



Meeting Summary

East Bronx Waterfront Planning Meeting#1

Tuesday, July 8th, 6:30 to 8:30pm

Locust Point Civic Association Building 3300 Tierney Place Bronx, NY

Attendance: (Members, Planner, Firm Representatives, Invited Guests)

Marjorie Hooks	Committee Member	Claudia Filomena	NY Rising Regional Lead
John Marano	Committee Member	Ronald Rizzotti	NY Rising Planner
Chrys Napolitano	Committee Member	Tom Jost	Planning Team
Jane Protzman	Committee Member	Kevin Maddox	Planning Team
JoAnn Sohmers	Committee Member	Yao Lu	Planning Team
Denise Noble	Committee Member	Theresa Cassano	Planning Team
Eleanor Rae	Committee Member	Evan Lacher	Planning Team
Cynthia McIntosh	Committee Member		
Jim McQuade	Committee Member		
Lenny Caro	Committee Member		
Ciara Ganner	Office of Sen. Klein		
Cary Sohmers	Ferry Point Civic		

Valerie Wilson	Locust Point Civic Association
Ron Rausch	Edgewater Park Cooperative

Agenda Item: **NYRCR Program overview**

Presenter: **Claudia Filomena, NY Rising Regional Lead, and Tom Jost, Planning Team**

Summary of Discussion:

Presentation of overview of the NY Rising process, which is a bottom-up community driven planning process. All committee meetings are open to the public and the program leans heavily on community participation in order to create the Community Reconstruction Plan.

In response to questions from committee members:

- NYRCR is not tied to the City’s Build it Back Program. The City of New York has its own CDBG-DR allocation that is used for individual assistance in the form of housing and small business programs.
- NYRCR Program will help the community connect to other State, City, and Federal agencies in order to identify ongoing projects and to assist the community in developing their NYRCR Plan. Many plans addressed long-term problems that were exacerbated by storms, and created local plans to address infrastructure problems. For example, the Breezy Point Final Plan identified three critical flooding areas and developed a proposal to address these issues.
- Committee concerned about Mayor’s flood gate plan. NYRCR encourages community to think locally about what options suit their needs to create projects that can be implemented in the short term while also taking larger plans with longer timelines into consideration.

Agenda Item: **Committee Discussion on Sandy Impacts**

Presenter: **Tom Jost, Planning Team**

The Committee discussed the impacts on their neighborhoods from Sandy, Irene, and more frequent storms. The following are a list of those impacts:

- Edgewater Park
 - Wave action during Sandy overtopped the seawall. Some houses were damaged by wave action.
 - Low lying areas were flooded with three to four feet of water that did not recede for about a day.
 - Sewage system backed up. Edgewater has six pumping stations that require electricity to operate. Parts of neighborhood lost power for over a week during Sandy. Sewage regularly backs up during storm events.
 - Con Edison had shut off gas in low lying areas prior to Sandy.
 - Boats and debris from City Island marinas and other parts of the Bronx caused damage to houses near the seawall as they washed ashore during Sandy.
- Hammond Cove
 - Cars and docks lost during Sandy.
 - Parts of the neighborhood lost power for over one week.
 - Committee member suggested siren to indicate storm events so that residents would be alerted to move cars.
- City Island
 - During Sandy, people lost cars, power for three - four days, and the City Island Yacht Club lost a dock. Boats from the Yacht Club washed up in other parts of the Bronx.
 - Many of the restaurants had back-up generators.
 - Ditmars Avenue was flooded and impassable. Bridge was shut down at some point during Sandy, so residents still on the island were stuck.
 - Committee member did not evacuate because her husband is in wheelchair and they could not find accessible emergency shelters. She has concerns about aging population and new senior residences adding to number of elderly people.
 - Damage to homes was worse during Irene than it was during Sandy.
- Locust Point
 - Sewer backed up during Sandy and seeped into many peoples' basements. People were already pumping basements, but pumps could not keep up.
 - Storm surge flooded up to Tierney Place. Streets were the low points where water came into community.
 - Community center was flooded, so residents could not use it as an emergency center like they did during the "no name storm" in the 1990s. Committee members say that the designated emergency shelter is too far away. Local resources exist which could act as emergency gathering places during and after storm, but there is no plan or information currently in place.
- Ferry Point (by Westchester Creek)
 - Flooding on Brush Avenue made the road impassable. This area always has problems during storms.
 - Committee member stressed the issue about not having local emergency centers in place.
 - Ferry Point Park sustained damage.
- Pennyfield (by SUNY Maritime)
 - During Sandy, thrust of water was so great that basement of committee member's condominium was destroyed. Cars were swept away in surge.
 - Roads were already in bad condition from bus routes and Sandy damaged them even more.
 - Some parts of community did not regain power for several days. Con Edison shut down the Pennyfield grid and possibly forgot to turn it back on.

- Committee concerned about access to emergency supplies for elderly or vulnerable individuals.

Agenda Item: **Committee Business**

Presenter: **Claudia Filomena, NY Rising Regional Lead, and Tom Jost, Planning Team**

There were several items that the Committee was able to address..

- Boundary
 - Committee members agreed that current boundary is appropriate and would include waterfront communities from Harding Park to City Island.
 - Planning Committee will need additional representation from Clason Point and Castle Hill. GOSR will work with Senator Klein’s Office to identify potential committee candidates.
- Planning Committee Roles and Responsibilities
 - Committee members are expected to actively participate in PC and public meetings and approve all materials throughout NYRCR process. Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) and consultant team will send materials prior to meetings so that committee can review in advance.
 - Committee members must sign and return the ethics form to GOSR.
 - GOSR asked that volunteers for the Committee Co-chair positions confirm their desire after the meeting.
- Community Outreach
 - Committee members are responsible for doing community outreach for the four public meetings. GOSR and consultant teams will provide support.
 - GOSR and consultant teams will design flyers, run ad campaigns, and assist in outreach. Committee will need to identify and distribute materials to appropriate stakeholders.
 - Outreach Committee to hold conference call to discuss dates and possible venues.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
GOSR will work to get additional representatives	GOSR	Week of 7/14
Schedule an outreach call with Outreach Subcommittee	GOSR	Week of 7/14
Confirm Co-chairs	GOSR	Week of 7/14

Agenda Item: **Committee Meeting Schedule**

Presenter: **Claudia Filomena, NY Rising Regional Lead, and Evan Lacher, Planning Team**

The Committee agreed that generally Tuesdays worked for Planning Committee meetings. The next two committee meetings were scheduled for July 22nd and August 12th. The Committee was given a homework assignment of drafting their vision for the East Bronx Waterfront community.

Decision/Motions/Votes:

- PC#2 will be held Tuesday, July 22nd, 6:30pm, Locust Point Civic Association Building to be confirmed.
- PC#3 will be held Tuesday, August 12th, 6:30pm, Locust Point Civic Association Building to be confirmed.

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