

Brooklyn Community Board 4
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 16, 2024 6pm

Hope Gardens Older Adult Center
195 Linden Street
Zoom

Chairperson: Robert Camacho
District Manager: Celestina León

Meeting Start: 6:05pm

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

Public Hearing:

- 1) NYC Department of Sanitation Residential Containerization Update** – Marissa Yanni, Community Affairs representative for the Department of Sanitation, provided a summary of upcoming changes to residential containerization:

- Starting November 12th, 2024, buildings with 1-9 residential units must containerize their trash. Existing bins with lids are acceptable. NYC official bins are not required until June 1st, 2026.
- Fines for businesses with repeat sidewalk obstruction violations will increase: second offense from \$100 to \$300, third and subsequent offenses to \$500.

Q&A with the Board and Public:

- Clarification on bin requirement dates and types.
- Concerns about stolen bins – no current city program for replacement.
- Handling of bulk and construction waste.
- No limit on the number of bins per property.
- Issues with bins ordered in July not being received – advised to check with Otto, the bin supplier.
- Clarification on responsibility for receptacles for mixed-use buildings.
- Composting requirements – mandatory for yard waste starting January 2025, food scraps in Spring 2025.
- Inquiry about recycling old bins.

- 2) NYC Campaign Finance Board Ballot Proposals Presentation** – Isabelle Chandler, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager at the CFB, presented information on the 2024 ballot

proposals. Key dates: early voting starts October 26th, voter registration deadline October 26th, absentee ballot request deadline October 26th, election day November 5th.

Q&A with the Board and Public:

- Clarification on Proposal 2 and its implications for DSNY enforcement.
- Discussion on the mayor's power and control over DSNY enforcement.
- Concerns about the proposals being a power grab by the mayor.
- Confirmation that voting will be a simple yes or no for each proposal.

[View the presentation.](#)

3) CB4 Annual Budget Hearing – an overview of proposed capital and expense budget priorities for Bushwick.

Civic, Public Safety, Religious: Surveillance cameras at Bushwick Playground, additional uniform officers, more firefighters/EMS workers.
District Office: More community board staff.

Economic Development: Investment in infrastructure along Broadway, Myrtle, Knickerbocker, and Wyckoff Avenues; support for merchants on Broadway; public investment in Broadway, Myrtle, and Wyckoff Avenues.

Health, Human Services, Senior Citizens, Veterans: Address mental health issues, address rat and mosquito populations, expand street outreach for the homeless, enhance senior center programs.

Housing and Land Use: More housing for low-income households, expand housing inspections and code enforcement, hire additional building inspectors.

- Discussion on zoning concerns, affordability, homeowner programs, and the need for youth recreation facilities.
- Request for the city to evaluate infrastructure capacity.

Environmental Protection, Transportation, Sanitation: Reconstruct Broadway, Myrtle, and Wyckoff Avenues; elevator installations at DeKalb and Wilson Avenue subway stations; inspect sewer on Wilson Avenue; clean catch basins; increase graffiti removal and cleaning; more frequent garbage/recycling pickup for schools; enforce K9 waste laws; educate residents about recycling/composting; fund public drop-off sites for electronics, textiles, etc.

- Concern about ponding water and ice conditions.

Parks and Recreation: Upgrade/reconstruct comfort station in Maria Hernandez Park; new/expanded playground in Irving Square Park; enhance park safety with more Parks

Enforcement Patrol staff; forestry services; improve trash removal.

Recommendation for stronger fencing around parks.

- Note about maintenance and operations staff request
- Youth and Education: Create/renovate/upgrade public libraries (DeKalb and Washington Irving branches); expand after-school programs.

4) **NYC Parks Irving Square Park Proposed Dog Run Presentation** – Jim Morris (Brooklyn Parks) and designers Kim and David presented the schematic design for a new dog run in Irving Square Park, funded by Council Member Sandy Nurse.

