

The City of New York Bronx Community Board Three

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DIAL	Government Services
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HON. VANESSA GIBSON BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

JOETTA BROWN CHAIRPERSON

ETTA F. RITTER DISTRICT MANAGER GLORIA ALSTON CHAIRPERSON EMERITUS

BOARD MINUTES

Date: 9/10/2024

Place: 1332 Fulton Avenue

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

Atta Acheampong Xiomara Arriola Joetta Brown Robert Brown Dawn Carter Edgardo Cedeno Joyce Diggs Francis D'Souza Aaron Dumfeh Wanda Ellis Michele Gantt Maurice Gray Abraham Jones April Jones Diane Jones Linda Kemp Una Lawrence Tracie Lucas-Lord Aubrey Mike Jacquelyn Moore-Hill Kathy Morris Raymond Moya Paul Navarro Anddy Perdomo Amanda Reed Laredo Regular Keziah Sullivan-Norman Arona Testamark Jasmine Uribe D'Andra Van-Heusen Thomas Beautiful Winston

Congressman Ritchie Torres

Joanna Rivas

Bronx District Attorney's Office

Senovia Simpson

Senator Luis Sepulveda

Christian Cardus Elizabeth Marte

Kolaco Acqui

1st Vice-Chairperson

Staff Present

Etta F. Ritter Courtland W. Hankins, III

Members Excused

Kolaco Acqui Gloria Alston Gilberto Constantinez Randy Dillard Beverly Emers Michelle Holmes Rita Jones

Members Absent

Ibrahim Ahmed Frederick Crawford Margo Grant Linda Johnson Adriano Joseph Victor Latimer Christian Matthew Jeannie Ruiz Bryan Wigfall

Bronx Borough President's Office

Kenny Agosto

Councilmember Althea Stevens' Office

Lisne Bautista Tyreke Israel

Councilmember Oswald Feliz

Juan Lopez

Mayor Adam's Office

Leonardo Coello

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Kathy Morris

2nd Vice-Chairperson

Keziah Sullivan-Norman Secretary D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas Rita Jones
Treasurer Sqt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Joetta Brown, Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

INVOCATION

Opening prayer by Rev. Abraham Jones

PUBLIC SESSION

Community Concerns:

Concern: Ms. Andrea Forde, a district stakeholder, expressed concerns that Eae J Mitchell Park is being frequented by substance abusers engaging in drug activity. Individuals have also begun encamping in the park after hours, which is causing disturbance in the community. The park is not being locked after dusk as it is supposed to be. Ms. Forde stated that, if the Parks Department agrees, she would volunteer to be a "park steward" and ensure that the park is locked at dusk each night.

Response: Ms. Etta Ritter. District Manager of Bronx Community Board Three, stated that she has recently sent an email to the NYC Department of Parks and the issues is being reviewed and investigated. Ms. Ritter noted that budget cuts have affected the Parks Department's ability to address these issues in a timelier fashion.

Concern: A resident complained of students congregating in large crowds in front of the beauty supply store located at 503 East 153rd Street. The resident noted that the students are not violent, however, cause a lot of distraction for the customers.

Response: Ms. Ritter stated that this is a quality-of-life issue and advised that 311 should be called and the service request number should be forwarded to Bronx Community Board Three. Ms. Ritter also advised that the storeowner attend the 42nd Precinct Community Council meeting to express these concerns. Tyreke Israel, of councilmember Althea Gibson's office, suggested that local organizations that service the youth should be contacted to assist in addressing the situation.

Concern: A resident of Longfellow Avenue, between E. 172nd and E. 173rd Street, stated that speed bumps are needed on his street. There is an issue with cars frequently speeding on the block. The block is made up of private houses and has many senior citizen residents. It was mentioned that there was a speed bump previously but was not replaced after the Department of Transportation did a repaying some years ago.

Response: Ms. Ritter stated that she will reach out to the Department of Transportation for an update on the status of the speed bump reinstallation.

