



Meeting Summary

Southeast Brooklyn Waterfront Planning Committee (includes Bergen Beach, Marine Park, Mill Basin, Georgetown)

Wednesday, July 2nd, 7 to 8:30pm

Carmine Carro Community Center, 3000 Fillmore Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11229

Attendance: (Members, Planner, Firm Representatives, Invited Guests)

Jim Ivaliotis	Committee Member	Kate Dineen	GOSR Policy Director
Tom Whitford	Committee Member	Chelsea Muller	GOSR Regional Lead
Greg Borruso	Committee Member	Jamie Torres Springer	Planning Team
Maria D'Alessandro	Member of public	Jaclyn Sachs	Planning Team
Alicia Hamill	Member of public	Sam Saliba	Planning Team
John Piccirillo	Committee Member	Evan Lacher	Planning Team
Joe Dai	Committee Member	Jee Mee Kim	Planning Team
Saul Needle	Committee Member		
Frieda Menos	Office of Rep. Jeffries		
Frank Filatro	Member of public		

Agenda Item: **NYRCR Program overview**

Presenter: **Chelsea Muller, NY Rising Regional Lead,
and Jamie Torres Springer, Planning Team**

Summary of Discussion:

- This is a community-driven, transparent process, and Planning Committee meetings are open to the public.
- Meeting presentations, in addition to meeting summaries, will be posted to the Southeast Brooklyn Waterfront page of the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery website.
<http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/nycrcr/community/southeast-brooklyn-waterfront>
- We are in Round II of the NY Rising Community Reconstruction program. 10 NYC Communities completed the planning process in Round I, and now another 5 in NYC will be involved in Round II, including Southeast Brooklyn Waterfront.
- This is a bottom-up, community-driven process because the Governor feels that no one knows better than community members themselves how to enhance community resiliency. The Program partners community members with engineering and planning specialists to help them transform ideas into project proposals.
- Overview of NYRCR goals and components
 - The end product of this process is a plan focused on resiliency. Some communities were severely damaged by Sandy and are receiving funds for immediate rebuilding; this program has the different, broader goal of resiliency.
 - The first part of the process consists of working to identify goals and a vision for the future. The idea in the second part is for the technical team to help the Planning Committee turn those goals and vision into a Reconstruction Plan.
 - Question from Committee member: does the process consider long-term goals and initiatives?

- Answer from Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR): yes, the process considers short-, medium-, and long-term strategies. It can result in long-term initiatives, like coastal protection initiatives, and/or shorter-term programs.
 - This community has been allocated just over \$4 (\$4,383,732) million. One way that this program is different is that it's about parks, housing, etc., but also about creating community capacity to be resilient – conducting the planning that will help secure funding and enable resiliency projects to happen into the future.
- Example of Plans from Round I: Howard Beach and Rockaway East
 - The first two sections of the Plan detail what happened and what the community risks and needs are. The third and fourth sections propose strategies and then projects for addressing needs and enhancing resiliency.
 - There were some common projects proposed across communities. For example, both Howard Beach and Rockaway East proposed a relief center project, recognizing a need for organized places to go in the event of an emergency to get supplies and seek refuge.
 - Howard Beach demonstrates how this process can be a powerful tool for securing funding.
 - In November 2013, the Governor announced the allocation of \$50M in federal funding for improved storm surge protection at Spring Creek. Howard Beach had been allocated over \$10M (based on amount of damage), and the project at Spring Creek was estimated to cost \$50M. The Committee brought the issue and study to the attention of the State, without which the funding would not have been awarded.
 - Similarly, in Breezy Point, the Committee used the process to gather information and support for a coastal protection study, which brought it to the attention of the State and enabled them to receive another grant.
- Overview of NYRCR Program schedule
 - The schedule aligns with the sections of the Plan: the first phase will be devoted to identifying a vision and assessing risk, then coming up with specific strategies, and finally, proposing a list of priority projects.
 - GOSR notes that the hope is to develop a calendar tonight, scheduling all of the meetings that need to happen in the next few months. The meetings will likely need to happen every 2-3 weeks, interspersed with 4 Public Engagement Meetings.
 - The 1st Public Engagement Meeting should happen in July, and so needs to be scheduled as soon as possible.
 - The 2nd Public Engagement Meeting should happen in the late summer; it would be useful to schedule this as well tonight.
- Overview of team structure
 - The Planning Team works with the NYRCR Program Team in GOSR to partner with the Committee and Co-Chairs.
 - The Planning Team introduces Jee Mee Kim, who will be joining the Team in August, has 15 years of planning experience and comes from a community organizing background.
- Questions from Committee members
 - Question: should we plan around our \$4M allocation, or think more broadly?

