



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**BOROUGH OF THE BRONX**

**COMMUNITY BOARD #5**

**Honorable Vanessa Gibson., *Bronx Borough President***

**Chairperson  
Osiris Guzman**

**District Manager  
Kenneth Brown**

## 02-25 -26 Community Board Meeting: Minutes

### Attendance:

Present:

1. Mario Acosta
2. Nekeisha Afful
3. Yazmin Benitez
4. Erachie Brown
5. Bakary Camara
6. James Coger
7. Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez
8. Osiris Guzman
9. Tisha Hatch
10. Michele Heath
11. James Lin
12. Robert Nieves
13. Norma Perez
14. Shenja Rudolph
15. Chef Geneva Wilson

Excused:

1. Bobby Akumah
2. Eloise Bennett
3. Phyllis Bowdwin
4. Angel Caballero
5. Catherine Cudjoe
6. Carrie Cuthbertson
7. Lucia Deng
8. Raidiris Dominguez
9. Juan Parra
10. Dilletta Pina
11. Charles Shorter
12. Beverly Smith

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Telephone (718) 364-2030 \* Facsimile (718) 220-8426 \* bx05@cb.nyc.gov

Serving these Neighborhoods:  
Fordham, Morris Heights, Mount Hope, University Heights

On Leave:

1. Marlene Jimenez
2. Theresa Mims
3. Argenis Santiago-Payamps

Absent:

1. Gail Hill
2. Nanette Matthews
3. Benjamin Richardson

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## Action Items

- @[All Committee Chairs] - Follow up with Nakisha Fool after meetings once priorities are identified.
- @[Community Youth] - Submit application for the Yankee Scholarship - Due March 36th.
- @[Interested Residents] - Apply to become a community board member online at the Borough President's website - Due March 1st.
- @[NYC Cares] - To compile a list of resources for autism and other diseases so families can apply for programs earlier than June.
- @[All] - Participate in the cleanup at the Half Nelson playground - April 18th, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- @[Board Members] - Review the draft Housing Committee Review Process and provide feedback to the chair - Due Date: Before the next March meeting.

## Key Decisions

- The Chairperson appointed board member Nakisha Fool as the chair of the new budget committee. - Rationale: Her expertise as the Chief Business Officer at the Morris Heights Health Center is considered highly valuable for establishing the committee's foundation.
- As quorum is still not present, voting items will be moved to the following month's meeting.
- Finalization of the Housing Committee Review Process is targeted for the next meeting in March - Rationale: To ensure all board member feedback is incorporated.

## Detailed Minutes

**[00:20-00:58] The board meeting was called to order but lacks quorum, preventing official business.**

- The February general board meeting was called to order by the chairperson.
- Due to a lack of quorum, the board cannot conduct any official business.
- Items postponed until quorum is reached include:
  - Voting on the preliminary budget.
  - Approval of the minutes.
  - Voting on a street co-naming.
- The meeting will proceed with non-voting agenda items: chairperson and district manager reports, presentations, the public session, and reports from elected officials and the community.

**[01:20-03:55] The Chairperson issued a call to action for the board to address rising youth violence through preventative measures.**

- The Chairperson expressed concern over young individuals in the community, aged 13-16, drifting into violence and chaos, framing it as a leadership responsibility.
- A call was made to shift from a reactive to a preventative approach to youth violence, especially gun-related incidents.
- Key preventative strategies proposed include:
  - Real and consistent mentoring.
  - Safe and structured after-school spaces.
  - Job pathways to provide purpose.
  - Firm and fair accountability.
- The Chairperson urged board committees (Youth, Education, Municipal Housing, etc.) to collaborate on creating a “pipeline” of opportunities for youth, such as internships and career development programs, in partnership with schools, CBOs, and the NYPD.
- A direct quote from the Chairperson: “We have to focus where the impact is greatest, not where it looks best.”
- Youth safety should be treated as a shared responsibility across all committees, including Parks, Health, and Economic Development.

**[03:55-05:49] The Chairperson officially appointed Nakisha Fool as the chair of the newly formed ad hoc Budget and Capital Planning Committee.**

- The board was commended for unanimously passing the formation of the Budget and Capital Planning ad hoc committee at the previous meeting.
- The committee's purpose is to improve the budget process, identify community needs, and secure more resources and programs by working with each existing committee.
- Key Decision: The Chairperson appointed board member Nakisha Fool as the chair of the new budget committee.
  - Rationale: Her expertise as the Chief Business Officer at the Morris Heights Health Center is considered highly valuable for establishing the committee's foundation.
- Action Item: @[All Committee Chairs] - Follow up with Nakisha Fool after meetings once priorities are identified.
- The goal is to hold the first budget committee meeting in March to begin laying out the groundwork for the future budget process.

