



## **General Board Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, February 21, 2019**

**Present:** Abunoman Rahman, Angel Martinez, Benigno Cuevas, Brandon Ganaishlal Cesar Pagan, Cruz Garcia, Daniel Porro III, Doralina Colon, Felipa Manaiza, Henry Pelayo Jr., Jennifer Ellison-Lackard, Juan Torres, Kevin Kiernan, Kwabena Gabay, Linda Brown, Mitchell Halpern, Mohammad Mujumder, Nicholas Himidian Jr., Rosemary Ordonez Jenkins, Sarwar Jahan, Sharan Fernandez, William Rivera (DM)

**Not Present:** Cleneth Dais, Hannia Godinez, Harry Dunlap, Justen Colon, Nevia Gallimore, James Tynan, Isabelo Adames, Steven Ochoa, Nellie Santiago-Rivera, Lisa Diaz

**Meeting Start Time:** 7:00pm

**Note:** The Chairperson asked the audience to stand and pledge allegiance to the flag, followed by a moment of silence.

**Note:** The Chairperson put a motion on the floor to go into the Public Session. The vote was unanimous. The motion was passed.

### **Public Session**

1. David Beller spoke on behalf of CENSUS he stated that CENSUS is hiring and is looking for people in the community to walk around the neighborhood and make sure addresses are correct. The pay will be \$20-\$27 an hour, schedules are flexible and part-time. Mr. Beller talked about the “complete count” committee which is a group of individuals that work together in a specific community, they meet together to ensure the community members are participating fully in CENSUS. The program starts in May and they are actively hiring right now.

2. Rogier Van Vlissingen made a few announcements on the Plant Based Communities. Mr. Van Vlissingen stated that Angel Vita the dietician from ShopRite has cooking demos on Saturdays, to attend you must RSVP. On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a plant based cooking class at St. Helena’s at 2:45 P.M. The cost will be \$15 through Mr. Van Vlissingen and \$17 online. On February 26<sup>th</sup>,

the monthly plant based dinner will be held at Neerab restaurant. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be another dinner for Doctor's at Neerab restaurant. May 18<sup>th</sup>, will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual St. Helena's plant based health fair that's done in conjunction with CB9.

3. Kyle McLean spoke about Puzzlelife.voice, which is for autism acceptance. Mr. McLean stated that this is something parents are struggling with every day. He then stated that there isn't any sensory park/gym for them to take their children. Mr. McLean also stated that he walks every day in the community to local businesses to speak on autism acceptance and that autism acceptance should be a conversation that happens all the time not just in April.

4. Board Member Jennifer Ellison Lackard spoke about her Re-Entry Chronicle. Ms. Lackard is an advocate for re-entry and has published a monthly newspaper. The Re-entry chronicle has a geographical footprint of all downstate NY. Ms. Lackard stated that this month the paper is Bronx, Westchester and every month it will be expanding to different counties. Ms. Lackard also stated that she is looking for providers and stories focused around re-entry. The publication is inside the correctional facility as well as in the community. Ms. Lackard announced that Race for Re-Entry will be on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

5. Board Member Cesar Pagan from Phipps neighborhood one of the goals is to end the cycle of poverty. Mr. Pagan gave surveys for the community to fill out so an action plan can be created.

### **Business Session**

**Note:** The Chairperson put a motion on the floor to go into the Business Session. Seconded by Rosemary Ordonez-Jenkins. The vote was unanimous. The motion was passed.

### **District Manager's Report**

- CB9 office will be at temporary space for a few months, transition may be in the summer.
- DM Rivera is doing quarterly meetings with the Elected Officials, talking about things going on in the District and how we can work together.
- The second anniversary for Yadira Arroyo will be March 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>.
- MTA transit Town Hall will be rescheduled it was postponed because of the weather.
- DM Rivera had a meeting with the Bronx parks commissioner Iris Rodriguez about Pugsley Creek Park about capital improvements around the park and lighting.
- DM Rivera had a meeting with Tamara Rivera from carpenters union that went very well and they will meet continuously.
- Shirley (ADM) will be testifying at the City Council on community board budgets
- DM Rivera talked about the fatal accident on Story and Havemeyer Avenue with the school bus. The precinct has done enforcement already and DM Rivera stated that he is working to get interagency enforcement with DEP, DOE and NYPD to make statement in the area and he will meet with school bus companies with Elected Officials.
- CBMS will launch March 1<sup>st</sup>
- DM Rivera stated that the Sensory Park was talked about in the parks meeting and he will set up meeting and hopefully get capital funding to do a Sensory Park in our district
- DM Rivera stated he will do a site visit at the garbage lot in Parkchester.

