



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD #5

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson., Bronx Borough President

**Chairperson
Angel Caballero**

**District Manager
Kenneth Brown**

Bronx Community Board 5

General Board Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2024

Attendance: Eloise Bennett, Phyllis Bowdwin, Erachie Brown, Angel Caballero, Bakary Camara, Catherine Cudjoe, Carrie Cuthbertson, Annette Dejesus, Marlene Jimenez, Maribel Maria, Nanette Matthews, Theresa Mims, Robert Nieves, Brenida Parsons, Patricia Rojas, Charles Shorter, Carlos Veras, Cheryl Westbrook, Chef Geneva Wilson

Excused/Leave: Nekeisha Afful, Bobby Akumah, Lucia Deng, Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez, Juan Parra, Benjamin Richardson, Shenia Rudolph

Absent: Wilfrido Bonilla, Felix Ceballos, Michele Heath, Suri Medina, Beverly Smith

Quorum: 6:23pm

Welcome/approval of April and May General Board meeting minutes

- April meeting minutes
 - Charles Shorter motions to approve the April 2024 meeting minutes, Patricia Rojas seconds the motion. The motion passed.
- May meeting minutes
 - Cheryl Westbrook motions to approve the May 2024 meeting minutes, Eloise Bennett seconds the motion. The motion passed.

Chairperson's Report

- The groundbreaking for Davidson Park at 1801 Davidson Avenue took place two days ago. There are efforts to rename the park after Dr. Thomasina Bushby, a well-known activist.
- A back-to-school event is planned for August 30. The area around the Davidson Center will be closed, and school supplies will be distributed.

District Manager's Report

- The farm stand is returning to the corner of Burnside and University Avenue. It will begin on the second Wednesday in July.

BCC Campus * Gould Hall, Room 200 * 2155 University Avenue * Bronx, New York 10453
Telephone (718) 364-2030 * Facsimile (718) 220-8426 * bx05@cb.nyc.gov

Serving these Neighborhoods:
Fordham, Morris Heights, Mount Hope, University Heights

- Healthy Destinations tabling event at Morris Heights Health Center. Future ones will be held on July 31, August 28, September 25, October 30
- June 15 Clean-up and community event at Echo Park
- Friends of Echo Park continues to meet on the last Thursday of the month
 - The group wants to make the park more family-friendly
 - Next meeting is on 6/27 at 6pm
- ConEd summer preparations call with elected officials
 - Hikes in electricity rates are anticipated to be 8% for residential clients. There will be cooling centers during excessive heat advisory.
- Jerome Avenue Revitalization Collaborative and Bronx Community College Workshop and Resource Fair: Several service providers: MVP lifeguard trainings, NYS Department of Labor, South Bronx Job Corps and more.

Voting items:

- Letter of Support for BSA application at 1780 Grand Concourse
 - Land Use Chair Cheryl Westbrook gave remarks.
 - A meeting was held on 6/20, where an attorney representing Concourse One Company LLC, Lisa Orrantia (Ackerman LLP), spoke about the construction.
 - The Land Use Committee recommends to the Board that a letter of support be given to Concourse One Company, LLC, to present to the Board of Standards and Appeals.
 - Charles Shorter motions to provide a letter of support, Theresa Mims seconds the motion.
 - Vote: 17: yes, 2: no. The motion passes, and CB5 will provide a letter of support for the BSA application at 1780 Grand Concourse.

Public Session

- Sallie Smith, resident
 - Expressed thanks to members for their service during the year.
 - Several issues she has raised during previous meetings remain, including poor sanitation conditions, a lack of street sweeping, a lack of bathrooms in Echo Park, illegally parked cars, and street vendors on sidewalks.
- Dilletta Pina, resident and member of Friends of Echo Park
 - Expressed thanks to CB5 for holding the June 15 event in Echo Park.
 - Meetings for the group continue to be on the last Thursday of the month at 6pm at the Davidson Center. The public is welcome to join. They will discuss survey results and plans for a letter to Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia.
- Thomas Herrera, Developer and former member of CB5
 - Housing is an issue in the neighborhood
 - Have done work in Baltimore, Houston, Bronx, NYCHA houses PACT
 - Name of Organization: H2H Development Partners/Urban Community Capital Initiative

