



# Meeting Summary

## East Bronx Waterfront Planning Meeting #3

Tuesday, August 12th, 6:30 to 8:30pm

Locust Point Civic Association Building 3300 Tierney Place Bronx, NY

**Attendance:** (Committee members, firm representatives, invited guests, members of the public)

Marjorie Hooks	Committee Member	Claudia Filomena	NY Rising Regional Lead
Patrice Conboy	Committee Member	Alex Zablocki	NY Rising Regional Lead
Elbin Mena	Committee Member	Ronald Rizzotti	NY Rising Planner
Denise Noble	Committee Member	Tom Jost	Planning Team
Jane Protzman	Committee Co-Chair	Kevin Maddox	Planning Team
Ron Rauch	Committee Member	Chris Riale	Planning Team
Harry Rodriquez	Committee Member	Yao Lu	Planning Team
JoAnn Sohmers	Committee Member	Theresa Cassano	Planning Team
Valerie Wilson	Committee Co-Chair		
John Doyle	Committee Member		
John Marano	Committee Member		
Chrys Napolitano	Committee Member		
Arlene Grauer	Committee Member		
Frannie Peterson	Resident		
Karen Argenti	Resident		
Dotti Poggi	Resident		
Ray Simonetti	Resident		

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**Agenda Item:** Review of Public Meeting Feedback

**Presenter:** Chris Riale, Planning Team

### Summary of Discussion:

Following Committee introductions, Chris Riale of the planning team presented a summary of the first public meeting held on Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Providence Rest Home.

Included in the presentation was the following:

- Summary of the meeting agenda and stressed that the goal of the meeting would be to develop strategies that address the needs of the Planning Area.
- Planning Team congratulated Committee on participation and marketing for public meeting.
  - Reported that 80-100 people showed up to public meeting. Community members were engaged and participated during the event.
  - Planning Team and Committee members gathered public feedback on needs and opportunities, community assets, and what happened during Superstorm Sandy communicated by staff assigned to thematic stations, and through presentation boards set up around the room. Planning team will add to assets and needs from this public input.
  - Information from comment cards and public boards was aggregated to create a list of most mentioned needs.
    - Planning Team identified 7 commonly mentioned needs to form framework for strategies in the Bronx.
      1. Protect the coastal edge
      2. Make housing more sustainable and resilient
      3. Develop a more resilient power generation system
      4. Plan for appropriate development densities in flood prone locations
      5. Build storm recovery centers in central locations
      6. Address localized flooding through better storm water management practices

7. Develop improved communication network and education program for emergency response

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**Agenda Item:** Strategy Development

**Presenters:** Tom Jost and Chris Riale, Planning Team

**Summary of Discussion:**

Chris Riale and Tom Jost from the Planning Team reviewed the “road map” for the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Plan process, including the development of critical issues and community vision, needs and opportunities, strategies, and projects, and how each relates to each other.

Included in the presentation was the following:

- A Strategy is an overarching approach to making your community more resilient. Strategy is not a specific project.
- Other ongoing community plans and efforts include several sewer construction projects and one planning project, the Hutchinson River Parkway Transportation Corridor Study.
- Planning team discussed example strategies and projects from other NYRCR Communities:
  - Example Strategy: Provide a relief infrastructure focused on vulnerable populations
    - Project: create a relief center hub in Howard Beach and system of hardened satellite relief centers.
  - Example Strategy: Bolster community resiliency
    - Project: Residential education and technical assistance through online training, counseling, physical audit, and low-cost loan programs in Rockaway East.
  - Example Strategy: Key connection and physical infrastructure
    - Project: “Go to High Ground” in Staten Island, which entailed a study for wayfinding signage and staging area for automobile evacuation.
  - Example Strategy: Strengthen economic resiliency
    - Project: Seasonal business amenity expansion, workforce development, and business improvements along the Mott Avenue Corridor.
  - Example Strategy: Create opportunities for redundant power generation and distribution
    - Emergency back-up generator at a fixed location in multiple communities.
  - Example Strategy: Improve drainage and reduce flooding from sewer backup
    - Project: install sewer connection cut-off valves for several hundred buildings in Gerritsen Beach & Sheepshead Bay
  - Example Strategy: Mitigate localized flooding
    - Project: Targeted protection strategies and drainage improvements along the northern edge of Hawtree Basin and Coleman Square to limit the impact of regular (equinox) flooding in Howard Beach.
  - Example Strategy: Develop a layered approach to coastal protection plan that incorporates natural strategies
    - Project: Oyster bed for Sunset cove restoration project in Broad Channel.

