The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, MARCH 28, 2017
BRONX MUSEUM OF THE ARTS
1040 Grand Concourse & East 165th Street
Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Mr. John Howard Algarin, Mr. Rolando Aviles, Ms. Naimah Bilal, Ms. Beverly Bond, Mr. Maynard Charles, Ms. Brenda Dawson, Mr. Gregory A. Delts, Mr. John Fielder, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Ms. Frances Hudson-Marrow, Ms. Mildred James, Mr. Mohammed Mardah, Ms. Marie McCullough, Bishop Earl McKay, Ms. Connie Morales, Mr. Leandro Monzon, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Ms. Zonia Ortiz, Ms. Martha Reyes, Ms. Yohanny Rincon, Mr. Jimmy Rivera, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr., Ms. Lilliam Rosa, Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Mr. Ernest Serrano, Mr. Jackson Strong, Dr. Grace Zarate.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:
Mr. Napoleon Black, Mr. Walter Harris, Ms. Nurys Laureano, Ms. Teresa Wright.

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Ms. Ramatu Ahmed, Ms. Sherrise Palomino, Ms. Ruby Santana, Mr. Eric Soto, Mr. Muhammed Suleman.

STAFF:
Mr. Paul Philips, District Manager
Ms. Lynne Thompson, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rodríguez, Senior Secretary

ELECTED OFFICIALS:
Mr. Joshua Cortes, representing Mayor Bill DeBlasio
Ms. Waheera Mardah, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
Ms. Shayra Reyes, representing Congressman Jose E. Serrano
Ms. Bharati Kemraj, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Ms. Farhana Hassan, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano
Ms. Annalicia Finol, representing NYS Senator Gustavo Rivera
Ms. Miriam Tabb, representing NYS Assemblywoman Latoya Joynier
Mr. Dion Powell, representing NYS Assemblyman Michael Blake
Ms. Gloria Cruz, representing NYC Councilwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito
Ms. Stacy Strong, representing NYC Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson

GUEST PRESENT:
Mr. Vicente A-D'Blass Restaurant, Mr. Elvis M. Silverio-M&U Catering, Mr. Matt Arancio-NYCDOT, Ms. Wanda Ellis-Post Graduate Center for Mental Health, Ms. Martha Alvarez-Chances for Children, Mr. Juan Cabrera-Resident, Ms. Jessica Walker-Resident, Ms. Marlin DeJesus-BronxWorks, Ms. Sherita Smith-Neighborhood Charter School Harlem, Ms. Charlene Green-NYCDOT, Ms. Betty Crawford-44th Precinct Council President, Ms. Jenina Podulka-Community Food Action New Settlement Apartments, Ms. Taisy Conk-Community Food Action New Settlement Apartments, Mr. Anthony Matalis-Self, resident of district, Mr. Jorge Valencia-Arby JAVA, Mr. Eric Klein-Resident, Mr. Erol Liguori-Casa De Cuba, Mr. Jason A. Caraballo-Montefiore Health System, Ms. Rud Morales-Budda, Mr. Quinn Kelly-NYCDOT, Mr. Kyle Gebhart-NYCDOT, Mr. Rob Thompson-NYC Transit, Ms. Jacqueline Carter-NYC Transit, Mr. Richard Rodríguez-NYS Courts, Mr. George Keveson-NYS Courts, Ms. Flo Canada-DYCD, Ms. Ellen Harvey-CVSA, Ms. Kara Lych-Resident, Mr. Kaushawn Bowens-CRF Cluster Model Program, Ms. Yolanda Roberts-CRF Cluster Model Program, Mr. Frank Soto-NAICA, Mr. Lon Wilson-City Park Foundation, Sgt. Darrell Cross-NYS Courts, Mr. Matthew Serrano-NYS Courts, Mr. Harvel Bernard-NYS Courts, Ms. Nicole Jordan-NYCDHS, Ms. Rosie Pettway-Resident, Mr. Mouhamed Kaba-Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, Detective Roger Bennett-NYPD 44th Precinct, Mr. Daniel García-McGuire-Pre-K for all Team, Ms. Ariela Heilman-Resident, Ms. Kate Landon-Resident, Ms. Evelyn Rivera-President 11 West 172 Street Tenants Association, Ms. Arlene Hall-Waisburd-St. Simeon Episcopal Church, Mr. Isidro Suriel-Resident, Ms. Marissa Jackson-Resident, Mr. Joseph Jenkins-AbundantLifeU, Bronx Borough Commissioner Nivardo Lopez-NYCDOT, Ms. Josphine Ofili-Resident, Ms. Rosemary Ofili-Resident, Mr. Eddie Small-DNA Info.
Public Session
1. Stacy Strong from Vanessa Gibson’s office. Opportunity to vote for the NYC Council $1 million Participatory Budget for our district.

2. Jason Caraballo – Montefiore Medical Center. April 1, 2017 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm the Inaugural Adaptive Sports Open House at 3225 Reservoir Oval East. Sponsored by the Department of Physical Medicine at Montefiore and NYC Parks Department. April 29, 2017 – Run for the Wild 5K run at the Bronx Zoo starting at 8:00 am.


