1. Presentation

Introduction to Volunteer Services Provided, American Red Cross
Anthony Incarnato, Manager of Volunteer Recruitment, Greater New York

- There are natural disasters, active shooters, and other incidents in New York that require the Red Cross to act six to eight times per day. He cited the recent fire in Sunset Park.
- They are looking for volunteers, particularly for the Home Fire Campaign (also called Sound the Alarm), in which they install free smoke alarms in people’s homes in Brooklyn. This volunteering would be for installation. The goal here is to install over 26,000 alarms by the end of September; they are at 15,000 right now. They also need help educating the families in teams of three or four.
- Ms. Einhorn asked what the time commitment is – for the disaster action team, it’s two 8-hour shifts per month. The Home Fire Campaign is one 8-hour shift per week. There is a training commitment; 1-hour training online for the Home Fire Campaign and some in-person. The disaster action
2. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Singletary asked for a motion to accept the agenda with the amendments proposed below. Mr. Dew made a motion, Mr. Cohen seconded, and approved 31-0-0.

Mr. Singletary asked to amend the agenda. On page 2, Open Session is listed as #7; he would like it to come before Committees to Report (item #6). He’d also like to reorder the committees to report so that Finance & Personnel is last.

3. Acceptance of the Minutes – March 13, 2019

Mr. Singletary asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Approved by consensus.

Ms. Zahler-Gringer provided an edit: Under the Chairperson’s report, “cleared up” should be “clarified.”

4. Chairperson’s Report, Mr. Lenue Singletary

- Members of the Executive Committee and three of the officers met with representatives from the Comptroller’s office about his BQE Triple Cantilever reconstruction approval. The representatives presented details about his plan. Mr. Singletary stated that the possibility of more green space, which would extend further down the BQE corridor, was a positive aspect of this plan. The Board asked that the Comptroller’s office make the presentation public so that more people have access to it, including sending it to the Board office. We also asked that they demonstrate a true consideration of the residents, streets, overflows, and need for emergency services.
  - Ms. Quint asked whether CB2 is on the panel that was assembled; we are not. We were originally engaged with the process and they explained to us that this was meant to be made up of architects and experts. However, there are other avenues where CB2 can play a part, such as on an advisory committee.
  - Mr. Scala asked whether CB2 was represented at the town hall meeting this week; it was and we were invited. Mr. Flounoy asked whether it was the same presentation the officers and Executive Committee members received from the Comptroller; it was different.
  - Mr. Dew asked whether there will be a liaison to the DOT on behalf of CB2, or vice versa. Mr. Singletary reiterated what he has before, that it would need to be someone who can really reach out to the community from DOT. Mr. Dew said he thought it would be someone independent of DOT. Mr. Singletary has not talked to
anyone about having a representative from outside of DOT. However, DOT has been receptive to having a representative. Mr. Dew asked whether our elected officials would fund an independent representative; that is a good question.

- Tomorrow’s public hearing on the borough-based jail ULURP is at 357 Clermont Avenue, but the entrance is on Greene Avenue between Vanderbilt and Clermont. Doors open at 4:30 PM and we will extend the public hearing so that there is enough time to hear from the community. We will have representatives from the Board office to monitor the sign-in sheet. There will be a large crowd. Board members that arrive after it begins should come to the front of the line and notify a security officer and ask to speak to Carol-Ann, Fitzroy, or Rob as a member of CB2 to be ushered inside. It ends at 9:00 PM.

5. District Office Report, Mr. Robert Perris
   - Mr. Scala asked whether we would get any follow-up with the experts that spoke at the BQE town hall and whether they could come speak at any CB2 meetings; yes, he will ask.
   - Ms. Zahler-Gringer asked whether the borough president’s March 29 report is online; it might be on the Department of State’s website.
   - Ms. Gelbs asked what is the function of the Agency Salvage Officer. Mr. Perris replied that the Agency Salvage Officer is the person designated to dispose of equipment.
   - Mr. Dew asked for an update on the ULURP of the CB office. Mr. Perris stated that the Office of Management and Budget has still not authorized the Department of Citywide Administrative Services to commence a search. He hopes to have more information at the end of the month.
   - Mr. Dew stated that he asked for a synopsis of community complaints at the end of last year. Mr. Perris explained that there is still no record; staff does not record it in the complaint log.
   - Mr. Dew talked about social media and asked how we are moving in that direction. Mr. Singletary explained that there are Board members that have volunteered to help with this initiative, but that his priority is getting the website up and working first, and that Facebook and Twitter should follow that.
   - Mr. Dew asked about ADA access at the Nevins Street subway entrance, citing Mr. Perris’s explanation that the MTA cannot address it. Mr. Dew says he cannot accept that explanation, citing other projects that the MTA did successfully. Mr. Perris explained why the projects cannot be compared. Mr. Singletary will see if he and other members of the Executive Committee can meet with state representatives to get better information about the Nevins Street decision.

