



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**

Date: 2/28/2024

Time: 6:00pm

General Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Nekeisha Afful, Eloise Bennett, Wilfredo Bonilla, Phyllis Bowdwin, Erachie Brown, Angel Caballero, Bakary Camara, Felix Ceballos, Carrie Cuthbertson, Annette DeJesus, Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez, Esmeralda Herrera, Marlene Jimenez, Maribel Maria, Nanette Matthews, Suri Medina, Basil Moore, Robert Nieves, Juan Parra, Brenida Parsons, Benjamin Richardson, Patricia Rojas, Shenia Rudolph, Charles Shorter, Beverly Smith, Cheryl Westbrook, Chef Geneva Wilson

Excused: Bobby Akumah, Lucia Deng, Michele Heath, Theresa Mims, and Carlos Veras

Absent: Catherine Cudjoe, Shannon Goodson, Alisha Jackson, Kay Lopez, Julius Roberts

Quorum reached: 6:09pm

Welcome

- Board Chair Angel wants to emphasize the importance of members attending executive and general board meetings. At executive board meetings, the board makes decisions about what will be brought to the general board meeting agenda.
- He also wants to emphasize the importance of respect among members.

Approval of Minutes

- Patricia Rojas motions to approve the minutes of 1/24. Juan Parra seconds the motion.
 - The motion passes unanimously, and the minutes from 1/24 are approved. The vote was: 22 yes, 0 no.

Remarks from Ms. Sallie Smith, in honor of Black History Month

- Ms. Smith remarked on the changing nature of how Black Americans have been viewed throughout the history of the United States.
- Several inventions are thanks to the contributions of Black people: stoplights, automatic elevator doors, potato chips, several modern mechanisms

District Manager's Report. Provided in Board Member packets.

BCC Campus * Gould Hall, Room 200 * 2155 University Avenue * Bronx, New York 10453
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- Friends of Echo Park- The 1/25 meeting hosted presenters from Omnipoint and St. Anne's Corner Harm Reduction Project. Attendees learned about Narcan administration.
- Friends of Aqueduct Walk- The 2/1 meeting discussed the organization's financial report. The Bronx Speak-out for Parks is scheduled for February 24 from 11am-5pm.
- Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank- Hosted a virtual conference about rental assistance programs during COVID-19. Various initiatives were shared, and it was interesting to learn about how issues we face in NYC and Community Board 5 are relevant across the nation

Inspector Jeremy Scheublin, 46th Precinct

- Crime Report
 - 40% decrease in robberies in the past 28 days
 - Decrease in violence
 - Increase in grand larceny- property crimes, etc.
 - This precinct has the highest YTY drop in robberies.
- Members of the public and community board brought up quality-of-life issues
 - Cars parked on sidewalks
 - Inspector has been collaborating very closely with community members and CB5 members to identify areas that have been dealing with this
- Community engagement
 - The precinct received \$175,000 from the federal government
 - They will use these funds to run a professional development program for young people. It will run for one year, two times a week. Partnering with the PAL. The inspector will keep the public informed as the program develops.
- Question from the public: Deacon Celeste Burns, River Park Towers representative:
 - Someone selling cars right in front of the complex
- Question from Member Eloise: Issue with cars without plates parking on 184th
 - Several board members continue to express concerns about ghost plates and cars without plates.
- Parent Coordinator at a local school on Creston Avenue: K-8 school, their school is down to one safety agent. A teacher was recently assaulted at 7am. School of about 700 children. BRAG has been assisting with dismissal.
 - Inspector: He doesn't directly oversee school safety, but he is happy to put in a request. He needs to hear this from the school principal.
- Resident at a public housing complex: concerns about cars with tinted windows that are constantly parked in the community.
 - Inspector: Traffic stops for people with tinted windows are up, but many people have medical exemptions from the DMV
 - Tinting services are readily available in the area. A certain percentage of tint is legal.
- Enforcement on trains: CB member

- Transit District 11 covers the transit area in the 46th precinct (46 covers the streets). They collaborate closely. Transit has increased coverage in the 46th precinct (1000s of additional cops are now on the trains).
- Cell Phone: 646-306-9701
- Third Tuesday of the month: 46th precinct community meeting

Voting items:

- City Preliminary Budget
 - We already voted on this in October 2023. We are approving a response to the City's Preliminary Budget.
 - Patricia motions to accept the City Preliminary Budget, Benjamin seconds.
 - Motion passes unanimously. 27 y, 0 n
- Membership
 - Membership was discussed during the previous Executive Committee meeting on February 14, 2024. The members that are up for removal have exceeded the allowable number of absences. They all should have received certified letters and phone calls regarding the matter. The members under consideration for removal are:
 - Bakary Camara
 - Patricia motions to vote to remove Bakary Camara for lack of attendance, Erachie seconds
 - Vote: 16 yes, 11 no. The motion passes, and the board votes to remove Bakary Camara.
 - Alisha Jackson
 - Erachie motions to vote to remove Alisha Jackson for lack of attendance, Cheryl seconds
 - Vote: 26 yes, 0 no. The motion passes unanimously, and the board votes to remove Alisha Jackson. (Please note, members who were removed but in attendance cannot vote.)
 - Kay Lopez
 - Juan motions to vote to remove Kay Lopez for lack of attendance, Patricia seconds
 - Vote: 26 yes, 0 no. The motion passes unanimously, and the board votes to remove Kay Lopez.
 - Suri Medina
 - Annette motions to vote to remove Suri Medina due to lack of attendance, Eloise seconds
 - Vote: 19 yes, 6 no, 1 abstention. The motion passes, and the board votes to remove Suri Medina.
 - Julius Roberts
 - Juan motions to vote to remove Julius Roberts due to lack of attendance, Patricia seconds