Concern: Ms. Ross, a resident of 993-995 Union Avenue, spoke on the challenges her building is facing in their pursuit to transition into an HDFC Co-operative residence. The residents originally qualified for HDFC conversion under the TIL (Tenant Interim Lease) program. However, that program ended and now the building is transitioning based on the terms of the ANCP (Affordable Neighborhood Cooperative Program). Ms. Ross is not satisfied that the HPD appointed program sponsor, Bronx Pro Realty, is treating the residents fairly. Ms. Ross also stated that the sponsor is not providing enough clarity around the details of the loans that have been secured for the building transition.

Response: Ms. Joetta Brown, chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, advised Ms. Ross to attend the next Bronx Community Board Three Housing, Land-Use & Economic Development meeting to discuss the issue in more detail.

Concern: Starlight Park has an entrance that is currently closed. The closed entrance causing an inconvenience, especially to the children and senior residents, as they have to travel extra blocks to enter the park.

Response: Ms. Ritter explained that the Parks Department stated that the entrance is closed due to safety concerns, and it will not be reopened in the near future. It was also noted that Starlight Park is located in Bronx District 9.

Concern: Ms. Jacquelyn Moore-Hill, a board member of Bronx Community Board Three, asked 'what security is available for residents who are afraid to walk in the Crotona Park'?

Response: Ms. Ritter suggested that 911 should be called if a crime is being witnessed. Ms. Ritter also suggested that the resident attend the 42nd Precinct Community Council meeting to express her concerns.

Concern: Mr. Francis Dsouza, a board member of Bronx Community Board Three, asked 'does CB3 has a position on the use of drones by the NYPD'?

Response: Ms. Ritter answered that the issue has not been discussed.

Concern: Mr. Laredo Regular, a board member of Bronx Community Board Three, asked 'will there ever be a representative from Alexandria Ocasio Cortez congressional office at Community Board Three meeting'?

Response: Ms. Ritter stated that she will reach out to the congressmember's office requesting that a representative attend future meetings.

Concern: Ms. Diane Jone, a board member of Bronx Community Board Three, expressed concerns that the block on Fulton Avenue between E. 172nd Street and St. Paul Avenue are not being cleaned.

Response: Ms. Joetta Brown, Chairperson of Bronx Community Board Three, advised that 311 complaints should be called in and the 311 service request numbers should be sent to Bronx Community Board Three for tracking and follow up.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Keziah Norman-Sullivan, Secretary of Bronx Community Board Three, called the roll, and a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MEMBERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

The following members requested to be excused:

Kolaco Acqui Gloria Alston Gilberto Constantinez Randy Dillard Beverly Emers Michelle Holmes Rita Jones

Motion

It was motioned by Ms. Tracie Lucas Lord and seconded by Ms. Linda Kemp to excuse the following member(s):

Kolaco Acqui Gloria Alston Gilberto Constantinez Randy Dillard Beverly Emers Michelle Holmes Rita Jones

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PRIOR MEETING

It was motioned by Ms. Wanda Ellis and seconded by Mr. Paul Navarro, to approve the June 11, 2024, General Board minutes, with any necessary corrections, if there be any.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There was no amendment to the agenda.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Councilmember Oswald Feliz's Report

Mr. Juan Lopez, representative for CM Oswald Feliz, did not provide a written report.

Mr. Lopez shared time sensitive information.

Congressmember Ritchie Torres' Report

Ms. Joanna Rivas, Constituent Services Liaison for Congressmember Ritchie Torres, provided the following written report:

I am pleased to announce that this summer our office distributed over 500 backpacks.

I also have some announcements to share on what the Congressman has been up to, as follows:

As of 8/14/2024, In Response to NYC Health Report "Carfentanil and Medetomidine in the NYC Drug Supply," Rep. Ritchie Torres Pushes DEA and CDC for Clarity and Answers

According to a report last month from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (attached to this email), "carfentanil, a potent synthetic opioid that is estimated to be up to 100 times stronger than fentanyl, has been identified in New York City multiple recent samples sold as opioids. Similarly, medetomidine, a non-opioid anesthetic similar to xylazine, has also been identified in the NYC drug supply, specifically in the Bronx, for the first time."

