



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose

VANESSA L. GIBSON
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

CLARISA M. ALAYETO
CHAIRPERSON

Municipal Services Committee Meeting

March 6th, 2024

Ngande Ambroise, Chairperson

Outline

St. Mary's Recreation Center construction delays.

- Ngande Ambroise motions to approve agenda, including park department update.
- Committee members express frustration with lack of information and transparency in construction project.

Recreation center completion and community impact.

- Anthony Jordan expresses passionate concerns about the delayed completion of the Rec Center and its impact on the community, requesting a meeting with the commissioner to address the issue.
- Ngande Ambroise mentions the need for the community to know the explanations for the delay and the importance of the Rec Center for the community's quality of life.

2025 recreational center construction project.

- The community is unaware of the construction timeline for the recreation center, despite the board's request for a comprehensive timeline and presentation from the AC head.

Community center renovation delays and concerns.

- Ngande Ambroise expresses frustration with the lack of communication from the city regarding the pool renovation project, and requests a timeline for completion.
- Sonyi Lopez asks about the existence of photos documenting the contractor's process and requests access to them, and suggests a committee meeting to review blueprints and information.
- Ngande Ambroise explains that the community center is being rebuilt, but there are concerns about the process and delays due to discoveries during reconstruction.

- Ngande Ambroise and Sonyi Lopez discuss the challenges of the process, including delays and contractor mistakes, and suggest bringing the contractor in for a questioning session.
- The commissioner is seen as a key person in the process, as they will need to provide a clear explanation of the issues and potential solutions.

Park repairs and procurement issues in New York City.

- Anthony Jordan advocates for improved procurement processes in NYC to address delays and inefficiencies.
- Anthony Jordan invites the Bronx community board to discuss the ongoing issue of the Rec Center being out of service and the need to invite the chief of recreation to provide updates and solutions.
- Ngande Ambroise asks what the commissioner will bring to the table, and Anthony Jordan replies that they expect the commissioner to bring the senior team members who can answer questions and provide updates.

Community rec center's closure and action plan.

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto emphasizes the need to take action and involve the larger community in the effort to reopen the Rec Center, suggesting that committee members bring people to the next meeting and create flyers to inform the public about the center's status.
- Ngande Ambroise agrees that involving the community is crucial and suggests asking people what they are willing to do to help.

Community issues and potential solutions.

- Ngande Ambroise suggests the community board should take action to address issues in the neighborhood, such as the lack of a pool and outdated recreation center.
- Sonyi Lopez raises concerns about the lack of accessibility of the renovated recreation center and the pool, and questions why the changes made were not more significant.

Park construction delays and community concerns.

- Ngande Ambroise expresses frustration with lack of information on park construction project.
- Ngande Ambroise expresses frustration with lack of progress on park renovations.

Rec center renovation delays and funding.

- Michael Pimental will ask the Commissioner for updates on the progress of repairs at the community center, specifically requesting a picture of the current state of the facility.
- Ngande Ambroise expresses frustration that the park was closed during the summer when fewer people use it, and suggests negotiating a temporary deal for the community's children to use another facility during the construction period.

Community engagement and accountability in NYC.

- Residents discuss organizing a meeting to address community issues with a district manager, including food distribution and resident associations.
- Community members express frustration with lack of communication from elected officials.
- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto suggests inviting elected officials to a park meeting to hold them accountable for issues in the community, with the goal of creating a sense of urgency and action.
- Ngande Ambroise agrees, emphasizing the need for accountability and action, and suggests that the group should take a more proactive approach to advocating for change.

Event permits and closures in NYC.

- Ngande Ambroise explains the purpose of the Street Activity Permit Office, which is responsible for reviewing and approving applications for street closures and other events within the community board.
- Anthony Jordan discusses the history of the permit office and how the application process has evolved from paper to electronic, making it faster and more coordinated.
- Anthony Jordan explains the permit process for hosting events in New York City.

Street closures and event approvals in a neighborhood.

- Residents must provide documentation for street closures, and the committee will verify their legitimacy.

Event planning and permits in NYC.

- Anthony Jordan explains the requirements for hosting events in New York City, including insurance and permits from various city agencies.
- Ngande Ambroise agrees that hosts must have the necessary permits and insurance, and highlights the importance of following the rules to avoid any issues.
- Community board is the agency for approval for events and parking, that might impact local neighborhoods.

NYC event permits and community involvement.

- Sonyi Lopez and Anthony Jordan discuss the Community Board's review process for events, with Lopez expressing concern about the lack of review for some events.
- Jordan explains that the board has the authority to approve or reject events, and that they will review them in the April meeting.
- Committee members discuss challenges with reviewing event requests, including duplicate submissions and lack of visibility into other submissions.

Event approval process in NYC.

- Chairperson Clarisa Alayeto suggests dividing the events into different committees to handle different aspects of event approvals, such as youth and education, etc.
- Anthony Jordan reviews the event details, including sponsors, insurance, and NYPD recommendations, before making a decision on approval.
- The group discusses scheduling events for the summer, including a family event, and exchanging information between organizations.

Community event planning.

- Members decide on planning a family day celebration date and activities in park.
- The group decides to approve the Lozada Park project and makes a motion to adjourn.

Action Items

Invite Parks Department Commissioner to attend next full board meeting to provide update and timeline on St. Mary's Rec Center reconstruction

Create and distribute flyers about St. Mary's Rec Center delays to engage larger community

Each committee member to bring at least 3 people to next full board meeting for St. Mary's Rec Center discussion

Send letters inviting elected officials to attend next full board meeting for St. Mary's discussion

Review and approve/deny upcoming street activity permits at April committee meeting

Email permit applicants once application is received to inform of committee review process

Consider dividing up permit reviews by event type to relevant committees

Plan a "CB1 Family Day" event for summer 2024