



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, *Bronx Borough President*

Chairperson
Osiris Guzman

District Manager
Kenneth Brown

Bronx Community Board 5 General Board Meeting Minutes April 22, 2026

Attendance: Nekeisha Afful, Eloise Bennett, Phyllis Bowdwin, Erachie Brown, Angel Caballero, Bakary Camara, James Cogger, Catherine Cudjoe, Carrie Cuthbertson, Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez, Osiris Guzman, Tisha Hatch, Michele Heath, James Lin, Robert Nieves, Juan Parra, Norma Perez, Dilletta Pina, Shenia Rudolph, Charles Shorter, Beverly Smith, Chef Geneva Wilson

Excused: Eloise Bennett, Theresa Mims, Benjamin Richardson

Absent: Bobby Akumah, Yazmin Benitez, Lucia Deng, Marlene Jimenez

Meeting started: 6:24 pm

Quorum: 6:24 pm

Approval of Minutes:

- Summary:
 - Chair proposed skipping reading; solicited corrections; noted correction to James' last name on item #7; minutes approved as corrected.
- Decisions:
 - Minutes approved (with corrections).
- Action items/owners:
 - Secretary: Update minutes with corrections of the last name for James. Owner: Secretary (Chef Geneva Wilson).

Welcome/Report from Board Chair Osiris Guzman

- Purpose: Combined general meeting and committee reports addressing Echo Park conditions and community engagement, governance changes and bylaws amendments, budget timelines, school collaboration, youth initiatives, housing and land use coordination, and NYPD crime prevention briefing. Board actions included approval of support letters and targeted committee directives.
 - Housing support letter approved for 1974 Valentine Avenue (13-story, 100-unit mixed-use affordable/supportive housing) with developers' written stipulations attached.
 - Agenda amended and approved to issue a support letter for Assembly bill A8440 (school bus driver wage/benefits protections).
 - Governance: Lucia Deng resigned as Governance Chair; Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez appointed. Bylaws amendments targeted for completion by end of June 2026; all board members to be assigned to committees.
 - Standardized committee minutes template issued for immediate adoption; monthly meeting flyers distribution underway to increase visibility.
 - Echo Park: Parks and Health & Human Services committees tasked to monitor conditions and report recommendations; recent cleanup and outreach acknowledged; June 6 Echo Park meet-and-greet planned.
 - Youth Initiative Pipeline: Education, Youth Services, and Economic Development committees to lead outreach, volunteer engagement, resume-building, and job fairs.
 - PS 85 collaboration: \$8M modernization confirmed; broader school outreach planned (e.g., PS 279).
 - Budget process calendar set: submissions before June 1; completion by June 30; prepare for October review/vote; ad hoc Budget Committee moving to standing via bylaws.
 - Municipal Services: Resolution in development to reinstate BX40/BX42 bus stops; DOT Fordham bus lane discussion scheduled for May 7.
 - Public session: 1800 Grand Concourse abandoned church referred to Land Use Committee; Walton Ave safety concerns to District Service Cabinet; quality-of-life enforcement continued via DSC.
 - NYPD briefing: Updates on moped chain snatching, burglaries, bus pickpocketing, auto accessory thefts, phone thefts; prevention tips provided; Community Council meets every third Tuesday.
 - 24 new board member applicants confirmed; potential onboarding around September 2026.

- o Recognition of community-led activation at Half Nelson/Katherine Speller Park; June park events planned, including Park Day on June 6 and a basketball tournament in June.
- o Clarified use of "Old Business"/"New Business" for future board action items; separate section to be added for community event reporting.
- o Inquiry about responsibility for replacing dog waste bags in parks; Parks Department to be contacted for confirmation.

Media Coverage and Echo Park Conditions

- Summary:
 - o Chair emphasized balanced reporting: highlight both challenges and community efforts (cleanups, agency engagement). Recognized Friends of Echo Park and collaborative actions; reinforced accountability expectations for city agencies.
- Decisions:
 - o Parks Committee and Health & Human Services Committee will actively monitor Echo Park and report recommendations to the board.
- Action items/owners:
 - o Parks Committee: Monitor Echo Park; compile findings and recommendations; report back. Owner: Parks Chair Erachie Brown
 - o Health & Human Services Committee: Monitor public health-related conditions in/around Echo Park; recommend interventions. Owner: HHS Chair.
 - o Chair/District Office: Coordinate with city agencies; demand accountability. Owner: Chair/District Office. Due: Ongoing.

