

THE CITY OF NEW YORK Borough Of The Bronx

COMMUNITY BOARD #12

4101 WHITE PLAINS ROAD BRONX, NEW YORK 10466 TELEPHONE: (718) 944-3300 FAX (718) 944-3310

BOARD MINUTES FEBRUARY 28, 2019

The regularly scheduled meeting of Community Board #12 (the Bronx) for February 28, 2019 was called to order at 7:30 pm at Town Hall, 4101 White Plains Road, The Bronx, by Chairperson William Hall. Those wishing to participate was asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer for our District Manager Mr. Torres whose grandmother passed at 101 years old, and the three people who were killed by a train in Long Island.

II Good and Welfare/Community Speaks

Ms. Pamela Johnson/CEC

Ms. Johnson gave a presentation on the New York City Department of Education Community Education Council (CEC) election. The Presentation is available in the Community Board office.

Mr. Brian Melford/Councilman Andy King's office

Mr. Melford informed everyone that the Councilman thanked them for voting during the Special Election for Public Advocate. The Candidate that the Councilman supported Jumaane Williams won the seat.

On Tuesday, March 5, 2019 the Councilman along with the Black, Latino and Asian Council will be hosting their Annual Three/Fifths Clause Awareness Day. It will be held at Hostos Community College-Repertory Theatre—450 Grand Concourse. Doors open at 6:00 P.M. and the program begins at 7:00P.M.

On March 12, 2019 from 3:12 P.M., until 5:00 P.M. at Evander Childs High School located at 800 East Gun Hill Road the Councilman will be hosting the 12th District Address. He will also be celebrating his birthday.

Ms. Yadira Moncion/B.RA.G.

Ms. Moncion explained that B.R.A.G. has been in the community for a little over two (2) years and they are an anti-violence organization. She stated that although the awning has been taken down they are still at that location. B.R.A.G. is looking to relocate on East 233rd Street and they anticipate moving during the spring of 2019. She reminded everyone that they hold events on a monthly basis and continually reach out to high risk individuals.



Ms. Moncion updated everyone that between the areas of East 222nd Street and East 227th Streets between Barnes and Paulding Avenues for the past 515 days there have been no shootings or homicides.

B.R.A.G. is currently in the process of opening up their third location in the West section of the Bronx near Fordham Road. They are also expanding their services i.e., B.R.A.G. DOE where they will be going into schools as a conflict mediator and working with high risk individuals regarding attendance, academics, and violence.

Ms. Moncion provided flyers.

Ms. Merna Timaul/Health and Wellness Network of Commerce Corporation (HWNCC)

Ms. Timaul informed everyone that she is a member of the community, a nutritionist and a scientist. She explained that NWNCC's goal is to help bring more awareness to health and nutrition. The organization wants to bring small businesses and individuals together to help promote a healthier community in the Bronx due to the rise in diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease etc. They meet monthly on the third Wednesday and the next meeting will be on March 20, 2019 at the Olive Garden in Bay Plaza. She encouraged everyone to attend and stated that they also host yearly expos and workshops.

Ms. Branie Jackson/The Equate Coalition

Ms. Jackson is in the process of starting an organization for young people to speak out against injustices in our community. She was invited to come to the meeting tonight by Ms. Barbara Gibson-LeGrant and it is her intention to attend regularly so that she will be able to speak about issues that young people are concerned about. This will allow young people to give their peace of mind to people who are in a position to make a change.

A brief discussion ensued.

Ms. Deborah George/Resident

Ms. George thanked the Board for their work and she further stated that she has seen some improvement in the complaints that she had given. Ms. George stated that she is proud that this is her board. She is always concerned about the district being clean because it reflects us as a community and it is important to teach our young children about littering and what it does to the world. She encouraged everyone to volunteer to clean up the environment and clean up nature.

Ms. Bainer/Resident

Stated that she has been in this community for 25 years. She is concerned about the lack of affordable housing in New York but especially in this district. Since she is apartment hunting she recently went to a location that was really tiny and the rent was \$1950. It concerns her that she

knows people who have decent jobs but cannot afford the rent and are living in their cars. It is her opinion that people are being displaced and are forced to move other places.

A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Noel Campbell/Resident

Mr. Campbell resides on the 2000 Block of Edenwald Avenue which is between Wilder and Murdock Avenues. He is concerned about the lack of a four-way stop sign at this intersection. He has been sending emails to the Department of Transportation and putting in 311 reports. He has received a notice stating that there is no need to install this sign but since he received that notice there was another accident. He is requesting the sign to be on Edenwald and Wilder Avenues. He also stated that every other block has a 4-way stop sign.

