



Meeting Summary

East Bronx Waterfront Planning Meeting #5

Tuesday, September 23, 2014, 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Locust Point Civic Association, 3300 Tierney Pl, Bronx, NY, 10465

Attendance:

Patrice Conboy	Committee Member	Claudia Filomena	NY Rising Regional Lead
John Doyle	Committee Member	Alex Zablocki	NY Rising Regional Lead
Cynthia McIntosh	Committee Member	Effie Ardizzone	NYC DEP
Chrys Napolitano	Committee Member	Jim Garin	NYC DEP
Denise Noble	Committee Member	Tom Jost	Planning Team
Jane Protzman	Committee Member	Kevin Maddox	Planning Team
Ron Rauch	Committee Member	Chris Riale	Planning Team
Harry Rodriguez	Committee Member	Yao Lu	Planning Team
JoAnn Sohmers	Committee Member	Theresa Cassano	Planning Team
James Tynan	Committee Member	Barbara Wilks	Planning Team
Valerie Wilson	Committee Member	Frannie Peterson	Planning Team
		Chris Longo	Planning Team
		John Taylor	Planning Team
Ben Randazzo	Resident		
Cary Sohmers	Resident		
Marcia Anne Pavlica	Resident		

Agenda Item: Introductions/Review Public Meeting Feedback

Presenter: Kevin Maddox, Planning Team

Summary of Discussion:

Meeting opened with a review of feedback from Public Meeting 2 held on Wednesday, September 17, 2014. Public Meeting 2 had an estimated attendance of over 70 people, many of whom had been in attendance at the Public Meeting 1. The primary challenge cited by Community members was financing, and the top priorities were dealing with rising flood insurance rates and protecting the waterfront from erosion.

Agenda Item: Overview on project development

Presenter: Alex Zablocki and Claudia Filomena, GOSR

Summary of Discussion:

GOSR discussed conditions that make a project fundable with Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding.

- GOSR project review includes a review of fundability based on HUD CDBG-DR criteria, including that project meets a HUD national objective, addresses a direct or indirect impact from the disaster, and proposes an activity that is eligible for funding according to Housing and Community Development Act.
- Funding cannot be used toward operations and maintenance, purchase of equipment, and projects exclusively mitigation or preparedness.
- GOSR will work with Planning Team and Committee to modify projects so that they can utilize CDBG-DR funds or identify alternative funding.

- Rising to the Top Program offers bonus money that goes toward Community allocations for following three categories - regional approach (\$1.5 million), inclusion of vulnerable populations (\$1 million), and use of green infrastructure (\$1 million).

Agenda Item: Initial projects ideas for coastal protection & stormwater

Presenter: Tom Jost, Planning Team

Summary of Discussion:

The Planning Team presented existing flood expectations in key locations, and project approaches for better coastal protection and stormwater management:

1. City Island
 - Much of northern part of City Island is in the 100-year flood zone. Elevation is also low along the entire northern coastline and mostly privately owned.
 - Project proposals:
 - Deployable flood walls along City Island Avenue and Bridge Street— very expensive and long term.
 - Individual housing protections
 - Creation of wetlands on undeveloped property between Ditmars and Tier Street.
2. Locust Point
 - Project proposals:
 - Protect buildings (houses particularly vulnerable north of Silver Beach on eastern edge of Hammond Cove).
 - Berms and raising bulkheads along Hammond Cove
 - Tide gate at mouth of Hammond Cove – very expensive intervention.
3. Edgewater Park
 - Edgewater has existing community-initiated plans in place to reconstruct groins and rebuild new seawalls.
 - GOSR will gather information on DEC permitting questions from Edgewater.
4. Ferry Point
 - Most pressing issue in Ferry Point is flooding along Brush Avenue up to Bruckner.
 - Planning team engineer explained that streets are so flat that water is not draining into catch basins.
 - Project proposal:
 - Street grade raising and adding additional catch basins.
 - Committee members have concerns about street grade raising because Ferry Point residents do not want to add sidewalks and narrow streets.
5. Westchester Creek –
 - Project proposal:
 - Add continuous green spaces and open the waterfront to public access where possible.
 - Planning team explains that this would be a long term strategy involving land use change which could connect residents back to water.
 - GOSR suggests that this could be a featured project.
6. Harding Park
 - Harding Park is a low-lying area with bungalows vulnerable to sea level rise.
 - Project proposal:
 - Could possibly add a small berm along water edge.
7. Spencer Estates
 - Homes are much lower than streets, leading to frequent issues with water in basements during storm events.
 - Planning team wants to know if flooding is groundwater or if it is back-up from drains and toilets.
 - Committee believe groundwater is primary issue.
8. Throggs Neck
 - Project proposal:

- Elevated street end along low point with a deployable flood wall

Questions from Committee included:

Q: Why have flood insurance rates gone up even though 100-year flood may not happen?

A: Insurance based on FEMA determined probability, so reflects chance of event happening rather than actual flood.

Q: How do we work with Army Corps and get funding?

A: Request for Army Corps assistance would need to come from local government. Implementation process is lengthy. GOSR is currently working with Army Corps to implement smaller projects in NYRising Round I Communities.

Q: What is DEP doing to address sewer backup flooding in Planning Area?

A: In Bronx, typically have combined sewer system. DEP has to be careful because too much flow from excess catch basins will cause back-up into households. Solution is to add high-level storm systems. In Pennyfield, drainage plan was in the works to supplement combined sewer system with storm systems, but DOT moved project off priority list. DEP does these projects in conjunction with DOT.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
Compile permitting questions for NYS DEC	Committee and GOSR	10/7/14

Agenda Item: Initial projects ideas for coastal protection & stormwater **Presenter:** Kevin Maddox, Planning Team

Summary of Discussion: Schedule and Next Steps

- Planning Team will generate list of priority/featured projects by October 3, 2014.
- Planning Meeting #6 will take place Tuesday, October 7 from 6PM – 8PM at Locust Point Civic Association, 3300 Tierney Pl, Bronx, NY, 10465.
- Planning Meeting #6 will take place Tuesday, October 21 from 6PM – 8PM at Locust Point Civic Association, 3300 Tierney Pl, Bronx, NY, 10465.