



Meeting Summary

Canarsie Planning Committee Meeting #6

Monday, October 6, 2014, 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Hebrew Educational Society, 9502 Seaview Ave Brooklyn, NY 11236

Attendance:

Emily James	Committee Co-Chair	Arana Hankin	Consultant Team
Harold Jones	Committee Co-Chair	Bill Calabrese	Consultant Team
Maria Gerrett	Committee Member	Sam Saliba	Consultant Team
Lucina Clarke	Committee Member	Marla Weinstein	Consultant Team
Yosef Serebryanski	Committee Member	Daphne Lundi	NYC-DCP
Debbie Tiamfook	Committee Member	Patrick Cantrell	NYS GOSR
Molly Griffith	Committee Member		Implementation Team
Melba Brown	Committee Member	Brandon Bloomfield	NYS Senator Sampson
Avorhom Hecht	Committee Member	Mika Shimizu	Kyoto University
Chelsea Muller	NYS GOSR	Kazuya Yamaguchi	Kyoto UniversityChris
Gorman	NYS GOSR	Georgette Clarke	102 nd Block Association
		Matthew McGinn	goTenna

Agenda Item: NYC Dept. of City Planning Presentation

Presenter: **Daphne Lundi, NYC-DCP**

Summary of Discussion:

- NYC-DCP Planner Daphne Lundi provided a brief overview on the Resilient Neighborhoods initiative being launched in Canarsie
- Program will be a neighborhood planning initiative to identify strategies to make the Community more resilient
 - NYC-DCP is looking for volunteers for this initiative, either from Committee members who are on the NY Rising Committee or from neighbors and peers who may be interested
- Question about the potential for locating a resilience center through this process
 - Process can include outreach to other organizations and stakeholders
- Question about partners within the City government that NYC-DCP is working with for initiative
 - Most familiar is likely the Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency
 - Comprehensive report commissioned under Mayor Bloomberg
 - Report proposed a number of initiatives that NYC-DCP will now be working with to consider how they could be integrated into the plans
- NYC-DCP's direct tools include land use and zoning changes

Agenda Item: HGA Implementation Team Presentation

Presenter: **Patrick Cantrell, HGA**

Summary of Discussion:

- All activities must be eligible for disaster funding and meet a national objective
 - National objectives include
 - Activities benefitting low/moderate income persons

- Prevention/Elimination of slums or blight
 - Urgent needs – projects with a recovery focus that get a community back to where they were prior to the storm
- Question about implementations phase
 - Once plans are submitted and published, the implementation phase will begin, currently Phase I projects are in the process of being funded
 - As an example feasibility studies will move quicker than large infrastructure projects, but every project case is essentially unique and will be crafted by the implementation team to try and make the best possible case to HUD
- Question about what national objective categories fit best for Canarsie
 - Reminder from NYS GOSR team that this presentation is provided to communicate future process and to understand timelines for project implementation, it should not constrain project development ideas
 - NY Rising plan will memorialize all of these ideas and can be used as a tool to leverage additional funding and influence other projects and agencies
- Overarching categories of eligible CDBG-DR activities include:
 - Acquisition of real property
 - Public facilities and improvement of privately owned utilities
 - Clearance, rehab, reconstruction and construction of buildings
 - Public Services
 - Relocation
 - Planning and capacity building
 - Program administration costs (within reason), likewise for construction management and legal activities
 - Economic development assistance to for-profit businesses
 - Technical assistance
 - Housing services
- Ineligible activities include:
 - Operating and maintenance expenses
 - General government expenses
 - Political activities
 - Exclusively mitigation or preparedness activities not part of rebuilding efforts
 - Purchase of equipment is tricky
 - For example:
 - Can build radio tower, can't purchase radios
 - Can build school, can't buy computers
 - Generators for key facilities must be permanently fixed to a facility
- Projects should be developed to meet the needs of Canarsie, not reverse engineering for implementation

Summary of Discussion:

- Program update
 - Currently in project development phase
 - 2 more Committee meetings scheduled before the next public meeting on November 10th where we will be presenting our list of projects to get the community's feedback

Summary of Discussion:

- Focus is on building the economic resiliency of the community
- Which can be accomplished through:
 - Improving access to jobs, ensuring the Community has an ability to maximize the investments being made through resiliency projects
 - Encouraging the growth of very small businesses
 - Facilitating the restoration of vibrant retail corridors to serve the Community
- Improving access to jobs
 - Feedback from community and Committee has emphasized need for youth training
 - This need is represented in City-wide unemployment numbers, showing substantially higher unemployment rates for youth
 - Gap exists for training after high school within Community
 - Workforce training program for resiliency jobs is a potential project
 - Committee desires “green job” training
 - This could take the form of urban farming, or modeled after Botanic Gardens Institute Horticulture certificate program
 - Gowanus as a model to celebrating the assets of Canarsie to leverage tourism
 - Floating museum
 - Oyster beds
 - Both could be a tourist attraction
 - “Canarsie Corps” for youth to be paid to do resiliency and other Community projects
- Encouraging growth of very small businesses
 - Potential to have some sort of incubator market in area around E105 St L train stop
- Facilitating the growth of retail corridors
 - Desire from Committee to attract more businesses around Avenue L and Rockaway Parkway
 - Concern with small number of property owners that exist - no desire to improve retail corridor
 - Desire to attract an anchor institute – such as Trader’s Joe
 - Need businesses that are unique from Gateway
 - Need diversity of restaurants
 - Healthy eating
 - Sushi
 - Italian
 - Subway
 - “Restaurant row”
 - Need clothing stores
 - Parking issues along Avenue L

