



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



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BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CLARISA M. ALAYETO

CHAIRPERSON

ANTHONY R. JORDAN

DISTRICT MANAGER

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

April 2nd, 2024

Clarisa Alayeto, Chairperson

DRAFT

Creativity and tension in a community board meeting.

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto kicks off meeting with quote on tension breeding creativity, encourages passionate debates during volunteer work.
- Tension breeds creativity: Speakers share their perspectives on how tension can lead to more respectful and open communication, ultimately resulting in creative solutions.
- Respect is key: Speakers emphasize the importance of respect in tense situations, as it allows for more meaningful and productive communication.

Embracing tension and creativity in a board meeting.

- Agitation without relationship leads to irritation, not productive conversation.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto encourages the Executive Committee to embrace tension and ask difficult questions to push each other forward.
- Member Cesar Yoc expresses interest in addressing climate issues and other topics.
- Member Cesar Yoc suggests being open-minded and not taking things personally to avoid arguing, while Member Ngande Ambroise emphasizes the importance of separating observations from emotions to react more constructively.

Leadership styles and communication.

- Member Evelyn Alvarez emphasizes the importance of building relationships and holding tension in a team, rather than dismissing emotions as unimportant.
- Member Evelyn Alvarez believes that how something is said is just as important as what is being said, and that tone can greatly impact the message being conveyed.

Intergenerational communication and conflict resolution.

- Member Hakiem Yahmadi shares experiences of intergenerational conflicts in activism, emphasizing the importance of listening and learning from each other.
- Member Audrey Dejesus echoes this sentiment, highlighting the need to communicate effectively and respect each other's personalities in meetings.

Board meeting highlights and lowlights.

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto emphasizes the importance of respect and understanding in communication, particularly in a democratic setting.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto highlights the need for mindfulness and unity in interactions with others, emphasizing that everyone deserves respect regardless of age.
- Highlights of the meeting included a smooth and respectful discussion, with community members and board members contributing to the conversation.
- Member Audrey Dejesus highlighted the broader community's empowerment to contribute to the discussion, and the Bronx Park commissioner's upcoming visit was also mentioned as a positive aspect.
- Audrey Dejesus emphasized the availability of meeting minutes online, encouraging board members to review them.

Park development.

- Members discuss distribution of power and set meeting limits.

Police crime statistics and community engagement.

- Member Dalourny Nemorin acknowledges the police's last meeting had a large presentation, but suggests modifications are needed to better address the community's concerns.
- The group discusses sharing statistics and questions with the police to improve their understanding of the community's needs and concerns.

Creating a rubric for addressing community concerns.

- Member Evelyn Alvarez suggests creating a rubric for most frequently asked questions to address harmful numbers and build relationships with community members.

Community board's role in holding police accountable.

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto emphasizes the importance of community boards being informed and involved in decision-making processes, rather than simply interrogating individuals.

- Members discuss the need for better communication and information sharing between the community board and the precinct council, with some members expressing frustration at the lack of information being provided.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto expresses frustration with police department's lack of accountability and desire for solutions-focused conversations.
- Member Ngande Ambroise suggests guiding the conversation by preparing questions in advance and seeking answers from the police department.

Community engagement and public safety in NYC.

- Member Dalourny Nemorin expresses frustration with lack of community involvement in strategic planning meetings for local parks, citing an instance where a meeting was rescheduled due to low attendance.
- Member Dalourny Nemorin suggests that community board members should be better informed about upcoming strategic planning meetings to ensure community involvement and effective change.
- Member Dalourny Nemorin expresses frustration with police presence at monthly meetings, suggesting they may not be necessary if they're not there to answer questions.
- Member Dalourny Nemorin advocates for DHS to take on homeless outreach efforts, as police cannot arrest unhoused individuals and there is a repeated need for services.

Police presence at community board meetings.

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto wants the police to come prepared with solutions to community board meetings, rather than just presenting numbers.
- Members are frustrated with the same presentations and want to see more purposeful engagement from agencies.

Setting standards for agency oversight in committee meetings.

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto outlines committee standards and oversight for agencies, including district service cabinet meetings and community board involvement.

