

Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, June 15, 2011
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street (Corner of Wilson Avenue)
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

-Public Hearing Items-

1) Presentation of Pratt Student Work: Implementation Concepts for Family Services Network of NY (FSNNY) Brownfield Opportunity Area Study

The Bushwick Brownfield Opportunity Area Program is a New York State program designed to give stakeholders the lead in planning for and prioritizing reinvestments in their neighborhoods.

Pratt Institute Programs for Sustainable Planning and Development's Spring 2011 Preservation and Planning Studio students worked with Family Services Network of New York (FSNNY) and other neighborhood stakeholders to create a series of implementable steps to catalyze area-wide and site-specific revitalizations of the southeastern portion of Bushwick. Students were tasked with building on the recommendations of a recent community planning process, the Bushwick Brownfield Opportunity Area program - a New York program designed to give stakeholders the lead in planning for and prioritizing reinvestments in their neighborhoods. Family Services Network led this planning process, as a natural extension of their mission to improve the lives of Bushwick residents through a bottom-up approach to identifying need.

The focus is a portion of: Broadway between Myrtle and Chauncey and Bushwick between Myrtle and Aberdeen.

Recommendations:

- 1) Historic Preservation Recommendations
 - Preserve Bushwick's past through an oral history project
 - Promote job training and youth activities through the conservation and rehabilitation of historic building
 - Preserve and reuse historically significant architecture
- 2) Quality of Life and Revitalization Recommendations
 - Provide fresh foods & support community gardens
 - Green the overall area
 - Request bike rack installation near subway stops
 - Provide affordable housing that meets the needs of the current population
- 3) Brownfield Redevelopment Recommendations
 - Broadway near Myrtle Proposal – "Myrtle Market" A day to night mixed greenmarket and flea market, with a small plaza for sitting, eating and watching entertainment.
 - Madison near Bushwick Proposal – "Bushwick Youth Center" A youth center offering a wide variety of extracurricular activities and opportunities to supplement existing school programs
 - Bushwick and Aberdeen Proposal – "Aberdeen Community Center" A sustainably built mixed-income housing development and multi-service community center, providing both market rate and below-market rate rental units and a twenty percent set aside of units for low-income and female-headed households, etc.
- 4) Broadway and Hancock Proposal – "Saratoga Square" A true mixed-use development, with ground floor retail frontage on Broadway, a reopened, wheelchair accessible entrance to Halsey Street J Train, a new YMCA, and mixed income housing.

Questions were entertained:

Everything that was mentioned in the presentation is just a concept and an idea that students came up with. Everything that was suggested is not necessary going to happen. It is up to the community and the people who are involved in phase 2 of the Brownfield project.

The District Manager stated that the ideas that have been presented are conceptions, there is no money for the project at the moment and there are no buildings available.

The Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent was excused from the meeting; she was attending a meeting in Albany, New York, as such District Manager, Ms. Nadine Whitted called the first roll at 7:26PM.

Roll Call: 24 members present constituting a quorum.

The District Manager asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. The agenda was accepted by Mr. Robert Camacho and seconded by Mr. Cyril Joseph. All members present were in favor.

The District Manager tabled the previous month's minutes until the board resumes in September 2011. All members present were in favor.

The District Manager welcomed everyone in attendance to the June 15, 2011 meeting of Community Board #4. She then asked that the Elected Officials and/or their representatives to introduce themselves and to give out their respective addresses and telephone numbers.

- 1) Laurie Wheelock – Assemblyman Vito Lopez, 434 South 5th Street, 718-963-7029
- 2) Roy Sawyer – Darryl Towns has been appointed to the Commissioner of the State of New York Homes of Community Renewal. Mr. Sawyer now works for Congressman Ed Towns as Community Liaison – 718-855-8018
- 3) Karen Cherry – Congressman Ed Towns, 104-08 Flatland Avenue, 718-272-1175
- 4) Yanuski Rodriguez – District Attorney Charles Hynes, 718-250-2565, 350 Jay Street

Representatives from City, State or Federal Agencies:

- 1) P.O. Franco, Community Affairs Dept. – 83rd Pct. 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1697

Representatives from Community Based Organizations:

- 1) Judy Kamilhor, Coordinator of Digital Literacy Outreach – Brooklyn Public Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, New York 11238, 718-230-2014

District Manager's Report:

The District Manager thanked everyone who participated in the Community Board #4's 6th Annual Brooklyn/Queens Day Celebration on Thursday, June 9, 2011. Although we experienced record breaking temperatures with weather elevating into the 90s along with the heat index extremely high, the event was a success. The Office of Emergency Management issued a Heat Advisory whereby young children, senior citizens and those with compromised respiratory systems and other illness were advised to stay indoors.

Ms. Whitted and the Civic and Religious Committee, under the leadership of Ms. Elvena Davis had decided to cancel the Parade and decided to host only the Barbecue. Although the plan was to have the outdoor activities at the playground of IS 383, the activities was moved to the host church at 484 Knickerbocker Avenue as the playground was under inspection for the following day and the new turf was extremely hot and they did not want to damage it.

