

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 20, 2010
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (Corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

-Public Hearing Items-

RBSCC (Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizen Council) - Mr. Scott Short Deputy Director Housing Office of RBSCC along with Ms. Chris Benedict the architect of the project conducted a presentation regarding a new housing complex called "Knickerbocker Commons" to be located at 803 Knickerbocker Avenue corner of Eldert Street, LOT #5 and BLOCK #3413. ULURP Application # C100162 HAK -CEQR 3 10HPD015K which is currently a vacant, city owned 10,000 square feet lot. RBSCC is asking for a Letter of Support from Community Board #4 for the housing complex. RBSCC has negotiated with HPD for the site. This 24 unit 5 story building will contain a community facility on the first floor and the plan is to use it for a program for the elderly. A jogging track will be located on the roof floor along with safety parameters and surveillance cameras. A laundry room and a kitchenette are also proposed for the top floor community room area. The construction of the building will be foam insulation and this will be a "green" building construction, possibly the first of this type in the area which will have foam insulation and retractable awnings. There will be a planting area on the Knickerbocker Avenue side of the building. It will have approximately 7 parking spaces with one being a disabled parking space located in the back of the building. The apartment units are all handicap-adaptable which means that if a handicapped/disabled person is given an apartment, the apartment is already adaptable to handicapped residency and the cabinets and stove will be replaced with handicap use appliances.

The square footage of each unit is:

- 600 sq. ft. for the 1 bedroom apartment
- 750 sq. ft. for the 2 bedroom apartment
- 900 sq. ft. for the 3 bedroom apartment

Projected monthly rents are as follows:

- \$700.00 per month for the 1 bedroom unit
- \$900.00 per month for the 2 bedroom unit
- \$1,100 per month for the 3 bedroom unit

A superintendent will be on the site on a 24 hour 7 day a week basis and the building will be managed by RBSCC. This will be low income edifice.

Income requirements will be "low income" financial status and proofs of income must be provided by the applicants. Eligibility will be based on the AMI for low income families, with a 50-60% area median income. There will be a 50% preference to Bushwick residence.

The construction of the building will start in June 2010 if there are no problems with a 14 month construction period so the building should be ready in the late summer of 2011.

The ULURP will enable RBSCC to get a funding commitment and will help in obtaining other state, federal, private, etc. funding for the Knickerbocker Commons project.

RBSCC is need of a ULURP recommendation Community Board #4.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 7:13pm and asked the District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted to call the roll call.

Roll Call: 39 members are present constituting a quorum.

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent asked for the acceptance of the previous meeting's minutes with the necessary corrections. The previous meeting's minutes was accepted by Mr. Cyril Joseph and second by Mr. Raul Rubio. All members present were in favor.

Chairperson's Report:

Ms. Dent welcomed all in attendance to the first Community Board meeting of 2010.

The Chairperson then asked that the Elected Officials and/or their representatives stand to introduce themselves and give out their respective telephone numbers.

- 1) Roy Sawyer – Assemblyman Darryl Towns, 840 Jamaica Avenue, 718-235-5627
- 2) Italia Guerrero – Brooklyn Borough President’s Office, 209 Joralemon St. 718-802-4032
- 3) Allison Frost – Assemblyman Vito Lopez, 434 South 5th Street, 718-963-7029
- 4) Johnny Joyner – Senator Martin Dilan, 786 Knickerbocker Ave., 718-573-1726
- 5) Alejandro Echeverri – Councilmember Diana Reyna, 217 Havemeyer Street, 718-963-3141
- 6) Manny Burgos – Assemblyman Darryl Towns, 840 Jamaica Avenue, 718-235-5627
- 7) Judith Rodriguez – NYC Comptroller John C. Liu, 212-669-8720
- 8) Raphael Espinal - Councilman Erik Dilan, 387 Arlington Avenue, 718-642-8664
- 9) Maritza Davilla – Female District Leader of the 53rd District, 718-366-3800
- 10) Yanuski Rodriquez – District Attorney Charles Hynes, 718-250-2565

The Chairperson welcomed the newly appointed Community Board #4 board members Mr. William Harris and Ms. Margaret Nieves. Information will be forthcoming in the mail for the new board members from the Borough President’s Office regarding training.

The Chairperson acknowledges the presence of Detective Dennis Diaz and Sergeant Duffy, New York’s Finest from the 83rd Precinct and thanked them both for coming to tonight’s meeting.