- GOSR responds that the Committee should definitely think beyond the allocation, but we'll get more deeply into how to do so within the different project categories as the process goes on. The Community Reconstruction Plan as a whole should shoot for the stars, be a tool for the community to advocate for other projects to be put in-place, and suggest actions for other entities as "Additional Resiliency Recommendations." Part of the job of the Planning Team, though, is also to help the Committee be strategic and spend the \$4M. Funding a study can sometimes be the smartest thing to do, because there's a design for someone else to fund.
- Comment from Committee member that the Committee should establish a wish list; \$4M can fund a limited number of projects, so the Committee should aim more broadly.
- Question: how long is long-term? 50 years?
 - GOSR responds that the program is designed to think of short-term, mid-term, and long-term projects, which yes, can extend to a time horizon of a decade or multiple decades.
- Question: are we limited to State assets? What is the City's involvement?
 - GOSR responds that they are in regular communication about the NYRCR Program with the City, making sure that there aren't any red flags around projects as the Committee moves through the process. They are in the process of figuring out implementation with Round I Communities right now, considering what might be the best administering entity and best funding source; in some cases, this is a State entity, in others, a City entity.
 - GOSR suggests that the Committee look at the Red Hook Community Reconstruction Plan. The Red Hook Community was allocated \$3M, and the process was really valuable for them. They came up with a wide list of recommendations and then projects that GOSR is now working to implement.
- Suggestion from Committee member that in planning and project development, the Committee should keep in mind the difference between protecting from a future storm event and prevention. Some communities are interested in constructing walls for flood protection, but these may be limited in prevention capacity.

Agenda Item: **Program and Committee planning**

Presenter: **Chelsea Muller, NY Rising Regional Lead, and Jamie Torres Springer, Planning Team**

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- Overview of the role of the Planning Committee
 - The goal of the Planning Committee is to be as comprehensive of the NYRCR Communities as possible.
 - GOSR will work with PC members to determine the best mode of communication (e.g., e-mail, phone, etc.).
 - GOSR distributed the Ethics Handbook and Code of Conduct form via e-mail to the Committee. The last page of the Ethics Handbook mentions the idea of not missing more than an agreed upon amount of meetings in order to ensure consistent participation.
 - When projects come to a vote, the GOSR will give PC members an opportunity to recuse themselves if there is any conflict of interest.
 - Next steps
 - GOSR requests that the Committee return the signed Ethics Handbook within a week – can e-mail or mail it back.

- The Committee should decide how many absences are acceptable. GOSR notes this is a baseline expectation; if a critical Committee member misses more meetings, they will not be immediately asked to leave, and GOSR will work with the Committee throughout the process to ensure it makes sense for the Committee.
 - After considering that there will be 13 meetings total (8 or 9 Committee meetings and 4 Public Engagement Meetings), Committee members propose and approve to a 4 meetings attendance policy.
- Overview of community engagement strategy
 - Part of this process is figuring out how to get the public to attend Public Engagement Meetings, which will rely on outreach conducted by the Committee.
 - Committee member asks if GOSR team is willing to come to any of the associations that Committee members are a part of (e.g., Civic Associations).
 - GOSR responds that it enjoys coming to the Community and is certainly receptive to attending and speaking at meetings. GOSR already attended a Community Board 18 meeting, as well as Mill Island Civic Association meeting, where they fielded questions about the NYRCR program.
 - Comment from Committee members that the Civic Associations in the area are on hiatus through the summer months until October. Suggestion to rely on social media, which will reach people despite vacation.
 - Question from Committee member: we all have a Facebook presence or bulletin online; can GOSR put meeting notices and other updates online and we can share across our networks? And share with synagogues and churches?
 - GOSR responds that it has a Facebook page as well as a website. All event information is posted online to be easily shared. They also have a NYRCR e-mail account from which they send out e-mails to those on the distribution list. They absolutely can share information with synagogues, churches, and other community institutions; they would like to use the existing structures in-place in the community as much as possible.
 - Role of GOSR in outreach
 - GOSR will help with flyers, etc., but process is dependent on the Committee to get materials to the right channels.
 - The Committee should consider if material needs to be translated into other languages and notify GOSR.
 - Best practices in outreach
 - In Round 1, some communities were not getting the presence they wanted, so they put palmcards in students' backpacks to take home (coordinated with school principals). Comment from prospective PC member that this is often done in Bergen Beach.
 - Committee member notes that giving out food and drink (e.g., coffee and cake) can be effective in encouraging attendance.
 - Other Committee members suggest that electronic distribution is the best way to share.
 - Comment from a Committee member that there are lots of questions among the public about flood insurance and Build it Back, and it would be great to be able to answer those questions at the Public Engagement Meetings.

