

Brooklyn Community Board #4 Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, December 21, 2016
Hope Gardens Multi Service Center
195 Linden Street, Corner of Wilson Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11221
6:00PM

Ms. Julie Dent the Chairperson of Brooklyn Community Board's #4 called the meeting together at 6:50PM.

First Roll Call: 6:55PM – 37 members present this constitute a quorum.

Ms. Dent asked for the acceptance of the agenda with any necessary corrections. Ms. Martha Brown motioned to accept the agenda as written. It was second by Ms. Sharline Moore. Motion moved.

Ms. Dent asked for the acceptance of the previous month's minutes with any necessary corrections. The previous month's minutes was accepted by Rev. Grace Aytes and second by Mr. Robert Camacho. All members present were in favor. Motion moved.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: 7:05PM

The Chairperson Ms. Julie Dent welcomed all to Community Board #4's Wednesday, December 21, 2016 monthly Community Board meeting. The meeting will be abbreviated to celebrate the Holiday season.

Ms. Julie Dent asked that the Elected Officials and / or their representatives introduce themselves and state their respective contact information with their address and telephone numbers.

- 1) Councilmember Antonio Reynoso, 244 Union Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221, 718-963-3141: He represents the section West of Hart Street and South of Central Avenue up to Cornelia Street.
- 2) Celeste Leon Representing Councilman Rafael Espinal, 786 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207, 718-642-8664
- 3) Tahirah Moore, Brooklyn Borough Director Representing Mayor Bill De Blasio, 253 Broadway, NY 10007, 1212-788-1369
- 4) Lee Church Representing Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, 55 Hanson Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217, 718-237-2211
- 5) Liz Aponte Representing State Senator Martin M. Dilan, 573 Metropolitan Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 718-573-1726
- 6) Yamilky Crisostomo Representing Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718-802-3700

Ms. Dent asked those from Federal, State or City Agencies to introduce themselves and state their respective contact information with their address and phone numbers.

- 1) Inspector Max Tolentino, 83rd Pct. 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 718-574-1697
- 2) Detective Damarys Franco, 83rd Pct., 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1697
- 3) PO James Brunache, 83rd Pct., Community Affairs Unit, 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, 718-574-1697
- 4) Captain Tony Brown, 83rd Pct. 480 Knickerbocker Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221
- 5) Boniface WeWe, Brooklyn Public Library, Washington Irving Branch, 360 Irving Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11237, 718-628-8378

6) Hui-Ling Ho, DeKalb Brooklyn Public Library, 790 Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221, 718-455-3898

Chairperson Julie Dent: Congratulation to our most distinguished Inspector Tolentino on his recent promotion, stated the chairperson. He is an excellent leader and really cares about the community. He also knows how to interact with people and is great at bringing people together.

Inspector Tolentino, 83rd Precinct:

Chairperson, Ms. Julie Dent asked Inspector Tolentino to say a few words.

Inspector Tolentino thanked Julie Dent, Mary McClellan, the Elected Officials and everyone else who was involved in getting him promoted. He stated that he really appreciate everyone and said that they all play a huge part in where he goes forward.

During the holiday season he asked that everyone check on the children and the seniors. The toy drive at the 83rd Pct. headed by Ms. Barbara Smith gave out thousands of toy to the needy kids in the community. This makes their holiday celebration a little special to them. This brings joy to him when each kid is able to open a present at home.

With what is going on around the world we must be vigilant with regards to terrorist's efforts. Be assured that the police department is taking steps through the SRT (Special Response Team) and the CRC (Critical Response Command) to make sure that there is a heavy presence especial in areas where it seem to be a target area. Everything is being done to make sure that everyone is safe during this time.

The Inspector ask all to be careful when shopping and be careful when you put packages in the car. Make sure that they are seen.

120 Menahan Street: there was a shooting with two individuals fighting, that person was arrested and is now in custody.

192 Knickerbocker Avenue: a gang related shooting occurred. The 83rd Pct. reached out to gang members to make sure that there will be no retaliation. The shooters have not been caught as of yet.

The 83rd Pct. lost Captain Billy Glen to an opportunity for him to someday become a Pct. Commander. He has been transferred to the 75th Precinct. We wish him the best of luck. Captain Tony Brown will be taking over Capitan Billy Glen's place, he has big shoes to fill. Captain Tony Brown came to the 83rd Pct. 2 days ago and was sent from the 79th Pct.

