

Brooklyn Community Board 4
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 6pm

Hope Gardens Multi-Service Senior Center
195 Linden Street
&
Zoom

Chairperson: Robert Camacho
District Manager: Celestina Leon

Meeting Start: 6:08pm

Celeste called the meeting to order and announced the first public hearing item.

Public Hearing:

Captain Alvarez, the Executive Officer, from the 83 Precinct was acknowledged and allowed to provide the precinct crime report on behalf of Inspector Sarubbi earlier in the meeting, given a schedule conflict.

Stephanie Anderson asked about noise and quality of life complaints. Answer: Yes, officers see the calls. It's better through 311.

Edward Kopp mentioned the increase in EOD smash and grab as businesses are closing. Can we get attention at the first licensed cannabis shop on Suydam Street? He also referenced the issue with the mural and NYS Office of Cannabis Management.

A: There are a lot of legal factors involved with smoke shops. The inspector is involved with legal and other agencies to collaborate.

Felix Ceballos mentioned all the electric bikes. He wants to be sure they are illegal. A: The precinct gets a lot of questions about electric and gas bikes. The captain referred him/everyone to the DOT website. I'm happy to provide the info. Gas-powered should be registered.

Eliseo Ruiz asked on the street, right? Not the sidewalk. A: Correct.

Joanna Fuentes shared that she would like to partner with the precinct, regarding domestic violence and youth workshops if it's not a conflict of interest. The district manager noted that she or any board member can contact the Conflicts of Interest Board with any questions. The info is available on their website.

A: There are six DV officers. Also, YOs (Youth Officers). I'm happy to meet and come up with something.

- 1) **Jim Morris, Director of Capital Projects, Brooklyn Operations, NYC Parks** – presenting an in-progress design for the reconstruction of Maria Hernandez Playground and Dog Run.

Maria Hernandez Park Playground Reconstruction

Located on Irving Avenue and Knickerbocker Avenue between Starr Street and Suydam Street in the Borough of Brooklyn

Presented by: Rachel Kramer, NYC Parks

Hi, everybody. I'm Rachel Kramer. I'm a landscape architect. I work for New York City Parks. So it's really great to be out here tonight, and to see everyone so we're going to start off first with the playground reconstruction. We're going to be upgrading the active play in the playground, facilitate passive use, enhance and add to the environmental amenities, and improve access circulation and sightlines. This large playground and park are heavily used and loved by the community. An interesting bit of information is this design was the practice it was actually done by Frederick Law Olmstead which may be familiar to some of you. Just one more note that it's a curvilinear designed or symmetrical and those the design has remained intact all these years and Parks has designated it as a legacy park. So we try to keep those aspects of the design with our new design.

Playground Goals

- Upgrade active play capacity for the park and neighborhood
- Facilitate passive use and community events
- Enhance and add to the environmental amenities of the site
- Improve access, circulation, and sight lines in the park

Playground - Community Priorities

Play

scooter loop, large spray shower, nature play, more shade

Safety

lighting, gates

Seating

benches at entrance, welcoming entryway

Accessibility

accessible walkways, accessible seating

So we're going to focus on the playground section of the park. It's just an outdated playground, outdated equipment surfacing. I'm going to do the dog run presentation right after this one and have some beautiful mature trees throughout the park in the playground and we're only going to be removing a stump in one tree that's in poor condition. Here are some existing images of the playground. There's a wide gate. There is a much beloved rainbow spray shower. And you

could just see there's a mix of different play units from different time periods. And you can just see the safety surfacing is very worn with the old swing set. And then here's the spray shower. There's a couple of trees in the playground. I will be increasing the treatment areas to have better water infiltration for the trees. And then along the perimeter there's a lot of pavement.

We'll be opening up the tree pits again to increase the tree health.