Board Conduct, Participation, and Meeting Management

- Summary:
 - o Chair reinforced respectful discourse, agenda discipline, and increased participation in committee meetings. Translation services available.
- Decisions:
 - o Immediate adherence to conduct and agenda guidelines.
- Action items/owners:
 - o All board members: Increase attendance at committees; adhere to conduct expectations. Owner: All board members. Due: Ongoing.

Community Engagement and Cleanup Initiatives (Nelson Avenue/ Echo Park)

- Summary:
 - Recap of cleanup on April 18 at Nelson Avenue area ("Nelson Park"/Katherine Speller Park). Participation by NYPD Explorers (Officer Castro), Parks Committee, Chef Wilson, Friends of Echo Park, OnPoint NYC (Narcans education). Outreach with flyers and food distribution.
 - Continue visibility and event programming in Nelson Avenue area aligned with city standards for park cleanliness.
 - Parks Committee: Plan additional cleanups/events; maintain standards. Owner: Parks Chair (Erachie Brown) with Chef Wilson. Due: Future events (dates not specified).
 - OnPoint NYC: Continue overdose prevention education at events. Owner: Board Events Leads/Parks Committee. Due: Ongoing.
 - Parks Committee: Promote and plan Echo Park meet-and-greet on June 6 (4:00 PM). Owner: Parks Committee. Due: June 6, 2026.

School Collaboration (PS 85 and broader outreach)

- Summary:
 - Meeting with PS 85 (Principal Medina) confirmed \$BM modernization funding (benches, building code, repairs). Desire to deepen collaboration with schools, parents, and community; expand outreach to PS 279 and others.
 - Education Chair will lead expanded school outreach; invite schools to board/committee meetings; explore resources and partnerships.
 - Education Committee: Establish outreach plan; invite schools; identify resource needs.
 - District Office/Chair: Support DOE/city agency advocacy and coordination on school improvements.

Governance Changes and Bylaws Amendments

- Summary:
 - Governance Chair Lucia Deng resigned (remains on the board). Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez appointed as new Governance Chair and Sergeant-at-Arms. Plan to amend bylaws to solidify committees, membership plans, and pathways for public members to serve on committees. Borough President requires all board members be appointed to committees.
 - Target bylaws amendments completion by end of June session.
 - Ensure all board members are assigned to committees.

- o Governance Committee: Draft and advance bylaws amendments (committee structures, membership, public participation). Due: June 30, 2026.
- o Chair/Committee Chairs: Assign every board member to at least one committee. Owner: Chair/Committee Chairs. Due: By June 30, 2026.

Youth Initiative Pipeline

- Summary:
 - o Initiative to engage youth directly: volunteer pathways, targeted outreach, programming (job fairs, resume building) with partner organizations and agencies. Motivated by rising youth violence and need for constructive engagement.
 - o Education, Youth Services, and Economic Development committees to lead.
 - o Develop youth outreach channels; plan resume-building workshops.
 - o Recruit youth volunteers (e.g., cleanups); liaise with youth-serving orgs and NYPD Explorers.
 - o Organize job fairs and employment-readiness activities with local businesses/agencies.
 - o All board/community members: Contribute ideas and participate.

Committee Minutes Template and Meeting Promotion

- Summary:
 - o Chair issued standardized minutes template aligned with Robert's Rules and bylaws (administrative release; no vote required). Flyer distribution for general meetings underway (e.g., Burnside Avenue station) to boost visibility.
 - o Immediate adoption of minutes template by all committees.
 - o Continue flyer distribution across the community.
 - o Committee Chairs: Use new minutes template; capture motions, seconds, concise summaries. Owner: All Committee Chairs. Due: Immediate and ongoing.
 - o District Office/Outreach Team: Produce and distribute monthly meeting flyers. Owner: District Office. Due: Monthly, ongoing.