**[05:49-07:43] The Chairperson outlined key priorities for governance reform, focusing on bylaw amendments related to committees and attendance.**

- A top priority is improving the board's governance structure by revising the bylaws, which are described as flawed.
- The Chairperson is requesting that the Governance Committee chair begin the process of reviewing committee structures, including potential consolidations.
- A key proposal is to amend the bylaws to make the new Budget Committee a permanent standing committee, rather than ad hoc.
- Another proposed bylaw amendment is to codify the Committee Membership Plan (currently a board policy from October) to enforce collaboration between board members.
- The Chairperson also wants to address attendance and quorum issues by enforcing attendance at general board meetings and reducing loopholes like "excused absences."
- Board members are encouraged to bring any ideas for bylaw revisions to the upcoming Governance meetings.

**[07:43-09:45] The District Manager reported on recent activities, including MTA mitigation for businesses and upcoming Earth Day events.**

- Following concerns from business owners affected by the Burnside Avenue #4 subway line rehabilitation, a walkthrough was held with the MTA on February 18th.
- The MTA stated that significant mitigation is not possible, but they will work on providing better signage to indicate that businesses under the obstructed sidewalk are still open.

- The Francis Martin Library (181st and University Ave) is planning a series of Earth Day events in April.
  - The Department of Sanitation will give a presentation on composting.
  - An Aqueduct Walk cleanup is scheduled for Earth Day, April 22nd.
- The community board office was closed for two days due to a snowstorm that also closed the local college.

**[09:45-12:19] The District Manager announced several community opportunities, including scholarships, board membership, and job openings.**

- **Yankee Scholarship:** Applications are available for youth aged 12-25 residing in the district.
  - Award: \$750, an on-field appearance on the jumbotron, and a ticket to a game.
  - Requirement: A resume is now required.
  - Action Item: @[Community Youth] - Submit application for the Yankee Scholarship - Due March 3rd.
- **Community Board Membership:** The deadline to apply has been extended.
  - Action Item: @[Interested Residents] - Apply to become a community board member online at the Borough President's website - Due March 1st.
- **National Youth Poet Laureate:** A program is available for young writers aged 13-19.
  - The selected individual will tour the state and may compete in Washington.
- **Job Opportunities:**
  - The NYPD is hiring school crossing guards; applications are at [NYPDrecruit.com](http://NYPDrecruit.com).
  - The Jerome Avenue Revitalization Collaborative (JARC) posts a monthly list of jobs at [jarc.org](http://jarc.org).

**[12:35-13:13] The Community Associate position has been filled and the new hire will be introduced at the next executive meeting.**

- An offer letter for the Community Associate position has been sent and accepted.
- The new hire is expected to join the board by the following month.
- They were previously a social community associate for community board five from 2019 to 2021.
- Board members are requested to attend the next executive meeting to be introduced to the new associate.

**[13:13-13:57] NYPD representatives were introduced, with a request for board members to hold questions until after the meeting.**

- The NYPD was invited to present to the board.
- Osiris Guzman advised board members to refrain from asking questions or raising concerns during the presentation to adhere to a strict schedule.
- Board members were instructed to follow up with the NYPD representatives outside of the meeting or at the 46th community council meetings.

**[13:59-14:40] The new Executive Officer for the 46th Precinct, Cesar Gomez, introduced himself and affirmed his commitment to the community.**

- Cesar Gomez announced he is the new Executive Officer for the 46th Precinct.
- He has 20 years of experience with the NYPD.
- He noted his personal connection to the 46th Precinct, having lived there after immigrating from the Dominican Republic and starting his career as a police officer in the same precinct.

**[14:40-16:37] The 46th Precinct reported a recent spike in crime statistics for the 28-day period, largely attributed to domestic violence felony assaults.**

- Last week was a “pretty bad week” for crime, influenced by factors like children being out of school and a snowstorm.
- A significant number of felony assaults are domestic violence-related, which are difficult for officers to prevent proactively.
- Key 28-day crime statistics compared to the same period last year:
  - Homicides: 1 vs. 0 (an Uber driver on January 1st).
  - Rapes: 4 vs. 2 (100% increase).
  - Robberies: 31 vs. 36 (13.9% decrease).
  - Felony Assaults: 63 vs. 57 (10% increase), driven by domestic violence incidents.
  - Burglaries: 12 vs. 12 (even).
  - Grand Larcenies: 50 vs. 43 (16.3% increase), with a recent spike of 19 in the last week alone.

