



# Meeting Summary

## Canarsie Planning Committee Meeting #2

Monday, July 08, 2014, 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Hebrew Educational Society, 9502 Seaview Ave Brooklyn, NY 11236

### Attendance:

Emily James	Committee Co-Chair	Dalton Robinson	MoA Perry's Office
Harold Jones	Committee Co-Chair	Chelsea Muller	NYS GOSR
Maria Gerrett	Committee Member	Jamie Springer	Consultant Team
Lucina Clarke	Committee Member	Kaye Matheny	Consultant Team
Yosef Serebryanski	Committee Member	Arana Hankin	Consultant Team
Debbie Tiamfook	Committee Member	Bill Calabrese	Consultant Team
Avrohom Hecht	Committee Member	Tanya Gallo	Consultant Team
Roxanne Persaud	Non-Voting Committee Member	Evan Lacher	Consultant Team
David Louis	Non-Voting Committee Member	Sam Saliba	Consultant Team
Joy Riley	Committee Member	Dapne Lundi	NYC DCP
Rabbi Josh Minkin	Attendee		

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Agenda Item: **Introduction/Program and Committee planning**

Presenter: **General discussion**

### Summary of Discussion:

- **Introduction-** Planning Team welcomes everyone and leads the introductions. Kaye Matheny, HR&A Program Director, introduces Arana Hankin, Project Manager for Canarsie Planning Area and explains that Arana will now be leading the Committee meetings on behalf of the consulting team. The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) collects the Visioning Exercise from the Planning Committee assigned as homework.
- Planning Team outlines the NYRCR process – first identifying critical issues, then defining needs and opportunities which develop into strategies and then proposing projects. Planning Team identifies the six Recovery Support functions – Economic development, Health and Social Services, Housing, Infrastructure and Natural and Cultural Resources and provides a brief explanation of each support function.
- Planning Team provides an example from NY Rising Round I Howard Beach Plan to help explicate the process for developing a community plan. For Howard Beach, the community identified the need for a strengthened coastline. The strategy included a coastal protection study. The Planning Team emphasizes the importance of a holistic process and informs the Committee that the information gathered during the Committee meetings will be reflected back to the community during the Public meeting.
- Committee members identify sewage back up and drainage as critical issues and storm protection as an important need.

Summary of Discussion:

- Planning Team leads the Committee in creating a vision statement for the Canarsie community. The Team emphasizes to the Committee to consider both short term and long term goals and to be aspirational in their thinking.
- Committee members offer the following responses to how they currently view their community and what they would like to see happen in their community in the next 5, 10 and 50 years.
  - Develop sustainable food production in the community- i.e. vegetable gardens
  - Enhance self-sufficiency (e.g., create an emergency center)
  - Become a model community for resiliency, stand as an example for other communities
  - Upgrade infrastructure
  - Increase civic education and develop a stronger civic voice. Empower stewardship
  - Enhance the natural defenses of the community (i.e. marshlands, waterways) and the environmental assets
  - Stimulate job growth and economic development
  - Increase safety and quality of life (e.g., lighting)
- Planning Team presents a vision statement based on the words and phrases Committee members provided, both during the meeting and in the homework assignment:

Canarsie is a diverse and peaceful community with great recreational resources that, through improved infrastructure, quality commercial and community spaces, and education about the role of natural systems will become a self-reliant, empowered, and prosperous community that is a model of sustainability and resilience

Summary of Discussion:

- Planning Team reviews the NYS DOS Risk zone maps based on the flood insurance rate maps, and discusses how this informs the asset inventory map and risk assessment, attention given to elevation. Planning Team reviews the heat map based on 311 complaint calls for drainage with the Committee.
- Planning Team asks the Committee to think about what it was like on the ground- what did it feel like? What did you see?
- Committee members add to the list of critical issues discussed in the previous Planning Committee meeting #1. These include:
  - Major sewage issues. (Basements were flooded, some streets experienced 6 ½- 7 feet of water).
  - Many impermeable surfaces that do not drain well
  - Inconsistencies with FEMA. Committee members cite never receiving money from FEMA as well as little from insurance.
- A Committee member asks about the Jamaica Bay Working Group. The GOSR explains the Working Group which is made up of all Jamaica Bay Communities and includes a sub-committee of the NY Rising Community Round 1 and 2. The group is charged with working on next steps and creating consistent