6. Committees for Board Action
   - Land Use, Mr. Carlton Gordon
BSA Applications 2019-13-A and 2019-14-BZY, to Reinstate Permits at 29 Ryerson Street

- This is a Board of Standards & Appeals application. The Land Use Committee had to decide whether or not the application made would meet the standards by the BSA. As such, many normal considerations had to be set aside; all that the Committee could formally assess was whether or not the applicant would meet the “Standards.”

- This application is for a hotel that is under construction. It is a proposed hotel of 300 units. The application was from 2015. Since the work began in 2016 – 42% of the work is complete as of now – city government changed the standards for this permit; therefore, the original permit lapsed.

- The site is at Ryerson between Flushing and Park Avenues, right by the BQE. The Committee determined that it had met the BSA requirements and granted it 10-1-2 in favor of the application to continue the work. There were some concerns about whether it should instead be an office building given new demands, but the applicants want to continue building it as a hotel.

- **Motion:** Mr. Flounoy made a motion to accept the Committee’s recommendation, Mr. Cohen seconded, approved 32-6-2.
  - Ms. Peterson asked what the hotel is; it’s new and they did not provide a name. She asked: through the process, whether there were any minority- or women-owned businesses involved; it was not raised. A question was asked about the dialogue around changing the building’s use; it was whether it would be better as an office building, but the applicant disagreed and that is their call. Ms. Morales asked about local hiring; it is not relevant to this BSA application.
  - See attached roll call sheet.

BSA Application 2019-29-BZ, to Allow a Use Group 3 School at 30 Clinton Avenue

- This is a Board of Standards & Appeals application. The Land Use Committee had to decide whether or not the application made would meet the standards by the BSA. As such, many normal considerations had to be set aside; all that the Committee could formally assess was whether or not the applicant would meet the “Standards.”

- This is a charter school proposed to be built at the location. They said there was no practical ability to find an adequate site in the neighborhood. There would be adequate separation from traffic noise. Traffic would be controlled at the location.
• The Committee found that it was acceptable under the zoning resolutions. They received very strong opposition because of the location; it is near the BQE. Some felt a school should not be so close to it. They also received letters of support, and Mr. Gordon shared anecdotal statements of support he has received in the community. The Committee approved the application 11-2.

• **Motion:** Ms. Cullen-Cheung made a motion to accept the Committee’s recommendation, Ms. Janner seconded, approved 27-7-6.
  - Mr. Dew asked whether we received a letter that they would do air sampling for the school; they will be ensuring the building will be safe for the students, and they feel confident that they will be able to deal with it. Mr. Gordon explained that parents are supportive.
  - Ms. Gallo asked what the zoning is; it is a commercial/manufacturing area; he thinks it is M1. There was concern about the loss of manufacturing sites but Mr. Gordon argued this would be a benefit to the community and meets the BSA requirements.
  - Ms. Cullen-Cheung asked whether the motion could include language recognizing or conditionally approving the application based on the stipulations in their letter – that they will have environmental air quality and pedestrian safety improvements outlined in their letter.
    - Ms. Cullen-Cheung accepted her own friendly amendment, as the maker of the motion. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion with that amendment.
  - Mr. Flounoy asked questions at the Committee about environmental impact. He said there is also a school nearby.
    - Mr. Augustus sought to clarify that information and said that the school is across Park Avenue and that the zoning is different; the block we are discussing tonight is a very active manufacturing zone. He expressed additional concerns about the application.
  - Ms. Einhorn stated a concern about the traffic and asked what other safety considerations were included in the letter Ms. Cullen-Cheung referenced.
  - Ms. Peterson asked whether parents in the Walt Whitman, Ingersoll, and Farragut Houses are aware of the school. Mr. Gordon explained that they contacted people within a few surrounding blocks. Mr. Perris explained that this is a land use application, not an application to operate a charter school.
  - Ms. Gallo asked why it’s going into a manufacturing area; Mr. Gordon said that’s the application and that’s the site they chose.
- Ms. Rothbard talked about how we have to balance competing needs and interests as part of this Board. Ms. Rothbard echoed Mr. Augustus’s concerns.
- Ms. Janner said that this is the second charter school that we have seen in a few months; the other one is at Sands Street. She shared that charter schools cannot compete against developers in our area for buildings in our area, and that is why they are allowed to be in manufacturing zones as long as it is within 400 feet of a residential zone.
- Mr. Andrews asked about accessibility. Mr. Gordon said the Committee was satisfied that the applicant made the best effort for a K-8 school.
- Mr. Flounoy reminded the Board that this was debated thoroughly at the Committee level. They examined and discussed everything and the Committee voted in favor of the application. Mr. Singletary thanked Mr. Flounoy and Mr. Gordon for their explanations and did remind everyone that this is the best time for the Board to ask questions.
- Mr. Howald shared some relevant numbers. He said the block of Vanderbilt (one block to the west) carries over 2,000 vehicles per day. Henry Street sees over twice that. Comparably, it’s about what State Street in Boerum Hill sees daily.
- See attached roll call sheet.

