



Meeting Summary

Yonkers Public Engagement Meeting #1

July 24, 2014, 6 to 8 PM
Grinton I. Will Library, Yonkers

Attendance:

Planning Committee: Stephen Force, Kathy Graves, Jagdish Mistry, Leon Nanton, Gail O'Rourke, Tom Ryan, Paul Summerfield, Renee Toback, Bob Walters

Attendees: Betty Alexander, Jeune Antoine, Walter Bach, Evelyn Bauer, Maureen Brady, Symra D. Brandon, Mike Breen, Anthony Caprio, William F. Coffield, Margaret George, Leslie Heiner, C. Honsaker, Kathleen Kelleher, Rosalie Koch, Jay Kosack, Dave Kvinge, Steven LaBanca, George Latimer, Mike Lepre, John Maggiotto, Vincent Massaro, Shelley Mayer, Connie Peters, Isabel Puells, Burton Randol, Jamie Randol, Edwin Rivera, Nancy Ruiz (representing Committee Member Kerry Smith), Edward Schneider, Erik Swanson, Betsy Walkup, Fred Weaver, Jim Welby, Francine Weston, Lynda Yedowitz

GOSR Staff: Suzanne Barclay (Regional Lead), Dan Berkovits, Alex Breinin

Consultant Team: Nanette Bourne (AKRF), Jim Finegan (AKRF), Elizabeth Matamoros (AKRF), James Duffy (ASC), Mike LaPick(ASC)

Agenda Item: Committee Introduction

Presenter: Leon Nanton

Summary of discussion: Leon Nanton opened the meeting by introducing himself and welcoming the members of the public. Leon discussed the progress made by the committee thus far and introduced each member.

Agenda Item: Program Overview/Overall Project Goals

Presenter: Suzanne Barclay

Suzanne Barclay explained the background of the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program and the grass-roots initiative to help communities affected by Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee build back better. Suzanne discussed the source of the program funding. She also presented the steps of the planning process moving forward as well as the layout and components of the NYRCR Plan and the role of the community in this process.

Agenda Item: Project Schedule and Milestones, Report on Project Progress

Presenter: Nanette Bourne

Summary of Discussion: Nanette discussed the public engagement timeline of the NYRCR planning process and how the public can continue to stay involved and spread the word about the program. Nanette outlined the goals of the meeting: to present the geographic scope and critical issues, and to gain further input on the vision and goals, storm damages, and asset inventory. Nanette explained that the geographic scope was developed by the Committee and would encompass the entire City, and she explained that the Committee had also selected

several Focus Areas within Yonkers due to the concentration of storm damage that was experienced in these areas. Nanette discussed the draft vision and goals and the purpose they serve at the onset of the planning process. She outlined the six different asset classes, or recovery support functions, which include economic development, housing, natural and cultural resources, infrastructure systems, health and social services, and socially vulnerable populations. Nanette presented examples of each and listed the assets that the NYRCR Committee had already suggested. She concluded the presentation by outlining the critical issues identified by the Committee and by explaining the community break-out stations that followed.

Agenda Item: Breakout Stations

Presenter: Project Team Members

Summary of Discussion: Members of the public visited each of the four breakout stations to learn more about the project and to provide input on the vision statement, asset inventory, focus areas and storm damages. The public could provide comments by filling out the handouts at each station, drawing on the maps, or using post-its provided at each station and sticking them to the boards. General information on the NYRCR Program and how to stay involved was provided at the welcome table.

Station #1 – Vision Statement: The public was asked to fill out a worksheet to provide comments on the vision statement and list of goals for the NYRCR planning process to ensure that the community’s vision and goals for the future are accurately portrayed.

Station #2 – Geographic Scope and Focus Areas: Members of the public were invited to provide input on the focus areas and risk mapping produced to date, and to highlight areas that have experienced storm damage and flooding to enhance the Committee’s understanding of the extent of damages throughout Yonkers.

Station #3 – Asset Inventory: The public was encouraged to view the Yonkers asset map and to provide further clarification on additional assets. Attendees were also asked to assess the community value of each of the assets listed.

Station #4 – Photo Booth & Story Board: A photo booth was set up where attendees could answer one of the questions listed below on a white board and have their photograph taken holding the board. This provided a visual representation of the community vision and goals for the future.

- My Vision for Yonkers is...
- Yonkers’ most important assets are...
- What does it mean to “Build Back Better” in Yonkers?