recommendations for the whole of Jamaica Bay (i.e. whether there is agreement on the study of a surge barrier). The goal is to discuss issues, find consensus and advocate to the State. There will be members from the Canarsie Planning Committee represented on this Working group. Chris Gorman is managing the group and is also the Community Planner for Canarsie Planning Area. A Committee member discusses the Jamaica Bay Coalition and suggests connecting with them as well as other groups working on resiliency issues in the area.

- Discussion about how to make these meetings connect better to other programs to work on a larger scale throughout the bay
- Marsh and trees provided some protection on 108<sup>th</sup> Street (around K and Ave M), difference was noticeable as the fence did not fall down in this area. Possibility to build up land so that there is less vulnerability
- Basins and creek do not flood regularly in some areas, ongoing issues are more about sewer
- When Sandy hit, many residents could not get out of their homes, access to medication to those who needed it was difficult. Lots of residents with pharmacies outside of Canarsie, with no way to transfer prescriptions
  - Raises possibility of partnering with major pharmacy or set up local resource to get prescriptions transferred
  - Hub or center to better coordinate volunteer and outreach and to ensure that younger people are involved
    - CERT exists, but members were also impacted by Sandy, and needed help themselves, as many were older
    - Need to get on CERT team currently requires being over 18 and an extensive background search
- Sinkholes have popped up after Sandy, very deep (>3 ft)
- Thousands of cars waterlogged and lost in Sandy, safe area for cars would be good
  - Raises need for stronger disaster resilience plan in general

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Agenda Item: **Risk and assets**

Presenter: **General discussion**

Summary of Discussion:

- Asset identification is a necessary step in the process, Consultant Team has prepared an initial list of assets in a number of categories (natural, infrastructure, economic, housing) to review and edit either after the meeting in a print out or at the public meeting
- Committee agrees to limit asset process to 1) assets that are in the high or extreme risk areas or 2) assets that are critical to the community's resilience
  - Housing, for example, is tied directly to the high and extreme planning areas, while infrastructure assets would be shown throughout the Planning Area

- Planning team has prepared an initial list of assets in high and extreme risk areas to explain what are important assets, committee was given ability to approach team after meeting with changes, or to take the map packet home, think about it, and make changes at the public meeting
- Business corridors could include Rockaway Pkway, Flatlands, Ave L
- Other infrastructure assets include Shore Parkway, NYCHA community center, Bayview houses
- Assets can also be off the map, such as important assets that are not a part of the planning area

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Agenda Item: **Public meeting**

Presenter: **General discussion**

Summary of Discussion:

- Outreach is ongoing to the public and includes:
  - Flyers
    - Distributed over 3,000 flyers in under 48 hours through the schools, co-ops, and other community spaces
    - 1,500 flyers distributed through churches
    - There are a few hundred left, including some in Creole to get out before the committee
    - Committee requests an additional 1,000 flyers in English and 400 in Creole
  - Social media
    - Committee has been using email networks as well
    - Will use Facebook and Twitter
    - E-blast to follow tomorrow AM
  - Print ads
    - Canarsie Courier and Caribbean Life
- Public Meeting format
  - Begins with presentation and welcome from Co-Chairs followed by introduction of the program
  - Need to have committee members help to staff the stations, time was taken as Committee members volunteered to staff stations
  - Concern about bottle necks and lack of information about the terminology
    - Aided both by informative boards, multiple versions of boards, and stations
  - Need expressed to not have confusion about Build it Back, FEMA, or other ongoing efforts
  - May have examples from NY Rising Round I plans so that people can see the end result of the process
  - Committee agrees to include a Q&A at the end of the meeting along with a closing wrap-up with quick read out of stations and what is happening next in the process
  - Use of Co-Chair comments to establish positive tone at the start