- Vote: 24 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. The motion passes, and the board votes to remove Julius Roberts.
 - Beverly Smith
 - Benjamin motions to vote to remove Beverly Smith due to lack of attendance, Patricia seconds.
 - Vote: 19 yes, 6 no. The motion passes, and the board votes to remove Beverly Smith.
 - Remarks from First Chair Cheryl: This is the first time CB5 has done this, in an effort to keep membership robust. She encourages members, especially those present, to speak to the Borough President's office regarding their membership.
- Renaming the playground at 1801 Davidson: Dr. Thomasina Bushy Playground
 - Cheryl motions, Roxanna seconds
 - Vote: 24 yes, 0 no. The motion passes unanimously.
- Letter of Support: Uptown High School of Arts and Science
 - Benjamin motions to provide a letter of support, Patricia seconds
 - Vote: 23 yes, 1 no. The motion passes and the board will provide a letter of support for the high school.

Public Session

- Kevin Haynes, Executive Director of South Bronx Job Corps Academy
 - Address: 1771 Andrews Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453
 - Contact information: Email: Haynes.kevin@jobcorps.org, Office: 718-294-5862
 - Is excited to reintroduce the organization to the public. The program is federally funded, and tuition for 16–24-year-olds is free. Offers a GED program, trade program.
 - For a year after participants leave the program, they receive additional professional development.
 - <https://southbronx.jobcorps.gov/>
- Mr. Raheem Buksh
 - Resident at 2041 Ryer Avenue since 1985
 - 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.
 - The resident has been recommended to speak to Ms. Matthews (CB 5 Housing Chair)
- Ms. Sally Smith
 - Yields her time to any interested new speaker.
- Mr. Hasan (No Last Name Provided)
 - Business owner: B&G Multiservices, runs an online radio station.
 - Residents on Creston Avenue have some concerns due to Family Dollar
 - Business receives deliveries at 3-4am, disrupts many residents
 - Hasan has called 311, and has sent letters to Family Dollar corporate office.
- Deacon Celeste Burns, Representative of River Park Towers Tenant Association
 - A new hotel has opened on Cedar Avenue, Riverside Hotel

- Call the office for any needed services or questions about events: 347-590-2874
- Assembly member Yudelka Tapia's office, Franklyn Mateo
 - Women's History Month event: March 29
 - February 24: Fresh produce given out to residents in celebration of Black History Month
 - Bills introduced for fire safety and tenants' rights in light of all of the e-bike fires
 - Call Constituent Services to schedule an appointment: 718-933-6909
 - 2175C Jerome Avenue, Bronx NY 10453
- Assembly member Landon C. Dais, newly elected during the special election
 - Chief of Staff Felix Garcia
 - 910 Grand Concourse, Suite 1JK Bronx NY 10451
 - Office: 718-538-2000
- State Senator Gustavo Rivera's office, Leah Guzman
 - Introduced bill eliminating copays for insulin medication
 - Office immigration hosts clinics with NMIC
 - Will host a March 16 Immigration resource event
 - 2432 Grand Concourse, Suite 506, Bronx, NY 10458
 - Office: 718-933-2034
- State Senator Robert Jackson's office, Lucia Bradshaw
 - Office is taking nominations for their candidate for the Veteran's Hall of Fame. Ceremony is in May
 - Nominations are open for the Woman of Distinction as well.
 - Office: 212-542-0173
- Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clarke's office, Trevon Blondet
 - Is currently holding a prom dress drive. Welcome donations of new and lightly worn formalwear at 198 East 161 Street
 - Phone: 917-946-3438

Committee Reports

- Parks Committee
 - Will be hosting a parks tour from 10-2 pm 3/16 or 3/23. Touring several parks in CB5.
- Cultural Affairs Committee
 - Bronx Photo Walk: Good way to join other photography aficionados, walk around Bronx neighborhoods and other neighborhoods in NY. Participation is free. Look up the organization on Instagram
 - Bronx Mural community sessions: Open to the public, taking place on March 5, 19, and 28th at 6pm
- Health and Human Services Committee
 - Recent meeting discussed the importance of POTS's (Part of the Solution) services to the community. Provide legal resources, food service, mentorship, and rental assistance. <https://potsbronx.org/>
- Veteran's Committee

- Previous meetings have been canceled due to the weather
- Next meeting is scheduled to take place on March 12
- Governing Committee
 - Have been reviewing bylaws, recently received clarification from the BP's office regarding abstention votes
 - Next meeting is scheduled for March 14

Meeting ended: 9:05pm

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