And here's our schematic design. You'll note coming off with a Knickerbocker we've rounded the corners of the playground and increase the word space to have it in more inviting entry into the playground. To the left here in the bottom corner you'll see it's the two to five area with a large play unit and bucket swings and then to the right corner is the large steel ramped five to 12 unit with eight-foot-high strip seating. The entrances to the left and right remain in the same location and then they lead you into a central spray shower area that will have some overhead spray elements or seasonal interests when the water is off. They'll be low little bubblers for the younger kids and this configuration also aids people cutting through on fast moving scooters or bikes.

And then to the north. It's more of a passive area with a rainbow scooter loop that kids can actually ride their bikes or scooters through supplanted areas and there's passive seating and top tables up there at the top and then around the perimeter. There are some planted strips that will help with water infiltration, and a nice bed for new trees for increased shaded seating.

Here's a blow up of the spray shower showing we'll have these bamboo overhead steel spray elements with smaller bubblers in the center and some seating adjacent tour this is our fence diagram showing the whole park will be the playground will be enclosed in a four-foot-high steel fence with a two-foot-high steel fence around the swings and then the gardens will have one-foot six-inch fence around that. Here's some images or renderings of the two to five playhouse and accessible play panels. And here's the two to five us steel units with lane to play. It's a ramp unit with a slide and has colorful posts and routes. Here's a rendering of the five to 12 unit again with the ramps for accessibility.

There's length to play on a large rope climber and provides your client here's another angle showing the rope climber and colorful posts and roofs, and this is just a slide showing our color selection on the upper right are the colors for the rainbow spring loop which will be on the ground and then on the left lower left corner of the colors for the play equipment. With a neutral gray on safety surface and in the center are the images of the overhead spray elements and then there's directional jets and bubblers for the younger kids. This is a materials palette. It's standard park items that fit the legacy park that will match the rest of the park. There'll be quite a bit of new planting with large shade trees, colorful flowering understory trees, perennials evergreens, and this will mostly be in the planting strips along the edge of the playground. Just some more images showing how colorful the new plant material will be for all seasons. This is a nice plus for the park is that our infiltration of permeability of water going into the ground is only at 19% within the job run and the playground and when we're done with our construction will be increased to 48% which is a huge increase. And here's our schematic for the design. We can take questions on this part of the project if anyone hasn't.

Q&A/Discussion:

Felix Ceballos: How much is the project going to cost?

Answer: Both projects are about \$6.7M. The playground will get more money because it is a larger site.

Stephanie Anderson: I saw on the diagrams that there was actually kind of a little center for adult or adult exercise. You didn't mention it. Is that in there, adult equipment?

Answer: This is just for kids in the playground. There's no fitness in this way.

Jim: So you're correct in the diagram. So we just recently completed a project about like two years ago that includes adult phase so it's a little bit older but there is just adjacent to actually on the other side of the bathroom closer to the north side stage.

Anne Guiney: Are the bathrooms going to be included in this because they're kind of messy?

Answer: For this project, we'll be upgrading the water service but not the toilet facility.

Cecilia Fabian: Maria Hernandez Park is one of the most significant in our area. I noticed that the swings for adults are not included. And my other question, you said it's going to take about a year for this project to move forward. Would you start on part of or the whole park?

Answer: As far as the swings go, the little kid swings will be buckets and the swings on the right side will be straps. I mean for playgrounds we encourage people with families. They're not really made just for adults swinging but there will be strap seats if you and your children want to swing them. They can accommodate their parents. And as far as the phasing goes, we can look into that with the contractor. And we do our best to have the other facilities in the park open during construction. So typically they would both be closed at the same time.

Jim: Not the whole park— just the dog run and specifically the playground with its fence will be closed off just because it's a very unique park where like the inside of the park has kind of all the assets but just those areas will be closed everything else in the park the sides of it. Most entrances will be scaled.

District Manager: had two questions as well one of them relates to the sprinkler area specifically regarding water erosion. How is the Parks Department prepared for any plumbing issues, like flooding and also weather events? We know we're seeing heavier rain and know other playgrounds have faced similar issues with water features so what was taken into consideration with that?