- Project Timeline: Design phase (current), procurement, construction (estimated 2026).
- Dog run location: Knickerbocker and Hart Street corner.
- Reasons for location choice: Grade change and tree preservation concerns at the current informal dog run area
- Features: Separate small dog and all dog areas, entrance on sidewalk side away from playground, drinking fountains, hose bibs, seating, lighting, double fencing on sidewalk side, 5-foot fence along playground side, planting buffer, restoration of the southern lawn area.

Q&A with the Board and Public:

- Question about the location choice.
- Concerns about maintenance and park hours.
- Question about the cost and impact on children's amenities. \$4 million has been allocated for playground renovations.
- Support from Irving Square Puppies (community dog group) and Friends of Irving Square Park.
- Concerns about fence height.
- Clarification on fence heights and design.
- Question about time limits for dog run use – no time limits.

[View the presentation.](#)

Regular Meeting:

1) **First Roll Call**

Members Present: Isa Abney, Stephanie Anderson, Jo-Ena Bennett, Robert Camacho, Felix Ceballos, Elvena Davis, Kerina Dodd, Cecilia Fabian, Freddy Fowler, Jason Gers, Christopher Graham, Anne Guiney, Zachary Hendrickson, Barbara Jackson, Kyeshia Johnson, Tara Jones-Thomas, Luisa Jose, Kristine Malden, Freddie Mattison, Romicka Nichols-Barnes, Raul Rubio, Eliseo Ruiz, Milagros Sandoval, Annette Spellin, James Steward, Christian C. Tate, Ben Tocker, Jerry Valentin, Linda Whitfield

Members present with a remote waiver: Andrew Choi, Deborah Hicks, Jerry Valentin

Excused: Makeba S. Brown-Alleyne, Melissa Carrera-Solano, Joanna Fuentes-Singh, Tanesha Honeygan, Virgie Jones, Desmonde Monroe, Alex Móreno

Absent: Jacqueline Becerra, Mary McClellan, Zulma Novoa, Carlos Ortiz, Katelin Penner, Vernedeaner Shell, Barbara Smith

Resigned: Jessica Tiburcio

2) Acceptance of the Agenda

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

3) Acceptance of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Zachary Hendrickson made a motion to accept the previous meeting minutes. It was seconded by Raul Rubio. All were in favor, so moved.

[September 2024 Minutes](#)

4) Chairperson's Report

Mr. Camacho summarized his activities and meetings attended, including community events, walk-throughs, meetings with elected officials and agencies, and town halls. He raised concerns about a proposed change to the City Charter regarding the appointment and removal of community board district managers.

Elected Officials and Representatives:

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

Angelica Colon, Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez
244 Union Avenue, (718) 963-3141

Jonathan Pomboza, Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez
350 Jay St, (347) 986-6146

Jackie Reyes, Assemblymember Erik Dilan
366 Cornelia Street, (718) 386-4576

Carol-Ann Church, Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso
209 Joralemon Street, (718) 802-3700

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

City Agencies and Community-Based organizations:

Joe Tonelli, Friends of Irving Square Park

irvingsquarepark@gmail.com

Latisha Conley, Stockholm Family Residence

Businesses:

Varun Kataria, Turk's Inn/The Sultan Room and Xanadu
234 Starr Street and 262 Starr Street,

Kae Burke, House of Yes
2 Wyckoff Avenue, (585) 217-7209

Carla Wang, Saint Michel Cafe
462 Irving Avenue, (929) 356-6428

Brittany Henry, Catering Hall
1504 Bushwick Avenue

Matthew Queme, opening a new business
673 Hart Street

83rd Precinct Report - Captain David Poggioli, Commanding Officer
Captain Poggioli reported on crime statistics (overall decrease), highlighted efforts to address smoke shops and moped confiscations, and discussed plans for the holiday season (retail theft and package deliveries). A new Community Affairs Officer for the 83rd Precinct was also introduced.