- Cablevision lot frequently not used to capacity, but is private and unlikely to be shared
 - Better transportation needed overall in the Community
 - Planning team to look into option for transportation plan as a potential project
 - Option presented by Planning team to incorporate more residential uses along retail corridors, broadening the local consumer base

Agenda Item: Emergency Preparedness

Presenter: Arana Hankin, HR&A Advisors

Summary of Discussion:

- Who is involved in Emergency Preparedness?
 - Coordination between Federal, State, City, and local organizations
 - Community involvement formalized through CERTs (Community Emergency Response Teams)
 - Junior CERT team has been launched by NYC OEM
- Need in the Community expressed to identify a protocol for communication about how and where to obtain critical supplies and information
 - Feeling now is that existing plans to not work
 - OEM has expressed need to have on-the-ground resource place for coordination
- Community Block Captain Program precedent exists in Orem Utah, with formalized structure that ties into City response
 - Block captain and coordination role
 - Canarsie has many block associations
 - Canarsie Strong is aiming to do this, to have a block captains for the community
 - Friends United block association, active years ago
 - Community outreach through borough president ongoing
 - Feeling that block associations are the best way to get to vulnerable populations
- Other City-wide methods for communicating emergency response exists
 - New zone system of evacuation
 - NotifyNYC texting system in place through the City
 - Ways to increase registration
 - Potential projects for improving at the Community level include signage improvements or establishing a Community-wide coordinator
- Question posed to the Committee about community-based organizations (CBOs) who might be able to assist, or who have played recovery roles in the past
 - Canarsie Strong
 - Church of the Holy Family
 - Noted by member of the public that the space used by Holy Family for recovery is now used as a school, and can't be used in the future
 - Hebrew Educational Society
 - Millennium Development has a program run out of Bayview Houses
 - Friends United
 - United South Civic
- Recovery/resource centers as potential project
 - Center for gathering resources and coordinating relief efforts between government agencies and local organizations

- Option to include safe places to park cars after flooding
- Committee likes idea, but feels the center would have to be built new, as there are not many existing options within the community for a space that could be rehabbed or retrofitted to play such a role
 - Rockaway Parkway or Flatlands
 - Idea for empty MTA lot by E105 street station
 - Canarsie Strong had previous plans for this space around creating an orchard
 - Question posed by Committee member if it is possible to build there (marshland)
Can you build there? Could it be a place for a market? Temporary green space?
 - Close to public transportation
 - FedEx building that closed
 - Ave K and Remsen potentially could be idea
- Could be where you train youth for workforce program
- Noted that a new structure needs to be maintained and would need to play a role in the Community on a day-to-day basis, as well as after emergency events
- Committee to think about training and ongoing programming and email back the committee
- Committee wants it to be a green building

Agenda Item: **Power**

Presenter: **Marla Weinstein, Parsons Brinckerhoff**

Summary of Discussion:

- Most issues after Superstorm Sandy stemmed from last phase of distribution, where electricity is connected to users
 - These issues are handled by ConEd
 - Hardening of utility lines are possible
 - Tree maintenance is important
 - Burying the lines are very expensive, ConEd is prioritizing very specific problem areas with dense populations for these sort of solutions
 - Community may be able to make recommendations to the utility of places that would be important to harden
 - Fund or program could be developed by Committee to help individuals elevate electrical systems
- Alternative power opportunities
 - Solar power can be paired with coverage of large parking lots
 - May not be able to power entire building. Could provide key functions and keep the lights on, but not power everything in a building
- Wind: can be small micro turbines. Also can be used in conjunction with solar for lights.
 - PB to look into concern from Committee member of noise issue
- Power generators
 - Has to be out of floodplain
 - Need to have fuel to run it
 - Can have fuel storage next to it, or run off natural gas, which stayed on during Sandy
- Alternative/off-grid power source project ideas are site specific
 - DOT does not currently have solar power
 - Potential for solar charging stations for cell phones around existing gathering spaces
 - Feeling from Community that solar might be better for residential

- Generators could be provided to organizations who work with vulnerable populations and also where they live
- Program to extend Rebuilding Together solar program
- Bus stops and shelters could have opportunity for alternative power to improve lighting
 - Crime happens to happen when people get off buses, deterrent would be good
- Generators targeting the churches or other places where people will be gathering after an emergency event

Agenda Item: **Next Steps**

Presenter: **Arana Hankin, HR&A Advisors**

Summary of Discussion:

- Revising list of Proposed & Featured Projects
- Committee Meeting #7: Monday, October 20th
 - Housing & Drainage project development
 - Follow-up on project research from tonight & PC #5
- Public Meeting #3: Monday, November 10
 - Public feedback on projects