- **Parks and Recreation, Ms. Barbara Zahler-Gringer**

  At their last meeting, they talked about a temporary art installation that is going into Fort Greene Park that will honor Maryanne Moore, Walt Whitman, and Richard Wright.

  They also discussed painting over some writing on a pool building, which Ms. Zahler-Gringer discussed at a previous general meeting. The ask was to not paint over four murals. However, inadvertently, at least one of the murals was painted over; she is not yet certain whether it was just one. She said the Commissioner is coming to the meeting on Monday and will address the issue. He expressed his sincere regret for the error. She is hopeful that we can get some new murals in lieu of that, and hopes they will get an explanation as to what happened.

  **Renovation of Cadman Plaza Park Comfort Station, Tillary Street and Cadman Plaza East**

  - Ms. Zahler-Gringer provided an image to Board members. The comfort station has not been in use for 10 years. There is now $1.5 million available to upgrade the comfort station. It came before the Committee and is here, only to approve the exterior of the building.
However, at the time, they were shown a picture of the interior as well, which did not have any signage that seemed contemporary – there was just men’s and women’s areas. Ms. Zahler-Gringer asked for that consideration and she said the architect was surprised by the question. She said the Committee was very amendable to the request for gender-neutral bathrooms, and that she learned later there is a city requirement to have appropriate signage to that end. The Committee approved it 6-0-0.

- **Motion:** Mr. Cohen made a motion to accept the Committee’s recommendation, Ms. Rothbard seconded, approved 33-0-1. Mr. Augustus abstained.
  - Ms. Morales asked whether the $1.5 million is just for the exterior; it is for the entire project.
  - Mr. Cohen asked how the inside would be maintained; Ms. Zahler-Gringer said that was not discussed but assumes there are plans to maintain it.

**Play Fair Advocacy Campaign to Increase the Park Department’s Expense Budget**

- This is an advocacy group representing several advocates and the Council Member that oversees the Council Park Committee seeks increased funding for city parks. The Committee was informed that it was inappropriate for CB2 members to joined but voted 5-0-1 to support the group’s efforts.

- **Motion:** Ms. Janner made a motion to accept the Committee’s recommendation, Mr. Lastowecky seconded, approved 33-0-0.
  - Mr. Scala asked what they plan to do and what their goals are. The goal is to increase the city budget for parks. It would apply initially to maintenance, programming and staffing at first.
  - Ms. Quint shared that they sent an email saying they were successful at the Council’s meeting; they will have $26.5 million recommended to be included. Now it will go to the Mayor’s office. It was not the full amount requested but they seem excited to have that funding.
  - Ms. Rothbard asked whether there could be a pool of money that goes to all parks and whether that came up. Ms. Zahler-Gringer said no. Mr. Lastowecky stated that this vote is to support an advocacy group to advocate for more funding; Mr. Singletary said he understood it differently.
  - Ms. Gelbs asked what support looked like; they want a letter of support.

7. **Open Session**

- Representing the Hon. Borough President Eric Adams, Marcus Harris
April 17 will be Immigrant Day of Friendship. The Borough President is embracing the embrace-your-hyphen culture. He wants to ensure people feel that they can share their identity and culture. There will be 193 flags for all the countries recognized by the UN in the plaza.

Senior Tech Day is May 7. There will be classes on new technology.

Ms. Zahler-Gringer asked about a March 29 application from the Borough President to the DRI project; Mr. Harris will verify whether that happened and whether it is online.

Ms. Hubbard-Kamunanwire asked whether the embrace-your-hyphen day will replace the other event; no, but that event is on a Sunday and this event is on a weekday to reach more people.

A member of the community asked whether they are doing anything about seniors getting robo-calls; Nan Blackshear is working on that and is working to develop a workshop to address the issue.