5) District Manager's Report

Ms. León began her report with acknowledgements of Indigenous Peoples' Day and various awareness months (Breast Cancer Awareness, Emotional Wellness, and World Bullying Prevention). She then highlighted the current focus on preparing the annual Statement of Community District Needs and Budget Requests. She announced the addition of 17 new public members to board committees, reminding attendees that these members contribute to quorum and recommendations but do not have voting privileges. Ms. León encouraged those interested in learning more about public member participation to consult the board's website or contact the district office.

She emphasized the importance of recognizing the board's power to influence change by quoting Alice Walker: "The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." This served as a transition to discussing her recent activities, which included: participating in a meeting with the Need Landmarks Coalition, advocating for increased preservation efforts in underserved neighborhoods; ongoing engagement with Riseboro's monthly Property Management meetings, aiming to address tenant concerns and hold Riseboro accountable; and continued involvement with the Future of

Community Boards Working Group and the CB Term Limit project, with the goal of securing support from the Borough President and potentially the Citywide President. She promised to share updates on these projects as they progress.

6) Committee Reports

*Digital and/or hard copies are available upon request

[Annual Budget](#) - CB4 Executive Board

[Economic Development + Housing and Land Use](#) - Anne Guiney

[Environmental Protection/Transportation/Sanitation + Parks and Recreation](#) - Christian Celeste Tate and Ben Tocker

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

7) Recommendations

Environmental Protection, Transportation, Sanitation

Recommendation: Motion to vote in approval of Gordo Cantina's dining out application with stipulations: maintain 12 feet of sidewalk clearance, outdoor dining ends at 10pm, no amplified music outdoors, and post local jobs on CB4's job board.

Motion: Elvena Davis

Second: Isa Abney

All in favor, so moved.

Recommendation: Motion to write a letter to DOT in support of converting Ridgewood Place (between Putnam and Palmetto) to a one-way street.

Motion: Jason Gers

Second: Felix Ceballos

All in favor, so moved.

Permits and Licenses

Recommendation: Motion for a blanket vote.

Motion: Eliseo Ruiz

Second: Christian C. Tate

All in favor, so moved.

Recommendation: Approval of all applications with stipulations as outlined in the committee report, including:

- 233 Star Street: Approval with additional soundproofing measures.

- 421 Troutman Street: Approval with stipulations to provide documentation throughout the project, including a letter of public interest, and to engage with the community.
- 1271 Myrtle Avenue: Approval of corporate change.
- 1443 Myrtle Avenue: Approval of corporate change pending submission of amended documentation.

Motion: Stephanie Anderson

Second: Isa Abney

Opposed: Elvena Davis

Abstained: Raul Rubio

Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation

Recommendation: Motion to write a letter of support for the Irving Square Park dog run with stipulations for increased fence height and improved enforcement.

Motion: Annette Spellen

Second: Barbara Jackson

All in favor, so moved.

CB4 Annual Budget Hearing

Recommendation: Motion to accept the annual budget requests as presented by the committee chairpersons.

Motion: Robert Camacho

Second: Annette Spellen

Opposed: Zachary Hendrickson

Motion carried.

8) Old Business

None

9) New Business

None

10) Announcements

Annette Spellen, CB4 Member: Reminded everyone about the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walks in Manhattan (October 20th) and Brooklyn (October 27th).

Cecilia Fabian, CB4 Member Emerita: Invited attendees to visit her shop at 963 Bushwick Avenue, selling knitwear and crochet wear. Open Tuesday-Sunday, 12pm-8pm.

Raphaelo Brown: Introduce a new event space called Brosha House at 786 Knickerbocker Avenue (formerly Rafael Espinal's headquarters), open since March.