- Reverend Addie Banks, Groundswell Group
 - The organization works on community resilience, helps with nonprofit startups, and trauma healing. Their work is funded by Oasis. The group will host several events over the summer
- Deacon Seleste Burns, River Park Towers Tenant Association
 - July 2 event – youth program, mental health, father assistance
 - The hotel that opened earlier this year on Cedar Avenue is still open.
 - There is also a cannabis shop that recently opened nearby.
 - August 10 – Hip Hop/Family Day event with Carnival activities. Celebration of the anniversary of the start of Hip Hop in the Bronx.
- Captain Garcia, Executive Officer of the 46th Precinct
 - Encourages people to tell their neighbors to come to community board meetings.
 - Would like to address concerns from some of the previous meetings:
 - Mopeds, marijuana, illegally parked cars,
 - CompStat report
 - Weekly- felony assault is driving up the week-to-date comparison with last year. Grand Larceny is higher in 2024 so far compared to 2023.
 - Phone: 917-865-9870
 - Fake paper plates/ghost cars
 - Mopeds
 - Teamed up with other chief executives in the borough
 - Many pop-up “repair vans” remain illegally parked.
 - Driving without a license, unregistered scooter- removed scooter. But scooters are very inexpensive

Elected Officials’ reports

- State Senator Luis Sepulveda
 - The senator was in session in Albany from January through mid-June.
 - Has the busiest senatorial office in New York.
 - His office offers free legal services with their partners NYLAG and NMIC
 - They can assist with issues/matters like immigration court, naturalization, DACA, TPS, U-Visa assistance with documents
 - Encourages constituents to register and vote in the general election in November 2024.
- Councilmember Pierina Sanchez
 - Working on passing the budget – it would be unprecedented if it does not pass before the end of the month. However, there are still several disagreements that haven’t been resolved.
 - \$170 million still needed for 3k/4k, seats in places where they are not needed
 - There are also still substantial cuts to the Library, CUNY, affordable housing
 - Passed legislation last week that establishes a proactive inspection program by the Department of Buildings, which will use data such as violation history and other inspection history to inspect buildings and enforce any penalties proactively. This

bill was inspired by the building collapse at Billingsley Terrace, which left various families homeless.

- Has a partnership with 46th Precinct for closing illegal smoke shops
- Question from Board Member Nanette Matthews regarding funding from the Opioid settlement. Demand from the State for the City Department of Health to testify about the disbursement of \$110 million in housing funds.
 - CM Sanchez: State Senator Gustavo Rivera working on releasing funds
- Sharon Williams, Assemblymember Landon Dais
 - When members of the community have quality of life complaints, she encourages them to reach out to her after reaching out to 311. She can help move the request through to the proper department.
 - Community Office number: 718-538-2000
 - Honoring LaShawnda Dodson, Community District 5 Community Coordinator
 - Awarded by the Assemblymember with a proclamation in recognition of her years of work in the community and for the city.
- Lia Guzman, State Senator Gustavo Rivera
 - Office will be hosting an immigration clinic with NMIC
 - July 12 10am-12pm at 2432 Grand Concourse Suite 506. Appointment required: call 718-933-2034
 - July 25 – Will host a Senior Health Fair with resources, music, and food. Call the office to reserve your spot.
 - August 15 – Back to School backpack giveaway event
 - Office will be closed during the week of 7/1/2024
 - Office: 718-933-2034
- Joanna Rivas, Representative Ritchie Torres
 - Thanks CB5 for the invitation to the June 15 event
 - Office: 718-503-9610
- Trevon Blondet, Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark
 - Office will host a Re-entry Fair on August 20 at the Police Athletic League on Webster Avenue
 - Also hosting a Bronx Tour with the new ADAs (100 new ADAs this year)
 - Office: 718-838-7684; Cell: 917-946-3438; Email: blondett@bronxda.nyc.gov
 - Community Engagement email: ceu@bronxda.nyc.gov

Committee Reports

- Nanette Matthews, Housing Committee
 - Personal call to action to her work with the CB5 and the Housing Committee
 - July 10- The state demanded that DOHMH present during the Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Board about the currently dispersed 150 million
 - 10:30-4pm
 - We voted the City of Yes for housing down at the last meeting, so we should consider what we would want in a plan like this.
 - Nanette arranged a meeting with Wendy Shin to learn about displacement risks, racial equity reports

Old Business none was discussed.

New Business

- Cheryl Westbrook commends Angel Caballero on his first year as board chair. He has shown commitment to following the bylaws and improving board operations.
- Angel Caballero thanks the District 5 staff LaShawnda Dodson and Ken Brown for their support.