

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2009
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (Corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

The Chairperson asked the District Manager to call the Roll.

Roll Call: 28 members present constituting a quorum.

The Chairperson asked for a motion to accept the agenda with any necessary corrections. The agenda was accepted by Ms. Ruby Clinkscale and second by Rev. Grace Aytes. All members present were in favor.

The Chairperson asked for a motion to accept the previous meeting's minutes with any necessary corrections. The minutes were accepted by Ms. Martha Brown and second by Ms. Maria Gomez. All members present were in favor.

The Chairperson, Julie Dent thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, she then called the meeting to order.

Chairperson Report:

Ms. Dent announced with sadness that Mrs. Anna Gonzalez the formal chairperson of Community Board #4 of many years is extremely ill. Mrs. Gonzalez was rushed to Elmhurst Hospital yesterday, Tuesday, May 19, 2009. As of today her condition has not changed. Ms. Dent requested that there be a moment of silence for her and asks that everyone continue to keep her family in their daily prayers.

Chairperson asked that the Elected Officials and/or their representatives stand to introduce themselves.

- 1) Allison Frost – Assemblyman Vito Lopez's office: 718-963-7029
- 2) Francisco Mercado – Councilmember Diana Reyna, 444 South 5th Street, 718-963-3141
- 3) Maritza Davila – 53rd District Leader, 279 Wyckoff Avenue, 347-294-9048
- 4) Roy Sawyer – Assemblyman Darryl Towns, 840 Jamaica Ave., 718-235-5627

FDNY -announced the permanent closing of Engine 271 on July 1, 2009.

NYC-Day Care Centers may be losing Kindergarten Classes

New York State Senator and Assembly will host a public hearing on Thursday, May 28 at 10:00am at the Borough of Manhattan Community College with respect to the impending closing of kindergarten classes in NYC Day Care Centers targeted for July 1, 2009 which would result in lay-offs.

Community Board budget cuts.

Community Boards must absorb an additional 4% budget cut on top of the 3% cut. The Borough President Marty Markowitz will fight the Mayor's cuts and will discuss a strategy with the board's leadership (Chairs and District Managers) in the near future. He indicated that he will not be a door mat for unfair budget cuts. He is looking for support from the New York City Council Members.

Brooklyn Borough President

Annually the Brooklyn Borough President holds a breakfast to honor employers that have made a special effort to recruit, hire and accommodate Brooklynites with disabilities. In recognition and Celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, businesses can be nominated for this honor; the deadline is Friday June 5, 2009.

A very nice park is underway called the Brooklyn Bridge Park. You can access the park via the Brooklyn Bridge under path, once the re-developed water front area is accessible to visitors.

Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

DYCD – Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) application deadline has been extended to Friday, May 22, 2009.

Annual “Live Longer Stay Healthy” Health Fair

Save the Date – June 11, 2009: The 2nd Annual “Live Longer Stay Healthy” Health Fair at Hecksher’s Park on Linden Street, between Central and Wilson Avenues 10:00am to 4:00pm. Raffles, prizes, music, rides, education & activities, free screening for vision, hearing, blood pressure, glucose screening, foot doctor, dental information and mammography screening will be available. The health fair is sponsored by the Hope Gardens Center under the directorship of our very own Anna Gonzalez.

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent acknowledged that NYC- Council Member Erik Dilan was in the audience.

The Honorable Erik Martin Dilan: Stated that he was glad to be present tonight with Mrs. Anna Gonzalez’s extended family and said that she will be greatly missed. He referred to her as the Godmother of Bushwick.

The Councilman was also glad to see that the board has been working hard in trying to keep FDNY Engine 271 open. He stated that he is very proud of the community because in 2002 & 2003 they did not allow the administration to close any of the fire houses in the area. The Bloomberg administration is trying to put them to the test again however he feels that collectively they all will be there to do the right thing for the neighborhood. He thanked everyone and mentioned that he is looking forward in working with everyone regarding the important issues in Bushwick.

District Manager’s Report:

Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizen Council, Inc. – Applications are now being accepted to participate in the lottery for Rheingold Heights One Apartments. There are 87 affordable rental apartments. Applications may be requested by mailing a request with a self-addressed envelope or by visiting 217 Wyckoff Avenue between the hours of 9am-5pm, Monday through Friday. Only (1) application will be accepted per household. Applicants or co-applicants submitting more than one application will be disqualified. Applications must be returned by regular mail only, registered or certified mail will not be accepted. They must be post marked by June 29, 2009.

NYC Department of Transportation – Bureau Engineer Office Approval of Play Streets:

- Moffat Street between Wilson & Knickerbocker Avenues
- Hart Street between Evergreen & Myrtle Avenues

NYC Department of Education has proposed that beginning in September 2009 grades K through 4 of Achievement First Bushwick Charter School and existing school reside in the K-296 building.

Achievement First Charter school currently serves grades K-7 and will serve grades K through 8 in September 2009.
Only grades K-4 are proposed to be located at the 296 building.

Chairperson thanked District Manager for her informative report and thanked her for always doing a wonderful job.