Representing the Hon. State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Jason Salmon

The state budget process concluded on April 1. There are three reforms passed in the budget that have great significance for tomorrow’s borough-based jail system plan hearing:

1. Discovery
2. Speedy trial
3. Bail reform – the bill that was passed tried to eliminate money bail completely, which didn’t happen, but major strides were made. For most misdemeanors and non-violent felonies, there will be no cash bail imposed. This means that approximately 90% of the people charged with a crime but not yet convicted will be automatically released. This will have a major impact on our jail population. Currently, 7800 people citywide sit in jails.

We don’t want to delay the ULURP. We want to close Rikers but in the right way: to minimize the amount of construction and the amount of people that will have to be in jail serving time pre-trial.

The Senator just passed a deed theft bill. Communities of color, particularly seniors, are particularly targeted by deed theft. Homes are stolen with no recourse to get them back. Mr. Salmon left a flyer with details of the bill; it strengthens the protections for people whose homes are stolen by predatory practices.

Mr. Flounoy asked about the 7800 people in the prison system and how many are there because they couldn’t post bail; he will return with the answer.

Ms. Cullen-Cheung asked how NYCT gets as close as possible to 100% of the tolls from congestion pricing rather than LIRR,
etc. – Mr. Salmon cannot answer that because it depends on the framework, but recommended people stay on top of their elected officials.

- She is on the health, agriculture, crime and corrections, and families committees.

- Representing the Hon. Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon, Alexis Sfikas
  - The AM is thrilled about criminal justice reform.
  - Regarding congestion pricing, 80% of the tolls will go to NYCT, which includes the SIR and the bus system. 10% of that money will go towards the LIRR and 10% toward Metro North. Work is not yet done; there is work to do to ensure the panel does not do a lot of carveouts.
  - They are also involved in the BQE discussions.
  - The next Java with Jo Anne will be at Farmacy at 8:30 AM.
  - Mr. Dew asked whether there is any discussion of creating a metro card that pays for LIRR transfers within the boundaries of New York City; she does not have the details of this plan.

- Representing the Hon. Council Member and Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo, Jason Hur
  - The Council released its budget response yesterday. The numbers still aren’t there, but the focus of the response this year is to stabilize the city’s strategic investments and stabilize the budget for the upcoming fiscal years. The city might have a downturn in revenue collection in upcoming years.
  - The $26.5 million ask for the parks – the Council is calling on the administration for this, which will cover: $4M for care and maintenance of natural forests, $8M for green thumb gardens, $4M for playgrounds, $3M for park rangers, and other expenses.
  - Saturday Easter Egg Hunt
  - Free housing and legal services going around the district every month – about 6 appointments via NYLAG per month.
  - Housing assistance at the office, 55 Hanson Place, monthly.

- Representing the Hon. Council Member Steven Levin, Elizabeth Adams
  - Ms. Adams is the CM’s legislative director.
  - Just wrapped up the participatory budgeting cycle and saw the highest number yet of online votes this year. There will be an event for the results on April 25.
  - They introduced a bill for people with pets that are unstably housed – people cannot enter shelters with animals and therefore choose to stay in unsafe conditions. This is particularly an issue for women. They are looking to create a system that is not a one-size-fits-all approach and is flexible.
• Ms. Morales asked about the shelter system and whether they are looking into creating shelters that are really accessible and focused on senior citizens (with or without pets). Ms. Adams agreed it is an issue and shared that she is not aware of enough resources around seniors in shelter or looking for shelter services. Ms. Adams thanked her for the recommendations.

• Ms. Einhorn asked whether they are advocating for shelters in all systems or whether it is an expansion with new shelters. Ms. Adams explained that the city is looking at building a shelter specifically for people with pets, but this is more for looking at what accommodations could be put into place based on existing shelters as well as for people who have emotional support animals. The approach is two-fold.
  o They introduced legislation this week to require automatic door openers on all new and renovated city building exits and entrances.
  o Looking forward to tomorrow’s borough-based jail facility tomorrow evening. From the city perspective: as we are looking for reforms at the state level, also looking at city-level reforms, particularly around supervised release and alternatives to incarceration.
    ▪ The Council Member will not be in office in 2027 so he feels an urgency to put plans in place now to have some assurance that the next mayor and Council Member cannot undo the plans.
    ▪ There has been thinking toward what will be done with the Rikers site.

