



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](mailto:bx01@cb.nyc.gov)

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**VANESSA L. GIBSON**  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**CLARISA M. ALAYETO**  
CHAIRPERSON

**ANTHONY R. JORDAN**  
DISTRICT MANAGER

**Municipal Services Committee Minutes**

**October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Ngande Ambroise, Committee Chairperson**

**Attendance:** *Ngande Ambroise, Robert Barnes, Audrey Dejesus*

**DRAFT**

**Introduction and Meeting Setup**

- Community Chair Ngande Ambroise introduces the commissioner and the purpose of the meeting, emphasizing the importance of the commissioner's role in the community.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan reminds attendees about the live broadcast and requests clear communication.

**Presentation on St. Mary's Recreation Center**

- Bronx Borough Commissioner of Parks & Recreation Jessenia Aponte introduces Rebecca Burns, who will present the status of St. Mary's Recreation Center.
- Ms. Rebecca Burns outlines the original \$8.3 million contract scope, including ADA compliance and new elevator shaft.
- Delays were caused by asbestos found during construction and water infiltration issues.
- The project is now expected to complete in early 2026, with updates on construction progress and additional scope items.

**Construction Progress and Challenges**

- Ms. Rebecca Burns presents images of construction progress, including facade work and elevator excavation.
- Challenges included hitting bedrock and additional engineering required.
- Updates on new bathrooms, fire alarm system, and additional design work for water infiltration and electrical switch gear.

- Ms. Rebecca Burns emphasizes the need for further engineering and design work to address water infiltration and electrical issues.

### **Community Engagement and Programs**

- Mr. Farrell Coates discusses community engagement efforts, including the Kids in Motion program, Urban Park Ranger program, and Playmobile unit.
- Statistics on the number of youth served through these programs, highlighting the impact despite the lack of a building.
- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise expresses concerns about the completion timeline and the impact on children during winter.
- Discussion on potential partnerships with YMCA to provide free or subsidized access for community members.

### **Concerns and Solutions**

- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise emphasizes the need for a quicker resolution and suggests working with YMCA to provide temporary solutions.
- Committee Chair explains the public sector's process and the challenges in speeding up construction.
- Member Audrey Dejesus suggests advocating for partnerships with YMCA and other organizations to provide temporary recreational activities.
- Bronx Borough Commissioner Jessenia Aponte agrees to connect with YMCA and explore potential partnerships.

### **Future Plans and Equity**

- Bronx Borough Commissioner Jessenia Aponte mentions ongoing projects for new recreation centers in the Bronx and recent re-openings of other centers.
- Discussion on the importance of providing equitable recreational services across all boroughs.
- Mr. Farrell Coates highlights the consistent funding from Council Member Ayala and the quality of programs provided.
- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise and District Manager Anthony Jordan stress the importance of proactive capital investments and equitable recreational opportunities.

### **Vital Parks and Community Engagement**

- Mr. Alberto Milan introduces the Vital Parks tool, which provides detailed information on park amenities and services.

- The tool shows the percentage of services provided in each community and compares equity across boroughs.
- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise and Member Audrey Dejesus discuss the importance of promoting new programs and services to the community.
- Bronx Borough Commissioner Jessenia Aponte agrees to improve communication and outreach efforts to ensure the community is aware of available programs.

### **Closing Remarks and Next Steps**

- Committee Chair Ngande Ambroise and Member Audrey Dejesus express appreciation for the commissioner's efforts and the presentation.
- Discussion on the importance of clear communication and community engagement to promote new programs.
- The meeting concludes with a motion to adjourn, and attendees express their gratitude for the commissioner's participation.

### **Action Items**

Explore partnership opportunities with the YMCA to provide interim recreational services for the community while the St. Mary's Recreation Center is closed.

Provide the community board with information on the upcoming Vital Parks presentation by the Borough President and Parks Commissioner.

Ensure better communication and outreach to the community about new programs and activities available in the parks, such as the bike training program.

Investigate the possibility of offering tennis programming for kids at St. Mary's Park.