Committee Reports

Civic & Religious Committee – Committee Chairperson, Elvena Davis:

Final preparations for the 4th Annual parade will take place at 315 Wyckoff Avenue on May 28th at 6pm. Ms. Davis asked that volunteers please be at the 422 Central Avenue on June 4th.

Housing and Land Use Committee – Committee Chairperson, Martha Brown

Tuesday, April 28, 2009 – Met with Mr. Marc Chiffert from A&E Engineering LLC., who gave the HLU committee some information on the New Department of Buildings (DOB) zoning diagrams and development challenge process.

Item 1:

The Department of Buildings in an effort to advance transparency and increase compliance with zoning regulation will now be requiring as of Mid-April, 2009 that architects and engineers submit diagrams of proposed building and major enlargements for on-line viewing.

The Community Board and the public will be able to review the size and scale of the developments online. This will also mean that the responsibility for reviewing and studying the diagrams will be left up to the Community Board and public. Department of Building proposed that to any complaints or challenges to what is viewed online that is not suitable, must occur within a 30 day formal public challenge period to the Department of Buildings. These changes will cover buildings that will for example, change in use, building envelope or zoning. This will severely limit the time Community Board can challenge the process of a building permit in order to change footage, occupancy or challenge the structure of a building envelope or usage of a structure.

The Housing and Land Use committee recommends that the Board authorize the District manager to write our elected officials, namely Councilman Erik Dilan and Councilwoman Diana Reyna in order to make the following suggestions and recommendations to these new DOB regulations:

- 1) The time for CB #4 to review and challenge any new building permit through the proposed regulatory system be extended from 30 days to 120 days
- 2) CB #4 needs direct notification from the Builder/developer by Certified Mail that the builder/developer will be submitting diagrams for a building permit at a specific location within CB #4
- 3) If the developer begins his project without the necessary procedures suggested in (1) and (2), then all costs assumed therein will be borne by the developer and CB No. 4 will not be responsible for any undertaking of any changes made to any building or structure before approval from Community Board No. 4.

The chairperson acknowledged the entrance of Councilwoman Diane Reyna.

The chairperson asked Council Member Dilan to comment more on the DOB zoning diagrams and development challenge process.

Council Member Eric Dilan: A few objections from his colleagues are that they do want to extend the review period to 90 days instead of 30 days. The Board can seek to extend it to 120 days if that is their preference. This is on hold at the council level because of a few members' rejection. The Councilman does not want the Community Board to loose the right to oppose just because the period is up. Overall the Councilman feels that the program is good and he stated that if the Board would like to have someone from the Department of Buildings to come and give more information and explanation on the program he would be glad to ask them to do so.

Council Member Diana Reyna said a few words in honor of Mrs. Anna Gonzales.

She expressed her condolences to the board on the passing of Anna Gonzalez who she says was the icon of Bushwick.

Martha Brown stated that the committee will not vote on the DOB issue tonight, the HLU Committee will table it until a future meeting.

Item 2:

Vacate Orders

- 213 Wyckoff Avenue – Full Vacated – Fire Damage
- 215 Wyckoff Avenue – Order to Repair – Partially Vacated
- 376 Palmetto Street – Full Vacate Order
- 74 Bleecker Street – Order to Repair - Partial Vacate

Parks & Recreation Committee: District Manager read report

The meeting was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009:

Field of Dreams – were assigned as follows:

- **Bushwick Playground:**
Saturday from 8:00am to 8:00pm
Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- **Knoll Park :**
Sunday from – 1:00pm to 3:00pm
- **Hope Park:**
Tuesday and Thursday – 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- **Thomas Boyland Park:**
Sunday from 3:00pm to 8:00pm

United Baseball League – were assigned as follows:

- **Thomas Boyland Park**
Saturday from 9:00am to 3:00pm
Wednesday and Friday from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- **Knoll Park:**
Sunday from 9:00am to 1:00pm
- **Hope Park:**
Thursday and Friday from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Sunday from 1:00pm to 8:00pm
Bushwick Playground:
Tuesday from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Brooklyn/Queens Sports Center –were assigned as follows:

- **Thomas Boyland Park:**
Sundays from 9:00am to 3:00am to 3:00pm
Tuesday's and Thursday's from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- **Knoll Park:**
Saturday from 3:00pm to 8:00pm
Monday and Tuesday from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- **Hope Park:**
Saturday from 9:00am to 8:00pm
- **Bushwick Playground:**
Thursday from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Aquadilla Baseball League – were assigned as follows:

- **Knoll Park:**
Saturday from 9:00am to 3:00pm

The following allocation of days and times were done so by Mr. Eddie Vargas the Director of Public Services Brooklyn for the Department of Parks & Recreation and recommended for approval by the two parks department committee members present.

The District Manager stated that the Board is hoping not be involved with this process in the future.

