

The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Four
General Board Meeting
Held on Thursday, January 26, 2010
THE BRONX COUNTY BUILDING (Rotunda)
851 Grand Concourse & East 161st Street

Dr. Karie Nabinet, Acting Board Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Naimah Bilal, Mrs. Digna Y. Denis, , Mr. Jose Ferrer, Ms. Melody Frazer, Ms. Mildred James, Mr. Reginald Joseph, Mr. Jean Mirvil, Dr. Karie Nabinet, Mr. Bourema Niamebele, Mr. Barry Nissen, Mr. Michael Rendino, Mr. George T. Robinson, Sr., Ms. Kathleen Saunders, Bishop Earl McKay Emmanuel Cabrera. , Mr Ebrahim Dawda Ndure, Ms. Beverly Bond, Ms. Llinet Beltre-Rosado, Ms. Rosie Pettway, Ms. Martha Reyes Ms. Arthuree Evans, Pastor Wenzell P. Jackson, Mr. Jose Ventura

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Ms. Wanda Carter; Ms. Ernestine Davis; Ms. Joanne Smitherman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Maynard Charles; Mr. Felipe Febles; Ms. Blanche Roblero; Ms. Felice Bradford-Richard; Ms. D. Lee Ezell; Mr. Manuel Martinez;; Mr. Oscar Real; Ms. Patricia Titley; Mr. Chester Leiba;; Ms. Eldy Correa

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 Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Mr. Edu Hermelyn, representing NYS Assemblywoman Vanessa Gibson
Ms. Caroline Jones, representing NYS Senator Ruth Hassel-Thompson
Mr. Federico Perez, representing Congressman Jose E. Serrano

Call To Order

The General Board meeting commenced at 6:15 PM by Dr. Karie Nabinet Acting Board Chair. All were welcomed to the meeting.

Invocation

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bishop Earl McKay.

Review/Correction/Adoption of Previous Minutes

Dr. Nabinet called for a motion on the December General Board Meeting Minutes for adoption. A motion was moved by Ms. Mildred James to approve the December General Board Meeting Minutes and seconded by Mr. Barry Nissen. The motion duly carried (13 in the affirmative and 7 abstentions).

Remarks By The District Manager

At this point Mr. Jose Rodriguez, District Manager reported stated the following:

As part of the budget process the Mayor is mandated to submit a Preliminary Budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The Preliminary Budget document summarizes by unit of appropriation within the agency and the allocation of resources in the Fiscal Year. The document reflects agency appropriations assuming the implementation of the proposed plan to ensure balance between the expense and revenue budgets presented in the Financial Plan submitted by the Mayor.

The Fiscal Year 2011 Preliminary Budget will be published on Thursday, January 28.

Once the Preliminary Budget is released, Community Boards will receive all documentation involving FY 2011 Preliminary Budget.

The release of the Preliminary Budget document means it's time to schedule the Charter mandated public hearings to gauge community reaction to the Preliminary Budget. Community Boards are to schedule these hearings during February, at which time the community is asked to comment on the responses provided by the agencies to the boards' priorities as published in the Register.

By March 5th, we are to submit our Statement on the Preliminary Budget.

The District Manager provided FAQs intended on providing Board Members with a better understanding of the overall budget process and a copy of the Board's budget priorities for review to better prepare for the Mayor's Preliminary Budget.

The District Manager further explained that the *budget process begins in late autumn when the various City agencies, after consulting with the 59 Community Boards, submit their budget requests to OMB. On or about January 16, the Mayor releases the Preliminary Budget and Four Year Financial Plan for the ensuing years. This is followed by a period of public comment during which the 59 Community Boards, the 5 Borough Boards and the City Council make recommendations on the budget to the Mayor. The Mayor then submits the Executive Budget to the City Council on or about April 26.*

Report from Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

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

- Borough President Diaz announced the creation of a new “Green” jobs program.
- Borough President created a Public Housing Advisory Council.
- Borough President and the Gran Parada Dominicana de El Bronx host 2010 Dominican Heritage Month Celebration.
- Review of the Borough President’s Black History Month.
- Announcement of Community Board Applications.
- Gun buyback program.
- Haitian Relief Fund.

Report by Local Elected Officials

Remarks by Hon. Congressman Jose E. Serrano

Mr. Federico Perez representing Congressman Jose E. Serrano:

- Announced of Congressman’s years of service.
- Congressman’s Committee to conduct a survey on the quality of food in the District.

Remarks by Hon. Assembly Member Vanessa Gibson

Mr. Edu Hermelyn, representing NYS Assemblywoman Vanessa Gibson:

- Ltr to School Chancellor Joel Klein regarding school closures.
- Rally at 851 GC with Borough President and the UFT.
- Prayer Vigil at Mt. Hermon Baptist Church.
- Haitian Relief.
- US Census Information.

Remarks by Hon. State Senator Ruth Hassel Thompson

Ms. Caroline Jones, representing State Senator Ruth Hassel Thompson

- Senator Chair of the Haitian Assistance Relief Taskforce.
- Domestic Violence Workshop.
- Statewide Tour regarding cuts to funding for legal assistance services.

Committee Reports:

Youth Services Committee

- Mr. Mirvil gave an update on the Youth Day Agenda.
- Obtaining support from local businesses.
- Save the date.
- The need for quality programming.

Municipal Services

- Ms. Sanders announced that the 4+44 event has been postponed. She gave a brief overview of the event's purpose. This year's 4+44 would have been held on January 29th at Yankee Stadium Legends Restaurant and will announce the new date at a later time.

Parks and Recreation Committee

- Pastor Jackson made a motion to provide a letter to the Design Commission outlining that the Full Board does not support the proposal to keep Gate 2. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Arthuree Evans. The motion duly carried (19 in the affirmative with 3 abstentions).
- Pastor Jackson made another motion to provide a letter to the Design Commission approving the Parks Department's Mill Pond Park signage (20 in the affirmative with 3 abstentions).

Public Session

Candida Bido, DHMH

- H1N1 free vaccinations at the Arthur Avenue Site.
- Immunizations

Jose Gonzalez, P.S. 73 Parent

- Discussed issues involving the Parent Coordinator from P.S. 73.

Elias Naser, Per Scholars Inc.

- Announcement of Comp2kids-New Program initiative named Digital Families. A free program with computer education and a free computer.

Yolanda Sanchez, Parent of kalief N. William

- Request to change the name of Bridge playground to Kalief N. William Courts

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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