Answer: when we design the spray shower as per DEP, all the water the whole site is great like a little cut, and it has to directly go into a drain immediately it can't flow over the park. So that'll adjust the spray shower and also through DEP we have strict guidelines as far as containing all the runoff all of it 100% of the runoff has to be drained into plant beds, underground storage, stored are perfect if we have good ventilation will perfect down into the ground before it goes out to the street. So this will be a huge improvement with so right now the water just flows into drain goes right to the street. We're going to make a huge impact with this project since it's so much.

District Manager: Amazing, and then my second question was in reference to the closure for both of these projects in the past, we've seen fencing with no signage and want to make sure that there's going to be some type of sign that indicates what's happened.

Answer: Yeah, this is a large site. So we'll definitely have construction signs in multiple locations since it's spread out on both sides of the park. And then the borough typically like this.

Jim: Yeah, and so as well. We'll keep you involved here right now the last construction kit there's a lot could be improved during that time this notification. So during this time because the construction is going to affect the park in certain ways that are unique in that they're kind of separate. So we'll definitely work together for signage. And also actually so as to your previous question over I think it was completed last year there were some DEP rainwater containment projects that were overseen by DDC at the corner of Irving and Starr, the entrance there, we installed some green infrastructure elements over there, the right corner, as well as the corner of Knickerbocker and Suydam. We'll work together on the signage and stuff like that. Thank you.

Christian Celeste Tate: Just a quick follow up on the sequencing will the playground and the dog park construction be at the same time, or will those be one after another?

Answer: At the moment, we're going to have them at the same time, but we could phase them. It's just that when the contractor is out there, he needs to mobilize. So it's sort of a good use of time to do them both at the same time. But if we need to phase it, for certain reasons, we can work that into the contract.

Dustin Sonneborn: This is my first time living through a playground renovation when I care about it. My kid plays in the park every single day. And I'm wondering if you prepare the rest of the park for all these kids to be displaced every day. Are you going to improve some of the grass or clean up the whole park? Those kids are going to need somewhere to go. I'm wondering if you do any pre-planning for displacement?

Answer: That's a great question. And you know, we understand that the users of these sites during this time will be displaced. You know, there's playgrounds in the area. There's Grover Cleveland. We can't install play equipment in the park. Yeah, I mean, if there's broken bottles and things like that, that is more of an operational concern of which I'm from that division. So during this time during the construction, we will do our best to keep that kind of stuff going. This funding is not for operations. It's just specifically for this capital project. We strive to keep the park as clean as possible.

Zulma Novoa: I like the 1939 World Fair benches. My two-part question is out of 100% of this park usage, how much is going to be allocated for the dog park? Another question is, you mentioned bicycles and mopeds and everything. Maybe I misunderstood. But what is that applicable for the children to ride their bicycles? Or are we looking at adults as well. Thank you.

Answer: The money will be based on the size portion; the playground will get more money. I don't have the specific numbers at the moment. But what's great is that we can find both of these designs. It's just proportional to the square footage.

And then as far as biking goes, of course, kids are encouraged to bike. I'm just talking about adults on motor scooters that may use it as a cut through and trying to deter that with the centralized spray feature. It's very visible, so people will not be cutting through here. So hopefully that answers your question.

Felix Ceballos: explained the cost of reconstruction. The last one was for a different activity. Most of the time the same activity doesn't last long.

District Manager: If I can frame that as a question, could you tell us the shelf life for both of these or how long they're supposed to last?

Answer: Sure. So we do not choose sites that are being reconstructed. The sites are given to us from external parties. The choice of a site depends on the local elected officials and Mayor. We want this site to last as long as possible. It is supposed to last for decades.

