

Pending Committee Approval

Minutes of the Economic Development Committee for Bronx Community Board 8

September 1, 2026

Meeting Recording

The meeting was held at Bronx Community Board 8 Offices, 5676 Riverdale Avenue, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471

Committee Members in attendance (6): Constance Barnes-Watson (Chair), Angel Ortega, Caesar Tobar Acosta (Vice-Chair), Nick Fazio, Ashley Medina, Kevin Klobocishta

Zoom: Daniel Nunez, Julie Reyes (marked absent)

Absent Committee Members (2): Richard Perez, Laura Levine-Pinedo

Guests/ Attendees: Karen Kawaguchi, Thomas Strauford

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

- **Welcome and Committee Introductions (7:03 PM)**
The chair began the meeting by welcoming all members and community members, introducing herself, and asking members to share their introductions, how long they have served on the Board, and what drew them to the EDC.
- **Next item on the agenda was the Roll Call:**
 - See attendance above.
- **Next agenda item was the Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes:**
 - The Chair explained to the group that you do not have to be present at the meeting to approve the minutes. Members were given a few minutes to review before Caesar Tobar-Acosta called a motion to approve, with an amendment to Richard Perez's name; Nick Fazio seconded the motion. The Committee approved the June minutes with the amendment.
- **The next agenda item was the Chairperson's Report:**
 - The Chair's report was brief as there isn't much activity during the summer. Constance met with Katherine Broihier, Executive Director of the Kingsbridge Industrial BID, to learn more about their work and meetings. Katherine noted that they currently meet less in person and more virtually, and that meetings focus on maintaining facades and the area's upkeep.
 - The Chair also mentioned the meeting with Delia Awusi, the Mayor's Czar for Mom & Pop Businesses, and testifying before the [Mayor's Committee on Government Equity \(COGE\)](#) regarding small businesses' needs. We will continue to stay in touch with Delia regarding the state of vacancies in our district.
 - Finally, the Chair mentioned the IBO will give a Budget 101 presentation at Exec tomorrow, and she will share information with the group afterward.
- **The next agenda item was Old Business:**
 - We revisited our second choice for Budget Item #35 and decided that the business registry wouldn't be the best use of resources, since the information is

available elsewhere. We agreed to include a request for support for the SBS Emergency Business Unit.

- **The next few agenda items, Economic Development Committee Overview, New Business, Economic Development Committee Activities, Our Neighborhood Walks, and the Betty Campbell Adams MVM Award were discussed together as part of the Chair's overview of the Committee:**

The Chair gave [a brief presentation](#) about the Committee and our activities, which led to the discussion held for the remainder of the meeting. We discussed the ongoing MTA/Broadway construction issues, noting construction was still ongoing despite MTA stating it would end SU27. This included an update on the proposed summer Bailey Ave. "Corridor Walk" to review the current situation with the bike lanes prohibiting deliveries to businesses, namely SugarBoy Bakery. We noted that, after many rescheduling efforts, we didn't physically conduct a walk; instead, we had a Zoom meeting with MTA and other city agencies.

The Vice-Chair provided an update on SBS Commissioner Minaya's visit to the Kingsbridge corridor to support the Mayor's agenda to visit each borough and discuss the "[Business Bill of Rights](#)."

As we discussed ways to support our businesses and acknowledged last year's fellowship work to identify vacancies, we discussed: the magnitude of businesses in our district (approx. 1500), the change in mapping programs (GIS, etc.), and how tools like LiveXYZ are updated regularly and have significant information on businesses and their history. Nick suggested contacting the Dept. of Community Planning (DCP) for support with identifying businesses in the district. The Committee also discussed the dilemma with street vendors on Kingsbridge Rd. affecting businesses, and that it takes years to get vendor licenses approved. Additionally, we were concerned about what would happen when the vendors needed to move due to construction at the Armory.

The bulk of the conversation centered around ways to connect to businesses. We revisited the past practice of having several businesses join, inviting city agencies to share information, and rotating meeting locations and purposes each month to cover administrative tasks.

- **The final agenda items were two surveys for the Committee:**
 - A survey was conducted to determine the Committee's preferred meeting time; we will continue to meet at 7 pm.
 - The second survey was to determine the date for the next Corridor Walk, and we mentioned earlier that we would split into teams.

New Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Next meeting: October 6, 2026, 7 PM. Location: TBD

**Submitted by Dr. Constance Barnes
Chair, Economic Development Committee**