty Bryant-Brown for the position of First Vice-Chairperson.  
Nomination duly seconded.

The District Manager called for any other nominations from the floor. There were none.

The District Manager called for nominations for the Second Vice-Chairperson.

Nomination made to reelect Ms. Carmen Santos for the position of Second Vice-Chairperson.  
Nomination duly seconded.

The District Manager called for any other nominations from the floor. There were none.

The District Manager said the time now is 7:10 PM and there are three nominations one for Chairperson, First Vice-Chairperson and Second Vice-Chairperson.

Motion made to have one vote for the entire current board officer's of the Chairperson Mr. George Rodriguez, First Vice-Chairperson Ms Betty Bryant-Brown and Second Vice-Chairperson Ms. Carmen Santos. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously with 24-yes votes.

The District Manager said that this closes the process.

**Elected Officials Report**

The Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. representative submitted his written report on the following items.

- The Bronx Borough President makes the 2014 Community Board appointments welcoming the new members and thanking those members whom are not returning to the board for their years of service.
- The Bronx Borough President celebrates the grand finale of Bronx Week 2014 with Induction Ceremony and the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bronx Week Parade. "Bronx Week 2014 was a huge success and I am pleased by how residents and visitors took the time to celebrate the beauty, culture, talent and development of our neighborhoods. I am honored to once again be part of this very special annual tradition, and can't wait to see what's in store for next year," said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

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The State Senator Jose M. Serrano's representative submitted his report on the following items.

- The State Senator continues to fight for full passage of Governor Cuomo's 10-point Women's Equality Act (WEA).
- The State Senator supports legalizing Medical Marijuana legislation in New York State and is co-sponsor of bill S4406.
- The State Senator celebrates the culture and heritage of his home borough while attending Bronx Week 2014 events.
- The State Senator participated in a Senate Democratic Conference forum on hydraulic fracturing (hydrofracking) waste in New York State. This practice endangers the wellbeing of countless New Yorkers and our environment. "I stand with my colleagues in the fight against this dangerous practice," concluded Serrano.
- The State Senator meets with "Vision Zero" advocates and discusses legislation that would reduce traffic fatalities.
- The State Senator met with advocates from the League of Humane Voters in Albany to discuss ways to better protect and care for animals in New York State.
- The State Senator urged New Yorkers to beautify their local and state parks for "I Love My Park Day" and "It's My Park Day."

The representative for Assemblywoman Carmen E. Arroyo's Ms. Neyda Franco said that I've been knocking on doors and found that in a building of 120 there were only four people to register to vote in that building. I have been to seven buildings and they all have more than 90 apartments and that is one of the biggest things that I've encountered. This is one of the things that we need to look at because I had a lady living in an apartment for thirty-two years and there are five people registered but there is no one there but her. So these are things that I've encountered going out to get people to register to vote.

The representative for Councilwoman Maria Del Carmen Arroyo said that I don't have anything to report. We offer services to the community if there are constituents that have any needs they are more than welcome to come to our office. We're located at 384 East 149<sup>th</sup> Street on Third Avenue.

Ms. Joann Otero Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Arroyo said that I come with good news if you're a registered voter on our website you will be able to see the resources that Councilmember Arroyo was able to get for the district. We passed the budget yesterday and it was an awesome experience for me it was the first time that there was a formula used so that

Councilmember's were ranked on needs and Councilmember Arroyo ranked three so she was able to bring in over \$700,000 thousand dollars Discretionary Funding into the district.

I know we've lost a lot of this area and we've moved up to Crotona East Tremont area but we still have some of this area. So as Stephanie says we're still there Monday through Friday open door policy.

**The Chairman called for a motion on the Elected Officials Reports.**

Motion made to approve the Elected Officials Reports as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

The Economic Development-Land Use & Housing Committee submitted a written report and provided a brief overview on the following presentations.

- New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and the New York City Department of Citywide Services ULURP Application for site selection and acquisition of property 850 East 138<sup>th</sup> Street, between Walnut and Willow East of the Bruckner for the purposes of relocating their Five Borough Shop created to meet the construction and repair needs of the Parks Department.

**The Vote on the New York City Parks and Recreation and New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services ULURP Application was taken and approved by the Board Members at the Public Hearing with modifications.**

- West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing proposing to replicate Borinquen Court with the development of another 169 units of senior housing while undertaking renovation to the existing site.
- Mr. Cesar Yoc discussed his proposed idea called Millbrook Gardens for the redesigning of the open spaces at the Millbrook Housing Development.
- Mr. Ted Weinstein from the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development fully explained the 2014 New York City Area Medium Income (AMI) and distributed an AMI chart.

The Chairperson said that there is a voting item that has come before the committee two or three times and would give a brief synopsis about what the project is about where it's located. The project is the 138<sup>th</sup> Street Apartments Project and is located on the site of the former gas station and Kentucky Fried Chicken and that's on the northeast corner of 138<sup>th</sup> Street and Third Avenue also considered part of the Lower Concourse neighborhood.

The first time Lettire Construction Corp. came before our committee we did our due diligence and did not like how the project was initially presented because what they wanted to do was to have supportive



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housing components in there and we felt that 138<sup>th</sup> Street was just over saturated. The developer was very responsive to the committee and listened to our concerns to build permanent housing there without that supportive housing component. Therefore it is the committee's recommendation to the Board that they fully support this project.

Mr. Manual Rivera and Mr. Matthew Gross from Lettire Construction Corp. answered questions related to the project.

**The Chairman called for a vote on the Lettire Construction Corp. 138<sup>th</sup> Street Apartments Project.** Motion made to support the Lettire Construction Corp. 138<sup>th</sup> Street Apartments Project located on the site of the former gas station and Kentucky Fried Chicken on the northeast corner of 138<sup>th</sup> Street and Third Avenue and part of the Lower Concourse as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed with 1-abstention.

The Education and Youth Committee submitted a written report on the following presentations.

- Brilla College Prep a new Charter School on East 144<sup>th</sup> Street and Willis Avenue.
- East Side House, Inc. discussing a program called READ NYC with the goal to increase the number of children that are reading proficiently by the end of the third grade.

The Municipal Services Committee submitted a written report on the following presentation.

- 596 Acres a non-profit organization that aims to connect neighborhoods with resources to reclaim public vacant land.

**The Chairman called for a motion on the Committee Reports.**

Motion made to approve the Committee Reports as presented. Motion duly seconded. Motion called and passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn.**

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

**Meeting adjourned.**