Mr. Camacho: I don't have I have any questions for you. I just want to make sure that that the dog run will be used for the dog park because we advocated for funding the soccer field. And we wanted it to be fenced off. But I go and constantly the dogs are there. So you're going to spend \$1.3 million on a dog park and you're taking away the kid's soccer field that should have been permitted and we talked about that when you created it. Parks without borders. It's already torn and broken and it's less than a year and a half. Our tax dollars wasted. Just bringing the dogs in and letting them loose because the fence is out. So I don't know what we are claiming to who we catering to and why are we catering to the status quo. We need also officers, their enforcement, whether you like it or don't we need enforcement because you have the school across the street. You have got the churches on the other side. And the kids don't have that soccer field has been torn up. And adults using it when it was supposed to be 12 and under. Our kids deserve better. You have got to set the tone and what it is that we want in this community. We can do both. But you have to respect the kids and we have to respect those and that's what it's all about respect.

Joanna Fuentes: so I'm a little bit concerned as well because before the park used to be used as well for tournaments and for the summer youth, they were able to go there and do a lot of events. They had homeless activities where the youth would learn how to help the homeless. On top of that we have so much more crime now that we need parks so that we can keep our children safer and active.

Zachary Hendrickson: I appreciate the presentation. I share other's concerns about the difference in sort of allocation for you know, space for children as compared to dogs, but I usually address Chairman Camacho's comments, because I think you've talked about a lot of things and I think it's important for board members to understand too when we talked about weeds and we talked about maintenance of grass and things like this kind of literally putting my Parks hat on here that comes back not to capital funding necessarily, but actually to operations funding, which is exactly what the 1% for parks stuff that we heard several board meetings ago. I also want to just challenge all of us on this board to think differently a little bit maybe about what enforcement looks like, not all enforcement necessarily needs to be police officers. If there were more Parks uniformed officials walking around maintaining space consistently all the time, I think that's also something right, but that's nothing that can be accomplished through a capital budget. So that's why it's important for us to keep our eyes on city hall because we go into budget cycle coming up in the next couple of months. And I just want to make sure it's not about disagreeing with anything that's been said. But when all these issues kind of come up bundled

together, I think it's important that we try to pull them out and understand like, what the solutions are to the different pieces that we're seeing.

Jim: Great. I have my contact information there. I love talking about this stuff, a lot of talking about 1% It's what I do for it, so we all do, we Park people. We're technically halfway through and we're looking for Community Board approval and feedback specifically on this design so we can get a contractor on and keep us on track. As always, we're always fully able and ready to talk about any concerns, operational capital, anything like that.

Tashawna Wade: I would like to just piggyback on what Mr. Camacho was saying about the dog park. As far as having our children there, I believe that it should be more secure for our children.

District Manager: thanked Tashawna and noted that Parks could move on with the second part of the presentation.

Maria Hernandez Park Dog Run Reconstruction

Located on Irving Avenue and Knickerbocker Avenue between Starr Street and Suydam Street
Presented by: Rachel Kramer, NYC Parks

Dog Run - Goals

- Upgrade and improve the dog run
- Enhance and add to the environmental amenities of the site
- Improve access, circulation, and sight lines in the park

Dog Run - Community Priorities

Dog Run

canine turf, more seating, more shade, increase size

Safety

lighting, gates

Seating

benches at entrance, welcoming entryway

Accessibility

accessible walkways, accessible seating

Rachel: We had a very energetic and large turnout for the dog run of community input meeting which was great. And the goals of the project are to upgrade, improve the dog run and enhance and add to the environmental amenities and also improve access circulation and sightlines into the park. So we're focusing here on this side of the park adjacent to the new synthetic turf and adult fitness area. It's a heavily used dog run. The condition of the surface is a loose material. It's uneven, it's poor draining. We are going to address all those issues with the new design. There's one tree inside the dog run at the moment and some stumps that we will be removing. With the loose material there is an older flimsy plastic shaped structure well beyond its years that will be removed. The takeaways from the community meeting prioritize that we're going to have a nice even soft on the dog's feet while draining material called canine Tirpitz very similar

to synthetic turf that's used in the field accept it drains better. And we're going to have new lighting, garbage cans, and some dog amenities and adult amenities like accessible drinking fountains with a dog bowl. There'll be doggie bag dispensers. storage boxes, and lots of shaded seating.