In response to these findings, Rep. Ritchie Torres (NY-15) wrote to both the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) seeking clarity and answers.

As of 8/18/2024, Calls for investigation into Con Edison pricing after recent report

A report from Congressman Ritchie Torres shows Con Ed customers pay twice as much as people with service from National Grid. The report cites a comparative analysis showing a Bronx property paying ConEd \$1.29 per therm for delivery versus a Brooklyn property paying National Grid .54 per therm for delivery. Rep Torres is calling for New York's Public Service Commission to investigate.

Our office is open for Constituent Services, and we can assist with any federal issues you may have. Amongst them being Social Security, Immigration, Passports, and issues with the IRS.

If you have any issues, concerns, or comments, please feel free to contact our office at 718-503-9610 to schedule an appointment.

Councilmember Althea Stevens' Report – 16th District

Ms. Lisne Bautista, Scheduler for Councilmember Althea Stevens, provided a written report as follows:

Legislative Updates

Intro 996 - the creation of a peer-to-peer mental health training program to public middle and high school students. This program will be offered by the Commissioner of Health and Mental Hygiene and this would teach students how to assist peers who are experiencing mental health issues and how to maintain personal mental health wellbeing. Has NOT been voted into law yet

Resolution 292 - This resolution sponsored by Council Member Stevens pushes for an inclusive dress code and accounts for diverse cultures, gender expression, and body diversity in NYC public schools. This resolution allows students of all backgrounds to dress more comfortably and confidently and was passed into law by the New York City Council at the last Stated meeting. Previously, the dress codes were up to public schools discretions so this law will require a standard across all nyc public schools

Upcoming Events:

Advisory Board (dates on flyers attached)

Community Updates:

- Senior Support Squad Seniors who are members of Council Member Stevens Senior Advisory Board volunteer to support D16 office events and are looking for seniors to join their squad.
- Newly established Public Safety Advisory Board. Monthly meetings just as for the other D16 Advisory Boards. This new advisory board is looking for new members.
- Youth Advisory Board nominations
- Health Bucks for D16 residents (community members can pick them up from the office weekly until we run out 4 bucks per person)
- Community Outreach Survey

District 16 In-Office Services

Service Agency Frequency
CUNY Citizenship Now Every Monday

NAICA By referral Department of Buildings TBD

CUNY Law First Tuesday of every month SNAP Request referral from our office

Keziah Sullivan-Norman

Secretary

Treasurer Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

State Senator Luis Sepulveda's Report - 32nd Senate District

Mr. Christian Cardus, Community Affairs Director for Senator Luis Sepulveda, did not provide a written report.

Mr. Cardus shared time sensitive information.

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson's Report

Mr. Kenny Agosto, representative of the Bronx Borough President's Office, provided the following written report which was distributed to the Bronx Community Board Three listserv:

BP Gibson and Council Member Dinowitz Announce Combined \$15,000 Effort to Combat Hunger in the Bronx

With Bronx County leading statewide with the highest percentage of food insecurity, on Thursday, August 8th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson at the Norwood Farmstand green market located at East Gun Hill Road and Dekalb Avenue, was joined by New York City Council Member Eric Dinowitz, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Tutu Badaru, Assistant Director of Grow NYC Food Access Initiatives, to announce the distribution of a total of \$15,000 in Health Bucks, which are \$2 coupons that can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at NYC farmers markets and green stands. Additionally, Council Member Dinowitz announced at the press conference a \$15,000 allocation for the Norwood Farm Stand and the Borough President announced a series of pop ups in partnership with local farmers markets where her team will distribute health bucks and other resources for the months of August and September.