Ms. Whitted thanked the following people in their help in ensuring that the day would be a success even though they had experience some changes:

- 1) Rev. Milagros Solarzano – The Pastor of the New Jerusalem Methodist Church located at 484 Knickerbocker Avenue. The Pastor went far beyond her call. She accommodated the committee meetings at her location as well as served refreshments. When schedules conflicted she provided keys to her facilities. She allowed us to use her kitchen at the event and the bathroom facilities were cleaned and open for use. Throughout the whole process she was actively involved in truly serving the community; we owe her a debt of gratitude and thanks.
- 2) The Bogopa Food Corporation (Also known as Food Bazaar) – Bogopa has offset the cost of our events for the past six (6) years. One can only imagine the cost involved with hosting a Community Wide Barbecue. The Corporation has made sure that there was enough food, beverages and other items needed to accomplish this enormous goal. There has always been enough food and supplies to meet our needs. There is no way that the parade and the Barbecue could be successful without their generous donation.
- 3) NYPD – The 83rd Precinct has been a genuine supported of this event from its inception. First under the leadership of the previous Commanding Office until the current commander, Deputy Inspector Capasso who

is always there with the right amount of man power to assure that the procession gets through the community effortlessly while still keeping traffic flowing.

Community Affairs Unit, Detective Dennis Diaz and Police Officer Damarys Franco – No matter what was needed they were always there to get it done, whether it was picking up ice, transporting the marching band or anything else that was requested. They both are truly quite dependable and they made sure that whatever we were promised, we received, which included the auxiliary officers and the explorers. We acknowledge their participation and all their help.

Ms. Whitted thanked PO Kendall who made the event a successful one because of his additional contacts.

She also thanked the Youth Services bureau of the NYPD, many youngsters enjoyed the 30 foot Tock Climbing Wall that was brought in for all to enjoy.

- 4) Thanks to Burger King who provided the ice for the event. One can only imagine how much ice was needed in 97 degree temperatures!!!
- 5) She thanked Ms. Sanders the Principal of IS 383 and the Assistant Custodian Mr. Angelo, who was willing to allow the event to take place on the newly installed play ground's surface prior to inspection on the following day.

Thanks to all participants from the Elected Official Offices, City Agencies, Community Based Organizations, schools, & health organizations that braved the weather and shared in the special day.

Thanks to all the board members, particularly: Mr. Odolph Wright, Mr. Raul Rubio who took care of the grilling, Ms. Avellar Hansley, Mr. Cyril Joseph, Ms. Sharline Moore & Ms. Miriam Lamboy.

Thanks to Ms. Elvena Davis whom it was a pleasure to work with and to Ms. Julie Dent who is the best!!!

Other Issues:

The Community Board's Office has processed 83 Street Activity applications thus far. Although the application process has changed, Bushwick residents are still filing. There are still some Sunday dates available in August and the next Saturday date starts with the September 17th date.

These play streets that have been authorized and approved by the DOT – Bureau of Traffic: Moffat Street between Wilson and Knickerbocker & Hart Street between Evergreen and Myrtle Avenues

The Mayor and the Brooklyn Borough President are hosting a Swearing in Ceremony for all Brooklyn Community Board members on Monday, June 20, 2011 at 5:30PM. All new members are required to attend.

On June 2, 2011 Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes called an emergency meeting to respond to the recent surge in gun violence that occurred over the Memorial Day weekend. He called representatives from the clergy, elected officials and community based organizations to address the issue. He noted that he would like to sponsor a Gun Buy Back program in the district.

NYC Council Member Reyna and the South Bushwick Residents Association and Field of Dreams Sports Club are hosting a rally on Saturday, July 9th at 1pm at the Bushwick Ball Field location on Woodbine Street and Knickerbocker Avenue. The purpose is to STOP THE VIOLENCE.

The 83rd Precinct – National Night Out Against Crime 2011: Tuesday, August 2, 2011 at 6:00PM to 9:30PM.
Location: Maria Hernandez Park between Knickerbocker Avenue & Suydam Street
All Free!! Bring your Children and enjoy the night!! For more information call: Det. Dennis Diaz or P.O. Damarys Franco at the 83rd Community Affairs Unit – 718-574-1697

Kingsborough Community College: Free GED and Culinary Arts Training Program, Classes begin June 27, 2011.
GED Program includes:

1. Full time classes to prepare for GED Diploma

2. Earn up to 12 College Credits
3. Paid Internships
4. Metro Cards
5. Culinary Arts training
6. Job Placement Assistance
7. Earn Certificates to build your resume
8. Supportive Services
9. Full KCC Student Privileges including Library, Gym and Beach access, and more!

Eligible applicants are:

1. 18-24 Years Old
2. Currently unemployed and not enrolled in school
3. NYC Residents (some restrictions apply)

How to Apply:

For more details on how to apply and eligibility requirements, please call: 718-368-6600

New York Memory Center: Caregivers' Support Group – Special Topic: self-Care & Mutual Support
Thursday, 23, 2011 from 6:30PM to 8:00PM Location: 199 14th Street at 4th Avenue, Brooklyn

This group is especially for person caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia or memory loss.

