



THE CITY OF NEW YORK BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 5

Chairperson
Dr. Bola Omotosho

District Manager
Xavier Rodriguez

Bronx Community Board #5

General Board Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2009

Members Present: T. Bushby, A. Caballero, D. Caraballo, J. Caraballo, A. Chase, T. Garcia, L. Greene, M. Hunter, A. Jackson, L. Johnson, K. Speller, D. West, B. Williams

Excused Members: J. Allah, M. Brown, B. Omotosho, B. Smith

Absent Members: M. Estrella, H. Khalid, A. Laporte, B. Moore, M. Rodriguez, J. Roman

New Board Members were introduced.

I. Welcome/Approval

Bernice Williams, 1st Vice Chair officially called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 pm.

II. Informational

- **Citizens Committee for NYC** –announced the availability of grants to address community issues such as public health, recycling, beautification, tree planting programs, arts/culture, tenants’ rights, block parties, etc.. As long as it involves bringing people together for a good cause. Submission of the application deadline is 9/30/09 and the spring deadline is 3/15/10.
- **American Cancer Society** –They are the official sponsors of birthdays (800-ACS-2345). They announced the Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk is at Orchard Beach on October 18th.
- **Assembly Woman Vanessa Gibson- District 77** – Ms. Gibson thanked the audience and Community Board for the support and said she’s looking forward to serving the community. She represents the interest, beliefs and priorities of the community.

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III. Elected Officials Reports

Reports were made and submitted by the following

- State Senator Jose Serrano
- Andy Toledo, Representative for the Bronx Borough President's office
- Rev. Fairbanks, representative for Council Member Helen Foster
- Mariela Arias, Representative for Assembly Member Nelson Castro

The Center Executive Director of the South Bronx Job Corp, Mr. Amoran asked the community to recommend Bronx students to their program.

IV. Bernice Williams, 1st Vice Chair opened the meeting after the quorum was met.

- New members were introduced
- Motion for a new nominating secretary was held
- Voted on By-Laws
- Voted/elected in Martha Hunter as new Secretary for the Board

V. Committee Reports

- **Bronx Advisory Report** – Bernice Williams, 1st Vice Chair informed the Board that only three (3) agencies came to the workshop (Neighborhood Advisory Board, Bronx Arts Ensemble, and Mt. Hope). She also reminded everyone about the Breast Cancer Walk at Orchard Beach on Oct. 18th.

VI. **Xavier Rodriguez, District Manager**– informed the Board about the borough wide Budget Consultation at Fordham University on Oct. 5th and urged all Board Members to attend. He reminded everyone about the Yankee Scholarship application deadline due on Oct. 9th. He also distributed handouts on the HINI flu and said presentations will be made at schools, day care centers, and senior centers, etc. Mr. Rodriguez gave a brief report on community related activities such as hate crime incidents against people of Mexican descent. Board member Kathryn Speller requested that Mr. Rodriguez give the Board an updated report on the West Tremont Avenue and Jerome Avenue sites.

VII. **Guest Speaker, Jenny Fernandez and Mr. Chadotsang-Director of Grants & Outreach from the Landmarks Preservation Committee**

- They gave an information presentation to the Board and general public indicating the Landmarks sites in CB5. Discussed necessary permits to work done on landmarks properties, certificates of appropriateness and they talked about grants for the residents.
- We have 6 landmark locations, 5 are landmark buildings, and 1 landmark-Special Historic district.

- Their main concern is preservation and compliance.

VIII. Amendments Vote- Bernice Williams, 1st Vice Chair read the amendments, combined and added: A) Housing & Economic Development, B) Health & Human Services, C) Public Safety, Transportation & Sanitation, D) Immigration & Veteran Affairs (New Committee) E) 197-A Planning (New Committee) the purpose for the amendment was to streamline Board #5's standing Committees from 12 Committees to 9 Committees. By Laws Amendment pass Vote 11 yes 1 abstention.

IX. Public Session – The following members from the community expressed concerns and provided information during this session

- Sallie Smith – Resident, spoke about homes & buildings boarded up.
- Louella Hatch – Resident, said all their kids returned to school safe and she also emphasized there are all types of racial gangs. She also commented on the most recent hate crime and informed the Board it is her understanding most residents and youth feel safe throughout the local neighborhood where these incidents happened. She further stated that these incidents should be investigated as gang and drug related incidents.
- Susan Tillman – Representative of Failure Free Reading Services They serve the lowest readers of literacy, ESL student, and they target schools and teens. Services are free

X. Old Business

- Kathryn Speller- requested updates on Bronx Sheppard Jerome Avenue site and Promesa's West Tremont Avenue site.
- Theodore Garcia- wanted to know what will happen to the Education Committee and was told this will be discussed at the next meeting

XI. New Business – no new business to report

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30pm