4. Jenina Podulka – Community Food Action at New Settlement Apartments. New farm stand will be available at 170th Street and Townsend Avenue. The schedule is to be determined; however, it will run from July to November.


6. Mouhamed Kaba – Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs. IDNY pop up at Councilmember Vanessa Gibson’s office.

7. Daniel Garcia-McGuire, Bronx Borough Manager for the NYC Department of Education. Pre-K for All. Application period: March 27th to May 9th. For more info: 212-637-8030 or dgarciamcguire@schools.nyc.gov.

8. Darrell Cross, NYS Court Officer Sergeant. Role and benefits to community. Vital part of the community. Concerned over parking area near the courthouse on the Grand Concourse and therefore looking for parking accommodation.

Welcoming remarks and announcements by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. She called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 70 Section 2800 of the City Charter the actions and procedures of Community Boards and their committees are governed by the applicable provisions of the City Charter and New York State Open Meetings Law (OML, Section 100-111 of the New York State Public Officers Law) and Freedom of Information Law (FOIL, Section 84-90 of the Public Officers Law). Each Community Board shall meet at least once each month. Community Board 4 shall meet every fourth (4th) Tuesday of the month. This Tuesday, March 28, 2017, the meeting is held at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by Bishop Earl McKay.

Motion to Review/Correct/Adopt of General Board Meeting: Ms. Mildred James motioned to accept the minutes of February 28, 2017 and it was seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen. The motion carries.

District Manager’s Report
- We encourage everyone to attend these upcoming events:
  o Public hearing for the Lower Concourse North next month.
  o Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Study in the coming months.
Board Member Action
The following action is being taken by the Board. The removal of Mr. Eric Soto from the Board due to absence and non-participation. He has received all notification leading to this action. Ms. Martha Reyes motioned for the removal of Eric Soto and Ms. Lilliam Rosa seconded said motion. After the vote, the motion carries.

Presentation: Chances for Children – Liz Buckner & Martha Alvarez.
The program offers free programs for parents with children ages 0-4 years of age. They have locations in Highbridge at 1178 Anderson Avenue, Kingsbridge, Mott Haven and Hunts Point. They’re a group of well-trained psychotherapists. There is no reimbursement from Medicaid or take any insurance. They work on referrals from different sources. Their mission is to help parents and children develop strong relationships. This is done through a 15-week process. Additional information is available at 917-441-0119 or www.chancesforchildren-ny.org.

Presentation: NYDOT’s School Safety Group – NYC Department of Transportation and NYC Department of City Planning. – Quinn Kelly. The Group is requesting a Letter of Support.
- Jerome Avenue/Cross Bronx Expressway
  - Part of Vision Zero to reduce fatalities
  - Propose to enlarge pedestrian spaces by adding two new crosswalks across Jerome Avenue at the eastbound entrance.
  - Signal improvement to help with the flow of traffic.
  - New concrete curb extensions.
  - Wheelchair accessible islands/refuge.

- Added E. 170th Street & Wythe Place (near tunnel) because of additional funding.
  - Adding medium tip extensions

- E. 170th Street & Morris Avenue (the other end of the tunnel).
  - Similar to Wythe Place but also adding a refuge island.

- E. 174th Street & Morris is too wide (60 ft.).
  - Add a pedestrian refuge island.

- E. 174th Street & Walton Avenue
  - Add two concrete curb extensions

- Looking at ways to improve pedestrian safety.
Ms. Mildred James motioned to give a LOS to NYDOT for improvements to Jerome Avenue/Cross Bronx Expressway and the added locations at E. 170th Street & Wythe Place, E. 170th Street & Morris Avenue, E. 174th Street & Morris Avenue and E. 174th Street & Walton Avenue as per the presentation made before Community Board. Dr. Grace Zarate seconded the motion. After the vote, the motion carries.

Presentation: Design and Implementation of BX6 SBS (Select Bus Service) – NYC Department of Transportation and Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). – Rob Thompson & Kyle Gebhart
- Plans for improvement of BX6 bus along 161st Street. This will increase bus speed by 30 percent. It is more reliable and will add improvements to the corridor.
- Features of SBS:
  - Dedicated red bus lanes
  - Signal priorities (communication with buses & DOT traffic signal)
  - Farebox at sidewalk.
Two SBS stops within CB4 at Jerome & Morris Avenues.

Proposed design for SBS at 161st Street:

- Improvements throughout corridor
- BX6SBS will provide express service while BX6 will continue to be local.
- Address narrow sidewalks, double parking, parking at bus stop and huge congestion.

**Initial Plan:**
- Install median bus way.
- Install a bus boarding island aligned with the bus way.
- Tunnel becomes bus only.
- Boarding lane in center of the street.
- Remove curbside bus lanes.
- Works well for eastbound but has a large traffic impact going westbound.