NYPD 46th Precinct Briefing-Deputy Inspector Juan Moran

- Summary:
 - o Deputy Inspector Juan Moran (assigned since January) introduced precinct social channels; highlighted youth programs (Explorers, after-school, weekend). Crime trends and prevention:

- Chain snatching by teens on mopeds: maintain awareness; call 911/311.
- Residential burglaries: secure locks/windows; monitor building access.
- Grand larceny/pickpocketing uptick on Bx40, Bx3, Bx36 buses: keep bags in front/zipped; reduce pocket accessibility.
- Auto accessory thefts (tires/rims, radar sensors, airbags): park in well-lit areas; locking lug nuts; steering wheel locks; turn/lock wheels.
- Phone thefts: record IMEI numbers; property ID and security surveys available.
- Community Council meets every third Tuesday.
- Community/Board Members: Follow precinct on social media; engage Community Affairs; attend Community Council monthly (third Tuesday). Owner: Community/Board Members. Due: Ongoing.
- NYPD: Provide access to crime prevention officers for surveys and property ID services. Owner: 46th Precinct. Due: Ongoing.

Voting Item: Housing Committee- Letter of Support for 1974 Valentine Avenue

- Summary:
 - Board approved letter of support for 1974 Valentine Avenue/East Burnside (across Echo Park). Project: 13-story, 100 units (60 ESSHI supportive, 39 at 60% **AMI**, 1 super unit); approximate rents: supportive ~1,300; 601,500, 1BR ~1,600, ZBR 1,900. Amenities: lounge, fitness room, bike rooms, community space, courtyard. Development team: Concern Housing and Cambridge Property Group. Approval includes developers' written commitments/stipulations and checklist from packet.
- Decisions:
 - Roll-call vote; motion carried; letter approved with attached stipulations.
- Action items/owners:
 - Housing Committee/Chair: Issue formal support letter incorporating commitments/stipulations and checklist. Owner: Housing Committee/Chair (Osiris Guzman).
 - Secretary/Clerk: Maintain developers' two-page commitment response in board files. Owner: Secretary/Clerk. Due: Not specified.

Voting Item: Economic Development - Letter of Support for Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia's Bill A8440 (School Bus Driver Protections)

- Summary:
 - Agenda amended to include A8440; committee recommendation to ensure continuity of wages/benefits for bus drivers during contractor transitions. Materials in packet; motion advanced from committee.
- Decisions:
 - Roll-call vote; motion carried; support letter approved.
- Action items/owners:
 - Economic Development Committee/Chair: Issue formal support letter for A8440. Owner: Economic Development Chair (Charles Shorter). Due: Not specified.

Public Session:

- Sallie Smith:
 - Request to restore removed bus stop on Burnside Ave. along Grand Concourse, citing community need.
 - North Central Bronx Hospital (shared services and investments (new MRI; women's health, behavioral health, ED).
 - Health & Human Services announced CERT/BXCRN preparedness/resource events; details to be uploaded on April 23, 2026.
- Chef Wilson:
 - BXCRN/CERT: Upload and share event details (preparedness/resources). Owner: Chef Geneva Wilson (HHS Chair). Due: April 23, 2026.
 - Board leadership/relevant committee: Consider advocacy for Burnside Ave bus stop restoration.
- Alivia Broaddus-BSB Community Group: **1800 Grand Concourse (Abandoned Former Church; Community Use/Landmark}**
 - Concern raised about abandonment and squatters; desire for community/cultural center use and potential landmarking. Owners reportedly in court proceedings; property asking price referenced. Cross-district collaboration due to redistricting.
 - Referred to Land Use Committee for monitoring and follow-up.

- o Land Use Committee: Monitor case and provide updates (align with budget requests and stakeholder discussions).
 - o Connect with Land Use Committee; reactivate petition; discuss programming.
 - o CM Oswald Feliz's office Esperanza Diaz: Share communications and DOB violations.
- Lisa White: **Walton Ave Church Closure- Safety and Quality of Life**
 - o Reported increase in homelessness, car break-ins, and safety concerns. Chair noted prior NYPD checks; CB to elevate issue at District Service Cabinet (DSC); urged residents to report incidents. Raise at next DSC; coordinate cross-agency solutions (NYPD, DOHMH).
 - o Chair stated that CB staff coordinating DSC: Provide update on prior NYPD site check and ongoing actions.
 - o Residents: Call 911/311; retain report numbers for follow-up. Owner: Community members.
 - o CB Chair/Committee leads: Consider committee-level discussion.
- Beverly Smith: **Quality-of-Life Enforcement (Cannabis, Street Obstructions, Car Washes/Mechanics)**
 - o Issues on University & Tremont: weed trucks/shops, sidewalk obstructions, unauthorized businesses; call for enforcement.
 - o Continue agency coordination via DSC; emphasize community reporting and elected' engagement.
 - o Chair stated CB staff: Follow up with relevant agencies on enforcement.
 - o Community members: Report violations via 911/311; share report numbers. Owner: Community members.

