



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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CHAIRPERSON

Environmental Justice & Sanitation Committee Minutes

January 15th, 2025

Cesar Yoc, Committee Chairperson

DRAFT

Introduction and Meeting Agenda

- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc introduces the meeting, mentioning the agenda, including a presentation by Matthew Shore on Cyprus 90's work and policies.
- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc summarizes three major cleanups in the neighborhood and invites ideas for new committee projects.
- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc discusses the community's responsibility in cleaning up neighborhoods, drawing parallels from his experience in Guatemala.

Old Business: Trash and Waste Issues

- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc addresses long-standing issues with trash and waste in the community, highlighting the lack of timely resources from the community board.
- The idea for the three major cleanups is to encourage community responsibility and pride in the neighborhood.
- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc mentions the first cleanup planned for Earth Day, with four sites in the community board, including one supported by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.
- Discussion on the logistics of the cleanup, including the need for permits for parks and the involvement of local organizations like South Bronx Unite.

Earth Day Cleanup Details

- The Earth Day cleanup will be from 2 to 6 PM, focusing on areas with high trash accumulation, especially at night.
- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc plans to use a projector and generator to show educational content and provide food for volunteers.

- The cleanup will involve multiple sites, with each site having an RSVP form to manage volunteer participation.
- The annotation foundation will support the event, and the primary sanitation will allow three sites for cleanup.

T-Shirt Design and Environmental Justice Policies

- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc discusses the design for green corpse T-shirts, representing community board members and their commitment to environmental justice.
- The committee is exploring funding options for printing the T-shirts, possibly through the annotation foundation.
- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc mentions the need for environmental justice policies to prepare for the new administration, including potential cuts to environmental regulations.
- The committee discusses the importance of community awareness and action to mitigate the impact of these potential changes.

Dog Poop Issue and Enforcement

- Member Argelia Ortiz raises concerns about the lack of garbage receptacles and the prevalence of dog poop in the community.
- Member Argelia Ortiz advocates for stricter enforcement of dog poop laws, drawing from her personal experiences and observations.
- The committee discusses potential solutions, including documenting and reporting dog poop incidents to the sanitation department.
- The idea of creating a map to visualize the problem areas and increasing community involvement in reporting and cleaning up dog poop is proposed.

Policy Platform and Legislative Advocacy

- Member Matthew Shore from South Bronx Unite discusses the committee's policy work, including support for the cumulative impacts bill and the enhanced public participation bill.
- The committee is developing a policy platform to prioritize community-supported bills for the upcoming legislative session.
- The public land for public good bill is highlighted, aiming to prioritize community groups for public land disposal.
- The committee plans to engage with elected officials and advocate for these policies through lobbying and community involvement.

Grant Proposals and Community Engagement

- Member Matthew Shore provides updates on two grant proposals, including a waterfront project and an environmental justice grant through Fordham University.
- The committee discusses the importance of community engagement and the potential impact of these grants on local initiatives.
- The idea of painting designs on garbage cans to encourage proper disposal is proposed, with potential support from the sanitation department.
- The committee considers ways to incentivize community participation in environmental initiatives, including potential funding opportunities.

Community Cleanup and Tree Pits

- The committee discusses the logistics of the community cleanup, including the involvement of local organizations and the need for materials.
- The idea of improving tree pits with flowers and plants is proposed, with potential support from the parks department.
- The committee explores the possibility of painting designs on garbage cans to encourage proper disposal and community involvement.
- The importance of environmental psychology and psychological architecture in promoting community cleanliness and mental health is highlighted.

Congestion Pricing and Elected Candidate Forums

- Member Matthew Shore announces a press conference on congestion pricing and its impact on the South Bronx, scheduled for the next day.
- The committee discusses the potential harm of congestion pricing on the South Bronx, including increased traffic and pollution.
- The idea of hosting elected candidate forums for the upcoming city council and mayor elections is proposed.
- The committee plans to engage with local organizations and elected officials to ensure community concerns are addressed and accountability is maintained.

Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting concludes with a motion to adjourn, seconded by Committee Vice Chair Elijah Rodriguez.
- The committee members express their agreement and the meeting is officially adjourned.

Action Items

Finalize plans for the Earth Day cleanup event, including securing sites, volunteers, and materials.

Follow up with AOC's office to coordinate their involvement in the Earth Day cleanup.

Identify a site in the Brooklyn area for South Bronx Unite to lead a cleanup effort.

Create an RSVP form and map for the Earth Day cleanup to coordinate volunteer efforts.

Determine if the community board has funding available to order t-shirts for the Green Corps initiative.

Coordinate with Nos Quedamos and other groups to provide feedback on South Bronx Unite's policy platform.

Follow up with the Bronx Parks office regarding improving tree pits and adding flowers/plants.

Explore the possibility of painting designs on sidewalks or garbage cans to encourage proper disposal.

Attend the press conference organized by South Bronx Unite regarding congestion pricing.

Discuss plans for hosting candidate forums for the upcoming city council and mayoral elections.