**Proposed Plan:**
- The plan would be similar to the initial plan but would allow traffic to go westbound through the tunnel.
- Widen narrow sidewalks.
- Extend sidewalk on norther portion facing East with concrete.
- On the southern portion will add a temporary sidewalk.
- Add additional signal time and increase by 51 seconds.
- Capital reconstruction of 161st Street.

Effects will launch on July 2017.

**Presentation:** The Neighborhood Charter School of Harlem, Sherita Smith, Director of Operations

This organization is requesting a Letter of Support for a request to open a second charter school in the Bronx for grades Kindergarten to 8th grade in District 7. It offers a specialized program for autism and disabilities. They currently have two locations in Harlem. The Committee motioned to grant a LOS to the Neighborhood Charter School. It was seconded by Ms. Zonia Ortiz. The motion carries.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES- HOUSING & LAND USE- MUNICIPAL SERVICES & EDUCATION- PARKS- YOUTH SERVICES**

**Economic Development Committee** - The Committee reviewed the following NYS Liquor Authority applications as follows:

1. *La Estrella*, 1470 Jerome Avenue, **Renewal**, Committee motioned for a Letter of Support, seconded by Dr. Zarate. The motion carries.


3. *Budda*, 1353 Edward L. Grant Hwy, **New Application**, Has been working with the Board and 44th Precinct to correct and address issues that have been a concern such as parking and hours. Committee motioned and Dr. Zarate seconded the motion for a Letter of Support. The motion passes.

The Committee Chair, Ms. Bond, extended an invitation to everyone to attend committee meetings.

**Municipal Services Committee** - Department of Transportation presentation for the Select Bus Service BX6; and for street safety improvements at Jerome Avenue/Cross Bronx.

**Housing & Land Use Committee** - No Report. Attend the committee the first Monday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Murray Cohen Auditorium.

**Parks and Recreation Committee** - Invited the community to the Committee’s meeting the first Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Murray Cohen Auditorium. Focusing on priorities along the Lower Concourse North development and issues with parks as the season takes off. Issues such as hot coals and dog poop. We are intensely working on developing waterfront pathways from the George Washington Bridge to new development connecting to the Lower Concourse North. Our target is the MTA depot at the waterfront and Deegan Expressway.
**Health Services Committee** – Committee had a presentation by the Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. The program is looking for volunteers to assist in nursing homes which are underserved. The state will provide the free training. Additionally, the 13th Annual Health Summit will be held at Hostos Community College on April 5, 2017. Also, The Department of Mental Hygiene is sponsoring a Family Health Wellness at 1826 Arthur Avenue. The free workshops include, pre-natal and yoga among other services. In order to participate, registration is required.

**Youth Services & Education** - The Committee had a presentation by the Neighborhood Charter School. There will be a joint meeting on April 10, 2017 with Health and Economics Committees.

**Report by Bronx Borough President’s Office represented by Bharati Kemraj**

- Gifted and Talented Study hearing.
- Greek Heritage event
- Women’s History Celebration
- Upcoming events: Italian Heritage and Puerto Rican Heritage.
- Office contact number is 718-590-2653.

**Report by Local Elected Officials or their representatives.**

*Congressman Jose E. Serrano represented by Shayra Reyes*

- March 31, 2017 – Women’s History Month Celebration at the Bronx Museum of the Arts from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

*Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson represented by Stacy Strong*

- IDNYC at district office until April 6, 2017.
- Tenant Support Unit every third Tuesday of the month.
- March 29, 2017 – Free Legal Services in front of district office.
- April 8, 2017 – State of the District Address at Morris High School at 12:00 pm.

*Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner represented by Miriam Tabb*

- April 8, 2017 - Free Tax Preparation for families with income below $54,000 (with children) or $30,000 or less (no children) at 910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK from 10 am to 5 pm.

*Assemblyman Michael Blake represented by Dion Powell*

- Recently elected for Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee
- Latino Conference in Albany
- Fiscal Year Budget - $153 billion budget proposal
  - $500 million for NYCHA funding
  - $100 million Mitchell-Lama funding
  - Raise the Age
  - My Brother’s Keeper
- American Entrepreneurship Awards
  - Accepting applications for office internship

NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer represented by Waheera Mardah
  - Bureau of Public Affairs is looking for college interns. This is a paid position which entails approximately 20 hours per week. Must be a current college student. Deadline is March 31, 2017. Information is available at comptroller.nyc.gov or email resumes or recommendations to wmardah@comptroller.nyc.gov.

- Aging With Dignity Report
- Art Endowment Report

Report by 44th Precinct – Detective Bennett
  - March 30, 2017 - Sean McDonald memorial mass at Christ the King at 10:00 am.
  - April 12, 2017 – 44th Precinct Council Meeting at Andrew Friedman Home at 7:00 pm.
  - April 1, 2017 - Explorers Program attending the Family Affairs event at The Bronx Museum of the Arts from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Announcements: None

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.
Prepared and submitted by Ms. L. Rosa.