A brief discussion ensued.

Ms. Louise Wilson-Bowles recommend that Ms. Bainer contact her and New York City Housing Connect regarding her housing issues.

At this point the Chairman acknowledged Mr. Al deCastro.

Mr. deCastro stated that construction has started and is expected to be completed in 2020 for the new YMCA. He thanked the community, the Board, all of the elected officials especially Assemblyman Heastie. He will ask the representatives to come give an update especially regarding the jobs that will be available.

Mr. Victor Martinez/NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

Mr. Martinez informed everyone that on March 21, 2019 the Comptroller will be hosting their Annual Irish Heritage Breakfast in their office.

The internship program with the Comptroller's office is open until March 8, 2019. This is a paid internship for undergrad and graduate students.

The Comptroller will also be hosting Women and Minority Business Enterprise Program (WMBE) workshops.

The Comptroller has stated that the housing plan that the Mayor has proposed is not going to assist the neediest people in need of housing. He is proposing to reduce the shelter population by requesting that a percentage of all new housing go to residents in shelter, and increase the capital budget for new construction. This would be paid for by transforming the mortgage recording tax.

Mr. Martinez provided flyers.

V Report of the Bronx Borough President

- Borough President Diaz and NYC DOE Announced Extended Use Hardship Waiver Program
- Borough President Diaz Issued a Statement Re: NYCHA/HUD Agreement
- Borough President Diaz Issued a Statement Re: The Jose Peralta DREAM Act
- Borough President Diaz Issued a Statement Re: East Bronx Metro-North/Amtrak Agreement
- NYSNA Announced "Healthcare Justice for All" Campaign to Demand Safe Staffing and Fair Funding as part of New Contract at the Public Hospitals in New York City

The Report of the Bronx Borough President is available in its entirety in the community Board office.

IV District's Managers Report

See Attached.

VI Report of the Chairman

Dr. Hall reported that Ms. Carla Borsotti has been appointed the Chairperson of the Legislative Committee. Motion made by Mr. Karl Stricker, seconded by Mr. John Isaac to add this committee to Community Board 12's committees. Motion passed 27 Ayes and 2 Abstentions.

VII Committee Report

Parks and Recreation Committee and Environmental Concerns Committee

Mr. Ivan Borras reported that the committees met with Mr. Samir Dalal of the Waterfront Alliance regarding Community Board 12 supporting WEDGE which advocates for better use of waterfronts. The waterfront in this district is the Bronx River. Mr. Borras further stated that although there are some amenities he would like to see more in this district because most of it is seasonal. The WEDGE programs is free until 2020 and it is his opinion that Community Board 12 should take advantage and be recognized as a WEDGE Certified Community.

The committees also met with Mr. Matt Dorian from the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to discuss the dumping of garbage along Bronx Park East. He reported that this district is one of the highest for dumping and he recommended funding for camera. The committee is also recommending the New York City Department of Sanitation increase policing in this area. Mr. Borras is also requesting that if the community see something to say something and to take pictures and report the illegal dumping. It was noted The Department of Parks has still not received the vehicle that was promised.

The Committee also discussed the future of Ft. Knox Park where the radio control cars race because it is being underutilized and the dirt runs off into the river. On a personal note Mr. Borras likes the idea of it staying. Mr. Borras likes that this is unique. They will be looking into possibly turning it into a park for BMX bikes.

A brief discussion ensued.

Housing Committee

Mr. Hall informed everyone that B&B Urban wants to build housing (70 units) on East 211th and East 212th Streets. He stated that Dr. Burke has done some extensive research. It is his opinion that they have given us a fictitious story. They did a brownfield application in July 2018 and came to us in October 2018 and at that point the Housing Committee had no idea they were asking us for community views. Mr. Hall is asking that the Land Use Committee step in because the Housing Committee does not want the project. The project is an \$8 million project. The Housing Committee would like to see other things done with this project i.e., a place for the post office trucks to park. Mr. Hall also thanked Ms. Shirley Tripicco for her assistance.

A brief discussion ensued.

Library and Cultural Affairs Committee

Ms. Joan Clodd informed everyone that meet to discuss putting some events together. Due to unavailability of Carriage House they were unable to do their combined Black History/Woman's History Month. They will be doing a Mental Health Event in May. She encourage people to join her committee and attend the event.

