RECENT EVENTS

Sat. 4/8 Open Space, Transportation, and Infrastructure Summit @ Ridgewood Bushwick Youth Center

The goal of the summit was to bring emerging recommendations to the larger community, and receive additional input on the issues.

Approximately 55 community members attended the event. The event began with an open house gallery and entrance activities, which included a “Live/work/have trouble reaching” map and a Bushwick “amenities” map. BCP and agency representatives then gave a brief presentation. After that, participants attended small facilitated discussions in break-out groups. See Open Space and Transportation + Infrastructure subcommittee updates below for more details.

Steering Committee Meeting on Thurs. 4/6 @ Hope Gardens

At the last meeting, we reviewed past and upcoming events, and discussed the process and timeline. Attendance was not great, with only 15 out of 51 members present. Some members felt that the timeline was not moving quickly enough, while others felt that progress is being made at the subcommittee levels, and it is important to see that work through before subcommittee recommendations are presented to the steering committee for a vote. Subcommittees will do a better job of updating SC members on their work moving forward. The Executive Committee will get better at outreach to SC members, to ensure better attendance. For full notes from SC, please contact Gabo at Hester Street, Gabriel@hesterstreet.org

DRAFT TIMELINE: THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

MAY

| SUBCOMMITTEES + COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT |
| STEERING COMMITTEE |
| ZONING TIMELINE |

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<td>Youth Summit</td>
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JUNE

| Economic Dev. + Community Health and Resources Summit |

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<td>Draft Zoning Proposal presented to Subcommittees</td>
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<td>Draft Zoning Proposal presented to SC</td>
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<td>Present Housing recommendations to SC for a vote**</td>
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JULY

| Present recommendations to SC for a vote** |
| Timeline could fluctuate depending on goals for the Industrial Areas |

AUGUST

| Present recommendations to SC for a vote** |
| Full Zoning Framework presented to SC |

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* Draft Zoning Proposal will not include Industrial Areas.

** Voting on recommendations could potentially happen sooner, if subcommittees and steering committee are ready.
SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

LAND USE + ZONING

SUBCOMMITTEE CONTACT: SARIT PLATKIN (DCP) SPLATKIN@PLANNING.NYC.GOV

● MEMBER ATTENDANCE + PARTICIPATION

We had great attendance at the meeting right after the Summit as well as the joint industrial areas meeting on 3/27. In addition, several new people expressed interest in joining the land use sub-committee at the Feb. Summit and joined an orientation meeting a few weeks ago. We’re hoping they become consistent members.

● RECOMMENDATION REVIEW + DRAFTING

We received extensive feedback on our planning framework at the Housing and Land Use Summit on 2/11 and focused our Feb. LU sub-committee and SC meetings on digesting that data. We’re now using that data we received about the corridors and mid-blocks to create a more detailed framework or draft proposal that will be shared with the sub-committee in early May and Steering Committee in June.

As the corridor work progresses, we’ve also been meeting jointly with the Housing and Economic Development Sub-Committees to discuss the industrial areas and create a work plan for an industrial framework. We’re aiming for this framework to be created by July and are holding a walk of the industrial areas in eastern and western Bushwick on 4/28 to survey existing conditions.

The third area we will focus on fleshing out in the next few months is historic preservation and are working on getting a historic walking tour of Bushwick Avenue on the calendar to be led by the Historic Districts Council.

● PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Over 200 community members attended the Housing and Land Use Summit on 2/11. The workshop provided participants with an opportunity to learn about affordable housing and zoning and discuss the Steering Committee’s draft planning framework. In the interactive sessions, community members mapped out their vision for the future of the neighborhood, including where new affordable housing could be developed, where they feel the existing neighborhood character should be preserved, and where they would like to see more commercial activity. As discussed above, based on the feedback we received we are creating a revised planning framework to be shared with the sub-committee in early May.

● NEXT STEPS

1. Planning Framework – Share revised version with greater detail with the land use sub-committee in early May and at the June Steering Committee meeting.
2. Industrial Framework – Continue meeting with the economic development and housing sub-committees to create a framework for the industrial areas by July.
3. Hold a walking tour of Bushwick Avenue’s historic resources in May/June.
HOUSING

SUBCOMMITTEE CONTACT: Lacey Tauber (CM Reynoso) LTauber@council.nyc.gov

- MEMBER ATTENDANCE + PARTICIPATION

Regular attendance: approx. 10 members + Council, Assembly, HPD, DCP, and NYCA reps + Hester Street + ANHD

Orgs represented: MRNY, CUFFH, RBSCC, BKA, CB4, Catholic Migration Services; as well as a few unaffiliated residents

- RECOMMENDATION REVIEW + DRAFTING

We are currently in a review/discussion process with the Subcommittee and HPD regarding the recommendations. We met on 4/18 to finish that review, and are now in the process of refining recommendations, including responding to outstanding questions/issues. We are in the process of scheduling our next meeting for the week of 5/15. We are also participating in the conversation/tour/meetings regarding the future of the M-zoned areas along with the Land Use and Economic Development subcommittees.

- PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Housing + Land Use Summit, Feb 2017. Suggestions from public have been incorporated into draft recommendations.

Held info session April 3 for new members. They have been encouraged to participate in the upcoming meetings around M zones since recommendation drafting is almost completed.

- NEXT STEPS

1. Meeting week of 5/15 – continue refining language of recommendations
2. Ongoing participation in Land Use/Economic Development/Housing joint Subcommittee meetings on M zones
3. Discuss next steps with NYCHA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE CONTACT: Isella Ramirez (Hester Street Collaborative) isella@hesterstreet.org

- MEMBER ATTENDANCE + PARTICIPATION

The subcommittee usually has about 7-10 consistent members in attendance. The present members are residents, CB4 members, a business owner, organizational reps, chamber of commerce representative, and agency representatives from DCP, SBS, and EDC.

- RECOMMENDATION REVIEW + DRAFTING

The subcommittee has reviewed preliminary recommendations, but has spent time organizing outreach opportunities and materials over the last few meetings. The preliminary recommendations are organized under three major goals: Support new and existing locally-owned small businesses; support the creation and
cultivation of businesses that meet the needs of Bushwick residents; and Help facilitate the growth of jobs for Bushwick residents.

● PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The subcommittee designed and organized three options for engagement from local businesses. There was a survey, and two focus groups.

- 28 attendees – Commercial Focus Group meeting
- 2 attendees – Industrial Focus Group meeting
- 34 – Survey respondants (online + in person)

● NEXT STEPS

This subcommittee has shifted focus on industrial areas for the moment, but will have a meeting to refine recommendations in May to prepare for the June summit.

COMMUNITY HEALTH + RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE CONTACT: Isella Ramirez (Hester Street Collaborative) isella@hesterstreet.org

● MEMBER ATTENDANCE + PARTICIPATION

The subcommittee usually has about 6-8 consistent members in attendance. The present members are residents, CB4 members, organizational reps, Wyckoff Hospital reps, and agency representatives from DOHMH.

● RECOMMENDATION REVIEW + DRAFTING

The subcommittee has developed recommendations, and has reviewed them over the last several meetings. They are organized under three major categories: health + mental health services; seniors; youth + education, and food access.

● PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

There have been 4 focus groups with seniors in all areas (East + West) of Bushwick in living facilities and senior centers to engage that population group about a variety topics: health + services, mental health, housing, transportation + safety, and arts and culture.

This group has also developed a youth survey to be collected at the upcoming youth summit and a principal survey that is being collected by Council Member staff.

● NEXT STEPS

1. There is a small subgroup of the subcommittee meeting tomorrow to organize the preliminary recommendations into goals + objectives to match other subcommittee organization.
2. The subgroup will use the responses from seniors and Ridgewood Bushwick senior program staff to craft specific mental health + senior health recommendations.
3. The next full subcommittee meeting will take place on May 16th from 3:30P-5P at Mayday space
MEMBER ATTENDANCE + PARTICIPATION

The subcommittee usually has about 10-12 consistent members in attendance typically including residents, CB4 members, and representatives from NYC Parks.

RECOMMENDATION REVIEW + DRAFTING

The subcommittee has developed recommendations, reviewed and refined them over the last several meetings that relate specifically to improving public parks in Bushwick. At the Summit the recommendations were reviewed as one of the activities for further input from the broader community. We anticipate reporting back on the summit and having an initial presentation of the recommendations at the May 4th Steering Committee meeting (depending on overall agenda and BCP timeline discussion).

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Open Space was one of the topics of the Summit on Saturday, April 8th. We collected data, ideas, and vetted recommendations from 55 community members. There were two ways we gathered input from participants; entrance activities and small group discussions. There were two entrance activities; first, to understand which parks people are using and where they are coming from in the neighborhood; second, to gather ideas around how people would like to see the edges of parks in terms of design and programming to inform the Parks Without Borders program if it is implemented in Bushwick parks. For the small group discussions there were three activities; first, to understand what issues and ideas for capital improvements people have in specific Bushwick parks; second, to understand what people wish to see in the design of new and improved open spaces in Bushwick, absent a current capital design project; third a discussion around the recommendations to vet if they are achieving the goals we set out and if there are additional ideas community members have that should be incorporated into them.