It is highly speculated that the Mayor will appoint a Charter Revision Commission in the very near future that will have the role of reviewing and recommending the abolishment of the Office of the Public Advocate, Borough Presidents and Community Boards. We are assured that many public forums and opportunities for community residents, citizens and voters to express, understand and weigh in their sentiments will be available.

The chairperson is encouraging all, including board members to begin a letter writing campaign to the elected officials to let them know the importance of Community Boards. Please make sure that the Community Board’s office receives a copy of each letter mailed. A list of each of the elected officials and their corresponding address in the Community Board 4’s district was available.

The Chairperson and the District Manager have been to several meetings regarding this matter and they would like to organize so that they can be proactive in stopping this action from going into place.

The American Red Cross has provided information to the board regarding their responses within the district from July through November 2009:

# of clients served	Responses	Clients Financial Assistance provided
216	27	\$13,318

Questions or comments concerning the Red Cross activities in our district can be directed to the Director of Government Relations Mr. Alexander Lutz at Lutza@nyredcross.org.

The Brooklyn Public Library had to extend the closure of the Dekalb Branch Library located at 790 Bushwick Avenue until January 2010. The library re-opened on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 with a new roof.

Woodhull Medical Center will hold their annual Legislative Breakfast on Friday February 5, 2010 at 10am. This year’s theme is “Promoting Good Health in a Challenging Economy”. Those interested in attending please RSVP Maria Hernandez at 718-963-8140 or Maria.Hernandez@nychhc.org.

HPD has announced twenty seven (27) affordable newly rehabilitated apartments for rent called the Knickerbocker Cluster Apartments. Applications for these units must be requested in writing

and post marked by February 18, 2010. Locations are: 187 and 194 Eldert Street, 248 Cornelia Street, 309 Schaefer Street and 708, 784 and 818 Knickerbocker Avenue.

District Manager's Report

11-30-09: MIMA – Main Street participant selection process where storeowners/keepers will have an opportunity for façade improvements at matching New York State money.

12-2-09: Borough President Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Coalition on Charter Revision – Each Community Board is asked to assign a delegate to attend meetings. Current focus is establishing a “white paper” which would speak to the importance of the role of Community Boards, the Borough President and the Public Advocate. The Coalition is focusing now on the Community Boards because the board comprise of Board members, District Managers, and Chairpersons of the Boards. The Coalition would like for each community board to name five (5) things that they have done to benefit the community.

This is what I have come up with so far:

1. Volunteerism: Local level representatives at no cost to the city. The 50 board members are volunteers who volunteer their time and service to the community at no cost. These volunteers consist of professional people who live, work and/or have vested interest in the community.
2. Gate Keepers: Venue for local residents to discuss, complain, inform and suggest information.
3. Planners: The board approves, disapprove and add information to projects that would benefit the community.

Any information that could be added to the list would be greatly accepted by the District Manager.

12-08-09: Youth & Education Committee Meeting

12-09-09: District Service Cabinet Meeting – The District Manager met with several agencies including the newly assigned Manager Mr. Greenstein of the Hope Gardens Management Building.

It was suggested to the District Manager that she contact NYC TLC regarding issues of livery cabs who do not conform to the rules specifically around the base.

12-29-09: Housing and Land Use Committee Meeting

1-6-10: Executive Committee Meeting

1-13-10: Economic Development Committee Meeting

1-14-10: Civic and Religious Committee Meeting

1-19-10: 83rd Precinct Community Council Committee is held every 3rd Tuesday of the month at the 83rd Precinct. Those in attendance can have an opportunity to speak with the Commanding Officer and/or his Sergeants, Lieutenants and specialized units of the police department. Issues can also be discussed after the meeting if one does not want to express their issues in front of others. All are welcomed.

During the month of March 2010 there will be a special presentation given by NYS Senator Martin Dilan on the importance of the Census.

The NY Blood Center has noted that in communities where there are minorities specifically Latinos and African American they are not donating blood enough. The Board would like to sponsor a blood drive in the community hopefully this spring.

Wyckoff heights Medical Center's Emergency Department will be undergoing construction in several locations throughout the Adult and pediatric Emergency Department including the Triage and Registration areas. It is anticipated that construction will be completed by the end of the month.

Applications for the one-bedroom apartments are currently available for prospective buyers interested in the 320 Sterling Street Cooperative located in Crown Heights Brooklyn. On Thursday January 21st at 6pm, there will be a free informational seminar that will discuss the

application process, layout, eligibility, and the responsibilities of Co-op owners. The location of the event: Eastern Parkway Library, 1044 Eastern Parkway (corner of Schenectady Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11213. Those interested in attending must register by calling 718-469-4679.