Dr. Burke informed everyone that in the Wakefield Library there are only 20 books that deal with science. To him it is very concerning especially since Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs and jobs are growing. He would like to see more books given to the library regarding science.

Brian Melford stated that there is a program that will deliver books that are requested.

The Chairman has requested that Mr. Felix Roldan and Michael Felter to organize a meeting regarding the business corridor and report back to Mr. John Isaac.

At the point Community Board 12's distinguished guest and representatives were acknowledge.

Mr. Famod Kanneh, New York City Mayor's Office.

Monday, March 1, 2019 there will be a bus trip to Albany requesting that the State give back control over the Department of Education. Buses will be leaving at 6:30 A.M. and return at 7:00 P.M. outside of City Hall, at the west entrance on Broadway and Murray Street. Please register.

Flyers were provided.

VIII Old Business

Motion made by Mr. Karl Stricker seconded by Mr. Ivan Borras to support Bissell Gardens' request to the City to plant trees on Holland Avenue between Gun Hill and Magenta Street. Motion passed 28 Ayes and 1 Abstentions. A brief discussion ensued.

Motion made and seconded by to write a letter of support on behalf of the Waterfront Alliance. Motion passed 24 Ayes and 5 Abstentions.

IX New Business

There was no "New Business" to discuss.

X Adjournment

The meeting was duly adjourned.

District Manager's Report February 28, 2019

Good evening Board Members, let me extend my apologies for not being present this evening. My comments will be brief since I am not here. I want to thank Ursula for reading my comments into the record.

I would like to plant the idea now that as a Community Board we need to revisit our By-Laws. I think every Community Board across the City will eventually have to amend their by-laws to be reflective of recent changes in the City Charter when it comes to the new term-limits law. I think we need to be thoughtful about how term limits impacts our transition of leadership and what it means to serve on the Board. We need to rethink our committees and membership. I do not know what this looks like going forward but I think we can work towards something that everyone on the Board can agree to.

The Yankees have once again asked each Community Board in the Bronx to produce worthy scholarship recipients. As a Community Board we need to formalize this process. I am welcome to all ideas. Whatever is formalize3d needs to be vetted and voted on by the Board.

Finally, an invitation was extended to Mark Stagg to appear before this Community Board in January and then again for tonight's meeting to discuss his project on East 233rd Street. An email was sent to DHS/HRA to notify them that as a Community Board we will fight any effort to make this location a shelter of any kind. I am aware that some Board Members have made inquiries about development projects in the district. Ursula and I are always willing to track down inquiries for you as Board Members. I have reached out to DOE on an inquiry that was made about the B&B development on East 212th Street. There is a need for middle schools in Education District 11. We need to have more conversations to flesh this out as DOE may not want to be in a mixed use building. SCA and DOE prefer standalone schools.

Conclusion

Today marks my 1,306th day as your District Manager or 3-years, 6 months and 26th day of my tenure here. I look forward to each and every day at the Board.

Thank you and Good Night

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VOTING SHEET COMMUNITY BOARD 12, THE BRONX

DATE 2/26/19

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BENITEZ, JUDITH	A	A	A			
BENNETT, EGERIA	A	A	A			
BLOOMFIELD, HILARY	INP	NP	N			
BORRAS, IVAN ANTHONY	A	A	A			
BORSOTTI, CARLA	M	M	M			
BROWN-ALLEN, MARLENE	A	A	A			
BROWN, VICTOR	A	A	A			
BROWNE, DEACON EDWARD	A	A	A			
BRYAN, NORBERT	NP	NP	W			
BURKE, DR. MICHAEL	A	A	A			
CAMPBELL, SADIE	ABS	ABS	ABS			
CHRISTIAN, EVELYN	NP	NP	M			
CLARKE, GAIL	M	M	M			
CLODD, JOAN	A	A	A			
CUMBERBATCH, ROBERT	A	17	ABS			
DICKERSON, TOLLYNE	A	A	A			
EASTMOND, LAURA	NP	NP	M			
EICHELBERGER, KEVIN	A	A	A			
EVANS, RAYMOND	M	M	M			
FIGUEROA, ALFREDO	M	A	A			
GIBSON, LAGRANT BARBARA	A	A	ABS			
GOFF, JOHNNIE	A	M	M			
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TOTAL BOARD MEMBERS
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HONORABLE RUBEN DIAZ JR, BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT COMMUNITY BOARD #12, THE BRONX

ATTENDANCE SHEET

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