



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

3024 THIRD AVENUE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10455
(718) 585-7117 • Fax (718) 292-0558 • Email: bx01@cb.nyc.gov

Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CLARISA M. ALAYETO
CHAIRPERSON

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

February General Board Meeting Minutes

February 29th, 2024

Outline

Environmental justice and youth organizing in the South Bronx.

- The Nos Quedamos team introduced themselves and spoke about the history of their organization, highlighting their community-based approach to environmental justice.
- Environmental justice youth team works with community members to build knowledge and advocate for environmental justice through events and workshops.
- The Curriculum project with CUNY and NYC Environmental Justice Alliance equips young people with tools to be effective leaders and organizers in their communities around Environmental Justice issues.
- They discuss upcoming events and projects with the community, including a spring equinox event, environmental justice symposium, and capacity-building initiatives for community gardens and solar/water collection.

Public Speaking:

- Emma Buttner discusses her organization's efforts and desire in NYS legal cannabis venture.

Project with Bronx Community Board #1 & Bronx Works

- Precious Quick, a family serving coordinator from Bronx Works discusses the partnership between Bronx Works and Bronx Community Board #1.

Crime in a community, including homicide and shootings.

- 40th Pct discusses crime rates in their community, highlighting a decrease in multiple crime industry.
- 40th Pct describes a violent altercation at a bar in February 2024 resulting in a stabbing death.
- 40th Pct also discuss a shooting incident that occurred in the district during the month of February 2024.

Police response times and community concerns.

- 40th Pct Officer discusses patrolling efforts in the Northeast.

Elected Officials Report

- Amanda Septimo representative introduces several bills related to property tax exemptions, air pollution, and methadone program facilities.
- Amanda Septimo representative discusses MWBE reciprocity and fossil fuel divestment.

Bronx Borough President Report

- Bronx borough president holds town halls on fire safety and healthcare throughout the Borough
- Councilmember Rafael Salamanca Representative introduces upcoming events, including a women's history celebration on March 22nd.
- Rafael Salamanca Representative provides information on free tax preparation services and office hours through the district.

Community board updates, partnerships, and budget.

- Chairperson Alayeto emphasizes the importance of committee attendance and transparency, encouraging committee chairs to attend borough board meetings to share knowledge and represent the board.
- Dalourny Nemorin provides an update on the last board meeting, including information about legislation and funding for mental health providers in public schools, as well as updates from community colleges.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto discusses CB launching a partnership with grassroots groceries, distributing over 100 bags of groceries and needing volunteers for Saturday distributions.
- 1st Vice Chair Freddy Perez Jr raises a clarification request for the record and discusses the role of the first and second vice chairs in committee meetings.
- Community Board members discuss redistricting, budget, and new committee creation.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto reports on community board activities and recognizes resignations.

Liquor and cannabis licenses within the boundaries of Bronx Community Board #1

- Committee denied cannabis license applications from five businesses due to lack of presentation.
- Dalourny Nemorin discusses the Economic Development Committee motion to approve some liquor licenses and rejects others due to lack of information or absence of applicants

- Also, Labor Law director Edward Perez from the New York City Comptroller's Office discusses wage theft in construction industry.

Liquor and cannabis licenses in NYC community board meeting.

- Anthony Jordan explains that the community board's recommendations to the New York State Liquor Authority are not often ignored, and establishments that are voted down by the board are unlikely to receive a license.
- The board has a clear understanding of the standing of establishments in the community and can opine on liquor and cannabis licenses within 30 days of receiving an application.
- The committee meets monthly to review liquor license applications and reaches out to the NYPD for 911 & 311 complaints.
- The committee voted to reject all cannabis dispensary licenses.
- Ngande Ambroise suggests separating liquor and cannabis licenses for discussion to avoid confusion.
- Committee members recommend attending committee meetings for passionate individuals to have a say in the decision-making process on a committee level.

Cannabis dispensary licenses in a committee meeting.

- Committee votes on cannabis dispensary licenses.
- Committee explains their "No" vote on license approval, citing NYPD complaints and lack of information.
- Committee member argues that liquor license renewal should be denied for establishments that don't show up to meetings.
- Committee discusses various reports, including infrastructure oversight.

Improving community board's accessibility and communication.

- Members discuss improving communication and outreach efforts, including creating a website and newsletter.
- Board Members proposes live streaming, closed captioning, and interpretation services to improve accessibility.

Environmental cleanup efforts in a New York City neighborhood.

- Members discusses environmental contamination in Melrose neighborhood, with a focus on accountability and community engagement.
- Cesar Yoc proposes two motions: letter of support for Melrose part of the Bronx
- A unanimous vote is taken to support the motions, with some discussion on the specifics of the resolution.

Park improvements and community resources.

- Committee discusses support for Lozada Park improvements in Brooklyn.
- Committee discusses motion, passes.
- Hakiem Yahmadi discusses ACS proposal for Horizon, Juvenile Detention Facility expansion.

Lowering voting age in New York City to 16

- Members discuss Letters of support for lowering voting age to 16 in New York City and State.
- Members support lowering voting age to 16 and increased engagement/support.
- Young people are urged to register to vote in a meeting.
- Committee discusses supporting NYC/HHC doctors' contract negotiations and updating bylaws.

Conflict resolution and committee formation.

- Evelyn Alvarez is excited to be the chairperson of the ethics, discipline, and conflict resolution committee and plans to create a safe space for conflicts to be addressed.
- Evelyn Alvarez mentions that the committee will work on resolving grievances and preventing escalations, and they invite everyone to check in with them throughout the session.

Committee meetings and board access.

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto emphasizes the importance of attending committee meetings.
- Committee meetings are a crucial step for representatives & members to present their cases before coming to the Full Board Meeting.

Action Items

Draft letter of support for Melrose environmental awareness committee's 3 points of action regarding the Ewen site cleanup.

Draft resolution calling on state elected officials to request DEC to open regional office in NYC by 2025.

Discuss budget and share with Executive Committee then full board for approval.

Send committee application to board members to join a committee.

Circulate redistricting map to board members.

Send voter registration cards to start registering young people to vote.

Look into sourcing costs for interpretation services at board meetings.

Draft policy on recording and live streaming board meetings.

Appoint board members authorized to speak to press.