1. Justin Sanchez from the Borough President's office, made a few announcements. Mr. Sanchez stated that the Borough President is working with DOE in regards to community based organizations using space from now till June. The permit can be applied for and it will be paid for by the Borough President. Mr. Sanchez stated today there was the State of the Borough meeting which can be accessed online. He then made two other announcements; 1. The Dominican heritage event coming on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and you can RSVP at 1700 Jerome Avenue/ 718-590-3989. 2. There will be a construction trade job fair on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 that is hiring for different positions, for more information you can call 718-613-3980.
2. Josue Melendez from the Office of Council Member Rafael Salamanca Jr. stated that they had to cancel the MTA townhall planned to discuss BX5 and other transit concerns. The reason for the cancellation is that MTA implied that they would not be able to attend, however, the Councilmember's Office is hoping to reschedule this townhall. With the rescheduled date other elcteds that were unable to attend previously are hoping to attend for the rescheduled date. In addition, about 2 weeks ago CM Salamanca did a walk through with DOT regarding congestions at intersection of Bronx River and Bruckner Blvd. DOT will be working on mitigating the issues here. Shirley SanAndres-Alonzo from CB9 was present at this walk through as well. Lastly, the councilmember's homeless set aside bill Intro 1211 mandates that developments that will be receiving city funding have to mandatorily set aside 15% of their new units for homeless families. In city council this bill has 36 sponsors which means it has a veto proof majority and has a great opportunity of passing this bill. Office is located at 1070 Southern Boulevard and office number is 718-402-6130.
3. Frankie Mercedes from the Office of Senator Alessandra Biaggi informed the public that they are up and running now and are still located at 1202 Waters Place. They will be there for a few more months and are looking for pop up locations once a month in different neighborhoods since the district is shaped bizarrely and covers different neighborhoods. Beginning on March 1st the office is hosting First Fridays, the senator will be present and residents can come in without appts to talk to her for a few minutes.  
Their office number is 718-822-2049 and representative email is [mercedes@nysenate.gov](mailto:mercedes@nysenate.gov)
4. Daniel Guerrero from Senator Sepulveda's Office informed the audience that on February 27<sup>th</sup> Circle of Security will be hosting a parenting program for children under 5 at the district office at 900 Rogers Place from 6-8pm, 718-991-3161. The office also hosted a tenants rights workshop a few weeks ago that was successful as well as a blood pressure workshop that went well. Constituent service hours are Mon-Thurs 9-2pm and Fridays 9-12pm so residents with issues with housing, SNAP benefits, etc can attend, residents to call in advance before coming.
5. Justin Westbrook Lowery from Office of Assembly member Karines Reyes stated that their office worked on getting heat and hot water access restored to Castle Hill Houses and Glebe Senior Housing Development around Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. A representative was present that weekend speaking to tenants and getting complaint numbers to ensure these complaints were forwarded to NYCHA to get these services restored.  
On Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2-4pm AM Reyes will be having her office grand re-opening. The office has been under renovation to ensure the office has a great space for constituent services. Light refreshments will be served and all are encouraged to attend.

SCRIE pamphlets and parking calendars were distributed from this office. The office is also able to assist with DRIE applications at the office.

6. Antirson Ortiz from Comptroller's Office presented on Mass Transit and stated that according to a report dating back to 2015, the MTA did not have proper procedures on how to categorize the reasons why the trains were delayed. According to the Comptroller's Office MTA had over five hundred thousand delays categorized as reasons unknown. Comptroller wants the MTA to have a proper system where they can categorize the reasons for delays. In addition, the Comptroller wants the MTA to have a proper protocol on staff to report back the reasons for delay while on the field. Representative can be reached at 646-294-3300 or 646-951-3076.

### **Chairperson's Report**

As per Chairman Himidian, the Chairman's report, the Executive & Operations Report and the Youth & Education Report will be combined all in one.

Executive & Operations report was summed up in DM Report with the exception of one item to be discussed further. Every 6 months BM attendance is confirmed, usually around this time and at the end of the year. It was discovered that 2 Board Members have not attended any meetings at all since September. As a result, the executive committee members sent letters contacting these Board Members in regards to their attendance. No replies have been received as of yet. If there is no response within the given period, a removal proceeding will take place at the next general board meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

1. Executive & Operations minutes were submitted as is.
2. Youth & Education Committee Minutes will be tabled as is with one caveat, Chairman Himidian encouraged BMs to read all minutes. In addition, he mentioned that CB9 requested additional Yankee tickets (500) since CB9 is the largest CB in the Bronx. 5 outstanding youth members were selected and recommended for this award. Cesar Pagan was selected Vice Chair of the committee with the hopes of transitioning him to Chair after the 2 month probation period.  
Note: Minutes were submitted as is.
2. Land & Zoning  
Minutes were submitted as is. As per Chair Mujumder, he wanted to recognize on behalf of the board the distinguished news editor present at the meeting.  
As per Chair Mujumder, International Mother Language Day was celebrated throughout the city earlier this month. Chairperson Mujumder also wanted to share information regarding the catastrophe in Bangladesh where a building collapsed and 78 people were killed, 10 people are missing and hundreds were wounded.  
Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

3. Parks

As per Chairperson Himidian, BM Kwabena Gabay has expressed interest in becoming Chair of Parks Committee. Chairman Himidian highly recommends BM Gabay for this opportunity and will shadow him until he is ready to lead the committee alone.

As per Chairman Himidian, there are a lot of hot topics related to district Parks, including Pugsley Creek Park. The Parks Committee has been following up regarding the concession by Soundview Ferry. There will be a town hall on this once is ready to be presented.

Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

4. Public Safety

Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

5. Social Services

As per Chair Rosemary Ordonez-Jenkins, the committee will be hosting their annual Senior Symposium on April 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am-1pm at ShopRite. Due to limited space, there will only be a total of 75 guests.

Note: Minutes were submitted as is.

Seniors Connected Meeting will be held tomorrow at 10am at ShopRite of Bruckner Blvd.

Next General Board Meeting March 21, 2019, same time, same place.

Follow CB9 on social media, Twitter, FB and Nextdoor.

Meeting adjourned: 8:00 P.M.

**OFFICE INFO**

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