**[16:37-17:59] The 46th Precinct highlighted successes in reducing grand larceny auto and gun violence, and a recent gun-related arrest was detailed.**

- Grand Larceny Auto incidents are down 30% (9 vs. 13).
- The precinct has had zero shooting incidents and zero shooting victims for a period.

- A recent arrest by the FIO team involved an individual with a firearm in a car with five other people, all of whom were wanted for violence-related incidents throughout the Bronx.
- Officer Gomez expressed appreciation for the community's support for the police officers.
- Osiris Guzman thanked the NYPD for their collaboration and expressed a desire to continue working with the new team.

**[18:04-18:50] The board meeting agenda was adjusted due to a lack of quorum, postponing voting items.**

- The "boarding items" agenda item was postponed because the board had not met quorum.
- The meeting required one more person to be present to proceed with voting.
- The agenda moved forward to the fire safety presentation by the FDNY.
- Osiris Guzman noted the relevance of the presentation, given the recent number of fires in the Bronx.

**[19:02-20:51] An FDNY Lieutenant began a fire safety presentation, emphasizing the importance of knowing your building type and the correct response.**

- Lieutenant Josh Burgos of Ladder 13, with nearly 11 years in the department, delivered the presentation.
- The core principles of fire safety are to "plan, prevent, and practice."
- For residents of high-rise, fireproof buildings (like projects), the safest place is in your own apartment if the fire is not on your floor.
  - Recommended actions: Place wet towels at the base of the door, use masking tape to seal it, open windows if there is smoke, and call 911 to report your location for a wellness check.
- He provided reading material in the back for attendees.

**[20:51-22:46] The presentation covered procedures for non-fireproof buildings and the common types of residential fires (Class A and B).**

- In non-fireproof buildings (e.g., 6-story buildings with fire escapes, private dwellings), residents should evacuate immediately and safely.
  - Families with children should practice evacuating and establish a safe meeting point.
- Common fire types were discussed:

- **Class A (Ordinary Combustibles):** Cloth, paper, sofas. These can be extinguished with water.
- **Class B (Grease/Kitchen Fires):** Often caused by unattended cooking.
  - **Key Recommendation:** Never leave cooking food unattended, go to sleep with food cooking, or use a gas stove to heat your home, as it releases carbon monoxide.

**[22:47-23:44] Lieutenant Burgos detailed how to handle a grease fire and introduced Class C electrical fires.**

- **To handle a grease fire:**
  1. Use a gloved hand to move the pot to a colder surface.
  2. Turn off the heat source.
  3. If the grease ignites, cover the pot with its lid to cut off oxygen.
  4. Leave the lid on for at least 15 minutes without checking.
  5. Call the building super or 911 for assistance.
- 2. **Class C (Electrical Fires):** These are becoming a common problem, especially with lithium-ion batteries.

**[23:44-24:29] Safety protocols for space heaters and other temperature-controlling appliances were outlined.**

- Space heaters and similar devices require 3 to 5 feet of clear space away from flammable items.
- All temperature-controlling appliances (air conditioners, microwaves, space heaters, fans) must be plugged directly into a wall outlet, not into power strips or extension cords.
- Unplug these appliances when not in use.

**[24:30-26:24] The importance of using UL-certified equipment and the specific dangers of lithium-ion batteries were explained.**

- Consumers should only purchase electrical appliances and accessories that have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) symbol, which indicates they have been tested for fire safety.
- It is strongly advised not to buy cheap, uncertified electronics like charge protectors from a dollar store.
- Power strips are suitable only for low-power devices like TVs and cell phones.
- **Lithium-ion Battery Dangers:**
  - They are a top-five cause of fires in cities.

- They explode in stages (cells), meaning a fire can reignite after being seemingly extinguished.
- They burn hotter and produce more cancerous hazards than other fires.
- Key Recommendation: Always use the original charger that came with a device (e.g., an e-scooter).
- Key Recommendation: Do not have scooters repaired; it is safer to replace them.
- Suspicious operations involving illegal charging or fixing of scooters should be reported to 311, which will be forwarded to the Fire Marshals.

