



Meeting Summary

East Bronx Waterfront Planning Meeting #6

Tuesday, October 7, 2014, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Locust Point Civic Association, 3300 Tierney Pl, Bronx, NY, 10465

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

John Doyle	Committee Member	Claudia Filomena	NY Rising Regional Lead
Marjorie Hooks	Committee Member	Alex Zablocki	NY Rising Regional Lead
John Marano	Committee Member	Tom Jost	Planning Team
Chrys Napolitano	Committee Member	Kevin Maddox	Planning Team
Denise Noble	Committee Member	Phil Jonat	Planning Team
Jane Protzman	Committee Member	Theresa Cassano	Planning Team
Ron Rauch	Committee Member		
JoAnn Sohmers	Committee Member		
Dorothea Poggi	Committee Member		
Gary Sohmers	Resident		
David Sohmers	Resident		
Marcia Anne Pavlica	Resident		

Agenda Item: Committee Business

Presenters: Tom Jost, Planning Team

Summary of Discussion:

The Committee members were asked to submit the Ethics and Code of Conduct forms for those who had not already. It was noted that only Committee members who have submitted the form will be allowed to vote on the final projects.

The Public Outreach subcommittee will set up a conference call to discuss Public Meeting #3, which must be held by November 12, 2014.

Agenda Item: Emergency Preparedness

Presenter: Theresa Cassano, Planning Team

Summary of Discussion:

The Planning Team reviewed the needs that were identified through the Committee and from the Public Meetings. The Planning Team also identified existing organizations involved in emergency preparedness and the plans and tools available to the Community. The presentation was accompanied by the following discussions and comments:

- Following Superstorm Sandy there was no evidence of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) involvement in the neighborhoods
- Red Cross brought food to City Island but nobody was aware of its availability
- Information that was obtained through a meeting New York City Office of Emergency Management was discussed
 - Evacuations are ordered during a “blue sky” period – several days before the event
 - There are no defined evacuation routes
 - Sirens are typically used for a tornado warning system and could be confusing if used for a different purpose
- How information was communicated during Superstorm Sandy:

- Residents of Edgewater went to the firehouse
 - In past storms (such as the no-named storm of '92) residents from outside of the co-op also used the firehouse
- Ferry Point has no local designated center
- Locust Point uses the Civic Association building when it is feasible
 - Also communicates through Facebook/email list
- The question was asked on how the Community communicates during blackouts when modern technology is not available
 - Residents go door to door
 - Spencer Estates has block captains who check on residents
- The Committee expressed interest in expanding the CERT program throughout the Community
- The Committee identified the existing organizations or networks that share information between neighborhoods:
 - Each neighborhood has civic associations
 - There are existing connections between the civic associations
- Discussed possible components of a local emergency plan
 - Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD)
 - Similar to the program in Staten Island
 - It is eligible for funding
 - Pays an expert to develop an emergency plan
 - Need to engage a boarder range of community members
 - Community Board is also a clearinghouse of information
- Community Space
 - Ideas for the existing spaces are physical improvements and capacity building
 - In addition to the Civic buildings other potential buildings that could be used:
 - Silver Beach town hall
 - PS 304
 - St. Francis de Chantal
 - Scanlan HS

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
Better understanding of COAD	Planning Team	10/21/2014

Agenda Item: Alternative Power

Presenter: Phil Jonat, Planning Team

Summary of Discussion:

The Planning Team presented strategies for providing alternative power to supplement or replace the existing power supply. Committee members actively participated in the discussion about specific needs of East Bronx Waterfront. Comments and suggestion are included as follows:

- Small solar packs to charge cell phones are already available
- There are opportunities for communities to use economies of scale to their advantage when purchasing solar panels. Examples are:
 - Breezy Point
 - Solarize Brooklyn
- The Committee expressed concerns that there are permitting issues for non-conforming lots. Would Department of Buildings force them to be compliant?

- Edgewater, Silver Beach, and Locust Point were some examples of neighborhoods that might have issues
- SUNY Maritime is working on a solar development project

Agenda Item: Economic Strategy

Presenter: Theresa Cassano, Planning Team

Summary of Discussion:

The Planning Team reviewed the needs that were identified through the Committee and from the Public Meetings. The Planning Team also identified existing technical and financial resources available to the Community. The presentation was accompanied by the following discussions and comments:

- The flood insurance rate increase was an act of Congress prior to Superstorm Sandy and was not related.
- New York City base flood elevation has not been confirmed, making it harder for people to rebuild their homes.
- There is a Community Rating System available that would discount insurance rates.
 - The requirements are onerous and would not provide much of a discount.
- The Committee is interested in insurance/flood education.
- There is opportunity for a revolving low-interest loan program that would target low to middle-class local residents.

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