Captain Tony Brown: Just was transferred from the 79th Pct. in Bedford-Stuyvesant, he also served at the 63rd Pct. in Flatbush, and the 120 & 121 in Staten Island.

Captain Brown stated that he is looking forward in meeting and working with everyone in the near future. He is glad to be here.

Chairperson Julie Dent:

On December 2nd, Willie Morales, Sharon Fludd and I attended a ceremony on Wyckoff/Myrtle Avenue in celebration of the new pedestrian plaza which will serve as a neighborhood gathering place. The NYC DOT, Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Keith Bray, Queens Borough Commissioner Nicole Garcia and other dignitaries helped with the unveiling.

Vision Zero: NYC DOT unveils New Pedestrian Plaza at Myrtle-Wyckoff, transforming the Hub of Ridgewood and Bushwick. The intersection on the border of Brooklyn and Queens, safer configuration will slightly reroute MTA buses while adding new street signs, traffic control signs and street markings.

As part of Vision Zero, the DOT implemented the following safety improvements at the Intersection of Palmetto Street, Myrtle Avenue and Wyckoff Avenues:

- Create new pedestrian plaza on Wyckoff Avenue (which serves as the border line of Ridgewood, Queens and Bushwick, Brooklyn) between Gates Avenue and Myrtle Avenue
- Converted Wyckoff Avenue to one-way southbound from Myrtle Avenue to Madison Street
- Widen crosswalks to match widened paint-based sidewalk extensions
- Installed flexible bollards
- Reconfigured signal timing, increasing pedestrian crossing time
- Installed new traffic control and curb regulation signage
- Installed new road markings

“These enhancements will do a great deal to improve pedestrian safety along this section of the Queens/Brooklyn border and will help further the city’s ongoing Vision Zero initiative to protect all those who use our roadways”, said Queens Borough President Melinda Katz.

Ms. Dent attended a meeting at City Hall with Council Member Espinal, Council Member Reynoso, Executives of the Bushwick Rezoning Committee and other government agencies. Ms. Dent expressed concern regarding their duplication of committees that Community Board #4 already has in place. Community Board #4 and its residents must stay abreast of what is happening with the rezoning in Bushwick. In addition, Ms. Dent requested that said committee give us and update by way of Community Board #4 House and Land Use Committee. Therefore, Ms. Dent is requesting a presentation at a full board meeting. It is imperative that we all work as a team for the betterment of Bushwick. Both Council Members agreed.

The Chairperson is also requesting an update for Community Board and the public on the tentative February 11th or 12th, 2017 Summit.

Chairperson Ms. Dent asked Councilmember Reynoso to say a few word on the issue of re-zoning and how the sub-committees came about.

Councilmember Reynoso:

Rezoning was first put in by the Community Board in which they wanted to take control over what Bushwick was going to look like in the future. The Community Board said that they did not want developers to determine what Bushwick will look like.

In doing so when Diana Reyna was the Councilwoman it was different because there was a different Mayor and a different process was in place.

Fortunately, with the new Mayor, and an attempt of doing a neighborhood building process we are really going to be able to put something that is neighborhood based.

In speaking in reference to the collaboration that we would like to have with Community Board 4, and concerns over duplications. We started the process by having 2-3 meetings a month to make sure that the rezoning process is fair and equitable. At those meetings approximately 120-140 people attended. Over time the people attending the meetings had become less and less with 60 people attending. The last meeting that was conducted had approximately 40 people attending. These people who are attending are committee of organizers in which we call the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee was set up to host meeting in order to gather as much input from the Bushwick Community. Once a month meetings are set up with local community organizations and community residents to gather information so as to present to the Steering committee. The Steering Committee gathers the information and their goal now is to present this information to the Community Board. So it is a process of organizing more that it is of duplication. These people who are on these committees, fortunately have time and are able to volunteer to take this on.

On February 11th or 12th you will see the presentation process before the invitation. They will present to the board and others, and you will see exactly what this is all about. I really want to stress that this is an organizing arm of a Bushwick community process. It is not replacing or eliminating the roll of the Community Board.

On top of being able to present to the Community Board every single month, as to the requests that we want to make, we will be meeting with each and every sub-committee with their chairs and their representatives to present their findings of the community organizing plan. We are also going to ask for input from those committee in regards to what they are going to present.

