

Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2025
Meeting Recording

Meeting was held in the Community Board 8 office, 5676 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463

Committee members in attendance (3): Caesar Tobar-Acosta (Acting Chair), Nick Fazio, Ashley Medina (Community Chair Member)

Absent Committee members (4): Constance Barnes-Watson (Chair; Zoom), Angel Ortega, Jyll Townes, Karen Walker, Dr. Julia Gomez

Guests/ Attendee: Julie Reyes (Board Chair), Angel Ortega (SBS)

Chair called the meeting at 7:11 PM

Chair Report None

Caesar had nothing to share out as the chair.

Approval of Committee Minutes: March 4, 2025

As there was no quorum present, there was no approval of the March 4, 2025 meeting. Approval of the Committee Minutes for March 4, 2025 will be discussed at the next meeting where quorum is present.

Budget Priorities FY27

As there was no quorum present, the budget priorities will be made as a recommendation to the board. The four expense budget items and one capital budget items were discussed.

For the expense budget item, we will be putting the recommendation for the following expense budget items in the following ranking:

1. Increasing funding for SBS's Business Express Service Team (BEST) outreach Specialists
2. Increasing funding for the Commercial Lease Assistance Program (CLAP)
3. Increasing funding for the SBS Emergency Response Unit

For the capital budget item, as it was the only budget item, the committee is deciding to keep the "Bronx Bucks" loyalty program and mobile applications.

Discussion on the Next Commercial Corridor Walkthrough

At the March 4 meeting, the Committee agreed on Thursday, April 17, 2025 from 3pm to 5pm to conduct a tour of the Kingsbridge Corridor from Aqueduct to Bailey Avenue. Caesar is to reach

out to the Kingsbridge Merchant's Association to see who would be available to engage and speak on what has been going on recently.

Additionally, it was brought to the attention of the Board that Councilmember Dinowitz would be holding a commercial corridor walkthrough of the 242nd Street Corridor to understand the impact of the MTA construction on the 1 train. The date and time of the 242nd Street Corridor walkthrough was not announced.

Old Business/New Business

Old Business/ New Business: Writing a resolution for the Betty Campbell Award

As a board, there have been discussions of getting the criteria reviews for each committee award. Julie recommends that at the next meeting, the committee discuss the criteria and compose the resolution. Caesar has agreed to write a draft of the resolution for review at the next meeting based on the previous conversations in the committee.

New Business: Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition and Bronx Economic Development Corporation on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Bronx.

As Caesar was the presenter for the portion, Nick Fazio was the interim chair.

Caesar introduced the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to the Committee, and the upcoming Bronx Economic Development Assembly which will be held at Lehman College on April 30, 2025 from 6pm to 8pm. In this introduction, Caesar elaborated on what the CEDS is, how this document benefits the Bronx, and what the purpose of the Bronx Economic Development Assemblies is.

Discussion of the Betty Campbell-Adams Awards Winner

As there was no quorum present, we could not vote on the Betty Campbell-Adams Award Winner; however, there was a review of the applications where the names were redacted. The Committee discussed the nominations and determined that three of the nominees were worthy recipients of the Betty Campbell-Adams Award.

Meeting ended at 8:32 pm

Submitted by Caesar Tobar-Acosta