Borough President Gibson Joins Montefiore Einstein and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for Annual Back to School Health & Literacy Fair

On Thursday, August 8th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson joined Melissa Cebollero, Associate VP, Office of Community Affairs for Montefiore Einstein; Dr. Mark Levy, President and CEO of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield; Pat Ireland, Regional Sales Manager for Newline Interactive; Mark Russo, Regional Sales Manager for Newline Interactive; and Alex Galvagni, CEO at Age of Learning for her Annual Back to School Health and Literacy Fair held at P.S. 65 Mother Hale Academy located at 677 East 141st Street. Along with the distribution of backpacks, notebooks, pens and pencils, the event also featured free health screenings and haircuts courtesy of Montefiore Einstein.

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson Attends 42nd Annual National Dominican Day Parade Deputy Bronx Borough Janet Peguero Also Attended As One Of This Year's Honorees

On Sunday, August 11th beginning at 12:00 p.m., Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson attended the 42nd Annual National Dominican Day Parade where over 1 million people lined the streets of Manhattan to enjoy the sounds of merengue and marvel at the sea of colorful floats and dancers making their way north along the parade route that started on 36th Street and concluded at 55th Street.

Borough President Gibson Presents \$1M Check To The Hip Hop Museum At 51st Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday, August 10, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., in celebration of the 51st Anniversary of Hip Hop, Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson presented a check for \$1M to the Hip Hop Museum located at 585 Exterior Street, Bronx, New York, fulfilling a pledge made at her annual State of the Borough Speech to support the completion of the cultural mecca, already attracting thousands of fans both globally and local, to the borough that birthed the genre.

In addition to the check presentation, Borough President Gibson joined the Museum for the unveiling of an 18-foot 7,000lbs sculpture featuring the world's first Hip Hop comic book character, Rappin' Max. The sculpture to be housed at 585 Exterior Street for one year, will be gifted to the City of Paris where Break Dancing for the first time ever, was included as a sport in the Paris Olympic Games. Rappin' Max's permanent location will soon be the Place de la Bataille-de-Stalingrad square in the 19th arrondissement of Paris.

Borough President Gibson's Response To The Report Highlighting Heat Disparities At Bus Stops

A new report from Transportation Alternatives and NASA highlights a concerning issue: the Bronx has seven of the hottest bus stops in the city. This is not just a statistic; it's a stark reminder of how the heat island effect disproportionately impacts communities of color by exacerbating health risks and affecting New Yorkers` quality of life. In our borough, Community Districts 1 – 6 have the highest levels of heat vulnerability due to low canopy coverage that contributes to less shade and potentially hazardous conditions for vulnerable populations. As we experience increasingly intense summers, it's crucial that we invest in infrastructure that keeps our residents safe from extreme temperatures. We must prioritize the installation of more bus shelters and the planting of trees in heat-vulnerable neighborhoods. These measures are essential to not only keeping our residents cool during extreme heat but could also save lives.

<u>Upcoming Events</u>

Event Name: Bronx Borough President's 9/11 Celebration

Date: September 12th Time: 12p.m. to 1p.m

Location Lou Gehrig Plaza on 161st Street

Event Name: African Heritage Festival Date: Saturday, September 14

Time: 10 am - 5 pm

Location: 1700 Crotona Park (Event lawn)

Event Name: National Voter Registration Date: Tuesday, September 17

Time: 12pm -4pm

Location: 851 Grand Concourse and Lou Gehrig Plaza

Ms. Linda Kemp, board member of Bronx Community Board Three, stated that there needs to be an African American Council created at the Bronx Borough President's Office. Mr. Agosto said that he will make sure that is mentioned to the Bronx Borough President.

Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark's Report

Ms. Senovia Simpson, Community Engagement Coordinator, Bronx DA's Office did not provide a written report.

Ms. Simpson shared time sensitive information.

Mayor Eric Adams' Report

Leonardo Coello, Bronx Borough Director, Mayor Adams Office did not provide a written report.