Community Board #4 new website is up, web address is: www.nyc.gov/brooklyncb4

The website consists of information:

- About CB4
- History of Bushwick
- Officers Listing
- Minutes
- Newsletters
- Elected Officials and their phone #s
- Resources: Liquor license forms and link to the liquor authority's website, street activity permit process with the street closing denial list, senior citizen housing listing, hospital and clinic listing, fire department phone numbers and address listing, and much more
- Community Links: D.O.T., Sanitations Department, Building Department, NYC.Gov, Up in Flames and much more

The District Manager, Nadine Whitted thanked her staff member Sharon Fludd for working diligently on accomplishing this project.

The Chairperson, Ms. Dent thanked the District Manager for her comprehensive report and for professionalism.

Committee Reports:

Civic and Religious Committee - Elvena Davis Committee Chairperson, highlighted information from the January 14th CRC meeting: Discussion of the 5th Annual Community Board #4 Parade will be held on Brooklyn/Queens Day Thursday, June 3, 2010. Theme of this years parade is "Bushwick Youths let's go Higher in Education". The route will be: Start at IS 383 playground to Knickerbocker Avenue, Knickerbocker to Stanhope Street, Stanhope to Bushwick Avenue, Bushwick to Palmetto Street, Palmetto to Central Avenue and Central to 422 Central and Woodbine Street.

Community Board #4 will be honoring some of the highest achievers in Bushwick which will include High School, Middle School and Elementary Schools.

The valedictorian will be the Grand Marshall and the salutatorian will also be honored.

The CRC will work with the Youth & Education Committee in order to get the job done. The board is thinking about giving savings bonds to the higher achievers to encourage them to continue their education.

The next CRC meeting will be February 11th at 6pm.

Ms. Dent suggested that the committee get in contact with the elected officials and the local store owners so that they can perhaps help with the saving bonds for the children.

The Civic & Religious Committee Report was accepted by Ms. Martha Brown and second by Ms. Gladys Puglla-Jimenez. All members are in favor.

Economic Development Committee, Mr. Odolph Wright Committee Chairperson:

NYC Department of Cultural Affairs percent for Art-Request for Qualifications

The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) percent for Art Program in conjunction with the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) and Department of Transportation (DOT) invites artists to submit qualifications and letter of interest to be considered for panel review and the opportunity to be considered as finalists for the commission of permanent artwork for DOT plaza sites throughout the city. Over the course of Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 six artists will be selected to incorporate their permanent art and design into one of six plaza locations. All

responses must be received by the Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art program, Artist Image Registry, at the address specified below no later than 5:00pm EST on February 22, 2010.

The site for the Bushwick:

Knickerbocker Plaza - Knickerbocker Avenue (Knickerbocker between Myrtle and Greene Avenues)

Nonprofit partner: Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizen Council, Inc. (RBSCC)

Initial proposal for plaza: To create a plaza at the landing of the elevated train (M) station.

The Board will be looking into how they can bring about more Banking facilities in Bushwick. Anyone that has information on how to bring this about is asked to contact the board.

The Economic Development Committee Report was accepted by Ms. Elvena Davis and second by Mr. David Russell. All members are in favor.

Housing and Land Use Committee, Ms. Martha Brown Committee Chairperson – Meeting held Tuesday, December 29, 2009:

Mr. Raul Rubio will be giving a presentation on the BOA (Brownfield Opportunity Area) at the HLU Committee February's meeting.

There are new demolition notification requirement as of December 2, 2009 from the Department of Buildings. Contractors must follow new requirements for notifying the Buildings Department before starting full and partial demolition work. These requirements are outlined in the Chapter 33 §BC3306 of the 2208 Construction code.

Ms. Martha Brown asked the board to read her minutes for more information.

The Housing and Land Use Committee Report was accepted by Ms. Gladys Puglla-Jimenez and second by Ms. Elvena Davis. All members are in favor.

Public Safety Committee, Ms. Barbara Smith Committee Chairperson – Meeting held Tuesday, December 1, 2009.

We are in the process of trying to get some restaurants and bar owners to change their business hours. Some businesses would like to open from 12pm to 4am. The Board feels that these long hours will not be fair to their neighbors.

Ms. Smith stated that Community Board #4 is not trying to put anyone out of business with the approval or non-approval of their liquor license, the information that the board receives comes directly from the 83rd Precinct and 911. The committee is working with the business owners in order to get their paper work in order.