- GOSR responds that it is happy to facilitate that and invite a representative from FEMA if the Committee wants it. (Some Committees have not wanted it.)
- Review of Planning Area and other maps
 - Planning Committee notes that the boundary for Mill Basin is farther north (as well as for Community Board 18) and suggests that it be adjusted.
 - Planning Team notes that “100-year storm” in the Anticipated Depth of Flooding and other maps refers to storms that have a 1-percent chance of occurring annually, and “500-year storm” refers to storms that have a 0.2% chance of occurring annually. The FEMA Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (PFIRMs) were developed in 1983 and not substantially revised until last year, resulting in recent rise in premiums from expanded area in the floodplain. The DOS Risk Areas maps are based on the FEMA maps, but are more conservative, incorporating 3 feet for sea level rise.
 - Committee member asks if the FEMA Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map incorporates measurements from earlier weather events.
 - Planning Team responds that FEMA maps are based on an average of all storms that have occurred on record.
- Committee planning next steps
 - Public Engagement Meeting #1
 - The Committee agrees to Tuesday, July 29, for Public Meeting #1, 7pm, at Carmine Carro Community Center.
 - In NY Rising Round I, the format typically consisted of an overview presentation to the entire group, and then stations.
 - The goal of the meeting is to get some input and move into developing a preliminary set of strategies by October.
 - Public Engagement Meeting #2
 - GOSR notes that this meeting is required to be held by the end of August. Given that not many people are around then, GOSR will work on making it after Labor Day.
 - The Committee agrees to Wednesday, September 10 (as long as it doesn’t conflict with the Jewish holidays).
 - GOSR notes that we need to submit a list of priority and featured projects by Oct. 3, to remain on planning schedule.
 - Scheduling PC meetings:
 - GOSR notes that it is a good idea to schedule PC meetings around a week before the Public Engagement event to coordinate distribution of flyers and conduct other meeting preparation.
 - The Committee agrees to Wednesday, July 16 for PC#2, and there is a suggestion to do it at the John Malone Community Center to increase meeting accessibility to residents of Bergen Beach and Georgetown.
 - The Committee further agrees to Wednesday, August 20, for PC#3 and Wednesday, September 17, for PC#4, 7pm, location TBD for both.
 - GOSR asks if there is a volunteer(s) to coordinate with the GOSR around outreach strategy.

- Committee member Joe Dai and member of public Maria D'Alessandro volunteer – Joe Dai will lead the outreach effort. Maria to help on the Marine Park/Mill Basin side. Maria already has a list of media outlets to draw from.
- GOSR will organize a call with Joe the following week to establish an outreach strategy for Public Engagement Meeting #1.

Decision/Motions/Votes:

- FEMA representative to be at upcoming Public Engagement events.
- 4-meeting maximum-absence rule for Committee members.
- Extend the boundary of the Planning Area map for the area around Mill Basin northward to just beyond where Sandy inundation occurred.
- Public Engagement event #1 will be held on Tuesday, July 29, 7pm, at Carmine Carro Community Center.
- Public Engagement Meeting #2 will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 7pm, location TBD.
- PC#2 will be held Wednesday, July 16, 7pm, location TBD (suggestion for John Malone Community Center).
- PC#3 will be held Wednesday, August 20, 7pm, location TBD.
- PC#4 will be held Wednesday, September 17, 7pm, location TBD.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
Return Ethics Handbook and Code of Conduct form to GOSR	Planning Committee	Week of 7/7
Schedule an outreach call with Outreach Subcommittee	Planning Team	Week of 7/7