Juanita James (Washington Irving Branch - Branch Library) and Assistant Manager (DeKalb Branch - Brooklyn Public Library): Highlighted library events and programs, including Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, expanded ESL classes, Reading Set Go kindergarten program (ages 3-5), Freedom to Read Day of Action (October 17th), chess for kids, and a creative aging craft program for seniors culminating in a celebration on November 12th at 4:30pm at the DeKalb branch.

Maria Valdez (Senator Julia Salazar's Office): Announced a mobile adoption event on November 2nd (12pm-4pm) at 212 Evergreen Avenue and the opening of the Home Energy Assistance Program on November 1st.

Nyree Smith (Canvas Brooklyn - Youth Against Substance Misuse Coalition): Introduced Canvas Brooklyn, a coalition serving LGBTQ+ youth and young adults (ages 13-29), focusing on substance misuse prevention and harm reduction, particularly regarding alcohol. Highlighted their Reducing Alcohol Access to Minors (RAM) campaign and efforts to partner with businesses to provide ID scanners, improve cooler organization, and implement multilingual labeling. Also mentioned art programs. Contact: 929-627-3649.

Tanisha (Bureau of Neighborhood Health): Announced plans to offer diabetes management classes in Bushwick, seeking host sites for the once-weekly, five-week program. Contact: 718-637-5226.

Christian Celeste Tate (standing in for Fran from Council Member Nurse's office): Reminded everyone about Participatory Budgeting (PB), encouraging submission of ideas for budget allocation. Noted Bushwick's high participation rate in previous years.

Christian Celeste Tate: Announced a community building disc golf event in Irving Square Park on October 27th (11am-1pm).

Joe (Friends of Irving Square Park): Reiterated the importance of Participatory Budgeting, suggesting it as a means to propose park improvements. Announced the Irving Square Park farmers market, running through November, offering fresh produce and opportunities for community engagement.

Dwayne Frankson: Promoted a free online workshop, "Ignite Organizational Success 2025," focused on strategic planning for organizations. 90-minute session.

Zachary Hendrickson (NYC Democratic Socialists of America): Invited everyone to an election watch party at Starbar (214 Starr Street) on November 5th.

Jasmine Guanoquisa (La Hueca Ecuatoriana): Invited attendees to visit her Ecuadorian restaurant at 1443 Myrtle Avenue.

Celestina Leon: Announced the Community Board Member Workshop on October 31st, hosted by the State Liquor Authority, focusing on agency practices and advocacy. Announced the opening of the community board application season, reminding members with expiring terms to reapply and encouraging community members to apply and participate.

Celestina Leon (on behalf of Danielle Chambers and KBE Kote): Announced the Bushwick Film Festival, October 16th-20th, offering a 50% discount code (BushwickCommunity) for community members.

11) Second Roll Call

Members Present: Ben Tocker, Christian C. Tate, James Steward, Annette Spellin, Milagros Sandoval, Eliseo Ruiz, Raul Rubio, Romicka Nichols-Barnes, Freddie Mattison, Kristine Malden, Luisa Jose, Tara Jones-Thomas, Kyeshia Johnson, Barbara Jackson, Zachary Hendrickson, Anne Guiney, Christopher Graham, Jason Gers, Freddy Fowler, Cecilia Fabian, Kerina Dodd, Elvena Davis, Felix Ceballos, Robert Camacho, Jo-Ena Bennett, Stephanie Anderson, Isa Abney

Members present with a remote waiver: Jerry Valentin, Deborah Hicks, Andrew Choi (sound issue), Jacqueline Becerra

Excused: Alex Móreno, Desmonde Monroe, Virgie Jones, Tanesha Honeygan, Joanna Fuentes-Singh, Melissa Carrera-Solano, Makeba S. Brown-Alleyne

Absent: Linda Whitfield, Barbara Smith, Vernedeaner Shell, Katelin Penner, Carlos Ortiz, Zulma Novoa, Mary McClellan

12) Adjournment

Barbara Jackson made a motion to adjourn. Raul Rubio seconded the motion. All present were in favor, so moved.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:17pm