



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

PAOLA M. MARTINEZ

CHAIRPERSON

ANTHONY R. JORDAN

DISTRICT MANAGER

Seniors & Aging Services Committee Minutes

October 8th, 2025

Josephine Fernandez-Byrne, Committee Chairperson

DRAFT

Review of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Activities

- Committee Chair Josephine Ferandez-Byrne initiates the review of activities for the fiscal year 2024-2025, focusing on programs and their effectiveness.
- The first activity mentioned was a session at the Settlement House, which included in-service training in Spanish and English for seniors about financial scams and bank safety.
- Committee Chair Josephine Ferandez-Byrne suggests expanding the program to more senior centers, emphasizing the need for bilingual coordination.
- The second activity was a meeting at the Lincoln Auditorium with Access-A-Ride, which had low attendance but received positive feedback from those who attended.

Discussion on Access-A-Ride and Future Meetings

- Committee Chair Josephine Ferandez-Byrne suggests having Access-A-Ride representatives attend senior meetings annually to address community concerns and gather statistics.
- Member Brenda Goodwin mentions that some people did call Access-A-Ride, but there was no follow-up.
- Member Brenda Goodwin and Member Patricia Simpson discuss the importance of regular interaction with Access-A-Ride to ensure their services meet community needs.

Changes in Leadership and Committee Reorganization

- Committee Chair Josephine Ferandez-Byrne announces the new leadership: Paola as the new chair, Speaker 2 as the first chair, and Mr. Ambrose as the second chair.
- The discussion moves to the reorganization of committees due to low attendance and lack of quorum in some committees.
- Committee Chair Josephine Ferandez-Byrne and District Manager Anthony Jordan outline the proposed changes, including merging certain committees and keeping others as standalone.
- The economic and land use committee will remain unchanged, while the licensing and permits committee will be split into separate standing committees for liquor and cannabis licenses.

Proposed Committee Mergers and Recommendations

- District Manager Anthony Jordan lists the proposed mergers, including combining youth and education with young adults into one committee.
- The public and transitional housing committee will stay the same, while municipal services, environmental justice, and sanitation will be combined.
- Health, human services, aging, and LGBTQIA will be merged into one committee.
- The ethics and discipline committee will be merged into the executive committee, and policy and immigration will be merged with the immigration committee.

Challenges and Solutions for Committee Operations

- Member Brenda Goodwin raises concerns about the need for orientation for committee members and suggests more frequent meetings for certain committees.
- Member Brenda Goodwin mentions the need for committee members to read the minutes and be informed about the decisions made.
- Argelia Ortiz emphasizes the importance of attending committee meetings and the need for timely and efficient meetings.
- Member Herman Francis Jr. stresses the importance of community involvement and education to address issues effectively.

Recruitment of New Members and Community Involvement

- Committee Chair Josephine Fernandez-Byrne encourages board members to bring one new person to the next meeting to increase membership.
- Argelia Ortiz shares her experience with combining senior and youth activities and the benefits of intergenerational collaboration.
- Member Brenda Goodwin suggests that the chairperson should be proactive in recruiting and engaging the community.
- Herman Francis Jr. highlights the importance of community planning boards and school boards in controlling budgets and resources.

Future Projects and Follow-Up Actions

- The discussion includes the importance of having representatives from CVS Pharmacies and the Human Resources Administration to address senior concerns.
- Member Patricia Simpson brings up issues with long lines at CVS pharmacies and the need for better service for seniors.
- The meeting concludes with a motion to adjourn, emphasizing the need for strict adherence to community board rules and engagement.

Action Items

- Invite a representative from CVS Pharmacy to address the issues seniors face with long lines and medication availability.

- Invite a representative from the Human Resources Administration regarding the decreases in the SNAP program affecting seniors.
- Invite a representative from the Red Cross to present on their services and resources for seniors.
- Invite a representative from the Bronx Defenders to present on their services and resources.
- Follow up on a call that someone received from Access-A-Ride but did not receive a follow-up.
- Invite Access-A-Ride to come and report to the committee on a yearly basis.