Here's the revised design from when we met with the parks committee, still an enlarged dog run. The green is the canine turret which I said before was the road training soft material. Some of the comments from the parks committee were to make better accessibility from the entrances. So we reconfigured the vestibule areas a little bit to aid congestion and for better circulation. So right when you enter the large dog area, you'll get right onto some pavement that'll take you to accessible seating storage box drinking fountain you'll see that around the perimeter there's there'll be a total of 19 benches with large caliper trees being planted with large tree pits to aid with shade. And also a comment was to have an alternate relief area for dogs and in colder weather when there's no water, so we've included two spots. The dog park will be enclosed with eight-foot steel fences that are on the sidewalk. The rest of the park will have a four-foot-high steel fence. The two trees will have tree guards that are about three feet high, and you'll see the vestibule areas have been shifted a bit to sort of get people right out from the park into the dog run and to accessible areas for seating.

And then these are just some tallies of how we're improving the park with the square footage increasing, the seating is increasing, with 13 new trees which really enhance the park. When you're walking in this area it is pretty bare. We'll be using a similar palette for the legacy park. We found that the Central Park set is better for dogs' paws so we'll be using that only in the dog run space and then the other amenities will match the park. And you'll see here on the right we use a synthetic canine tropic in other dog parks and city shade tree will be choosing here as a silver linden we're looking to use a large caliber to get shade right away. And the permeability increases with the new design.

Q&A/Discussion:

Jessica Arocho: I want to ask with regards to the will you be replacing/replenishing [pet waste bags] as they finish?

Answer: So this kind of work is something that will be permanently changed in terms of the actual ground, the things on the ground. Things like that will provide a space or a spot for them. But ongoing those types of things would be in partnership with a dog run group, which there is a very robust and active dog run group that maintains this but specifically over like long term. We could probably work something out with bags, but it wouldn't be included in the capital project.

Tara Jones Thomas: So dogs are more important than humans? What about our children?

Answer: We're upgrading [the dog run] for dog owners. What I can say is that we get this funding allocated directly from the local elected officials. We don't decide the sites.

Zachary Hendrickson: The main question I have is about the alternate relief area. I use the park frequently so understand the flooding concerns and all of that. I don't really understand what this whole alternate relief area is. And that seems like it could get messy to put it lightly. So could you say a little bit more about what that's supposed to be?

Answer: So that was a request made at the parks committee meeting. There was a concern that when there's no water that the dogs would have a natural area to relieve themselves. At this point, it could possibly be a loose material or a very well drained material. You know, dog park users, people usually bring a bottle of water, you clean up after your dog. It was a request they were trying to accommodate. And it's in very small spots, places. It's about the size of a bench. So it's just a small space.

Kristine Malden: asked about the project timeline because it's supposed to be closed from spring 2025 to spring 2026.

Answer: Yeah. This is a unique situation. We have two separate sites that we're going to look into possibly phasing. It will be more attractive for a contractor to close both at the same time and that they need to mobilize once. It makes a lot more sense in terms of cost effectiveness to have this site close those two areas at the same time.

We started in June, the design process, that's a year so we're about you know, it's February now. So we're about three quarters through, about a year of design, and then a year of procurement to find that contractor. So that would be basically spring 24 into 25. We're still in the process, but the playground and dog run would be closed from spring 25 into spring 26.

District Manager: Thank you for the parks department. We appreciate you being here, and we will certainly follow up. That concludes our public hearing for this evening we will move on to our regular meeting agenda beginning with the first roll call. Board members please help yourself to some dinner quietly so that way we can keep moving with the roll call.