Mr. Coello shared the following items:

- 40,000 e-bikes and scooters have been removed from NYC streets.
- Over 750 illegal cannabis shops have been closed down in NYC.
- Robberies and felonies are at an all-time low in NYC.
- Ghost plates pop up check points at local bridges and tunnels, continue to confiscate and write summonses and fines to illegally registered
 cars.
- Money in Your Pocket initiative, to help New Yorkers screen for or learn about more than 70 city, state, and federal programs that can
 make life in New York City more affordable.

Question: Mr. Abraham Jones, board member of Bronx Community Board Three, asked 'what were the methods used to remove the e-bikes and scooters'?

Answer: Mr. Coello stated that the focus was on reckless and illegal drivers. Those who operate scooters safely and with legitimate documents do not pose an issue, as many are operating as delivery workers.

Question: Are helmets required for Citibike operators?

Answer: Mr. Coelle stated that there is a law to wear helmets, however, the law is not being strictly enforced. There are helmet giveaway programs and marketing campaigns to encourage safety.

Question: Is there a law against lithium battery bikes being stored in an apartment?

Answer: There is no such law. Ms. Ritter suggested that residents call 311 to request an inspection of an apartment that has a lithium battery powered bike.

State Committee Member Antirson Ortiz - 85th Assembly District

Mr. Antirson Ortiz explained the responsibilities of a state committee member. Mr. Ortiz mentioned that there is currently no assembly member for the 85th Assembly District, as Kenny Burgos recently resigned. There will be forthcoming updates regarding the open seat.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Joetta Brown extended a warm welcome to all of the new Bronx Community Board Three board members in attendance.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Kolaco Acqui Kathy Morris

1st Vice-Chairperson 2nd Vice-Chairperson

Keziah Sullivan-Norman Secretary D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas Rita Jones
Treasurer Sot.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

Ms. Brown appointed Mr. Francis Dsouza as the chair of the Education and Consumer Affairs Committee.

Ms. Brown encouraged all board members to choose at least one committee that they will become an active member of.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Etta Riter, District Manager of Bronx Community Board Three, provided the following written report for the period covering June 12th to the present:

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD THREE

Bronx Community Board Three is pleased to welcome 12 newly appointed members, bringing the total number of board members to 47. A quorum requires the attendance of 25 members.

The Board will host an Orientation/Meet-and-Greet on Saturday, September 14th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. All members are encouraged to attend this orientation.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR

Bronx Community Board Three and Community Emergency Response Team Division 1 will host an Emergency Preparedness Fair at 1426 Boston Road outside the board office on Thursday, September 19th, from 2 to 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

DISTRICT NEEDS SURVEY

It's time to complete the FY'26 District Needs Survey again!

The three most pressing issues for Bronx Community Board Three in FY'25 were:

- 1. Affordable Housing
- 2. Crime and Public Safety
- 3. Youth and Children's Services

Bronx Community Board Three will host The Capital and Expense Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 8th at 6:00 pm at 1332 Fulton Avenue. The FY'26 Capital and Expense Budget Requests submission deadline is October 31, 2024.

Please copy and Paste it into your browser: Link: CD-Needs-Online-Survey

BRONX BOROUGH CONSULTATIONS 2026

As part of the budget preparation process for NYC Fiscal Year 2026, Community Boards citywide are hosting meetings during the months of September and October 2024 with various city agencies to discuss individual agency programmatic expense issues as well as borough and citywide capital budget spending priorities. These meetings will frame the capital and expense budget recommendations community boards will submit in late October 2024 for FY'2026.

Please be aware that many of the board's budget requests reflect the overriding district needs. District budget priorities are re-submitted yearly in anticipation of funding commitments via the city administration, Bronx Borough President, and City Council. These requests will be considered in the mayor's preliminary budget for FY 2026.

The October 2024 general board meeting will review and approve Bronx CB 3's FY 2026 capital and expense budget requests submitted to the NYC Office of Management and Budget and NYC Department of City Planning. Community Boards have up to 40 Capital budget requests and 25 Expense budget requests. The District Needs Statement identifies the most pressing issues within the community district.

