

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2009
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (Corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

The Chairperson, Julie Dent welcomed Council Woman Diana Reyna and asked her if she would like to say a few words.

Diana Reyna stated that she needs the assistance of the community to be Stewards for the community.

"It's been a privilege serving our community for 8 years as your NYC Council Member and I will be privileged serving 4 more years with honor and integrity, and I just wanted to say thank you."

Diana then spoke a few words in Spanish for the Spanish speaking.

The Chairperson, Julie Dent welcomed those in attendance to the first meeting for the New Year. The Chairperson asked the District Manager to call the Roll.

Roll Call: 29 members present constituting a quorum.

The Chairperson, Julie Dent asked for a motion to accept the agenda with any necessary corrections. The agenda was accepted by Mr. Cyril Joseph and second by Ms. Elvena Davis. All members present were in favor.

The Chairperson asked for a motion to accept the previous meeting's minutes (May & June 2009) with any necessary corrections. The minutes were accepted by Ms. Martha Brown and second by Ms. Barbara Smith. All members present were in favor.

Chairperson Report:

Chairperson Dent asked the Elected Officials and/or their representatives to introduce themselves and announce their office address and telephone numbers.

- 1) Francisco Mercado – Councilmember Diana Reyna, 444 South 5th Street, 718-963-3141

Working with the board will be a rewarding experience in civics and local government. The audience was encouraged to attend the committee meetings, regular board meetings and public hearings.

She announced with regret the resignation of Mrs. Ruby Clinkscale effective September 16, 2009. The Board wishes her their best and thanked her for being a member of Community Board #4.

The Bushwick Playground located on Knickerbocker and Putnam Avenues will be reconstructed to include new play equipment for toddlers and pre-teens as well as benches and an adult sitting area. There will be a new colorful spray shower and garden area with flowering, shrubs and ground cover throughout the park. The project will also include the reconstruction of the basketball courts with new pavement, color seal coat and backboards. An exercise area with equipment for pull-ups, sit-ups and stretching will also be installed along with new fencing, paving and park lighting.

Thanks to the efforts of NYC Councilmember Dilan, who secured the monies for this project and an additional \$200k was secured to be applied to the renovation of the playground's comfort

station. The project will include a new roof, stalls, windows and the restoration of bricks as well as accessibility improvements. This work is expected to begin in the fall and completed by the spring of 2010.

At the completion of this project, the Community will celebrate with the renaming of the ball field in the honor of Barry Morrow.

Bushwick Bronco Baseball team won their way to the League World Series.

The Municipal Art Society of NY (MAS) will once again provide a CITI Youth Map Technician at the Community Board #4 monthly meetings starting in October 2009. The students will be accompanied by a map coach who will introduce the students to the board and help them with their set up and technical needs. These students will have an array of skills that will be utilized by the board.

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager welcomed everyone back from a short summer recess.

Each year the Community Board #4's committees are re-organized with new members and sometimes with a new chairperson. As the board looks forward to the upcoming 2009-10 year they are hopeful that more local residents will take an active role in working with the committees. It is not a requirement to be a member of the board in order to work on one of the board's standing committees.

The following list is representative of the standing committees and future issues which will be discussed at meetings. More issues can be added to the list.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>Issues</u>
Civic and Religious	Elvena Davis	Street co-naming request, Bushwick parade, communications with churches and civic organizations
Economic Development	Odolph Wright	Local Development Corps, Merchant Groups, Business Improvements
Environmental Protection/ Transportation	Eliseo Ruiz	Roadway repair, Transit Authority water and sewer issues, clean-air environmental health issues
Health/Hospital & Human Services	Deborah Brown	Local hospital changes/updates, district health concerns, hosting Blood drives. Liaison with Community Organizations Providing Human Service
Housing/Land-Use	Martha Brown	Housing agencies/individuals wishing to construct, change zoning, demolish property with the District, long range planning for the Community, establishing liaison Relationships with local housing Organizations

Parks and recreation	Austen Martinez	Monitoring of the conditions of local Parks & playgrounds, Recommending the baseball Organization to the DPR to have Organized playing time in parks, Developing "Friends of Parks" Organizations.
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Public Safety	Barbara Smith	Monitoring SLA request, issues pertaining to the (3) Police Pcts. within the district
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Monitoring SLA requests will be a very important project for the board. New guidelines were developed for anyone who is applying for a new or renewed liquor license. The District Manager is hoping to have in the near future a map developed, that will state what kind of licenses are throughout the community. Board members are invited to get involved with the project. The next meeting will be held on September 22, 2009 at the 83rd Precinct.