Public Session Procedures and Speaker Registration

- o Chair reminded attendees to register in advance; cautioned against public sharing of sensitive personal information. CB staff: Improve speaker registration and pre-session communication. Owner: CB staff. Due: Ongoing.

Elected Officials:

- Elizabeth Marte:
 - o Senator Sepulveda's office: Healthy Lifestyle Convention (May 15), Health & Wellness Fair at Richmond Echo Park (May 16,

11:00 AM-3:00 PM), Veterans Brunch in July; legislation S9593 (highway expansion limits near public housing in high-asthma areas) and S9556 (open enrollment for non-resident students).

- Edgar Tavaréz:
 - Senator Robert Jackson's office: Supports New York for All Act and New York Health Act; free mammogram event at River Park Towers; SNAP food distribution funded until September 30, 2026.
- Trevon Blondet:
 - Bronx DA's Office: "Annual Housekeeping Fair" on April 25 (2972 Bronx Park East); Family Trial Training on May 8 (198 E 161st Street).
- Anne-Marie Baptista:
 - Assembly Member George Alvarez's office: Internships for older adults and students.
- Esperanza Diaz:
 - Council Member Oswald Feliz's office: HPD assistance (May 12, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM, 573 E Fordham Rd); weekly CUNY Citizenship Now (Tuesdays, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM); Police Community Day at Bronx Zoo (RSVP closed; office can annotate attendees); Senior/Community Appreciation at Botanical Garden (May 13, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM); ongoing liaison on 1800 Grand Concourse.
- Maria Jose Mares:
 - Council Member Pierina Sanchez's office: West Bronx Community Safety Partnership Town Hall (April 27, 5:00 PM); reporting guidance (911/311).
- Lili Mae Kirk:
 - Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia's office: DOT session for W/MBEs; monthly food distribution (RSVP required); legislation on tenant protections, EBT surcharge ban, organ donor registration via tax filings.

- Sharon Williams:
 - Assembly Member Landon Dais office: Renter's insurance recommendation; Pooper Scooper law enforcement; NYC ACC contact (212-788-4000).

Municipal Services Committee

- James Lin, Chair:
 - Drafting resolution to reinstate BX40/BX42 bus stops (championed by Ms. Sally); intend to present at next committee meeting and advance to board vote. Public discussion on 1800 Grand Concourse; recommend engagement with Cultural and Land Use. Lacked quorum for votes; considering NYS Assembly Bill 2010-A and proposal to co-name Burnside Ave 4-train station with Bronx Community College. Next meeting May 7 (6:00 PM) at Davidson Community Center with DOT on Fordham bus lane project.
- Decisions:
 - None (lack of quorum).
 - Municipal Services Committee: Finalize bus stop reinstatement resolution; schedule committee and board votes. Owner: James Lin. Due: Target May meetings.
 - Municipal Services Committee: Coordinate DOT briefing on Fordham bus lane; solicit feedback (May 7).

Education Committee

- James Cogger, Chair:
 - April meeting scheduled for April 27 (5:45 PM) at Bronx Community College; focus on education development; outreach to elected officials and community.
 - Education Committee: Send invites; coordinate attendance from elected officials offices. Before April 27, 2026.

Ad Hoc Budget Committee

- Nekeisha Afful, Chair:
 - Budget process: Educate community/chairs; review FY2026 items next month; September training; committees to identify priorities; publish formal budget calendar. Next Budget Committee meeting: May 12 at 57 West Burnside (Morris Heights Senior Center), third floor. Chair guidance: submissions start before June 1; complete by June 30; ready for October

review/vote. Ad hoc Budget Committee intended to become standing via bylaws; track City Council/Mayor/BP budget cycles.

- o Adopted timeline: submissions pre-June 1; completion by June 30.
- o Committee Chairs: Submit FY2026 priorities and budget requests. Owner: All Committee Chairs. Start: Before June 1, 2026; Complete: June 30, 2026.
- o Budget Committee: Publish budget calendar; conduct September training. Calendar publication (before June), training in September 2026.
- o Governance/Bylaws: Advance amendments to formalize Budget Committee. Target: June vote; implement by September 2026.