A question from a Committee Member was asked regarding the identification of other sources of funding:

- GOSR and Planning Team with work with Committee to identify and go after other sources of funding for potential projects.

**Summary:**

The Committee divided into two working groups to brainstorm strategies that would be appropriate to address the needs and opportunities of the East Bronx Waterfront. After 45 minutes, groups came together again to debrief brainstorming session.

Both working groups developed strategies related to sewer improvements, mitigating localized flooding, and addressing community preparedness. The following is a draft synopsis of the brainstorming session:

**1. Improve and increase the capacity of storm water management infrastructure**

**Needs addressed:** minimize localized flooding through better stormwater management practices; make housing more resistant to flood damage

*Initial Projects ideas*

- Improve existing infrastructure / utilize existing infrastructure more effectively to combat climate change events / flooding
- Pennyfield Avenue
- Brush Avenue
- Pop-up wetlands (NYC program)
- Low Impact Development (LID) techniques
- Bioswales (DEP program: Bronx not in priority areas, but could be)  
Utilize existing parks and wetlands along tributaries (see aerial mark-up)
- USACE-identified wetland restoration opportunities / oyster reefs

**2. Provide alternative power sources in housing and key community facilities**

**Need addressed:** Develop a diverse power generation system

*Initial project ideas*

- Alternative power for housing:
  - Microgrid program
  - Solar panel program
  - Roof-mounted wind turbines
  - Gas-powered generators
- Technical support program to educate homeowners on how to obtain / purchase the necessary infrastructure and to explain cost-savings potential
- Alternative power for key community facilities that would also serve as recovery centers:
  - Microgrid program
  - Solar panel program
  - Roof-mounted wind turbines
  - Gas-powered generators
  - Specific community facilities selected by community:
    - Saint Francis de Chantel
    - Saint Benedict's School
    - Our Lady of the Assumption
    - Public School 71

### 3. Ensure economic resiliency for property owners in flood prone areas

**Needs** addressed: Minimize local economic impact of storm-related events on property owners; make housing more resistant to flood damage

### 4. Develop local community plan to improve emergency preparedness

**Needs** addressed: Develop improved communication network and education program for emergency response; Build storm recovery centers in central locations

#### *Initial project ideas*

- Designate additional emergency recovery centers (decentralized approach to avoid causing residents to travel long distances)
- Designate primary and secondary evacuation routes
- Create committee to lead the development of a comprehensive disaster plan
- Install wayfinding signs to direct vehicles and pedestrians to nearest evacuation centers, post-storm recovery centers (identified under a project in Strategy 2), and evacuation routes

### 5. Maintain community's close relationship to the water by developing diverse coastal edge protection measures

**Need** addressed: Protect the coastal edge; make housing more resistant to flood damage

#### *Initial project ideas*

- Investigate technical feasibility of coastal resiliency measures for edges along various tributaries:
  - Groins at Eastchester Bay to address erosion
  - Tide Gates at
  - New or rebuilt bulkhead and revetments at Harding Park and City Island
- Wetland restoration (USACE)
- Dredging

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**Agenda Item:** Schedule and Next Steps

**Presenter:** Tom Jost & Claudia Filomena, Planning Team

#### **Summary of Discussion:**

- Outreach subcommittee will have a call Friday, August 15 regarding next Public Meeting.
- Schedule of upcoming meetings:
  - Planning Committee Meeting 4 - September 3, venue TBD
  - Public meeting –September 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Planning Committee Meeting 5 - September 22
- GOSR will circulate Section 1 of NYRCR Plan to Planning Committee by end of week

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**Committee meeting concluded at approximately 8:30pm.**