Sanitation	Raymond Yarally	Monitoring the cleanliness of the District, organizing district clean-ups
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Senior Citizens	Victoria Fernandez	Developing relationships with local Senior citizens centers, advocating for Issues affecting the senior population
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Youth and Education	Virgie Jones	Reporting on youth projects & programs within the district, establishing rapport with Principals and Parent Coordinators
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Residences of the community are invited to attend the community meetings however, when it comes to voting only the Committee Members will be able to do so.

The committee chairpersons will establish a standard meeting date and time of which their meetings will take place. The information regarding those meetings will be publicized. In order to be certain as to when the meetings are held, those interested are asked to call the Community Board's office at 718-628-8400.

The District Manager provided information from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on the H1N1 virus (swine influenza). Information regarding what H1N1: the symptoms, how it spreads, how to protect yourself, who should be tested, etc. was provided.

NYC – Department of Health & Mental Hygiene has noted West Nile Virus Activity in the 11206 zip code. They are warning that people over 50 years of age take special personal precautions to prevent mosquito bites: Use repellents that contain DEET, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, etc., and always follow the labels instructions.

United States postal Service – USPS is embarking on their Temporary Seasonal Positions available in the Triboro District. All positions require frequent lifting, continuous standing, bending and availability to work 8 hours per day plus overtime as needed. Holiday hiring will be for November & December 2009. Salary is \$12.00 per hour. Applications must be submitted by September 23, 2009. Applicants must apply online at www.usps.com and have a valid email address.

The Grand Parent Family Apartments located at 951 Prospect Avenue in the Bronx has apartments available. The 50 apartments building built in 2005 are exclusively for grandparents

or elderly caregivers (62 years or older) who care for minor grandchildren/relatives under the age of 18. A family relationship such as adoptive parent or legal guardian is required. A comprehensive program of supportive services provided by Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS) and West Side Federation for Senior Housing (WSFSSH) is available on site.

Brooklyn Borough Consultations: Each year Community Board #4 participates in the Borough Consultations where agency heads and appropriate staff spend time with the leadership of the board discussing issues affecting the district. This year the format changed, in that, the Borough of Brooklyn hosted GROUP SESSIONS on September 11 and upcoming on September 30, 2009.

On September 24, 2009 Community Board #4 will host meetings with the Department of Parks & Recreation, NYPD and Department of Transportation, all board members are welcomed to join the District Manager as we advocate for services from those agencies. The meeting will be held at the old Sara J. Hale High School.

After the sessions are complete the board will host their annual Capital and Expense Budget Prioritizing Public Hearing during the month of October.

New Business

Mr. Odolph Wright: Dangerous traffic area located at Halsey and Broadway. Pedestrians do not use the crosswalk from on side of the street to the other side of the street. Mr. Wright suggested that the Transportation Committee get together with Community Board #3 in order to get some type of railing installed so as to prevent any potential accidents from occurring.

The District Manager asked that each Committee Chairperson let her know when they will chair their meeting.

Rev. Matthew Rae: Stated that the Community Board's office should have relocated to the 1420 Bushwick Avenue address over the summer as planned. He also stated that there should be some monies available somewhere so that the office can do so. Since additional work on the office is needed in order for the move to take place, he suggested that a committee be formed so that they can find out where the monies are available.

The Chairperson stated that a meeting will be scheduled next month to discuss this matter and Rev. Rae and other members of the board will be invited to attend.

Announcements:

Evelyn Ortiz, NYC Department of Health: With the flu season approaching and the H1N1 virus a concern too many the Department of Health is looking for flu fighters. Flu Fighters are training organizations with information on the best practices as well as information on how to train others in the community, a train to train situation. Any organization that is interested in the Health Department doing a presentation to their staff members, can sign up.

Laura Braslow: Two public Street Fairs

- 1) Sunday, September 20, 2009 located at Myrtle and Irving Avenues. Vendors are needed. If interested contact Patrick at Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizen office 718-484-8552.
- 2) Maria Hernandez Park on September 27, 2009 sponsored by Capital B a neighborhood art organization.

Arts in Bushwick are having an art festival in November, artist and musicians are invited to participate. If interested please contact her at communities@artsinbushwick.com

Alisha, Citizens Committee for New York City: New Yorkers for better Neighborhoods Grant Application:

Have a great idea for a community improvement project? Apply for a “New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods Award”! Through New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods, Citizens Committee for New York City awards grants of \$500 to \$3,000 to volunteer-led groups to work on community improvement projects. Applications can be downloaded at: www.citizensnyc.org/grants for more information, call or email Saleen Shah or Arif Ullah at 212-989-0909/grants@citizensnyc.org
Fall deadline: September 30, 2009 Spring deadline: March 14, 2010

Allison LaPlatney, Citizens Committee for New York City: Mollie Parnis Dress up Your School Awards Grant Application: Have a great idea for a community improvement project? Apply for a Mollie Parnis Dress up Your School Award! Through Mollie Parnis, Citizens Committee for New York City awards grants of \$500 to \$3,000 to public school based student-led projects that beautify schools or neighborhoods immediately surrounding schools. Download application: www.citizensnyc.org/grants for more information call or email Saleen Shah at 212-822-9566/ssshah@citizensnyc.org

Francisco Mercado, Councilmember Diana Reyna’s Office: Saturday, September 19, 2009 at the Bushwick United Methodist Church in conjunction with CUNY is sponsoring their Annual Citizenship Drive. Anyone needing help with their papers to become a citizen is invited 9:00am-5:00pm.