The Community Board still has its own process which is more formal. The Steering Committee is an informal process and it is not one that is recognized by the City of New York necessarily. It is a process by which the City of New York is assisting community members in developing a plan, but it is not a formally recognized institution. The Community Board is a formally recognized institution. The Community Board will not only have this process by which it can be a part of, but it is also going to be awarded a process of ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure.) The City begins traditionally after an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) is done, which means when that clock starts ticking the Community Board has about 60 days to review everything that is going to be presented to them by the City of New York and approve, disapprove or modify the application. That process is formally the Community Board's process and the Community Board will get as much input opportunity as needed.

We are trying to get ahead of the game. The City of New York sees the Community Board and says "this is our plan modify it" and they put it on their desk. We are saying that we do not want your plan. The Community Board is going to give you a plan. We know what we want. We know if we want to keep buildings high or keep them low, we know where we need schools, we know where we want the parks, we know where the business are etc., we know everything, so we will come to you with a plan, you will not come to us with a plan.

This is the first time where a neighborhood base process is followed prior to the ULURP. Usually it is ULURP and then the community. We are saying no, it is the neighborhood and then the ULURP. Then again the neighborhood will be able to come to Community Board 4.

The intention of the Steering Community by both Councilman's office, Councilman Espinal and myself (Reynoso) are really to unify the neighborhood in chosen what its future will look like, and not allowing developers to determine that process. The process that we have put forth is allowing us to do just that. So again we are not trying to replace or duplicate anything that Community Board 4 is doing, we are simply organizing and setting forth the foundation to which the Community Board will finally have determination over.

I had to be here to explain that to everyone and if you have any concerns or questions individually about the process please feel free to let us know because we are looking for input. You can also participate in the process because we need a lot of help.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to explain that tonight and we hope that we all can work as one Bushwick in making sure that our future is bright. Thank you.

Ms. Dent thanked Councilmember Reynoso for coming and explaining the process to everyone. She asked if Celeste Leon the representative from Councilmember Espinal's office if she would like to add anything.

Celeste Leon:

Councilmember Reynoso covered everything and she encouraged everyone to get involved, it is not too late to do so. If you have any questions you can speak to her, Kevin or Boris, or any of the community members who have been a part of this process. Right now we are going through a phase were sub-committees are drafting recommendations that relate to Open Space, to housing, to economic development and these are opportunities for community members to speak up and use your expertise to really inform the changes that you see in the neighborhood. This is happening now and it will continue in the New Year. So for the most part I think if we keep working together this will be a really strong process and we will be able to make record in working together as a community with the City and formulating a true community base plan. Thank you.

Chairperson Dent:

I am a member of the executive committee for re-zoning. We want the media and the community to know that everyone has a voice and an active role in what is going to happen in our community ten years down the line.

While Ms. Fludd was on vacation the Chairperson arranged for two board members, Ms. Elvena Davis and Mr. Ernest Estime to assist Willie Morales with the mailing. She thanked them for their willingness to help. She also accompanied Willie as he went to the Post Office to mail off the newsletters and the agenda's. Ms. Dent thanked Willie for holding down the fort.

Mrs. Virgie Jones the chairperson of the Youth and Education Committee was gracious enough to attend the District Mangers meeting at the Honorable Borough Presidents Eric Adam's Office. Mrs. Jones will give an update at a future board meeting.

Live Streaming of Community Board Initiative:

- City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Council Member Reynoso, along with five other city council members have given NYC City Council Technology funding for the purpose of introducing Live Streaming of select community boars in six districts citywide.
- WNET will be offering Live Streaming of the 6 CB for a pilot period of six months from the period of January 21017 to June 2017.
- The Live Streaming will allow many more members of the community to access what takes place at community boards by either watching it in real time, or going to the WNET Website to view it at their convenience.
- This will allow senior citizens, the disabled and many other constituents that are unable a CB meeting to view and hear the important work that the community boards do on their behalf.
- There will be no intrusion or interruption of the normal activities of the location, or the community board.

Mr. Cirilo Nunez: This is a good way to get the word out and to let people know what is going on in the community.

Ms. Z. Novoa: Will our faces be shown?

Councilmember Reynoso: If you do not want your face to be shown it will be best if you do not come to the meeting. The meeting is ready a public meeting.

