



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD #5

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, *Bronx Borough President*

Chairperson
Osiris Guzman

District Manager
Kenneth Brown

Bronx Community Board 5

General Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 25, 2026

Time: 6:20 PM

Location: 2100 Walton Ave

Chair: Mr. Osiris Guzman

Board Members Attendance:

Present: Mario Acosta, Nekeisha Afful, Yazmin Benitez, Eloise Bennett, Phyllis Bowdwin, Erachie Brown, Angel Caballero, Bakary Camara, James Coger, Catherine Cudjoe, Carrie Cuthbertson, Lucia Deng, Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez, Osiris Guzman, James Lin, Nanette Matthews, Robert Nieves, Juan Parra, Norma Perez, Dilletta Pina, Shenia Rudolph, Charles Shorter and Beverly Smith

Excused/Leave: Bobby Akumah, Tisha Hatch, Marlene Jimenez, Theresa Mims, Benjamin Richardson and Argenis Santiago-Payamps.

Absent: Raidiris Dominguez, Michele Heath, Gail Hill and Chef Geneva Wilson

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair. Quorum: 6:20pm

2. Approval of Minutes

The February meeting minutes were presented for review.

BCC Campus * Gould Hall, Room 200 * 2155 University Avenue * Bronx, New York 10453
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Serving these Neighborhoods:
Fordham, Morris Heights, Mount Hope, University Heights

Corrections were identified: Including the attendance record, correcting Nekiesha's name, and the correction of the Youth Committee meeting date from March 31st to March 6.

The Chair called for objection to approve the minutes as corrected. Hearing none, the minutes were approved with corrections.

3. NYPD Presentation

The NYPD Community affairs team from the 46th Precinct provided a public safety report, including crime trends, and the precinct enforcement efforts.

The Chair mentioned that if any questions to please refer to the precinct council meeting.

4. Council Member Pierina Sanchez Remarks

Councilmember Pierina Sanchez provided district updates:

- West Bronx Community Partnership initiative
- Allocation of \$3 million in community funding
- Legislative updates include the SAFER Act
- NYCHA RAD/PACT conversions updates to community members

5. Chairperson's Report

The Chair reported

- Departing Board member Mario Acosta and his extraordinary work as Immigration Chair.
- Attendance at ribbon cutting for Baez Place development
- Discussion on site visit regarding housing conditions on Harrison Ave
- Upcoming first Budget Committee
- Starting the Youth, Education and Economic Development committee to collaborate on youth initiatives pipelines.

6. District Manager Report

In Board Members packets

7. Voting Item: Street Co- Naming Guidelines

Motion: To approve the Street Co- Naming Guidelines as submitted

Moved: James Lynn

Seconded: Mario Acosta

Voting Result:

In Favor: 17

Opposed: 1

Abstentions: Not specified

Result: Motion carried

8. Voting Item: Yankee Scholarship Applications

- **Samir Bawa**
- **Sincere Williams**
- **Jaylien Rivera**
- **Oumar Diabate**
- **Cameron McLaurin**

Moved: Dilletta Pina

Seconded:

Voting Result:

In Favor: 23

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Result: Motion carried

9. Public Session

Sallie Smith: Raised concerns regarding the bus stop accessibility and has requested for it to be put back at the previous stop to better accommodate seniors and individuals with mobility challenges.

Maurelhena Walles: Representing Equity Design, along with representatives from the organization, reported their work on community engagement efforts related to street safety, pedestrian conditions, and youth led initiatives.

Myra Robles: raised concerns about the housing conditions at Harrison Ave and University Ave developments, including the construction impact in the streets, building maintenance, and conditions inside the apartments.

Reverend Addie Banks: provided information on community health and drug prevention on safe medication storage and youth support programs.

Samantha Velez: raised concerns about police conduct and accountability in the 46th Precinct. She mentioned publicly reported information and alleged misconduct findings related to an officer, including prior disciplinary history and a reported suspension, and requested that the Board support a review of the officer's assignment.

Ruby Page: mentioned concerns regarding sidewalk obstruction and unsafe pedestrian conditions Park Ave and surrounding neighborhoods. She reported that vehicles connected to the 46th precinct were blocking sidewalks and bus lanes.