Please RSVP by calling 718-499-7701 ext 21

NYPD 83rd Precinct Blood Drive: Thursday, June 23, 2011 Location: 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 1:00PM to 7:00PM

Announcements:

Martha Brown: For students ages 16-21, information regarding Transfer Schools contact the Board of Education, 52 Chambers Street, Room 210, 10007- www.nyc.doe.gov – opsr@schools.nyc.gov

Judy Kamilhor, Brooklyn Public Library: Laptop Computers will be available at 8 branches including 3 nearby branches: Washington Irving Branch, Dekalb Avenue Branch & Marcy Avenue Branch. They will also be available at the Saratoga Branch. They will be available for use with a 2 hour limit.

Federal Stimulus Monies will also pay for computer classes so that people can learn how to use the computers that will become available.

Brooklyn Public Library could lose \$25.2 million. Due to budget cuts the Library is at risk of closing 16 Branches. Your support is needed in order to keep the branches open. Please go to the NY Public Library website to sign the petition to keep the branches open. Say NO to these cuts. Tell your elected officials how important the library is to you.

Summer reading is encouraged, so that children can have a head start when they go to school in the fall.

For more information visit www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org

Family Services Network & the Bushwick Multi-Service Center: National HIV Testing Day 2011 – Friday, July 1, 2011 at 10AM to 3PM. Location: 1420 Bushwick Avenue (parking Lot) between Chauncey & Moffat Streets. For more information or for registration contact: Ms. Vanessa Davis at 718-455-6010 ext. 146

Yanuski Rodriguez, District Attorney Charles Hynes- Caribbean Heritage Month: Thursday, June 30, 2011, 5:30PM at the Restoration Plaza in Bedford Stuyvesant, 1368 Fulton Street between Brooklyn and New York Avenues.

The District Attorney's Hotline - Sex Trafficking Warning Signs: Call for help if you see it at 718-252-2770.

The District Attorney has 2 offices open for the summer, one is open on Fridays and the other is open on Tuesdays, 218 Wyckoff Avenue & 280 Wyckoff Avenue.

Call for more information

Jesus Gonzales – Every child deserves to go to a high quality school and get a good education. Students have the legal right to attend school up until the age of 21 years of age. Some guidance councilors encourage

students to get a GED because it seems to be the easy way out; however there is no short cut in receiving a high school diploma. Mr. Gonzales suggested that the community fight for high quality education for our children.

Café Ghia – New café located at 24 Irving Avenue (corner of Jefferson Street) open daily for brunch, lunch & dinner. For more information call 718-821-8806 or visit their website at www.cafeghia.com.

Sylvester Logan, “The Church Bethesda” located on 1257 Gates Avenue – The Church holds a block party every other year. In the past they have giving away TV’s, laptop computers and money for groceries. This Saturday, June 18th they will be raffling off a bike at 5:30PM.
Mr. Logan encouraged all to ride their bikes safely.

Sharline Moore, 1st Vice President of National Council of Negro Women – Saturday, June 25 they are holding their Annual Health Fare.

Saturday, July 16 hosting “Each One Take One” event were they take a senior citizen to lunch. Sugar Hill Restaurant, tickets are \$25.00. For more information call 347-740-4309

Mary McClellan - Community Representative of Broadway Bushwick Community Coalition: The coalition’s next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2011 at 7PM. Location: 871 Bushwick Avenue (corner of Himrod Street). Guest Speaker: The Director of the Emergency Department from Wyckoff Heights Hospital. Subject: Diabetes.

Luis Ramos, Himrod Street Community Garden – September 2011 Opening, all are invited. Expected guest: Elected Officials & Ms. Julie Dent. More information is forthcoming.

PO D. Franco, 83rd Pct. – Regarding the fires that have been taking place in the Community and in other communities they seem to be occurring in loft building that have been turned into SRO buildings. The Dept. of Buildings & the Fire Dept. will be going out to inspect these large buildings. The 83rd Pct. will also be inspecting these buildings with them. The apartment in violation will receive a summons and the occupants will be asked to vacate.

The 83rd Precinct’s 2011 National Night Out Against Crime, Tuesday, August 2nd from 6PM to 9:30PM. Location: Maria Hernandez Park corner of Knickerbocker Avenue & Suydam Street

Chrissy’s Cooking Club: Offering cooking classes, for information contact chrissy@chrissyscookingclub.com

Logan Thomas, Jalreign – 269 Stanhope Street (corner of Irving Street) just started a Zumba Fitness Program which includes yoga, dance and fitness. For more information call 347-327-6720. \$10 a class, bring a friend and receive a discount.

Also in attendance at the meeting were:

- Ralph Mancini – Times Weekly – 718-821-7500
- Aaron Short – Bushwick Currier – 718-260-2500

2nd Roll Call: Meeting adjourned 8:10PM