Raul Rubio – Child Network: More foster parents are needed in the Bushwick Community. The Bushwick Community Partnership Initiative presents a “Foster Parent Recruitment” and Retention Friendship Event. The event will take place on Friday, September 25, 2009 from 5:30pm to 11:00pm, at Lindsay Park Community Center, 25 Boerum Street. For more information, please call Queenie Butler at 347-785-0603.

Raul Rubio - Family Services Network of NY: Community Visioning Workshop, Wednesday, September 30 at 6:00pm at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1405 Bushwick Avenue.
RSVP to Mr. Rubio at 718-455-3072 or to ddouglas@fsnny.org

Barbara Smith, President of 83 Pct. Council: They are now collecting for those who need help around the Thanksgiving Holiday. Anyone who can contribute can goods, monies, turkeys, etc. they can now start dropping it off at the 83rd Pct. so that they can give it out to those in need on November 23rd.

Evelyn Ortiz, Health Dept.: Fire Fighters – Tuesday, October 6, at the Restoration Plaza’s Community Room from 6-8pm.

Olivia Triana, State Farm Insurance Agency: She moved into Bushwick from Florida, opened a small business and looking forward in being involved in the community. The agency is located at 136 Wyckoff Avenue.

Rachel Devlin, Green Fitness Studio: Opening a gym at 232 Varet Street, Brooklyn, New York 11206 bringing green design to Bushwick. Personal trainers are needed. She is looking to hire people from the Bushwick Community First. This environmental-friendly gymnasium is set to open this fall will incorporate a variety of sustainable design features, including rubber exercise flooring made from recycled car tires. The gym’s interior lighting will come from CFL and LED installations and most exercise machines will be repurposed in addition to being self-powered or cordless. There will be classes on yoga, Pilates, etc. For more information: www.greenfitnessstudio.com

Marie Balhelmy, Lords Academy High School: Ms. Balhelmy thanked the board for their past support. She stated that thanks to them the greater number of students that they service is from the Bushwick Community. They are now accepting 9th and 10th grade applications for the 2010-2011 school year. Open House: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 from 6-8pm at 2-12 Aberdeen Street between Broadway & Bushwick Avenue. Come and learn about their College Prep Curriculum, Corporate Work Study Program for Students and Low cost tuition. 718-455-3555

Joseph Angel, Editor in Chief, "Bushwick Today": A new small business located at 269 Stanhope Street & Irving Avenue. He would like the communities input to put in the newspaper, suggests on where to put his newspaper and ads for the paper. For more information go to the website at www.bushwicktoday.com

JKF mixed marital arts children program is a program where the young and the young at heart learn a way of life. It is more than just learning martial arts, there they learn to respect themselves and therefore respect others. There is caring and learning how to care. For more information go to their website at www.jkfmixemartialarts.com

Mary Dorsainvil: Damon House Street Fair this Saturday September, 19, 2009 at 1275 Dekalb Avenue, 12-5pm. Damon House is a drug free facility. Please attend.

Mr. Cyril Joseph, Linden-Bushwick Association has partnership with the Census 2010 in order to get monies for the Bushwick Community. Any organization that wishes to partnership with Census 2010 can reach Mr. Joseph at 917-442-2713 for direction.

Mary McClellan, Community Representative of Broadway Bushwick Community Coalition:

Their goal is to improve the quality of life in the area.

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 September 17, 2009.

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

The Chairperson welcomed the new board members and asked them to stand and introduce themselves.

Present were: Robert Camacho, Rachel Devlin, Miriam Lamboy, Mary McClellan, Francheska Howard and David Russell.

Ms. Elvena Davis was selected by Julie Dent to supervise the collection of the new name plates that the District Manager has provide for each board member in order for them to be easily identified by others. The chairperson asked that all board members sit close in the front so that the name plates can be easily collected.

Julie Dent thanked the NYPD and the Police Officer that was present for attending the meeting and for keeping all present safe.

Julie Dent thanked Chief Tom Murphy from the Fire Department for attending tonight's board meeting.

The Chairperson, Julie Dent also thanked Council Members Erik Dilan and Diana Reyna for their hard work in making sure that the Fire Department remained open.

2nd Roll Call: 37 members present

Martha Brown motioned that the meeting been adjourned, motioned second by Cyril Joseph.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.