



Meeting Notes

Gravesend and Bensonhurst Planning Committee Meeting #1

June 25, 2014, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Haym Solomon Nursing Home, 2340 Cropsey Ave. Brooklyn, NY

Attendance:

Community Reconstruction (CR) Planning Committee Members: Alex Budnitsky, CEO/Executive Director, Marks Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst; Ligia Guallpa, Executive Director, Worker's Justice Project (WJP); Marnee Elias-Pavia, District Manager, Community Board 11; Scott Barkin, Executive Director, Block Institute; Rocco Brescia, President, Friends of Kaiser Park & Alliance of Calvert Vaux Park;; Mel Wolfson, Homeowner.

NY State Representatives: Alex Zablocki, NYC Regional Lead, Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), Chris Gorman, Community Planner (GOSR), Jovia Radix, Brooklyn Regional Representative at Office of the Governor-State of New York; Sheila Boyd, Representative for NY State Senator Diane Savino (23rd District).

Firm Representatives: Ayo Yusuf, Perkins Eastman Architects (PEA); Niek Veraart, Louis Berger Group (LBG); Noah Levine, BFJ Planning (BFJ).

The purpose of the first NYRCR Planning Committee Meeting was to introduce the Planning Committee to the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program, Governor's Office of Storm Recovery staff and the Consultant team (BFJ Planning, Perkins Eastman Architects, Louis Berger Group, PACO Group), supporting the Committee. The meeting began at approximately 7:15 p.m. with an introduction by Alex Zablocki, the New York City Regional Lead for the NYRCR Program. The consultant team then explained the NYRCR Program and the planning process. . The consultant team then led a discussion to clarify the study area, plan for the first Public Engagement Meeting and begin the process of developing a Vision Statement for the NYRCR Plan. Meeting schedules, next steps and questions from the committee were addressed. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The following was noted:

Agenda Item: **Presentation of the Community Reconstruction Plan Process**

Presenter: **Ayo Yusuf (PEA)**

Summary of Discussion:

1. Introduction to Community Reconstruction Program
2. Planning Committee member expectations
3. Schedule and important deliverable dates

Agenda Item: Discussion of Planning Area Boundary (Geographic Scope)

Discussion:

- A number of homes along Shore Parkway west of the existing boundary were impacted by Sandy and should be included in the study area. This includes residential homes on Shore Parkway from Bay Parkway to 17th Ave.
- The geographic scope for the NYRCR planning area was determined to be: Ocean Parkway on the eastern boundary, Avenue P at the northern boundary, Coney Island Creek/Hempstead Bay at the southern boundary and Bay Parkway at the western boundary. The boundary also includes the area on both sides of Shore Parkway from Bay Parkway to 17th Ave.
- It was determined that the name for the area should be “Gravesend and Bensonhurst,” to include residents that identify themselves as living in Bensonhurst in the planning process.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
Update Planning Area Map and send to Alex and Planning Committee	Noah Levine	6/26/14

Agenda Item: Scheduling - Upcoming Planning Committee Meeting Dates

Discussion

- It was agreed that the next Planning Committee Meeting will be held on July 8th, 7:00 PM. The location will be the Block Institute at 376 Bay 44th Street. Alex to confirm 7/8 meeting location with Scott Barkin
- 3rd Planning Committee meeting will be held on August 5th, location TBD. Alex to confirm location.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
Secure locations for Planning Committee meetings #2 & #3	Alex Zablocki	6/26-7/3

Agenda Item: Scheduling - Upcoming Public Engagement Meeting

Summary of Discussion:

- It was proposed that the 1st Public Engagement event be held at a public gathering such as in front of Ceasar’s Bay Bazaar on a Sunday.
- Proposed date for 1st Public Engagement Meeting – Sunday, July 20th.
- Alex to meet with consultant team to discuss outreach plan to present to Planning Committee. Things to discuss include:
 - Public outreach (i.e. flyers, announcements, email blast, etc.)
 - Translation needs (i.e. Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Arabic)
 - Format for meeting and presentation materials

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
Consultant team to discuss outreach plan with Alex	Noah/Alex	6/26-7/3
Marnee or Ligia to secure space by entrance.	Marnee/Ligia/Alex	6/26-7/3

Agenda Item: **General Discussion of issues in Planning Area**

Discussion

- State flood map is inconsistent to city flood map and has been a source of misinformation for residents
- 311 open data can be a good source of information for flooding complaints and other issues
- Excessive curb cuts and non-permeable areas are contributing factor to runoff and flooding issues
- Suggested that consultants reach out to MTA
- There were 911 issues during Sandy where people couldn't get emergency assistance, this should be addressed.

Agenda Item: **Visioning Exercise**

Discussion

- Visioning questions were introduced and Committee was given a questionnaire to fill in for next meeting

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
Alex to follow up with electronic version of Visioning questionnaire	Alex Zablocki	6/26-7/3