



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD #5

Honorable Vanessa Gibson., Bronx Borough President

**Chairperson
Angel Caballero**

**District Manager
Kenneth Brown**

General Board Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2024

Board Members Attendance: Bobby Akumah, Eloise Bennett, Wilfrido Bonilla, Phyllis Bowdwin, Erachie Brown, Bakary Camara, Catherine Cudjoe, Carrie Cuthbertson, Lucia Deng, Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez, Marlene Jimenez, Nanette Matthews, Suri Medina, Theresa Mims, Robert Nieves, Juan Parra, Benjamin Richardson, Shenia Rudolph, Charles Shorter, Beverly Smith, Carlos Veras, Cheryl Westbrook, Chef Geneva Wilson

Excused: Nekeisha Afful, Angel Caballero, Annette Dejesus, Michele Heath, Maribel Maria, Patricia Rojas

Absent: Felix Ceballos, Brenida Parsons

Quorum: at 6:20pm

Chairperson's Report

- Chair Angel is excused from this meeting. 1st Vice-Chair Cheryl Westbrook stepped in to lead the meeting.
- Update on Spanish interpretation: Translators from Dynamic Multilingual Services Inc. will provide translation for community members, starting this meeting.

District Manager's Report

- April 25th: Federal Reserve seminar on faith-based organizations and the development of affordable housing
- May 9th: CityLaw breakfast presenting Commissioner Jocelyn Strauber of the Department of Investigation speaking on combating corruption
 - Event is free and open to the public
- The District Manager's report is in Board Member's packets.

BCC Campus * Gould Hall, Room 200 * 2155 University Avenue * Bronx, New York 10453
Telephone (718) 364-2030 * Facsimile (718) 220-8426 * bx05@cb.nyc.gov

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Voting Items:

- March 2024 General Meeting minutes
 - Vote: Juan Parra motions to accept the minutes from the March meeting, Eloise Bennett seconds the motion.
 - 21 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. The motion passes.
- Letter of Support for 1% for Parks
 - The board decided to table this vote for the May 2024 meeting.
- Resolution for Curb Extensions (daylighting)
 - Committee received a presentation about daylighting in New York City.
 - Reminder that it is important to attend committee meetings. Topics on the general meeting agenda are discussed during committee meetings, this is the time to ask questions and discuss.
 - The resolution would call on the city to enforce NYS law 1202, which requires all intersections to be “daylit” to enhance pedestrian safety, but NYC overrides this rule.
 - There are certain concerns about daylighting: parking is already an issue in the city, is this feasible?
 - Enforcing daylighting law could prevent crashes
 - The community comes first
 - The committee’s recommendation is that the resolution be supported by the board.
 - Vote: Juan Parra motions to support the resolution on curb extensions, Benjamin Richardson seconds the motion.
 - 21 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. The motion passes.

Public Session

- Raheem Buksh
 - Has lived in the area for 40 years. House is being encroached upon. A new development is being built right up against his property; it will completely take over his windows, and he will be unable to use them.
 - DM Ken Brown is aware of his problem.
 - Does not want to sell.
- Daniel Flores, Department of Small Business Services
 - New grants to help small businesses against natural disasters
 - SBS can help businesses in assessing their climate preparedness
 - Phone: 917-510-3070
- Reverend Addie Banks, WEPA and Groundswell Group
 - Free parental support program: Triple P Teen Parenting workshop. Registration on wepa-bronx.org
 - Also engage in awareness and substance misuse prevention
 - Phone: 347-586-4126

- Emails: revaddie@groundswellgroup.org; Revaddie.WepaBronx@gmail.com
- Sallie Smith
 - Senior citizen program
 - Motor home on Creston is taking up 3 parking spaces. Does not know the owner. It has a kitchen and bathroom; where is the water coming from?
 - Pop-up car washes: there are two in the Valentine area.

Elected Officials Reports

- Assemblymember Landon Dais
 - State budget was 4 weeks late this year. Some highlights:
 - \$347 million to reduce and prevent gun violence in New York
 - \$140 million in capital funding for NYCHA
 - Assemblyman and office have participated in community cleanups
 - Encourages the public to call 311 if they have issues.
 - Office: 718-538-2000
- Mayor Eric Adams's Office, represented by Socrates Solano
 - Rat prevention and trash containerization
 - Urge public to report rat sightings to 311
 - Rat info portal: NYC.gov/rats. Has inspection reports and information for businesses
 - JobsNYC Hiring Hall in the Bronx
 - April 26 from 10am-2pm
 - 1110 Boston Road
 - Executive Budget restored funds for 2 additional police academy classes
 - Also restored \$514 million in city and recurring state funds to support education programs that were cut because of lack of federal funds (previously used COVID funds)
- Councilmember Oswald Feliz Office, represented by Esperanza Diaz
 - Introduced "Operation Green NYC" legislation to convert paved street medians (parking lots) into greenery and stormwater infrastructure.
 - Office: 718-842-8100
- Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia Office, represented by Franklin Mateo
 - NYS Budget passed on April 20
 - Includes tenant protections that prevent landlords from evicting tenants without a good cause. It also caps rent increases for most market-rate apartments.
 - Sponsor on the lithium-ion battery bill. The bill has passed the assembly
 - Office: 2175C Jerome Avenue
 - Phone: 718-973-6909
- State Senator Gustavo Rivera Office, represented by Jasmine Toneblanca
 - Office: 2432 Grand Concourse

- Phone: 718-933-2034
- State Senator Luis Sepulveda Office, represented by Vincent Sepulveda
 - Office is now open 975 Kelly Street, Suite 203
 - Office provides support and referrals to legal services, SNAP applications, and public assistance.
 - Phone: 718-991-3161
- State Senator Robert Jackson Office, represented by Lucia Bradshaw
 - The budget recently passed. Some of the allocations are:
 - \$40 million for the Homeowner Protection Program.
 - \$140 million for Public Housing Authorities outside the City of New York.
 - \$45 million for the MTA to increase bus service frequency.
- Congress Member Ritchie Torres, represented by Johanna Rivas
 - Office provides support to constituents that need help with federal-related services like passports, immigration, federal taxes
 - Office: 718-503-9610
- District Attorney Darcel Clark Office, represented by Trevon Blondet
 - Prom dress and suit drive is ongoing. Distribution on May 4 at Bay Plaza Mall. Students must have a student ID to be eligible to get a dress or suit
 - Cell phone: 917-946-3438

Committee Reports

- Eloise, Youth Committee
 - Yankee Scholarship applications were due by April 19
 - Have received 10 applications in total which some were submitted incomplete.
 - We have selected 5 applicants to be submitted to the New York Yankees Organization.

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- Concourse Multiplex on 161st Street is closing. Will close on May 28th
 - Bronx Independent Cinema Center: shows independent films.
- General Board meetings: Meetings in June and December are moved up to accommodate holidays. Cheryl will bring this up to the executive meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 7:42pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 22, 2024

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