**[26:24-28:19] The presentation covered evacuation procedures, the utility of baking soda, and how to properly use a fire extinguisher.**

- When evacuating an apartment in a non-fireproof building, closing your apartment door can help contain a fire and protect neighbors by preventing smoke from spreading into the hallway.
- Baking soda is the active ingredient in ABC fire extinguishers and can be used on a small pot fire by sprinkling the powder on it and covering it with a lid.
- Key Recommendation: Every home should have a ten-year ABC fire extinguisher kept near a doorway, not under a sink.
- **How to use a fire extinguisher (PASS method):**
  - Pull the pin.
  - Aim at the base of the fire from 3-5 feet away.
  - Squeeze the trigger.
  - Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire.

**[28:19-30:15] The critical role of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms was emphasized, along with a free installation program.**

- Working smoke and CO alarms have saved 50% of residents in fires where they were present and active. Most fatal fires occur in homes without working alarms.
- The FDNY has partnered with the Red Cross to offer free installation of combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
  - Residents can sign up via a QR code provided at the meeting.
  - This service is available to all residences except for NYCHA buildings, as NYCHA is responsible for its own installations.
- New alarms have 10-year batteries. Monthly testing is recommended.
  - 3 beeps indicate smoke; 4 beeps indicate carbon monoxide.

- Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, and invisible killer that can cause asphyxiation before a fire does.

**[30:15-31:46] The presentation concluded with warnings about carbon monoxide from manholes, burn treatment, and a final call to share the safety information.**

- Manhole explosions, common in winter, can release large amounts of carbon monoxide that can seep into buildings several doors down.
- A recent rescue was cited where a person was found seven buildings away from a manhole explosion, saved because FDNY checked adjacent buildings. The victim did not have a CO detector.
- **For burn treatment:**
  - Key Recommendation: If your clothes catch fire, remember to “Stop, Drop, and Roll.”
  - Key Recommendation: Treat a burn only with cool water. Do not apply chemicals or glycerin. Remove clothing if possible and leave the wound exposed to air until EMS arrives.
- Attendees were provided with pamphlets containing all the information and a link to [fdnysmart.org](http://fdnysmart.org).
- Lieutenant Burgos urged everyone to share the fire safety knowledge with their community.

**[31:55-32:09] Osiris Guzman opens the meeting with a note of thanks and acknowledgement of current events.**

- The speaker expressed gratitude for attendees’ presence, particularly given the ongoing community fires.
- It was hoped that a prior presentation on fire prevention was informative.

**[32:13-33:03] The meeting proceeds to the public session due to a lack of quorum for voting.**

- The meeting is currently one person short of a quorum, preventing any votes from being taken on voting items.
- The meeting will move forward with the public session, to be followed by the elected officials’ report.
- Members of the public who wish to speak must state their name and organization and are allotted two minutes each.

**[33:19-34:38] Public speaker Sally Smith expresses thanks to the community and shares a message of unity.**

- Ms. Smith initially intended to discuss ongoing concerns about a bus stop in Echo Park but chose not to.
- She thanked the district manager, board members, and community residents who attended her church service last Sunday.
- The service was an event honoring her for fifty years of service in the church and community.
- The topic of the service was “Hard work with good benefits.”
- She encouraged community members to work together, stating, “Together we stand and divided we fall.”

**[34:43-36:34] Public speaker Dave P. Severa announces the Jesus Week Initiative sanitation event.**

- Dave P. Severa introduced himself as a representative for the Jesus Week Initiative, a sanitation-to-transformation movement.
- The initiative is a one-week event for churches and faith-based organizations to launch creative outreach city-wide.
- An upcoming kickoff event is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- The event will be held at the former Mary Church, located at 2705 River Serve Avenue, across from the King Bridge Armory.
- The event is open to the entire borough and will provide free breakfast and lunch.
- Flyers with more information are available on a table and by request.

**[36:35-38:58] Public speaker Daisha Hill advocates for families affected by violence and offers a resource guide.**

- Daisha Hill, a resident of Yonkers and soon-to-be teacher at Promesa Head Start in Morris Heights, spoke as an advocate for families affected by violence.
- She shared her personal experience with the tragic loss of her younger brother in Wichita, Kansas, and the subsequent obstacles her family faced.
- She expressed the difficulty of staying motivated after experiencing a wrongful death and aims to empower other families to ensure their voices are heard and their anger is channeled into meaningful action.
- She has created a small resource guide for families navigating loss and seeking justice, which she is willing to share.

