

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009
BRONX LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER
MURRAY COHEN AUDITORIUM
1650 Grand Concourse

Ms. D. Lee Ezell, Board Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Eldy Correa, Mrs. Digna Y. Denis, Ms. Arthuree Evans, Ms. D. Lee Ezell, Mr. Jose Ferrer, Ms. Melody Frazer, Mr. Robert Garmendiz, Pastor Wenzell Jackson, Mr. Reginald Joseph, Mr. Ryan Khan, Mr. Manuel Martinez, Dr. Karie Nabinet, Mr. Ebrahim Dawda- Ndure, Mr. Barry Nissen, Ms. Rosie Pettway, Mr. Oscar Real, Ms. Martha Reyes, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr., Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Mr. Carlos Sierra.

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mrs. Felice Bradford-Richard, Rev. Earl McKay, Mr. Eric Soto.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Maynard Charles, Rev. Olga Torres-Simpson.

STAFF:

Mr. José Rodriguez, District Manager
Ms. Lynne Thompson, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Elizabeth Gonzalez-Rodriguez, Senior Secretary

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Ms. Aurea Mangual, representing Bronx Borough President Earl Brown
Mr. Syane Roy, representing NYS Senator Jose M. Serrano

GUEST PRESENT:

Ms. Mary L. Blassingame-Housing & Land Use Committee member, Mr. Fenton Thomas- Municipal Services Committee member, Ms. Gloria Wiggs- resident, Ms. Martina Ramirez- resident, Ms. Beverly Beja- Housing & Land Use Committee and Municipal Services Committee member, Rev. Selvin White-Gospel Mission Pentecostal Church, Ms. Glenda Self- Project H.I.R.E., Ms. Eva Kowalski- resident, Ms. Fay Swavy- Church of God of Prophecy, Ms. Lakisha Williams- resident, Ms. Shirley Solomon- The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Mr. Mariano Laboy- resident, Ms. Gloria Hughes- NYCPL Grand Concourse Branch, Ms. Arlene Hall-Grand Concourse Academy School, Mr. Emmanuel Cabrera-Good Jobs NY, Mr. Chad Marlow, Ms. Chrelle Silvera- resident, P.O. Hilda Estrella-NYPD 44th Precinct, Ms. Shirley Maldonado-resident, Ms. Candida A. Bido- Bronx District Public Health Office, Mr. Norval Mills-NAB #4, Ms. Jacqueline Carter- resident, Mr. Mark Escoffery-Bay- resident, Mr. Shahid K. VanPutten-resident, Ms. Evelyn Rivera- President 11 West 172nd Street Tenants Association, Ms. Cynthia Cox-District Leader 79, Ms. Marie McCullough-Concourse Village East, Mr. Joseph Jenkins- Bridge Builders, Ms. Lucille Price-Housing & Land Use Committee member, Ms. Debra Myers- resident, Ms. Elaine Rivera-WNYC Radio Station.

Call To Order

The General Board meeting commenced at 6:20 PM by Ms. D. Lee Ezell, Board Chair. All were welcomed to the meeting.

Invocation

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Karie Nabinet

Board Chair Remarks

Ms. Ezell made mention of the 2nd Anniversary of the Mugassa and Soumare tragedy and the emergency awareness preparedness event at P. S. 73. She spoke briefly about the Judge's ruling regarding the Mott Haven School Campus Site and segued to a proposed resolution for the Community Board to act as fiscal conduit for the SMP at the Mott Haven Campus site. She concluded with Yankee ticket distribution, with overview from the District Manager.

Lastly, she announced the Yankee Stadium Heritage Field Community Briefing scheduled for March 25th and U. S. Census presentation at the joint Borough Board/Cabinet meeting.

Review/Correction/Adoption of Previous Minutes

A motion for February GBM Minutes was made by Mr. Barry Nissen and seconded by Ms. Kathleen Saunders. The motion was duly carried.

Presentation Overview of the New Yankee Stadium by Mr. Jose Rodriguez and Glenda Self members of the Yankee Stadium Construction Committee

Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Glenda Self reported on the following.