Regular Meeting:

1) First Roll Call:

Board Members in attendance: Isa Abney, Stephanie Anderson, Jo-Ena Bennett, Makeba S. Brown-Alleyne, Robert Camacho, Melissa Carrera-Solano, Felix Ceballos, Christian C. Tate, Elvena Davis, Freddy Fowler, Joanna Fuentes, Christopher Graham, Anne Guiney, Zachary Hendrickson, Barbara Jackson, Kyeshia Johnson, Virgie Jones, Tara Jones-Thomas, Edward Kopp, Kristine Malden, Raman Mama, Raul Rubio, Eliseo Ruiz, Dustin Sonneborn, Annette Spellin, James Steward, Ben Tocker

Board Members in attendance via a remote waiver: Cecilia Fabian, Tanesha Honeygan, Zulma Novoa, Barbara Smith, Jerry Valentin, Tashawna Wade

Excused: Luisa Jose, Katelin Penner, Milagros Sandoval, Jessica Tiburcio

Absent: Joshua Brown (remote-no waiver), Rawle Brown (remote-no waiver), Andrew Choi, Nicolas Kaplan, Mary McClellan, Desmonde Monroe, Maria Soler

26 board members present constitute a quorum.

2) Acceptance of the Agenda

Isa Abney made a motion to accept the agenda. It was seconded by Virgie Jones. All were in favor, so moved.

3) Acceptance of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Robert Camacho made a motion to accept the December meeting minutes and table the January minutes. It was seconded by John Steward. All were in favor, so moved.

4) Chairperson's Report

Mr. Camacho summarized his attendance at various events within the past month. He also shared that he helped run a basketball clinic at the Hope Gardens Community Center and that he received a letter in reference to a Mayoral Personnel Order. The district manager will receive a cost-of-living increase and the OMB sent a separate letter indicating additional personnel services (PS) funds will be added to the budget. He highlighted the difference in salaries compared to other district managers who are paid over \$100,000. He received a thank you letter from Mary Highsmith Dorsainvil in response to the condolence letter the board sent to be read at the funeral for her late husband.

He reminded the board members that it's time for reappointment. He also received two related letters, one from CB13 and another from 14. The district manager spoke briefly about the letter of comment for agency responses to budget requests. Raul Rubio, CB4 2nd Vice Chair, assisted with reviewing the responses and providing feedback.

Mr. Camacho lastly informed everyone about the open RiseBoro senior housing applications.

Borough President Antonio Reynoso:

Hello, everyone. Good evening. For those that don't know my name is Antonio Reynoso. I'm the president of the greatest borough in the city of New York and the former council member that represented Community Board 4 so I'm so happy to be here. I want to start off by saying Camacho is grinding. It is not an understatement. He is in Borough Hall sending me letters. We have a very good relationship personally because of my history here. But he doesn't let me get away with anything.

The BP also spoke about the following:

- His position as a reflection of the growth, influence, and power in north Brooklyn.
- Getting to know other neighborhoods and communities in Brooklyn.
- The letter sent to board members regarding term limits.
- Mayor Adams' City of Yes
- Bringing back the Bushwick Community Plan
- A project CB4 is working on related to board members/term limits and mentioned to him.

There were some questions for the Borough President and brief discussion.

I just wanted to say hello to everyone and thank you, Celeste, and thank you Chairman Camacho.

Elected Officials and Representatives:

Pablo Rivera, Assemblyman Erik Dilan
366 Cornelia Street, (718) 386-4576

Fran Sanhueza, Council Member Sandy Nurse
56 Pennsylvania Ave, (718) 642-8664

Maria Valdez, NYS Senator Julia Salazar
212 Evergreen Avenue, (718) 573-1726

Johnathan Betancourt, Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez
266 Broadway, Suite 201, (718) 599-3658

Juan Mayancela, Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez
244 Union Ave, (718) 963-3141

Evette Lopez, Assemblymember Maritza Davila
249 Wilson Ave, (718) 443-1275

Lacey Tauber, Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso
209 Joralemon Street, (718) 802-3700

City Agencies and Community-Based organizations:

David Desrosiers, Community Coordinator, New York City Commission on Human Rights
25 Chapel Street, Suite 1001, (718) 354-2467

Julio Medero, Community Dialogues NYC

83rd Precinct Report:

See above prior to the public hearing.

5) District Manager's Report

District Manager Celeste Leon updated the board members of the efforts the District Office.

Ms. Leon also summarized the various meetings and events she attended over the past month.