DISTRICT OFFICE'S REPORT: 7:50PM

Tuesday, November 29, 2016 – The HLU Chairperson Ms. Martha Brown held a Housing and Land Use meeting at the Community Board's office in reference to the outside renovation to the health center located at 335 Central Avenue. More information will be discussed at a later date.

Friday, December 2, 2016 – Chairperson Julie Dent, Willie Morales, myself and community board member Nancy Liao attended the Myrtle/Wyckoff/Pametto's press event. News reporters, the Parks Dept. and the Dept. of Transportation were there as well as other interested persons. The District Manager of Queens Community Board # 5 was also there. The event was to give those present an update on the progress of the plaza. The Parks Dept. and DOT plan to beautify the plaza by landscaping the area by adding trees and flowers. Mrs. Judith Kottick who is the mother of Ella Bandes who is one of the three victims that was killed and one of the reason why the plaza was designed spoke at the event. The other two fatalities were: Hui Wu who was killed in 2009 and Edwin Torres who was killed in 2014.

Ms. Dent spoke a few words at the press event offering the victim's families the Community Board's condolences.

Recommendations: 7:55PM

- 1) The Community Board Members approved of the WNET Live Streaming of the Community Board Meetings starting in January 2017 to June 2017 as a pilot program. The Motion to approve the 6 month program of Live Streaming was motioned by Cirilo Nunez and second by Ms. Gladys Puglla. All board member approved. Motion carried.

Announcements: 8:00PM

Ms. Barbara Smith thanked everyone who had a hand in the success of the 83rd Pct. fund raiser. She appreciated everything everyone did with the donations. \$1,600.00 was raised in 4 hours. She cannot give everyone a thank you letter, however if you gave her a check you will receive one and if you come to her meeting on January 17th you will be able to receive a thank you letter from her.

DeKalb Library, 790 Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 718-455-3898: Saturday Storytime for children and their parents and caregivers. 11:00AM on Saturdays – Join them to hear new stories and favorite tales read aloud. All ages are welcome!

Babies and Books!! With Reading Is Fundamental (R.I.F.): Tuesdays @ 10:30AM in the Auditorium for age birth to 18 months.

Practice English in a conversation group, Tuesdays 6:00 PM – 8:00PM, starts November 22nd, 2016: Join other adults who are learning to speak English! Free and no registration is required. To get involved, fill out an application on their website, or call 718-230-2406. Volunteer opportunities are open to all, including teens and people with disabilities.

Computer Classes every Wednesday from 6:00 – 7:00PM, All ages.

Washington Irving Library, 360 Irving Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, 718-628-8378: Hangout with Us! Monthly Children's Programming. Saturday Storytime, Every Saturday. All ages at 2PM.

Ingrid Ramos, Bushwick's Parents: Help children from 0-4 years of age. Ms. Ramos stated that a loaded gun was found in the park on Flushing and Central Avenue. The gun was found in a glove.

Joshua Brown a licensed real state person stated that on ACRIS you can find out if someone has stolen your mortgage. This is a problem and home owners must take steps to protect themselves and their property.

2nd Roll Call: Meeting Ended 8:10PM

Board Members Present

Julie Dent – Chairperson

Nicolas Angustia

Grace Aytes

Jo-Ena Bennett

LA Blacksmith

Deborah Brown

Martha Brown

Joshua Brown

Robert Camacho

Felix A. Ceballos

Deborah Collingwood

Elvena Davis

Edwin Delgado

Denisse Reyna-Dolin
Ernest Estime
Carlos Feliciano
Victoria Fernandez
Christopher Graham
Barbara Jackson
Virgie Jones
Kweighbaye Kotee
Nancy Liao
Mary McClellan
Sharline Moore
Zulma Novoa
Cirilo Nunez
Luise Jose-Olea
Gladys Puglla
Eliseo Ruiz
John Scheaffer
Vernedeaner Shell
Barbara Smith
Dustin Sonneborn
Roberta Sutton
Jerry Valentin
James Wiseman
Odolph Wright

Board Members Absent / Excused

Jewels Chambers
Sufia Chowdhry
Evadne George
Freddy Fowler
Maria Gomez
Anne Guiney
Sheila Jackson
Austen Martinez
Sandra Nurse
Raul Rubio
Julio Salinas
Betsy Yepez