The Public Safety Committee Report was accepted by Mr. Cyril Joseph and second by Ms. Joanne Grant. All members are in favor.

Youth and Education Committee, Ms. Virgie Jones Committee Chairperson – Meeting held Tuesday, December 8, 2009:

Ms. Jones welcomed CEC High School Representative Mr. Steven Ochoa, he is 17 years old and he attends Bushwick Leaders High School.

Items Discussed:

- 1) Mr. Woodson of Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow – spoke about the services offered by the non-profit organization whose focus is education and employment. The Resource Center addresses the needs of everyone, not just youths. Location: 280 Wyckoff Avenue (entrance on the Gates Avenue side)
Out of School Youth Program is at three sites: Sunset Park, Wyckoff/Gates and Flushing/Broadway and are for 17-21 years olds who are disconnected with the school system and are looking for a job.
Adult Training Programs: Offers skills such as clerical, trade-up skills so that they might transition or upgrade at their current position. This program ends up with job placement. Adults Employment Services provides training and employment assistance to

unemployed and under employed adults. Opportunities for a Better tomorrow also has a very good partnership relationship with the NYS Department of labor Work force where they offer Individual Training Grant vouchers for individuals looking to take a course that would help them to be marketable.

- 2) Academy of Urban Planning located at the Bushwick Campus at 400 Irving Avenue Principal Ms. Monique Darrisaw gave a presentation on the update of the school. Ms. Darrisaw also stated that the Harbor School will be leaving the school and it is her hope that the space used by the exiting school will be used by another school who have shown interest in the space which include: Frances Perkins and an English Language learners School. Ms. Darrisaw asked for support for the following items:
 - Installation of central air conditioning in the Bushwick Campus auditorium which would benefit the schools of the campus and the entire community.
 - Upgrading the computer labs - students use technology in class to post and respond to assignments and to gather information.

The next YEC meeting will be held on Tuesday February 9, 2010 at 143 Himrod Street at 5:30pm. The Youth and Education Committee Report was accepted by Ms. Mary McClellan and second by Ms. Barbara Smith. All members are in favor.

Ms. Dent commended the committee chairpersons for the excellent job that they are doing and asked their members continue to support them by attending the meetings.

New Business

Committee recommendation: ULURP for the Public Hearing item for the Knickerbocker Commons project #C100162HAKCEQR#10HPD015K in the matter of an application submitted by the Housing Preservation & Development (1) in pursuant to article 16 of the General municipal Law of NYS for (a) the designation of property located at 295 Eldert Street (block # 3414 lots 1), 801,799 and 797 Knickerbocker Avenue (Block 3413 lots 2-4) as an Urban Development Action Area and (b) an Urban Development Action Area project for such area and (2) and pursuant to Section 197-c of the NYC Charter for the disposition of such property to a developer to be selected by HPD: to facilitate development of a six story building tentatively known as Knickerbocker Common, which approximately 24 residential units and community facility space, to be developed under the NYS Housing Trust. The period for Community Board review begins on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 and must be completed by March 15, 2010.

A roll call vote was taken and 38 members present were in favor except for 1 abstention by Ms. Maria Gomez who is an employee of RBSCC. The ULURP was passed.

Announcements:

Mr. Roger Beckford, Beacon Program located at 125 Covert Street will now be open on Saturdays. Basketball, Arts & Craft, etc. will be available from 9am-5pm for children in grades 1 to 8. Those children who are not registered with the Beacon program can register for the program with their parents.

Jason Andrew: New gallery open called "Store Front", located at 16 Wilson Avenue.

Laura Braslow: The next Arts in Bushwick Festival, March 6-7, 2010. Registration for artist and musicians is now open for those who want to perform music, dance, and theater, etc. can register at www.artsinbushwick.wordpress.com until February 5th.

Rachel Fuentes, RBSCC, Inc., - Main Street funding is still available for Myrtle Avenue between Menahan Street & Gates Avenue, Irving Avenue between Bleecker Street & Myrtle and Knickerbocker Avenue between Dekalb Avenue and Starr Street. If you own a building or a business in those areas please call Rachel or Victoria at 718-484-8553

Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizen Council, Inc. & the Department of Transportation are working together to build a plaza at the corner of Myrtle and Knickerbocker Avenues. Artists from the Bushwick Community are invited to apply. Please contact Rachel Fuentes if you are interested in

applying. Help is also available in preparing for the application. (For more information see the above Economic Development Committee Report)

Evelyn Ortiz, NYC Health Department – The District Public Health Office is Launching Health Initiative and participation is needed. The Health Department would like to partner with the Bushwick community and the sounding areas to launch a citywide initiative called “Text for Babies”. Studies show that mostly all pregnant women have a cell phone. The initiative will allow who are participating to send these mothers of newborns a healthy text messages to encourage them to have healthy babies.

