



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CLARISA M. ALAYETO
CHAIRPERSON

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.