



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**

March 2024 General Board Meeting minutes

Date: March 27, 2024

Time: 6:00pm

In Attendance: Nekeisha Afful, Eloise Bennett, Wilfrido Bonilla, Phyllis Bowdwin, Erachie Brown, Angel Caballero, Bakary Camara, Catherine Cudjoe, Carrie Cuthbertson, Lucia Deng, Esmeralda Herrera, Marlene Jimenez, Maribel Maria, Nanette Matthews, Suri Medina, Theresa Mims, Juan Parra, Brenida Parsons, Benjamin Richardson, Patricia Rojas, Shenia Rudolph, Charles Shorter, Carlos Veras, Cheryl Westbrook, Chef Geneva Wilson and Beverly Smith.

Excused: Michele Heath.

Absent: Bobby Akumah, Felix Ceballos, Annette Dejesus, Shannon Goodson, Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez, Basil Moore, and Robert Nieves,

Quorum reached: 6:10pm

Welcome:

- Board Chair Angel would like to remind members that both the executive and committee meetings are important for members to attend. Governing Committee is especially important as bylaws are constantly reviewed and members look for ways to improve them.
- One correction identified on the meeting's agenda: The correct date of today's meeting is March 27, 2024

Chairperson's Report:

- We have reinstated 3 members who were removed during the February general meeting. They have been reinstated:
 - Bakary Camara
 - Suri Medina
 - Beverly Smith
- The Parks committee is working very hard on many community matters: Echo Park is a big focus for the group. The committee hopes to host an event/activity there in June 2024. Stay tuned for additional details or join meetings to learn more.

District Manager's Report:

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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- Friends of Echo Park: meets every 4th Thursday at Davidson Community Center. They are planning a community clean-up
- Friends of Aqueduct Park: meets the first Thursday of every month. They are planning to develop a Community Action Plan as requested by the NYC Parks Department.

Voting items:

- February 2024 General Board meeting minutes
 - Charles motions to accept the minutes from the February General Board meeting, Patricia seconds the motion.
 - The motion passes. Vote: 21 yes, and 1 abstained.

Public Session:

- Elizabeth (Unknown last name) and Damary Oramas, NYC Department of Youth & Community Development
 - Recruiting for the Bronx 5 Community Advisory unit- This unit advises on programming for the community (literacy programs, food pantries, cultural programming, etc.). Members read and rate proposals.
 - Members must be 16 years old or older. The group meets 4 times a year, every 3 months. Some events in between are mandatory.
 - Next meeting is on April 15, from 6-8pm, at the Bronx 6 Community Board office at 1932 Arthur Ave, Room 403A
- Ms. Sally Smith
 - Implores members of the public to attend committee meetings
 - Quality of Life- Expressed significant disappointment that the flower beds on the Grand Concourse are being used as trash bins.
 - She would like to hear an update by the next community board meeting she attends (in June)
 - Quality of Life- Is upset about the mobile car washes that continue to pop up in the community. They use municipal water and she does not know whether they pay to do so.
 - Transportation and Municipal Affairs- The bus stop on the Grand Concourse and Burnside is still missing. This means that she and other seniors often have to walk steep hills or use the underpass.
 - Municipal chair Lucia: At the last Municipal Services committee meeting mentioned that it may likely not return as it was not an original bus stop on that line.
- Dr. Bola Omotosho
 - County Health Rankings and Roadmaps report was released last month- the Bronx ranks #62 out of all 62 NY State counties. The report can be found here: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/new-york/bronx?year=2024>

- The Bronx continues to rank last regarding county/place to live, it has ranked last for over ten years.
- The reporters are introducing a new dimension to ranking: civic health, measuring engagement

Elected Official's reports:

Socrates Solano, Office of the Mayor

- Eric Adams announced JobsNYC: <https://jobs.nyc.gov/>
 - A multi-pronged effort to connect more New Yorkers to jobs and training, reduce barriers to work opportunities

Maria Villalobos, Councilmember Pierina Sanchez

- IDNYC Event– New sign-ups and renewals.
 - April 15, 16, 17: 10am-5pm
 - 2432 Grand Concourse
 - By appointment only. Call 347-590-2874
 - Event in collaboration with State Senator Gustavo Rivera's office.
- Preliminary city budget hearings have concluded.
- Housing: People interested in CityFHEPS housing vouchers – must go through your local HomeBase to receive a referral