Brooklyn Knows – Coming soon!!!

- The Health Department would like to make sure that everyone in Brooklyn is tested for HIV.
- Sweets and Sugar beverages

Mary McClellan, Community Representative of Broadway Bushwick Community Coalition:
The next meeting will be held at 871 Bushwick Avenue (corner of Himrod Street) on Thursday January 21, 2010 at 7:00pm on improving the community. The topic: Dog poop
The problem is causing and can cause us and our children to be sick.

Noel Laymen, Bushwick Starr Theatre: located at 207 Starr Street between Wyckoff and Irving Avenues. Next show: “New Hope City” it is post apocalyptic Rock & Roll Show presented by a local band called Pass Kontrol. The event will run Thursdays- Saturdays, starting February 11, 2010 weekend and the next two weekends February 18-20 and 25-27. The show is rated PG-13, it is not recommended for young children but they feel that it would be OK for teenagers. Tickets are \$10 online (\$12 walk-ins) All shows start at 8PM For tickets: www.thebushwickstarr.org

Italia Guerrero, Marty Markowitz’s office: Board members whose term will be expiring this year should have already received their renew application in the mail. Members are asked to notarize and return the application to the Borough Presidents office by February 22, 2010. Non-board members are invited to apply for membership by calling Ms. Guerrero at 718-802-4032 or by contacting the District Office and an application will be mailed to you.

Marty’s Brooklyn Sweetheart, February 12, 2010 for couples who have been married for 50 years or more. If interested please call Ms. Guerrero at 718-802-4032.

Steven Ochoa, CEC High School Representative: Topic: Schools that are closing or being phased out.

Meeting: Brooklyn Tech High School, January 26, 2010 at 6:00pm
For information: Betty Zohar at 718-722-6936 or bzohar@uft.org

Alejandro Echeverri, Council Member Diana Reyna: South Bushwick Residences Association monthly meeting will be held on February 2, 2010 at 6:30-8:00pm at the Dekalb Library, 790 Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221.

Topic: Organizing for America

- Get involved with President’s Obama’s agenda regarding Immigration, Health Care and New Energy and Education
- Learn about OFA’s role in changing the way politics is done in Washington, DC and across the country
- Get involved in major political causes within your Community
- Gain the skills, tools and knowledge you need to organize with OFA in your community

Guest Speaker: Keith Kinch, New York State Deputy Field Director, Organizing for America-NY
<http://www.barackobama.com>

Eugene Matkom, Fidelis Care NY: Help & educate people in applying for Health Care programs. They would like to attend functions such as block parties, church affairs, health fairs, etc. to inform residents about health programs.

Alvin Aviles,-Local Census Office Manager for Bushwick, Bed-sty, Greenpoint and Williamsburg areas:

In 2000 the response rate for Bushwick alone was less than 33%. Mr. Aviles who is also a resident of Bushwick himself finds it very disturbing that the response rate was so low. He is requesting the need for person to knock on doors to help residence see the need of the census. The questionnaires will be mailed out in March 2010. Applicants are required to take a test and pass with at least a 70 grade. Local test site address: 790 Broadway located next to Woodhull Hospital. For more information please call Mr. Aviles at 347-222-3920

Gladys Puglla-Jimenez: Volunteer for the Mayor's response unit for Haiti
Please call 311 to donate money for Haiti, 25 lines are available to take calls.

Austen Martinez: Collecting food and clothing for the people of Haiti under the direction of Assemblyman Vito Lopez and Maritza Davila. Collection sites are pending and will be announced. Donations will be sent to the Dominican Republic and from there items will be sent to Haiti.

Maritza Davila: They are looking to put containers at C-Town and Wyckoff Food supermarkets.

Julie Dent, Audrey Johnson Learning Daycare: Collecting money for the people of Haiti at 272 Moffat Street, Brooklyn, NY 11207. The money will go to "Doctors without Borders". Persons donating money will receive a copy of the money order that is sent. The Haiti people really need us. Please donate. Today it is them, tomorrow it could be us.

2nd Roll Call: Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm