

Zoning for Flood Resilience Workshop

Southern Brooklyn @ Coney Island YMCA

Location: Coney Island YMCA – 2980 W. 29th St

Date: Wednesday October 18th, 6:30–8:30 pm

DCP Staff // Zoning: Manuela Powidayko/Jean You, Waterfront and Open Space: Melissa Herlitz/Dana Bennewitz/Allan Zaretsky, Brooklyn Office: Catie Ferrara/Daphne Lundi/Amritha Mahesh/Alexandra Paty Diaz, Urban Design: Ryan Jacobson

Other Agency Staff // Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency: Sam Hersch, New York City Office of Emergency Management: Karen Thomas/Lisa Blake, NYC Parks: Mitchel Loring/James Cruickshank, New York City Housing Authority: Onel Hidalgo/Habib Ahmed, New York City Housing Recovery Office: Stan Gabriel

Co-Sponsors // Council Member Mark Treyger, Brooklyn Community Board 13

Attendees // Ari Kagan, Alvin Ubell, Habib Ahmed, R. Spencer, Jeuguere Golib, Mary Navarro, Beth Malone, Lucy Acevedo, Louis Kleinman, Kumali Zairee, Faye Lewin Neil, Charles Denson, Melissa Fox, James Cruickshank, Julia Kalakis, Marnee Elias Pavia, Anita Garcia, Annette Wesley, Jenny Mai, Yvonne Mayo, Council Member Mark Treyger

Workshop Description

Summary

The Department of City Planning hosted an informational meeting and workshop about floodplain design and development. Following a short presentation on zoning rules that were adopted after Hurricane Sandy to facilitate resilient buildings, participants had the opportunity to share their ideas on how to shape a future update to these rules to advance resiliency in South Brooklyn and across the city. Participants could also meet with Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency, Office of Emergency Management, NYCHA, and FloodHelpNY.org

Goals

1. Educate the public about zoning for flood resilience;
2. Educate the public about resources available to property owners and residents for flood resilient construction;
3. Learn about resilience strategies in South Brooklyn buildings;
4. Establish urban design priorities for South Brooklyn and other coastal neighborhoods;
5. Collect feedback on how zoning can help achieve building-scale resiliency.



Summary of Main Takeaways

Urban design priorities for South Brooklyn and other coastal neighborhoods –

- Residents want zoning flexibility for streetscape, yard and plantings, covered porches, stair turns, and urban design requirements
- Residents shared that they were interested in urban design mitigations for their homes, including porches and lattices, but did not always have the option to add these features to their homes if they were enrolled in one of the City's housing recovery programs

Feedback on how zoning can help achieve building-scale resiliency –

- Would like zoning to require raised mechanicals to not be visible from the street
- Supportive of the option of storage and parking on the ground floor

Feedback on non-zoning resiliency issues -

- Some participants mentioned difficulty working with recovery agencies, and would have rebuilt differently; some discussed wanting to improve the designs provided by one of the City's housing recovery programs, but even with their own money were unable to upgrade or over-elevate
- Some participants mentioned the need for a greater range of affordable mitigation strategies, particularly for buildings that cannot be easily elevated
- There were a lot of questions and interest around understanding flood insurance, and many signed up to receive information from FloodHelpNY/NHS Brooklyn when the resiliency audits become available to Coney Island and Brighton Beach homeowners in November