Linda: raised concerns on the use of artificial intelligence and how dangerous it is in the education system and replacing human jobs.

Eric Soriano Perez: encouraged residents to use 311 services to report pothole, broken signals and other conditions requiring city agency response.

10. Elected Official Reports

Oswald Feliz, City Council 15th district, Representatives Santiago : provided updates on City Council's preliminary budget hearings and public safety discussion. He also shared information on upcoming events.

Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia, 86th District, Representatives Lily: provided updates on the State budget discussion and legislative priorities, including efforts to utility affordability and protection during extreme weather conditions.

Assemblymember George Alvarez, 77th District, Representatives Anne Marie Bautista : Introduced herself and shared the district office information for residents seeking services.

Assemblymember Landon Dais, 87th District, Rep Quentin Maiden - Update on the State Budget and current advocacy effort related to education services, veteran poverty, and housing discrimination against voucher holders.

State Senator, 33rd District, Rep Lia Genao Guzman - Mentioned that the Senators office will be hosting housing and immigration clinics every month. If there are any issues with State agencies to reach out to the office. Also, mentioned that it will be her last CB5 general board meeting, since she won't be working for the Senator anymore.

State Senator Robert Jackson, 31st District, rep Edgar - Highlighted on their proposal on the one house budget resolution to let the Governor know about what is going on in the Bronx District. The Senator wants to bring awareness to bill S6807 - Mental Health professionals in schools arts.

Congressman Ritchie Torres, 15th District, Rep Ron Jordan - addressed the Board and shared updates on federal constituent services. He noted the office's work supporting residents with family-related inquiries in the Middle East and spoke on broader concerns impacting the community, including rising costs and food access.

11. Committee Report

Education Committee – James Coger, Chair: The Committee reported that it held a meeting in February following a period of inclement weather. A presentation was provided by the Job Corps regarding vocational training opportunities for youth. The Committee is exploring a potential site visit and future presentations. The next meeting is scheduled for the fourth Monday of the month at Bronx Community College, at 6pm.

Economic Development Committee – Charles Shorter, Chair: The Committee reported that it held a meeting which included a presentation by Job Corp. Discussions focused on identifying resources for the community, including opportunities for youth.

The Committee will coordinate with the Education Committee moving forward. The next meeting is scheduled for April 13 at Union Community.

Immigration Committee – Mario Costa, Chair: The Chair acknowledged this would be his final report and reflected on his service. No additional Committee actions were reported.

Youth Committee, Diletta Pina - Recommended to read the minutes and that parents are aware about the summer rising program deadline. The next committee meeting is April 9th, 2026 at 2001a Creston Ave.

Governance Committee- Lucia Deng ,- The Committee reported that it discussed priorities for proposed bylaw amendments, including the consolidation of committees to improve attendance and overall efficiency. The Committee also discussed the appointment of Vice Chairs to support continuity and succession planning. The next meeting is scheduled for April 2nd at Davidson Community Center.

Municipal Services Committee – James Lynn, Chair- The Committee reported that it met with the Department of Sanitation to discuss sanitation concerns raised within the district. Juan Saldana from the Department of Sanitation attended and made his contact information available for follow-up. The Committee also received an update from Equity Design on its work in the community. In addition, the Chair reported that he is preparing a revised draft of the BX40/BX42 bus stop reinstatement resolution in response to concerns raised by residents.

Veterans Committee – Juan Barra, Chair- The Committee reported that it is continuing its work on issues affecting veterans in the district. The Chair noted ongoing efforts to support veterans and connect them with available resources and services.

Housing Committee – Osiris Guzman, Chair- The Committee reported on housing conditions raised by residents of the Harrison Avenue and University Avenue developments, including related to construction impacts, building maintenance, and overheating conditions. The Committee is actively monitoring these issues and will place the matter on the agenda for the next meeting. The Chair also noted that a site visit is being coordinated with Board Members and residents to assess conditions and engage with relevant agencies.

Park Committee – Erachie Brown, Chair - The committee discussed the clean-up at Half Nelson park on Saturday, April 18th at 11am.

12. Old Business

No old business was discussed

13. New Business

No new business was discussed

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.