**[39:06-39:42] The meeting transitions from the public session to the elected officials’ reports.**

- Following the public speakers, the meeting moved to the elected officials’ reports.

- The first report will be from Esperanza Diaz, representing Councilmember Oswaldo Feliz of District 15.

**[39:42-42:14] Esperanza Diaz from Councilmember Feliz's office provides updates on constituent services and community board applications.**

- Esperanza Diaz, Chief of Staff for Council Member Feliz (District 15), offered several updates.
- **Free Tax Prep:** The office provides free tax preparation services every Monday and Thursday for individuals earning less than \$90,000 annually. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 718-842-8100. Services are available in English, Spanish, and Urdu.
- **Immigration Services:** The office partners with CUNY Citizenship Now to offer free immigration assistance on Tuesdays by appointment. The office is a designated safe space.
- **Community Board Applications:** Applications are due March 1st. Ms. Diaz encouraged residents of the district who are applying to reach out to her for support, as her office reviews applications holistically.
- Contact information provided:
  - Office Phone: 718-842-8100 (for tax prep, immigration, and other services).
  - Email: [esdiaz@council.nyc.gov](mailto:esdiaz@council.nyc.gov).

**[42:22-43:30] Stephanie Ku from Council Member Sanchez's office reports on constituent services and a recent event.**

- Stephanie, a Community Liaison for Council Member Pierina Sanchez (District 14), provided an update.
- The office, located at 2065 Morris Avenue, assists constituents with various issues, including housing and immigration, especially when 311 follow-up is lacking.
- She thanked attendees of the State of the District event held on February 10th.
- Contact information provided:
  - Office Phone: 347-590-2874.
  - Email: [skusi@council.nyc.gov](mailto:skusi@council.nyc.gov).

**[43:33-45:27] Jack Chavitz from Assemblymember Tapia's office discusses proposed legislation and upcoming events.**

- Jack Chavitz, representing Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia (District 86), announced legislative priorities and events.
- **Proposed Legislation:**

- **Extreme Weather Tenant Protection Act:** A bill introduced with Senator Bailey to ban evictions statewide during extreme weather events (e.g., extreme heat, smoke from fires).
- **Landlord Screening Criteria:** A bill to mandate that landlords provide their apartment screening criteria to all applicants.
- **Utility Late Fee Ban:** A bill to ban late fees on utility bills, citing rising Con Edison costs and the ineffectiveness of such fees.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - **Tax Prep Day:** In partnership with Nimac on March 31st. Sign-ups are available by calling the office at 718-933-6909.
  - **Monthly Food Distributions:** Dates will be provided later.
  - **Women's History Event:** Scheduled for March 26th at 6:00 PM at Monroe University.

**[45:27-47:09] Lia Guzman from State Senator Rivera's office announces several upcoming constituent service events.**

- Lia Guzman, Constituent Services Director for State Senator Gustavo Rivera (District 33), announced a series of events.
- **Rent Freeze & Homeowner Tax Break Day:** Hosted with the Department of Finance on a Friday for seniors and homeowners. Appointments are still available.
- **Black History Month Celebration:** To be held at Tracy Towers on Saturday, February 28th at 1:00 PM, featuring a band and food.
- **Tax Prep with Nimac:** Scheduled for March 3rd at 10:00 AM, by appointment only, with many slots still open.
- **Clinic with the Department of Buildings:** Scheduled for Thursday, March 5th. Constituents with issues should call the office to set up an appointment.
- Contact information provided:
  - Office Phone: 718-933-2034.

**[47:09-47:40] The meeting transitions to committee reports as quorum has not been met.**

- The elected officials' report concluded.
- Key Decision: As quorum is still not present, voting items will be moved to the following month's meeting.
- The meeting will now proceed with reports from the committee chairpersons. The first report will be from the Health and Human Services committee.

**[47:51-49:50] The Health and Human Services Committee reports on recent presentations and a future emergency preparedness event.**

- The committee hosted an event with NYC Cares, who presented their resources and how community groups can have them at events.
  - A specific area of interest was resources for individuals with autism, as there is a lack of camps and support.
  - Action Item: @[NYC Cares] - To compile a list of resources for autism and other diseases so families can apply for programs earlier than June.
- The committee also shared information about the Food Bank of NYC and how community members can participate or receive assistance.
- An update was provided on collaboration with a local school, where information about the community board and its committees has been shared with parent coordinators and teachers.
- An emergency management event with the National Guard is planned for May.
  - This event will feature preparedness bag distribution and educational sessions.
  - Further details and dates will be provided to the community.