Veterans Committee

- Juan Parra, Chair:
 - o Next meeting: May 12, 6:00 PM at Davidson Center; encourage veterans to attend and bring questions.
 - o Veterans Committee: Outreach for May 12 meeting.

Parks Committee

- Erachie Brown, Chair:
 - o Echo Park encampment resolved through multi-agency coordination; deterrents installed; signage posted; 46th Precinct supports enforcement. Recent outreach event introduced CBS to playground communities; collected needs and shared resources; stressed board participation and collaboration. Next committee meeting: April 23 at BronxWorks Senior Center (80 E 181st Street). Planning Echo Park second annual meet-and-greet on June 6 (4:00 PM).
 - o Parks Committee: Plan/promote June 6 meet-and-greet; continue NYPD/Parks coordination for maintenance.

Cultural Affairs Committee

- Robert Neives, Chair:
 - o Meeting planned for May 26; coordination with borough council and stakeholders anticipated; potential collaboration with Land Use on 1800 Grand Concourse.
 - o Cultural Committee: Confirm May 26 agenda; coordinate with Land Use on 1800 Grand Concourse. Due: May 26, 2026.

Governance

- Roxana Gonzalez Jimenez, Chair:

- o Governance lead requested chairs email OCDS and Governance with concerns; aim to vote governance changes in June and implement by September; address language/procedure updates and pending items from prior chair.
- o Targeted timeline: June vote; September implementation.
- o Committee Chairs: Submit bylaw/procedure feedback. Owner: All Committee Chairs. Due: May meetings (May 2026).
- o Governance/Bylaws team: Prepare finalized changes for June vote. Owner: Governance Committee. Due: June 2026.

Health & Human Services

- Chef Geneva Wilson, Chair:
 - o Senator Gustavo Rivera's appearance to be rescheduled; participation on May 2 event at King of Glory Church (VXCRN) to share voting info/services; April 26 homeowner flood prevention equipment distribution for first floors; appreciation for support at recent "Half Nelson" event.
 - o HHS Committee: Promote April 26 flood prevention distribution; promote May 2 VXCRN event; reschedule committee meeting with updated speaker. Owner: HHS Chair (Chef Hussain/Geneva Wilson). Due: April 26, 2026; May 2, 2026; reschedule date TBD.

Youth

- Diletta Pina, Chair:
 - o Recruit youth volunteers (e.g., cleanups); liaise with youth-serving orgs and NYPD Explorers. Marielena Mercado, Program Coordinator at Catholic Guardian Services will present at my meeting on May 14, 2026.

Housing

- Osiris Guzman, Chair:
 - o Housing Committee meeting confirmed for May 21 (6:00 PM) at Davidson Community Center; Land Use to meet immediately after. Finalizing written developer intake and commitment process (application, intake packet, written responses/commitments), piloted with 1974 Valentine Avenue, to ensure accountable development.
 - o Recognition of community-led activation at Half Nelson/Katherine Speller Park; June park events planned, including Park Day on June 6 and a basketball tournament in June.
 - o Clarified use of "Old Business"/"New Business" for future board action items; separate section to be added for community event reporting.

- o Inquiry about responsibility for replacing dog waste bags in parks; Parks Department to be contacted for confirmation.
- Decisions:
 - o Proceed with finalizing housing review process on May 21; add separate future agenda section for event reporting.
- Action items/owners:
 - o Housing Committee: Finalize developer intake/commitment process with community input. May 21, 2026.

Land Use

- Beverly Smith, Chair:
 - o Land Use/Housing: Hold joint session following Housing on May 21. Owner: Land Use Committee. Due: May 21, 2026.
 - o Parks/Events Team: Promote/attend June 6 Park Day; support Nelson Park basketball tournament (June, date TBD). Owner: Parks/Events organizers. Due: June 2026.
 - o Chair/Agenda Coordinator: Implement dedicated agenda segment for community event updates. Owner: Chair (Osiris Guzman). Due: Next meeting (date not specified).
 - o Parks Department Liaison: Confirm responsibility for dog waste bag replacement within parks vs. perimeters; share response. Owner: Speaker 15 with board support. Due: Before next meeting (date not specified).

Meeting Adjournment:

- o Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM by Chef Wilson.