COUNCILMEMBER RAFAEL SALAMANCA

Council member Rafael Salamanca allocated \$62,000 for technology upgrades to Community Boards 1, 2, 3, 6 & 9. CM Salamanca will be in attendance next month in October to speak further on this allocation.

PERMITS FILED

<u>Permits Filed for 1312 Chisholm Street</u> – Permits have been filed for a six-story residential building at 1312 Chisholm Street between Freeman Street and Jennings Street. The concrete-based structure will have 23 residences and a 30-foot-long rear yard. OCA Architects is listed as the architect on record. Demolition permits will not be needed as the lit is vacant.

Permits Filed for 1119 Boston Road — Permits have been filed for a seven-story mixed-use building at 1119 Boston Road located near East 166th Street and East 167th Street; the lot is near the Freeman subway station. Egris Haxhari of H20 LLC is listed as the owner behind the applications. The proposed 65-foot-tall development will yield 26,457 square feet designated for residential space. The building will have 40 residences most likely rentals based on the average unit scope of 661 square feet. The steel-based structure will also have a cellar, a 49-foot-long rear yard, and 20 open parking spaces. Fred Geremia Architects and Planners is listed as the architect of record. Demolition permits will not be needed as the lit is vacant.

FULL ROADWAY CLOSURE

1010 Washington Avenue – Volvy's Management Corp. has filed to close Weiher Court from 3rd Avenue to Washington Avenue for Boom Concrete Pump from Friday, September 20th to Sunday, October 20th, two to three days a week (Monday to Friday, 8 am-4 pm).

NYC DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION (DPR)

Clinton Park- Playground #9

Clinton Park was added to the in-house Citywide list for repair under DPR because the floor surface was in poor condition. Sports Coating was applied to improve the immediate cracks and aesthetics of the basketball court play surface.

NYC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)

The following locations have been approved for enhanced lighting and are on the Street Lighting Unit's installation list; however, there is currently a backlog of approved requests.

- Fulton Avenue between EST 168TH Street and St. Paul's Place
- Fulton Avenue and East 168th Street
- Franklin Avenue between East 169th & East 170th Streets
- Clinton Avenue between East 169th & East 170th Streets
- Jefferson Place between Franklin Avenue & Boston Road

MULT-AGENCY COLLABORATION

The following properties border an alleyway that has become a significant concern:

- 961 East 174th Street (aka 1764 Vyse Avenue), Block 2998, Lot 2 CROSS BRONX PLAZA LLC
- 1003-05 East 174th Street. Block 2998. Lot 145 1003-05 EAST 174 STREET HDFC
- 1007 East 174th Street, Block 2998, Lot 135 1007-09 EAST 174 ST.
- 1769 Boone Avenue, Block 2998, Lot 124 RHSH REALTY, LLC
- 1801 Boone Avenue, Block 2998, Lot 113 RHSH REALTY, LLC
- 1817 Boone Avenue, Block 2998, Lot 104 RHSH REALTY, LLC
- 1829 Boone Avenue, Block 2998, Lot 97 1015 MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

Bronx Community Board Three has requested assistance from the agencies below in determining the listed properties' exact property lines and clarifying the alleyway's ownership. This information is crucial for identifying who is responsible for its cleanup and maintenance so that a coordinated effort can be planned for proper restoration and ongoing care.

- NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene Summonses have been issued to the Cross Bronx Retail Mall (Status: Pending)
- NYC Department of Buildings A DOB inspector determined that this location does not fall under their jurisdiction.
- NYC Department of Finance Awaiting a response.
- NYC Department of City Planning Suggested that I reach out to the NYC Department of Sanitation.
- NYC Department of Sanitation Can only issue summonses from the roadbed.
- Bronx Borough President's Office, Topography Unit Awaiting a response.

BENEDICTION

Abrahm Jones closed the meeting in prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.