**[49:55-50:37] The next Health and Human Services Committee meeting will feature a Narcan demonstration.**

- The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 6th at 3:00 PM at The Bronx Senior Center.
- The meeting will feature a Narcan demonstration by the organization "On Point."
- This was prompted by a significant number of deaths (over 14) that occurred during a recent snowstorm.
- On Point will provide Narcan kits and training on how to use them.

**[50:46-52:26] The Municipal Services Committee provided an update on street co-naming guidelines, a bus stop reinstatement resolution, and an upcoming meeting with the Department of Sanitation (DSNY).**

- The committee unanimously approved the street co-naming guidelines at its last meeting. Final approval by the full board is pending.
- Work is continuing on the BX40/BX42 bus stop reinstatement resolution to restore accessibility on the Grand Concourse.
- The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 5th at 6:00 PM at the Davidson Community Center.
- A DSNY representative will be present at the March 5th meeting.

- Community members with sanitation issues are encouraged to attend and bring 311 ticket numbers and photos as evidence.

**[52:28-53:13] A procedural reminder was issued for committee chairs to track member attendance in their meeting minutes.**

- Chairs are requested to record which committee members are present and absent when submitting minutes.
- This is to monitor participation in accordance with the committee membership policy.
- The stated purpose is not to remove members for non-attendance but to assess the overall health and participation within committees.

**[53:13-53:26] The Immigration Committee announced its next meeting and a change in leadership.**

- The next meeting will be held on the first Tuesday of March.
- The current chair, Mario, stated this will likely be his last meeting as chair.

**[53:35-57:26] The Culture Committee announced an open discussion on the need for a community culture center, prompted by a lack of spaces for youth.**

- The committee's last meeting was missed due to weather.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th at 6:00 PM at the community center (originally stated as the 28th, but corrected).
- The Bronx Council of the Arts will attend to discuss the creation of a culture center.
- There is a concern that new building development is removing community spaces, leading to a lack of places for young people and contributing to violence.
- The committee advocates for building art schools and cultural centers instead of only residential buildings to provide constructive outlets for youth.
- All community members are urged to attend the March 24th meeting to provide their input.

**[57:29-58:27] The Education Committee chair explained recent meeting cancellations and outlined future agenda items.**

- Meetings have not been held since November due to Kwanzaa and two consecutive snowstorms.
- Cancelled meetings were scheduled to feature presentations from:
  - Job Corps
  - CUNY Hostos Community College's Fatherhood Academy

- The workforce development program at Bronx Community College
- The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 23rd, but the chair is considering moving meetings from Mondays to avoid future weather-related cancellations.

**[58:30-01:00:38] The Parks Committee reported on a recent site assessment, an upcoming cleanup event, and a future resolution for increased park safety.**

- In January, the committee conducted a site assessment and walkthrough at the University of Illinois and held a meeting with a visual presentation.
- An upcoming playground cleanup is scheduled for Half Nelson.
  - Action Item: @[All] - Participate in the cleanup at the Half Nelson playground - April 18th, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- The next committee meeting is tomorrow, February 26th, from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the senior center in Bronxville, where the cleanup event will be discussed further.
- The committee plans to draft a resolution calling for more police patrols in Echo Park and other parks.
- The chair emphasized the need for “restorative recreation” in parks to help the community unwind from the stresses of the pandemic.

**[01:00:39-01:01:17] The board leadership affirmed its commitment to prioritizing and funding community green spaces.**

- The board will continue to work with the Parks Committee to ensure all green spaces are prioritized, funded, and considered in discussions.

**[01:01:17-01:03:13] The Housing Committee chair reported on a recent development presentation and an in-progress housing review process.**

- The last meeting featured a presentation for a proposed development at 1974 Valentine Avenue.
  - This is a 13-story, mixed-use affordable development with 100 residential units (60 supportive housing, 39 at 60% AMI).
  - Community members raised concerns about affordability levels and the transparency of utility costs.
- The committee is developing a formal “Housing Committee Review Process” to standardize how it evaluates housing developments.
  - The process was introduced in January and discussed again in February.
  - Action Item: @[Board Members] - Review the draft Housing Committee Review Process and provide feedback to the chair - [Due Date: Before the next March meeting].

- Key Decision: Finalization of the Housing Committee Review Process is targeted for the next meeting in March - Rationale: To ensure all board member feedback is incorporated.

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