- **Contracts dollar value to date:**

State contracts: 443,325,021

City contracts: 306,410,366

Local contracts: 134,053,706

63 of 190 = 33% LBE 32 of 63 = 51% M/WLBE

- **The workforce to date:**

Local workforce: 25%

Minority workforce: 38%

Female workforce: 5%

There have been 952 Bronx residents on the job

- **The Yankees have allocated 1 million dollars for pre-apprentice training and have been able to services 700 residents through the following programs:**

Non-Traditional Employment For Women

Helmets to Hardhats

Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York

Project H.I.R.E (Bronx based)

- **The Yankees have sponsored two mentoring program involving local High Schools:**

Youth Force 2020 (500 students)

Turner's Youth Force 2020 guides young people toward careers in the construction industry, using an Adopt-a-School Program along with internship and scholarship opportunities. Students from high schools such as the Bronx Engineering Technical

Academy (BETA), Alfred E. Smith H.S. and the Institute of Environmental Learning have attended monthly classes at the original Yankee Stadium covering a curriculum tailored to introduce the construction industry to students.

At the conclusion of the program, five \$8,000 scholarships (\$2,000 for each year of college) are given to selected graduating seniors who go on to pursue degrees in architecture, engineering or construction.

A.C.E mentoring (100 students)

The Yankee Stadium-affiliated Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program, is designed to enlighten and motivate Bronx high school students toward architecture, construction, engineering and related careers, while providing mentoring opportunities for future designers and constructors. Over the last two years, volunteers from Tishman Speyer have assisted student teams as they take on challenging construction design assignments relating to the new Yankee Stadium.

The ACE program meets for two hours each week, working toward a final presentation in May. Students from this year's class represent many local high schools, including Harry S. Truman H.S., DeWitt Clinton H.S., Alfred E. Smith H.S., BETA, NYC Charter H.S. for Architecture, Engineering & Construction, New School for Arts & Sciences, Lehman H.S., Bronx H.S. for the Visual Arts, St. Raymond's, Morris High School, Mt. St. Michael Academy, Bronx Science and Holcombe L. Rucker.

- **The Fund advisory panel has received to date:**

\$1.6 Million for Bronx CBO

\$100,000 in sports equipment

15,000 tickets donated

- **Overview of Project H.I.R.E**

Project H.I.R.E. is a non-profit training program held at Bronx Community College that offers hands-on classroom training in the Building Trades. Classes are held Monday-Friday 8am-3pm. The course runs for twenty weeks and students learn plumbing, carpentry, electrical wiring, and boiler operations in addition to painting, tiling, sheetrock installations and professional job search skills training.

The program is free and provides free job placement assistance.

Resolution of the Site Management Plan for the new school site at Concourse Village West and East 156th Street

The Board Chair presented the following resolution to the Board that would allow the Board to receive and distribute any and all funds donated for the sole purpose of reviewing and monitoring the Site Management Plan (SMP) for the Mott Haven Campus. Ms. Ezell explained that she prepared the resolution and called on the General Counsel for the Borough President and an Attorney for the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest to review before it was submitted to the Board. A motion was moved by Martha Reyes to approve the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Barry Nissen and duly carried. The resolution is attached to these minutes.

Remarks By The District Manager

Mr. José Rodríguez, District Manager wished everyone a good evening and spoke about the following from his report and indicated that a copy of the report may be obtained at the office for review.

The District Manager provided an overview from The City of New York Independent Budget Office. That estimates the city will lose 270,000 jobs from its employment peak in the first quarter of 2008 through the second quarter of 2010.

- The IBO projects that total tax revenues, even after accounting for December's increase of the property and hotel occupancy tax rates, will fall by \$2.6 billion to \$34.7 billion this fiscal year.
- And even if the IBO includes the expected revenue from the Mayor's proposed sales tax increases, they estimate total tax revenues will decline by an additional \$1.3 billion in fiscal year 2010.
- These declining tax revenue projections are what's driving IBO's estimate of the city's growing budget shortfalls.
- Even if they assume the Mayor's proposed gap-closing actions for fiscal year 2010 are achieved, their new lower tax revenue forecast will imply that there is still an additional problem that remains to be addressed.
- IBO estimates a budget gap of \$1.2 billion in 2010. Their budget gap projection for 2011 is now \$4.8 billion, \$1.6 billion more than the Mayor estimated in January.
- The federal stimulus bill will provide the city with some fiscal relief; it is not yet clear how much. A significant portion of the stimulus comes in the form of funds to foster infrastructure projects and expand programs, assistance that does nothing to close the city's expense budget gaps.
- The city has entered what is expected to be severe and protracted period of economic retrenchment which will lead to two consecutive years of tax revenue declines.
- Even after the local economy begins to recover—and IBO expects the city's recovery to lag the nation's—tax revenue growth is expected to be much.
- IBO expects the city to face an ongoing challenge to meet its legal requirement to produce annual budgets that are balanced.