[Review the full District Manager's Report - February 2024](#)

6) Committee Reports

*Digital and/or hard copies are available upon request

[Civic/Public Safety/Religious](#) – Annette Spellén

*Economic Development + Housing and Land Use – Desmonde Monroe and Anne Guiney

*Anne shared that she did not prepare the report in time for the meeting.

[Environmental Protection/Transportation/Sanitation + Parks and Recreation](#) – Barbara Jackson

[Permits and Licenses](#) – Melissa Carrera-Solano

[Shape-Up Bushwick Planning](#) – James Steward

7) Recommendations

Parks and Recreation:

Recommendation to vote on the playground and dog run reconstruction projects together.

Motion: Mr. Camacho

Second: Edward Kopp

All were in favor, so moved.

Recommendation in favor of the committee's recommendation of approval for the playground and dog run reconstruction projects.

Motion: Edward Kopp

Second: Felix Ceballos

All in favor, so moved.

Housing and Land Use:

Recommendation for the district manager to consolidate feedback on the City of Yes for Economic Opportunity in a letter to City Planning.

Motion: Anne Guiney

Second: Melissa Carrera-Solano

All in favor, so moved.

Permits and Licenses:

Recommendation to blanket vote on all OCM application committee recommendations.

Motion: Edward Kopp

Second: Felix Ceballos

All in favor, so moved.

Recommendation to approve the committee recommendations for all OCM applications within the specified hours.

Motion: Edward Kopp

Second: Raul Rubio

All in favor, so moved.

Recommendation to blanket vote on all SLA application committee recommendations.

Motion: Edward Kopp

Second: Raul Rubio

All in favor, so moved.

Recommendation to approve the committee recommendations for all new SLA applications with the usual stipulations.

Motion: Robert Camacho

Second: Zachary Hendrickson

Abstentions: Stephanie Anderson

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Recommendation to approve the committee recommendations for all alteration and corporate change SLA applications.

Motion: Barbara Jackson

Second: Freddy Fowler

Abstentions: Stephanie Anderson

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Recommendation to approve the committee recommendation for new stipulated hours for new SLA license applicants – Sunday to Thursday until 12am and Friday and Saturday until 2am.

Motion: Edward Kopp

Second: Barbara Jackson

Abstentions: Zachary Hendrickson, Annette Spellman

Opposed: None

Motion carried.

Other:

Recommendation to send a letter to the Council Members about the Bushwick Community Plan.

Motion: Raul Rubio

Second: Anne Guiney

All in favor, so moved.

8) Old Business

None

9) New Business

None

10) Announcements

Dustin Sonneborn, CB4 Arts/Culture Technology Committee Chairperson

Flyers are in the back for the archive project. He asked the term limited board members to submit their stories. You can also email bushwickroots@gmail.com.

Lacey Tauber, Brooklyn Borough President's office

One update – the State of the Borough was rescheduled to Wednesday, March 13th at City Tech, 6pm.

Melanie Ayala, representing an organization supporting at-risk youth

This is her first community board meeting. She works for Growth Grow Out. They are so new they are still looking for a space to hold workshops, safety meetings, employment programs. She grew up in Williamsburg, although was part of the Bushwick community. Her email address is melanieayala1013@gmail.com.

Fran Sanhueza, Council Member Sandy Nurse's office

- HRA is coming to the office for Fair Fares on 3/8, sign up
- DOB will be there on the same day
- 3/1 Family Law Clinic – make an appointment online
- Resource Fair for the immigrant community on Saturday. A collaboration with Congresswoman Velazquez's office and El Puente at the RiseBoro Youth Center
- Tax Prep Fridays

Juan Mayancela, Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez's office

Community updates:

- Mobile office hours - Our office will be hosting Mobile Office hours on Friday at Riseboro Center located at 85 Melrose Street from 11 am to 3 pm. Please help spread the word!

