

The City of New York BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

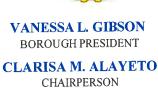
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ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER



Environmental Justice & Sanitation Committee Minutes

April 16th, 2025

Cesar Yoc, Committee Chairperson

DRAFT

Amendment of Motion and Introductions

- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc discusses the need to amend the motion and suggests presenting first before discussing environmental justice.
- Member John Sanchez makes a motion to amend the agenda to include presentations from Alex Patterson and Precious Butler.
- Committee Vice Chair Elijah Rodriguez seconds the motion, and it is passed unanimously.

Old Business: Earth Day Cleanup and Tree Plantation

- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc updates on the postponed Earth Day cleanup due to rain, now scheduled for the following Saturday.
- Cleanup areas include 138th Street corridor, Willis Avenue playground, and Roberto Clemente Plaza.
- Tree plantation by Bronx Blooms from 149 St Anne's to Jackson Avenue.
- Presentations from various organizations focusing on environmental solutions and the importance of Earth Day.
- DJing by a friend of Cesar Yoc from 3-4 PM, followed by presentations and food distribution from 5-6 PM.

Discussion on Earth Day Cleanup and Community Involvement

- Member Argelia Ortiz expresses concerns about the timing of the cleanup on a busy day and offers to help.
- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc explains the outreach efforts and the importance of the event.

- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the significance of a clean community for economic development and mental health.
- Discussion on the potential for future cleanups and the idea of green cups and T-shirts for volunteers.

Poop Map Survey and Data Collection

- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc introduces the poop map survey to gather data on dog feces in the community.
- The survey aims to identify areas needing more support and present the data to the community board and sanitation department.
- Member Argelia Ortiz shares her difficulties with the survey due to weather conditions and advocates for better enforcement of pet waste laws.
- Discussion on the potential for using the data to pressure for more resources and education on the issue.

Public Power New York Coalition Presentation

- Alex Patterson from Public Power New York Coalition presents on the coalition's mission and the Public Renewables Act.
- The act aims to transition New York's energy system to 100% renewable and keep rates affordable.
- Discussion on the decommissioning of peaker plants and the REACH program for low-income households.
- Questions from the audience about the impact of peaker plants, the REACH program, and the potential for renewable energy sources.

Concerns and Questions on Renewable Energy Transition

- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc raises concerns about the feasibility of meeting New York City's energy needs with renewable energy alone.
- Discussion on the land use requirements for renewable energy projects and the potential for infrastructure issues.
- Alex Patterson explains the benefits of renewable energy and the need for a significant build-out to replace fossil fuel sources.
- Member Argelia Ortiz expresses concerns about the sufficiency of energy capacity if peaker plants are shut down.

Final Discussion and Vote on Letter of Support

 Discussion on the importance of maintaining a public entity for renewable energy transition.

- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc emphasizes the need for a reduction plan to ensure the feasibility of renewable energy.
- The committee votes on a letter of support for Public Power New York Coalition, with conditions emphasizing the need for a thorough plan and consideration of future challenges.

Motion on Conditions and Voting Procedure

- Member Argelia Ortiz states she will vote "aye" if conditions are met, otherwise "no."
- District Manager Anthony Jordan clarifies that the motion cannot be changed at the vote and emphasizes the importance of adhering to the conditions stated in the letter.
- Member Argelia Ortiz reiterates she is voting based on the conditions being met, not changing the motion.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan confirms the motion is passed with the votes of Vice Chair Elijah Rodriguez and Chairperson Cesar Yoc.
- Member Argelia Ortiz and District Manager Anthony Jordan discuss the need to draft and send a letter of support to the district manager of the board.

Introduction of Climate Justice Fellowship Plus Program

- Alex Patterson expresses gratitude for the opportunity to speak and looks forward to working together on the letter.
- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc introduces Precious Butler to discuss the Climate Justice Fellowship Plus Program.
- Precious Butler explains the program, which is a partnership between NYSERDA and Bronx Works, providing case management and full-time opportunities in climate justice and clean energy initiatives.
- The program offers \$30 per hour for 15 months, low or no-cost health insurance, and \$5,000 for professional development.
- Applicants must reside in New York's 14th congressional district and be part of a defined priority population, with eligible organizations receiving a subsidy up to \$73k.

Defined Priority Population and Program Details

- Argelia Ortiz asks about the defined priority population for the program.
- Precious Butler lists the priority populations, including displaced homemakers, low-income individuals, individuals with disabilities, older individuals, previously incarcerated individuals, individuals experiencing homelessness, people who aged out of the foster care system, and others.

- Cesar Yoc inquires about the program's connection to funding for an AOC and its pilot nature.
- Precious Butler clarifies the program is a pilot and supported by AOC, emphasizing its newness.

Old Business: Merrill's Environmental Committee and Contaminants Cleanup

- Member Argelia Ortiz briefly touches on the Melrose environmental committee and the state's responsibility to clean up a lot with harmful contaminants.
- She expresses dissatisfaction with the state's handling of the situation and mentions ongoing collaboration with the state.
- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc discusses the challenges of communication and clarity in technical presentations by the state.
- Member Argelia Ortiz highlights the ongoing battle and the state's failure to address the issue effectively, despite media attention and newspaper stories.

Community Involvement and Legal Team Involvement

- Members ask about joining the Melrose environmental committee.
- Member Argelia Ortiz explains the process of joining and mentions the involvement of Nos Quedamos and the Rainbow Garden.
- Member Argelia Ortiz emphasizes the importance of community involvement and mentions the legal team looking into the situation.
- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc discusses the need for clear communication and case studies to better explain the technical aspects to the public.

Upcoming Environmental Justice Community Tour

- Member John Sanchez announces an upcoming environmental justice community tour on May 10, in partnership with local community gardens and the New York Botanical Garden.
- The tour will include a bus and bike option, visiting community gardens, parts of the waterfront, and discussing peaker plants.
- The tour will meet at the Maria Sola Garden and end at the Bruckner My Haven Garden, with food provided by La Barrata.
- Member John Sanchez provides a QR code for RSVP and mentions the tour's popularity, with spots filling up fast.

Adjournment of the Meeting

- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Member John Sanchez makes a motion to adjourn, which is seconded and approved by the group.
- The meeting is officially adjourned with a brief discussion on the importance of attending the upcoming tour.

Action Items

- Draft a letter of support for the Public Power New York coalition's efforts and the Public Renewables Act, to be submitted to the full community board.
- Provide the draft letter of support to the district manager.
- Share information on joining the Melrose environmental committee with the interested community member.