Neal Jimenez, Assembly member Tapia

- Women's History Month event on March 28
- Small business breakfast: April 12
- E-bike safety: Press conference in early April
 - "Ride Clean" rebate program for batteries bill through the Assembly
- Partnering with State Senator Sepulveda- tenant organizing
- Regarding the quality of life concerns expressed earlier: Car washes- will assist in agency communication to ensure that they are licensed, would need to contact the Department of Consumer and Work Protection. www.nyc.gov/site/dca/businesses/license-checklist-car-wash.page
- Flower beds: will assist in contacting the Department of Sanitation
- 2175C Jerome Ave. Bronx, NY 10453

Felix Garcia, Assembly member Landon Dais

- 910 Grand Concourse Suite 1JK
- Phone number remains 718-538-2000
- Looking to bring legal services and job fairs/resource fairs

Vincent Sepulveda, State Senator Sepulveda

- Office has relocated to 975 Kelly Street
- Partnering with Bronx Works for a free tax event: 3/29. By appointment only
- Will also host legal organizations for immigration advice: NYLAG, NAICA. April 9, May 7
- Cell: 518-253-5764

Leah Guzman, State Senator Gustavo Rivera

- State senate majority included many of his resolutions in the One House bill
 - Tenant protections, Housing access vouchers
- Monthly immigration clinics. Next date is April 12
- IDNYC event with Pierina Sanchez's office
 - Call office for appointments: 718-933-2034

Joanna Rivas, Congress member Ritchie Torres

- 540 East Fordham Road
- By appointment only. Call 718-503-9610
- Asking people to visit if they have issues with any federal agencies, IRS, ICE etc.

Greer Mayhew, NYC Comptroller Brad Lander

- Recently released a report analyzing city's major contracts for asylum seeker services- payment is inconsistent. Often vastly overpaying for services, exceeding what city employees make for similar work. Report: <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/asylum-seeker-staffing-contract-comparison-and-review/>
- The MTA is suing Comptroller Brad Lander over wages paid to subway cleaners during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Former comptroller stated they were being underpaid.
- HPD staffing and capacity report: <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/new-nyc-comptroller-report-provides-blueprint-for-improved-capacity-at-department-of-housing-preservation-and-development/>
- Phone: 929-512-1647
- <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/>

Ms. Escalera, District Attorney Darcel Clark office

- Prom dress drive: Distribution on May 4 at Bay Plaza Mall. Students must have a student ID to be eligible to get a dress or suit
- Email: ceu@bronxda.nyc.gov
- Phone: 718-8381694

Committee Reports:

- Nanette Matthews, Housing Committee Chair:
 - During the most recent meeting, attendees reviewed new FHEPS guidelines, new payment standards. FHEPS vouchers are usable across the state

- Also shared information on Housing Connect
 - Part of the Solution (POTS) can provide assistance with setting up a Housing Connect account (718-220-4893)
 - Office of CM Pierina Sanchez is also assisting
- Discussed the housing relocation guide
- New HUD website for source of income protections: www.hud.gov/Program_Offices/Public_Indian_Housing/Source_Income_Protections_0
- Looking to establish an agenda for the Housing Committee, to respond to housing challenges we see in the community. Also looking to host housing workshops
- Reviewed a recommendation to present to board [LL 122-2022](#): Bronx CB5 to ensure equitable access to the Opioid Settlement Fund
- Notes from the Housing Committee meeting have links to many services and resources

- Lucia Deng, Municipal Services Chair:
 - Anthony Perez Bronx Borough Commissioner - NYC DOT, attended
 - Office is soliciting feedback regarding the development of Tremont Av Bus Priority Improvements
 - Open Plans presentation about daylighting
 - Most crashes happen at intersections
 - Next meeting April 9

- Eloise Bennett, Youth Services Committee Chair:
 - Yankee Leadership Award
 - Nomination forms will be accepted by Friday, April 19 at 5pm
 - Candidates from age 12-25 are encouraged to apply. Must reside in zip codes 10452, 10453, 10457, 10458, 10468

- Chef Wilson, Health and Human Services (in the place of Committee Chair Annette Dejesus):
 - Hosted a presentation about the Yankee Grant by Veronica Dejesus (no relation)

- Charles Shorter, Governing Committee Chair:
 - Bylaws are reviewed and revised during meetings.

- Carlos Veras, Education Committee:
 - March 9- Girls in Science and Engineering event at the Intrepid
 - Carlos will step down from the chair position due to work commitments.

- Juan Parra, Veteran's Affairs Committee Chair:
 - Discussed various legislative changes that were enacted during 2023, including a bill that clarifies the definition of a "veteran" for tax purposes.

Old Business:

- No Old Business

Meeting adjourned: 7:35 pm

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