- Tax Season is here - Our office has begun doing taxes for individuals who did were not employed last year, but receive social security, SSI, or welfare.
- Migrant Resource Fair - Our office will be attending the migrant resource fair that CM Nurse and CW Nydia Velazquez are hosting on Saturday.
- 10 Monteith Senior Housing w/ Los Sures - I am happy to announce that the applications for the Senior Building at 10 Monteith have opened. If any senior wants to apply, you can stop by on Thursdays from 11 am to 3 pm to apply.
- North Brooklyn Housing Task Force – Our office continues to work with other electeds, organizations, and city agencies to fight for tenant rights. If you have any housing questions, please contact our office.

Johnathan Betancourt

- HEAP is a federally funded program to help low-income New Yorkers, open until 3/15.
- The Affordable Connectivity Program assisted 70,000 people in the district lower their internet bill. Set to sunset in April. The member is sponsoring a bill for an extension.
- Postal issues – the member will be meeting with the USPS and advocate for patrons.
- Black History Month Celebration with Assemblywoman Davila's office – honoring CB4's Annette Spellman

Ralph Schweigger, Bronx community organizer now supporting comic bookstores. Curated a list of all comic bookstores in the five boroughs, urging people to go out and support the comic bookstores. In the spring and summer he will be doing tours. More information available on the handout provided. Businesses with commercial leases are at risk. Support the city and spread the word!

Nalisha Samlall, RiseBoro Neighborhood 360 Manager

Spring community cleanup series – Knickerbocker, Irving, Wilson and Wyckoff, every Saturday starting next month, 10am to 2pm. Flyers provided at the meeting.

Maria Valdez, NYS Senator Julia Salazar's office

A message from the Senator: the Senate passed a package for storm recovery bills on flood insurance and creates a dedicated office for flood prevention and mitigation.

- Also, 2/27 10am to 3pm, 212 Evergreen Avenue event with DOB
- 3/5 10am to 3pm Fair Fares Williamsburg Community Center
- Department of Finance at 1474 Gates 3/7 5pm to 8pm

Christopher Graham, CB4 member

Shared information about Growing 4ward, their college tour on 4/27. 25th year. Another student graduating from Bushwick. Workshop on 3/9. College is not for everybody, education is. The workshop will be on trades and other disciplines. Flyers provided.

Zachary Hendrickson, CB4 member

It's budget season for the city council. We rely on city agencies. If they are defunded, then how are they going to help us? Major launch of The People's Plan on March 6th at the Tweed Building to advocate for care, not cuts. Make sure we're putting pressure on our elected officials and Mayor to make sure they're doing right by us.

Cecilia Fabian, CB4 member and small business owner

I'm a founding mother of Lambda Theta Nu and creator of Chila for fun eco-friendly knit wear. Inviting you all to visit at 963 Bushwick Avenue, Tuesday through Sunday until 8pm. Provides mentoring to youth and artists. DM @chilaforfun.

11) Second Roll Call

Board Members in attendance: Ben Tocker, James Steward, Annette Spellin, Dustin Sonneborn, Eliseo Ruiz, Raul Rubio, Raman Mama, Kristine Malden, Edward Kopp, Tara Jones-Thomas, Virgie Jones, Kyeshia Johnson, Barbara Jackson, Zachary Hendrickson, Anne Guiney, Christopher Graham, Joanna Fuentes, Freddy Fowler, Elvena Davis, Christian C. Tate, Felix Ceballos, Melissa Carrera-Solano, Robert Camacho, Makeba S. Brown-Alleyne, Jo-Ena Bennett, Stephanie Anderson, Isa Abney

Board Members in attendance via a remote waiver: Tashawna Wade, Jerry Valentin, Zulma Novoa, Tanesha Honeygan, Cecilia Fabian,

Excused: Jessica Tiburcio, Milagros Sandoval, Katelin Penner, Luisa Jose,

Absent: Maria Soler, Barbara Smith, Desmonde Monroe, Mary McClellan, Nicolas Kaplan, Andrew Choi, Rawle Brown, Joshua Brown

12) Adjournment

Elvena Davis made a motion to adjourn. Raul Rubio seconded the motion. All in favor, so moved.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:12pm