Youth & Education Committee:

Tuesday May 12, 2009 – Chairperson Ms. Virgie Jones:

- 1) Planning for the Agency for Children Services Forum

- Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2009. This date is the same as the Community Board #4 meeting date. The date was chosen primarily as an opportunity to capture a full audience. Previously when ACS hosted a meeting of this magnitude attendance was poor because ACS date conflicted with the regular board meeting. The two meetings will be held together in an effort to have greater audience and wider participation.
- The ACS meeting will be widely advertised by the Community Board, the Office of Community Partnership as well as through the board's mailing as a public hearing. The ACS presentation will take forty-five minutes including a short DVD piece and questions & answers.
- The main focus of the presentation: statistical data on child safety, community partnership initiative and foster care update and recruitment endeavors.
- ACS was informed that foster care concerns issues will focus on the following: Financial, social, physical, psychological well being of child or children and host family
- The committee recognizes the time limitation therefore the meeting timeline will be pointed and maintained in order to achieve an effortless and prompt transition from the public hearing to the regularly scheduled meeting.
- The next Youth and Education Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 143 Himrod Street, 5:30pm. At that time all of the finer details for the important meeting will be discussed. All are invited.

Public Safety Committee:

Tuesday, May 19, 2009 – Barbara Smith Committee Chairperson:

The board met with the first person to use the Community Board #4 new application for a liquor license. The person took pictures of his establishment and posted them on the polls around the location so that people in the neighborhood could know that the business was coming to the area. The location of the business is 1541 Myrtle Avenue and it will be a Cabaret so no food will be sold and they will be open Thursday to Sunday.

Ms. Smith made a recommendation that Community Board #4 except his application for a new liquor license.

The District Manager mentioned that there will be a public hearing in the future so that those with complaints can make them.

Election of Officers

Members of the nomination committee are: Nomination Chairperson, Barbara Smith assisted by Mary Littlejohn and Raymond Yarally.

The term for those elected to office will commence on June 1, 2009.

Roll Call: 29 members are present

Nomination results are as follows for service year June 1, 2009 – May 31, 2010.

- 1) For the position of Chairperson: Julie Dent
- 2) For the position of 1st Vice Chairperson: Martha Brown
- 3) For the position of 2nd Vice Chairperson: Austen Martinez
- 4) For the position of Recording Secretary: Brenda Lee Tramble
- 5) For the position of Financial Secretary: Victoria Fernandez
- 6) For the position of Correspondence Secretary: Virgie Jones
- 7) For the position of Treasurer: Avellar Hansley
- 8) For the position of Parliamentarian: Odolph Wright

The Chairperson thanked members for having the faith in her to elect her to continue as their leader of Community Board #4. She vows to do her best to represent the Bushwick Community with fairness, honesty, dignity and respect.

Announcements:

Paul van Linden-Tol, Brooklyn Public Library: The Library has great programs available such as employment search, programs for children and computers are up however, the Mayor has allowed a 20% cut. Mr. Linden-Tol asks the board to address this issue with their council members so at least some of the monies could be restored. The library hours will go back to 5 days a week and there will be lay offs if this goes into effect.

Anyone can stop at their local library and pick up a post card, fill it out and they will send it to Mayor Bloomberg.

Italia Guerrero – Brooklyn Borough President’ Office:

Ms. Guerrero shared some words from the Borough President:

Marty Markowitz sends his condolences regarding the passing of Anna Gonzalez. She was a true fighter for the Bushwick Community. He mentioned that he has never seen a person who had such a passion and dedication to the community. She never gave up on Bushwick. She will be dearly missed but what she has done for the community will live on for a very long time.

Douglas White, Vice Chairperson of Broadway Bushwick Community Coalition:

Mr. White introduced his associates Mr. Rick Jones-Chairperson and Mary McClellan-Community Representative. Their goal is to improve the quality of life in the area.

They will be working with the District Attorney’s office in getting rid of graffiti on Broadway.

Business owners and property owners will have the opportunity to get the graffiti removed from their property.

Intelligence from the DA’s office mentioned that graffiti is a way that gang members communicate to each other without meeting with each other on the street.

Applications will be available at tomorrows meeting for those property owners that are interested.

Meetings are held every 3rd Thursday of the month at 871 Bushwick Avenue corner of Himrod Street at 7:00pm. There next meeting will be May 21, 2009.

For more information call Mr. Jones: 718-452-0610, Mr. White: 718-574-4842

Evelyn Ortiz – NYC Dept. of Health: Air conditioning applications for seniors. There are only 3,000 air conditions to be given out city wide.

Swine Flu fact sheet are available.

Francisco Mercado – Councilmember Diana Reyna’s Office: May 28, 2009 the Council Member is hosting a “Home Owners Forum”. Representatives will be there to give information on how owners can try to keep their homes.

Because people have been loosing their homes there have been an increase of Halfway houses, 3 more have been reported. The meeting will be held at P.S. 123, 100 Irving Avenue from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Raul Rubio - Bushwick Impact: United Way wants to sponsor a volunteer day. Projects are needed so that the volunteers can work. If anyone has a project that they think United Way can use please call Bushwick Impact at 718-381-1500 and ask to speak to Mr. Frank Cohen.

Martha Brown: Memorial Day to remember those dead and alive who have served the country. Also she asked us to remember Fleet Week by going down to Battery Park to 42nd Street to look at battle ships.

2nd Roll Call

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.