



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

PAOLA M. MARTINEZ
CHAIRPERSON

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

Executive Committee Minutes

May 26th, 2026

Paola Martinez, Chairperson

Updates on Hiring and Budget

- Chairperson Paola Martinez initiates the meeting, emphasizing the importance of updates from each chair.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez mentions the hiring of a new staff member and requests an update from the district manager.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan announces the hiring of a new community associate starting on June 8.
- The hiring process involved direct communication with the board president's office and interviews with key members.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez discusses the importance of creating an onboarding plan and work plan for the new staff member.

Discussion on Community Board Needs and Priorities

- Chairperson Paola Martinez highlights the need to balance the growing community needs with budget cuts and administrative changes.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan discusses the competitive hiring process and the qualifications of the new hire.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez emphasizes the importance of proper channels for giving instructions to new staff members.
- The new hire is described as bilingual, eager to learn public policy, and from the Bronx, making her a good fit for the community board.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez suggests that the new hire should meet with committee chairs to understand their priorities.

Planning for Community Events and Discretionary Funds

- District Manager Anthony Jordan shares updates on community events, including partnerships with local organizations.

- Council Member Sanchez allocated \$10,000 for community events, which will be used for events like the Third Avenue Street Festival and a community cleanup.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez expresses concerns about not wanting to be an event planner for council members while still partnering on events.
- The discussion includes the need for transparency and clarity in event planning and the use of discretionary funds.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez and District Manager Anthony Jordan agree on the importance of using discretionary funds strategically to increase community board outreach.

Budget Process and Community Board Funding

- Chairperson Paola Martinez explains the city and state budget processes and the importance of community board funding.
- The community board operates with a flat budget, primarily for rent, staff, and supplies.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez emphasizes the need for community boards to plan in advance and build relationships with council members for funding.
- The discussion includes the importance of understanding citywide initiatives and the role of community boards in supporting community-based organizations.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez encourages committee chairs to start thinking about community needs and priorities for the next fiscal year.

Challenges with Public Housing and Committee Leadership

- Chairperson Paola Martinez discusses the challenges faced by the public housing committee and the need for a new chair.
- 2nd Vice Chair Ngande Ambroise highlights the importance of having city agencies come in to explain new laws and regulations.
- The discussion includes the need for elected officials to engage more with the community board and provide updates on their work.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez suggests setting up calls with council members to discuss specific concerns and strategies for addressing community needs.
- The importance of having a strategic and proactive approach to community engagement and advocacy is emphasized.

Committee Reports and Community Concerns

- Member Freddy Perez Jr shares updates on the public hearing for the Paddock Wagon ULA.
- Member Robert Barnes discusses the approval of new and renewal licenses for local establishments.
- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise raises concerns about city agencies canceling meetings and the need for better communication.

- The discussion includes the importance of having elected officials and city representatives provide updates on their work and engage with the community board.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez emphasizes the need for a strategic and proactive approach to community engagement and advocacy.

Concerns About Elected Officials' Engagement

- Member Dalourny Nemorin expresses frustration about elected officials not attending meetings and not being respectful to all community members.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez acknowledges the concern and emphasizes the importance of being prepared with questions for elected officials.
- Member Dalourny Nemorin mentions specific elected officials like Elsie and Justin, highlighting their inconsistent attendance.
- Member Dalourny Nemorin apologizes for any negative statements about Stephanie, acknowledging her informative contributions.

Challenges with Agency Meetings

- Member Dalourny Nemorin discusses issues with agencies canceling meetings and not showing up, using DM as a communication channel.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez requests to be updated on such cancellations to better support the community.
- Member Dalourny Nemorin suggests that elected officials should help reach out to city agencies for better attendance.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez agrees on the need for internal communication and better preparation for meetings.

Squeaky Wheel Get the Oil Concept

- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise explains the concept of "squeaky wheel gets the oil," emphasizing the need to scream louder to get attention.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez acknowledges the frustration and the importance of internal communication.
- Member Dalourny Nemorin suggests that elected officials should be brought to community meetings at least once a year to address concerns.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan mentions past issues with elected officials not showing up for meetings.

Request for Better Communication Protocols

- Member Dalourny Nemorin requests a clear communication protocol for requesting meetings with elected officials and agencies.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez agrees on the need for better communication and suggests making requests more effectively.

- Member Dalourny Nemorin clarifies that they have been making requests through the proper channels but not getting responses.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez emphasizes the importance of being strategic and prepared in making requests.

Updates on Community Events and Initiatives

- Member Marilyn Pena provides updates on the Healthy Families Fair, including vendor confirmations and the need for more tables.
- Member Marilyn Pena mentions the importance of including FDNY and other community support systems in the event.
- Member Marilyn Pena discusses the need for soccer activities and the logistics of setting up tables and tents.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez offers to connect with a group that can help with women's health components for the event.

Discussion on Youth Employment Program

- District Manager Anthony Jordan discusses the need for an equity conversation about the Youth Employment Program.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez suggests finding out who the service providers are within the district and their capacity to accommodate young people.
- Member Amanda Perez emphasizes the importance of outreach to worksite employers to increase participation in the program.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez agrees on the need for a stronger equity conversation and better outreach efforts.

Concerns About Public Session Protocols

- Member Brenda Goodwin raises concerns about the protocols for public sessions and the need for better preparation.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez suggests having a template for executive committee reports to streamline requests and updates.
- Member Brenda Goodwin expresses frustration about agencies not showing up to meetings and the need for follow-up.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez proposes scheduling calls with agencies if they cannot attend meetings in person.

Final Remarks and Adjournment

- Member Brenda Goodwin shares personal experiences and concerns about the community's needs, including senior issues and scamming.
- Chairperson Paola Martinez emphasizes the importance of being proactive and understanding protocols to avoid liability.

- Member Dalourny Nemorin suggests having a consistent rule for public sessions to avoid bias and discrimination.
- Member Amanda Perez makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, which is seconded and approved by the group.

Action Items

- **Create an onboarding plan and staff work plan for the new community associate that includes scheduled meetings between the new hire and each committee chair to explain committee priorities and responsibilities**
- **Resend the councilmember discretionary-events proposal and related event list to officers and board members for review (the events Justin Sanchez proposed and distribution of \$10,000)**
- **Finalize the technology and security proposal (usage plan for the \$62,000 capital allocation) including recommended equipment, maintenance considerations, and bring the finalized proposal to the executive committee for review**
- **Prepare and share a line-by-line budget document and explanation for the community board (operating budget, major expenses, and current balances) so board members can review and ask questions**
- **Share the City Council hearing calendar (and publish relevant committee hearing schedules) via the board's communications channels and social media so committee chairs and members can view and sign up to testify**
- **Email public housing committee members to solicit interest and nominate an interim or new committee chair (and confirm next steps/process for replacing the outgoing chair)**
- **Produce two updated versions of the Healthy Families fair flyer (including confirmed logos) and send the versions to committee leads for review**
- **Discuss the student testimony incident with Chair Amanda Perez and prepare an outreach email to Advocates for Children (and the Borough President's office) asking whether they will review/support the students' concerns and next steps**