Ms. Aurea Mangual, representing the Borough President made the following report:

- 2009 Community Board Reappointments
 - Community Board Members who have submitted a reappointment application should continue to serve until they receive a letter from the Borough President regarding their reappointment. The terms of Community Board Members who have chosen not to reapply for a new term ends on March 31st.
- Overview of the Borough President announcing a new initiative to help struggling nonprofits.
 - Initiative in partnership with the Jewish Community Relations Council of NY/CAUSE-NY and Hostos Community College.

Report form State Senator Jose M. Serrano

Mr. Syane Roy representing the Hon. Jose M. Serrano made the following report:

- Senator In Albany working on the State Budget with specific attention on cuts to services, education and the MTA
- Announced Bronx office hours and location
 - Highbridge Senior Center.
 - Morning session will be a workshop on services
 - Afternoon session will focus on constituent services

Report from 44th Precinct, Police Officer Hilda Estrella

Officer Estrella made the following report:

- Announcement of the 44th Pct's Fellowship Breakfast
- 44th Pct. Community Service Project
- Announcement about their summer camp and application process
- College Scholarship Learning for Life

Committee Reports:

Economic Development Committee

Ms. Martha Reyes requested approval of the following items ULURP # N 080499 ECX renewal application of Sidewalk Café application for NPK Donut, Inc, DBA Court Deli Restaurant located at 96 East 161street, two Recommendation RQSTs for a Cabaret License first applicant the New York Yankee Steak House and the second the Hard Rock Café.

The 1st motion called by Ms. Reyes was for ULURP # N 080499 ECX-a renewal application for a Sidewalk Café. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlos Sierra and duly carried. The 2nd motion called by Ms. Reyes was for approval RQST of a Cabaret License for the New York Yankee Steak House. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ryan Khan and duly carried. The 3rd item called by Ms. Reyes was for approval RQST of a Cabaret License for the Hard Rock Café and seconded by Mr. Ryan Khan. The Motion was duly carried.

Mrs. Kathleen Saunders reminded everyone of her committee meeting and announced that the committee had the Department of Transportation speak on the Park Smart Program. The presentation made at the March 4th was supported by the committee and although the full Board approved the Park Smart Initiative the Committee supports moving forward with no objections.

Health and Human Services

Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr. requested approval for 2 letters one in support of Morrisana Diagnostic Center for the continuation of their WIC program. The motion made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Carlos Sierra was duly carried.

The second motion called by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Ferrer was for a letter of support for the organization HELP in support for their continued services. The motion was duly carried.

Housing and Land Use

Mr. Manual Martinez presented on behalf of the committee for Board support of The Department of City Planning's Inclusionary Housing Text Amendment proposal for a city-wide text amendment to the Zoning Resolution to enact several enhancements to the Inclusionary Housing program. The Inclusionary Housing program offers a floor area bonus to developments in specified medium and high density districts that provide affordable housing either on-site or nearby.

Mr. Martinez made the motion for board approval and seconded by Ms. Martha Reyes. The motion was duly carried.

Youth and Education

Ms. Rosie Pettway announced Youth Day and the committee's upcoming meeting.

Announcements

Board Member Carlos Sierra made a general announcement for more community involvement and inclusion during the General Board Meeting.

Public Session

Mariano Laboy spoke of HHC clinic closings, FBI Citizen Academy and community participation during General Board Meetings.

Candida Bido of DHMH spoke of training opportunities, Rat initiative and property owner Rat initiative.

By-Laws Ratifications

Pastor Wenzell Jackson outlined the amendments that will be presented to the Board regarding the By-Laws. The By-Laws Committee presented and recommended the following changes in the Community Board Four By-Laws to the Board for approval on: ARTICLE VI, Sections 1 through 6: COMMITTEES.

The procedure in practice for changes to the By-Laws is that a presentation is made by the ad-hoc By-Laws Committee at a regular General Board Meeting with a vote scheduled for the following month's regular meeting.

Pastor Jackson spoke of the changes in, Establishment of Committees; Committee Composition and Succession; Duties of Committee Chairpersons; Removal of Committee Members; Conflict of Interest Committees; the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure; Executive Committee and Community Committee Membership Application.

Several Board Members asked for clarification on certain items and after some constructive dialogue exchange and debating the merits of the amendments Ms. Saunders called a motion to approve the amendments. Ms Martha Reyes seconded the motion. The motion was duly carried with one abstention.

Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY: Mr. Jose Rodriguez, District Manager for
Mr. Oscar Real, Recording Secretary