We anticipate using these activities in other venues as well, most notably at the Youth Summit on May 9th and potentially with a focus group of Bushwick parents. Additionally there is an effort to organize Bushwick community gardeners as an offshoot of the subcommittee to inform recommendations specifically around community gardens.

NEXT STEPS

The next Open Space subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, May 1st at the El Puente Bushwick Leadership Center – 311 Central Ave. We will review all the ideas, feedback, and input that was gathered at the summit and which we will be compiling into a summary document for everyone. We will also use this meeting to welcome new members to the subcommittee who signed up at the summit.
MEMBER ATTENDANCE + PARTICIPATION

Since the beginning of the year, there have been four Transportation & Infrastructure sub-committee meetings. Meetings continue to have high participation from agency representatives (DCP, DOT), City Council (CM Reynoso and Espinal’s offices, city council central offices), and Hester Street. Additionally, several community members and representatives of local organizations (Transportation Alternatives) have started regularly attending meetings. While there is a core group of sub-committee members, we would still like to see additional community representation.

January’s meeting (1/19) featured representatives from DEP. February and March’s meetings (2/16 and 3/13) focused on continued analysis of input and refinement of recommendations. These meetings, along with the joint meeting (3/20) between the sub-committee and the Open Space sub-committee also focused on planning and preparation for the summit that was held on April 8.

One new member signed up for the sub-committee at the summit.

RECOMMENDATION REVIEW + DRAFTING

The sub-committee has placed emerging recommendations into the Issues-Strategies matrix, which includes goals, issues, data/examples, and potential strategies/next steps.

Several key goals have emerged, including:

- Increase equity for transportation and infrastructure improvements
- Create a safer environment for cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers in Bushwick
- Make public space in Bushwick more welcoming to pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users
- Enhance local transit: improve access and connections to transit
- Increase opportunities for sustainable energy and green infrastructure
- Provide better connections and access to open space
- Enhance traffic circulation and mobility

Contact Amy for the full draft Issues-Strategies matrix.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The sub-committee, along with the Open Space sub-committee, held a public summit on Saturday, April 8th. The goal of the summit was to bring emerging recommendations to the larger community, and receive additional input on the issues.

Approximately 55 community members attended the event. The event began with an open house gallery and entrance activities, which included:
• “Live/work/have trouble reaching” map: Participants placed stickers (numbered by participant to trace connections) as to where they live, where they work/go to school/go often, and places they have trouble reaching on posters of transportation network maps for both Bushwick and the whole city. They also had the option to leave a sticky note with a brief note about the places they have trouble reaching.

• Bushwick “amenities” map: a map of existing amenities (public realm furniture/improvements that can be requested online) was displayed so people could see where these amenities currently exist (including bike racks and benches). Information on how to submit requests online (handouts and listing of websites) was available, as were siting guidelines.

BCP and agency representatives then gave a brief presentation. After that, participants attended small facilitated discussions in break-out groups.

The transportation break out activities included “problem area mapping and solutions” and a Vision Zero priority corridor exercise:

• **Problem area mapping and solutions:** Participants were given stickers to place on a transportation base map to indicate where they have experienced problems getting around Bushwick. Note-takers kept notes on posters displaying four themes (pedestrian safety, traffic circulation, access to transit, and public space). Participants were encouraged to place multiple stickers and to reinforce others’ input, which allowed the groups to create maps displaying transportation problem “hot spots.” Using visual aids, an agency transportation expert then discussed some potential interventions from DOT’s toolbox. Participants then discussed where certain interventions might be appropriate.

• **Priority corridor activity:** The goal of this activity was to prioritize DOT’s Vision Zero corridors in Bushwick for interventions/improvements. Facilitators provided a background data map with Bushwick’s vision zero corridors and intersections highlighted, along with data on high-crash intersections (both overall and bike/ped-specific), and call-outs of important locations, or locations that serve vulnerable populations, along the corridors. Participants briefly compared this “data map” with the input gathered from the previous activity. Participants were then asked to vote on their top priority corridor – which one needs the most attention? A photo poster was also provided with photos of existing conditions on each of the Vision Zero corridors. Facilitators led discussions of the corridors based on the four themes, and note-takers took down comments and ideas on each theme. Lastly, groups were asked to come to a consensus on a few main issues or intersections on the top priority corridors.

**NEXT STEPS**

The sub-committee is currently culling through the data gathered at the April 8th summit, and will be sharing and discussing the results and next steps at an upcoming meeting on Monday, April 24. This input will go into further refinement of the recommendations, which will hopefully be ready to share with the Steering Committee soon after.

**OTHER NOTES**

• While DOT continues to remain engaged, engagement with MTA has proven challenging.

• The sub-committee continues to welcome and encourage new members.