• Representing the Hon. Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez, John Watkins
  o This morning, the DA with NYPD had a press conference announcing the indictment of several persons involved in a gun trafficking scheme that originated in South Carolina. This was a 10-month investigation that brought the guns to Bed-Stuy. It was approximately 30 guns. This is a particular burden for Brooklyn – guns arriving from the South.
  o Justice 2020 will have a focus on hate crimes. The DA met with Jewish community leaders to discuss hate crimes across Brooklyn against a number of communities.
  o The website has current information on the DA’s office.
  o The DA will start implementing criminal justice reforms – they are already in place through the Justice 2020 program.

• Representing the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Harrison Green
  o Wegmans part-time recruitment – dates are available and have been distributed to the Board. There are two caveats: Wegmans itself is still doing full-time hiring, but the part-time window starts
April 19 specifically for the Navy Yard. Visit https://jobs.wegmans.com/ for full-time jobs. Also, if anyone cannot make the information sessions, text GROCERY to 555888.

- BK By Design is in May. Visit bklndesigns.com or nycxdesigns.com for more information. They will showcase 10 Navy Yard businesses.

- Representing the Brooklyn Public Library, Tracey Mantrone and Alex Tretiak
  - It’s National Library Week! Sign up for a card and thank a librarian.
  - Brooklyn Heights – story times, computer classes, and more. Saturday, April 20: Brooklyn Bridge Park for Earth Day celebrations. Offering an Earth Day story time in the park and a craft activity for kids. There will also be an activity for the public to offer input on the new Adams Street library opening in Dumbo.
  - Clinton Hill – craft fair on Saturday, June 15 organized by the friends group. Applications for vendors will be available April 15 through May 6 at the branch. They’re seeking local craftspeople with handmade items. A small donation will go toward the Friends group.
  - May is the 200th anniversary of Walt Whitman; there will be plans around the library to that end. June 8 event in Fort Greene Park.
  - Mr. Dew asked about the Librarian to Laundromat program – that is not happening at Clinton Hill.
  - Mr. Andrews asked about reader support services from NYPL. They are unfamiliar with the services but will find out more.

- Ned Burke, Brooklyn Eagle
  - Ned is the new editor of the Brooklyn Eagle. They are expanding the newsroom. Noah Goldberg (present) is covering justice at the Eagle; Mary Frost continues to cover the Board. They have broken stories around the BQE plans, as well as around deed fraud. Brooklyn Eagle’s roots are in CB2 and he wants to cover all of Brooklyn. Ned@brooklyneagle.com, 347-985-0633, brooklyneagle.com/contact. He recommended the 7 AM newsletter: brooklyneagle.com/subscribe.
  - Mr. Singletary welcomed Mr. Burke.

- Meredith Jones
  - Meredith Jones works in Surrogate Court. She spoke to her experience and qualifications. She is a Court Attorney currently. She discussed a concern with the court – the public administrator’s office, which handles the affairs of people without others to be appointed to handle their affairs. She said
there have been thefts in that office. She reminded people that there is an election on June 25.

8. Committees to Report

- Economic Development and Employment, Mr. William Flounoy
  - Empower spoke at last week’s meeting – they are doing a 16-week boot camp for those 18-25 years old for those launching careers in technology.
  - Taxpayer Advocate Service came in – they want to help seniors avoid tax lien sales. Low-income seniors are particularly vulnerable. The tax laws for property tax laws, exemptions and amendments have changed, as well as for small businesses.

- Health, Environment and Social Services, Mr. Brandon Smith
  - Representative from Helen Keller Services for the Blind spoke to the Committee and shared information about a wide range of services offered, including vocational services, services for youth and diabetic clients – and excellent program.
  - The meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month.
  - Approved four liquor licenses with no community opposition.

- Transportation and Public Safety, Ms. Juliet Cullen-Cheung
  - The major items were already discussed tonight and the sidewalk cafes were heard at the Executive Committee meeting.

- Youth, Education & Cultural Affairs, Ms. Betty Feibusch
  - Continuing education initiatives – provides free high school equivalency training. They are looking for sites in our district for adult education and career/technical education to help people get their high school equivalence.
  - GMACC – Gangsters Making Astronomical Community Change – their individuals work with young people in the community through conflict mediation and train young people as youth violence interrupters.

- Finance and Personnel, Mr. Leonard T. Jordan, Jr.
  - At 8:30 PM: In accordance with section 105 article I – Mr. Lastoweky made a motion to go into executive session, Ms. Almeida Phillips seconded. All non-CB2 members were asked to depart.
  - At 9:23 PM: The executive session concluded upon a motion by Mr. Meyer, seconded by Mr. Andrews, approved unanimously.

9. Other Business

- None.
10. Adjournment

There being no other business, Mr. Singletary entertained a motion to adjourn from Mr. Lasowecky; approved unanimously; the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 PM.