MEETING MINUTES

BELMONT PARK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE/TIME:	**April 30, 2026 / 6:00 pm EST**	**SUBJECT/TOPIC:**	**Project Update**
LOCATION:	**Zoom**	**MEETING LEADER:**	**Empire State Development**

PARTICIPANTS:

NAME	ORGANIZATION / AGENCY
Hon. Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Senator	NYS Senate
Hon. Michaelle Solages, Assemblymember	NYS Assembly
Hon. Carrie Solages, Legislator	Nassau County Legislature
Lynette Battle	CAC Member
Bob Barker	CAC Member
Tiffany Capers	CAC Member
Kevin Denning	CAC Member
Leonard Hookum	CAC Member
Jon Johnson Sr	CAC Member
David Kapell	CAC Member
Tania Lawes	New York Islanders/UBS Arena & Belmont Park Village
Stevens Martinez	NYS Executive Chamber
Mark McMillan	CAC Member
Emily Mijatovic	Empire State Development
Aubrey Phillips	CAC Member
Angel Santana	Empire State Development
Mike Santeramo	UBS Arena
Sandra Smith	CAC Member
David Viana	Empire State Development
Theresa A Whalen	CAC Member
Kristen Wolfe	Empire State Development

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1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

David Viana, Assistant Vice President for Community Relations and Subsidiary Administration, and Belmont Project Manager at Empire State Development (ESD) started the meeting and welcomed Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members and members of the public. Mr. Viana provided an overview of how the meeting would be structured and reviewed the meeting's agenda.

2. PRESENTATION

Mr. Viana opened the meeting by announcing that the YMCA of Long Island has been selected to design, construct, operate, and maintain the community space required under the Belmont Park Redevelopment Project's General Project Plan (GPP). He noted that, under the leadership of Governor Kathy Hochul, along with project partners including UBS Arena and the New York Islanders, an agreement has been reached that will not only meet but exceed GPP requirements.

Mr. Viana said the GPP required a minimum of 10,000 square feet of community space on-site at Belmont Park. He said following extensive community feedback, an off-site location was pursued to improve accessibility. Mr. Viana noted that the YMCA has acquired a property at 570 Elmont Road, Elmont, adjacent to Elmont Memorial High School. He further added that the site is a formerly vacant and underutilized 18,000-square-foot building that will be redeveloped into a community center. He also mentioned the new facility will be approximately 18,000 square feet, nearly double the originally required size. Mr. Viana stated that the programming is expected to serve children, teens, seniors, and families, though final details are still under development.

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Mr. Viana emphasized that securing a site had been the primary obstacle to moving forward, and its resolution marks a major milestone. Next steps include demolition, design, and construction, with timelines and programming details to be determined.

3. Q&A AND COMMENTS

CAC member Jon Johnson expressed support, noting the significance of reaching this milestone and encouraging the group to celebrate the achievement.

Assemblymember Michaelle Solages thanked Governor Hochul, ESD, and project partners for their persistence. She highlighted the challenges faced throughout the process and credited the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for holding stakeholders accountable. Assemblymember Solages also acknowledged the role of community advocates in advancing the YMCA partnership and described the project as the beginning of a "beautiful journey" for the community.

CAC member Sandra Smith reflected on her long tenure with the CAC and expressed enthusiasm for the expanded facility size. She emphasized the importance of continued CAC input in shaping programming and asked about the demolition timeline. Mr. Viana stated that demolition will not occur immediately, as design and planning must first be completed. He noted that the team will now be preparing for the next phase of the project. Ms. Smith also asked whether future CAC meetings would include design updates. Mr. Viana confirmed that multiple future CAC meetings will be held to share progress and gather feedback.

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Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick expressed appreciation for the collaborative effort and emphasized the importance of community engagement in achieving this outcome. She noted the significance of delivering a larger-than-promised facility and looks forward to continued involvement.

CAC member Leonard Hookum asked whether the facility would be accessible to residents outside of Elmont, including nearby communities such as Queens Village. Mr. Viana stated that while programming details are still being developed, YMCA facilities are generally open to a broad membership base and not limited to one community. Assemblymember Solages noted that collaboration with nearby YMCA facilities, including those in Queens, is anticipated to create regional synergy.

CAC member Lynette Battle commended Assemblymember Solages for her leadership and suggested incorporating revenue-generating components such as co-working or incubator spaces to support long-term sustainability.

Legislator Carrie Solages reflected on the long history of the project, calling the community center a fulfillment of a long-standing vision. He described the project as a meaningful example of government delivering on commitments and strengthening community trust.

CAC member David Kapel praised the outcome, noting that the YMCA is a highly-capable operator and that the selected location is well-suited for community use.

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CAC member Mark McMillan expressed support on behalf of Queens Community Board 12 and emphasized the need for continued momentum.

CAC member Bob Barker commended the collaboration and communication among stakeholders and described the project as a significant win for the community.

4. **Closing Remarks**

Mr. Viana reiterated that the purpose of the meeting was to share the announcement with the CAC as soon as possible. He thanked members for their patience and participation and confirmed that additional updates will be provided as planning progresses.

5. **Additional Remarks:**

Senator Leroy Comrie offered to share further information with stakeholders and thanked participants for their continued support.

6. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

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