Community board power and supportive housing.

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto expresses frustration with lack of power in community board votes and seeks to shift the dynamic through organizing and advocacy.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the importance of community board members setting standards and having competent conversations to ensure supportive housing facilities are beneficial for the community.

Community planning and development in NYC.

- Member Cesar Yoc highlights the need for comprehensive planning in urban development, citing conflicts between agencies and the lack of community input.

- Member Cesar Yoc mentions that city planning has to submit a permit and prove their projects are as of right, and the community board has to approve any changes in city charters.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan explains that any issues with city planning have to pass the community board first, and they can reach out to the agency for support.

City council letters and their impact.

- Member Dalourny Nemorin is struggling to get letters drafted and sent to city council members.
- The process of getting letters signed and sent out takes time, even with a clear process in place, as discussed by Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto.

Policy letters and community involvement.

- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the importance of community input in policy decisions.

Letter delivery timeline and policy.

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto suggests setting a standard for how quickly letters are sent out, while Member Evelyn Alvarez thinks it's important to have a written policy for letter distribution that gives enough time for each Committee and full board to review language and approved before it is signed

Community board meeting attendance and actions.

- Member Dalourny Nemorin suggests using 311 complaints to address issues with supportive housing facilities, even after they're approved.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto emphasizes the importance of board members being on time for meetings and reinforces attendance expectations with letters to be sent out.
- Committee chairs are encouraged to share updates and actions they will be working on.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto emphasizes the importance of taking action and creating a plan to address issues in the LGBTQIA community.
- Members discuss potential actions, such as connecting with other organizations and inviting them to meetings, to address issues like homelessness and healthcare.

Affordable housing and commercial rent legislation.

- Member Dalourny Nemorin is working on getting a letter in support of rent to own legislation in New York.
- There are legal issues with a city council bill related to commercial rent, which may delay its progress.

Sanitation and safety issues in a NYC neighborhood.

- Member Ngande Ambroise highlights lack of enforcement by city agencies in the Bronx, including the Sheriff's Department of Buildings and Sanitation.

Community issues and initiatives.

- Member Josephine Fernandez-Byrne identifies safety concerns for elderly bank customers, requesting special windows and hours for their convenience.
- Member Sonyi Lopez updates on new member joining tech committee and social media ideas, with plans to launch a multi-language newsletter at the end of April.
- Planning a civic education campaign to promote voting and collaborate with health clinics and organizations.

Environmental initiatives in a public housing community.

- Member Cesar Yoc mentions the five actions he needs to take to address environmental issues in his community, including organizing community cleanups and creating a green map to show progress.
- He plans to attend meetings of the Melrose Environmental Awareness Committee and reinforce the importance of sanitation and nature in the community.

Community service and outreach initiatives.

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto encourages committee members to identify allies in their district, such as health organizations, to collaborate on initiatives like a community cleanup and education forum.
- Members plan to tour their district to familiarize themselves with hotspots and gather information for an education forum in June.

Committee work and case resolution.

- Members are asked to review applications for upcoming events and formulate questions for the group.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan discusses resolving cases in the office with the help of interns and staff.

Staffing and engagement for a community board.

- Anthony Jordan emphasizes the importance of managing expectations and delegating tasks to avoid overwhelming his team.
- Anthony Jordan discusses policy to run requests for study to assist on projects by the District Manager office to manage deadline expectations. Request should be made in writing to District Manager.

- Committee members discuss streamlining committees and improving attendance.

Committee scheduling and meeting dates.

- Member Evelyn Alvarez suggests collapsing committees to reduce overlap and make meetings more efficient. This request is in under review in May 2024

Action Items

Send out attendance warning letters and non-renewal letters for board members with poor attendance.

Send questions for NYPD ahead of their next presentation to the board.

Have the Sheriff's Department and Department of Sanitation present at Municipal Services committee.

Draft policy for timing of letter submissions from committees.

Loop in District Manager before engaging interns and staff on projects for final approval.

Check committee calendar and set May and June meetings.

Keep committee meeting days/times unchanged for May and June.