

Bronx Community Board 8
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
March 5, 2025

[Executive Committee Meeting Recording March 2025](#)

Committee Members Present

(11): Julie Reyes, Margaret Della, Laura Spalter, Joy Campbell Priveterre, Bob Bender, Edward Green, Josh Land, Rhashida Hilliard, Daniel Rowen, Debra Travis, Sergio Villaverde

Extraordinary Circumstances (ADA) Committee Members Present

(3) : Sylvia Alexander, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Martin Wolpoff

Committee Members Absent

Absent (5): Rabbi Bob Kaplan, David Gellman(on Zoom), Ramdat Singh, Oscar Martinez, Charles Moerdler

Staff/Board Members/Guests

Farrah Kule Rubin, Barbara Kail

Chair Reyes convened the meeting at 7:03pm and welcomed Board Members and guests.

Approval of Executive Committee Minutes: February 5, 2025

Minutes unanimously approved. (13): Julie Reyes, Sylvia Alexander, Margaret Della, Laura Spalter, Joy Campbell Priveterre, Bob Bender, Edward Green, Josh Land, Rhashida Hilliard, Daniel Rowen, Debra Travis, Sergio Villaverde, Martin Wolpoff

Chairperson's Report

- Community Conference - Know Your Rights for Migrants – Unable to secure speakers for March - working towards an April date.
- Suggestions welcomed to improve lack of participation of Board members and community are welcomed. Please speak with Board members Karen Walker or Jyll Townes regarding possible committee/Board structure and suggestions.
- *Van Cortlandt Park Alliance (VCPA) annual event will be held May 15th. The Board will provide a support letter.
- The Chair was invited to be part of * VCPA Legacy Council to engage in reimagining of Enslaved African Burial Grounds at Van Cortlandt Park. Meets monthly. (see attached)
- Reminded all to seek out Board members to mentor for leadership positions due to the term limits of many Board members in 2027 and 2028. Discussion had.

Treasurer Report

- Treasurer presented monthly report - FY25 March
- No budget modifications this month

- Expenses similar to February, paid out intern and cleaning services
- Nothing encumbered

District Manager (DM) Report

- Happy Women's History Month!
- Community District Needs Statement on FY26 budget priority. Chairs reach out if you wish to follow up with City agencies.
- Bronx Borough Service Cabinet held on 3/4 presentations: Department of City Planning on budget submission process, Department of Environmental Protection on flooding. Minutes forthcoming. Next meeting 4/1. Please send any issues you wish to discuss.
- DYCD would like to present on programs in our district. SYEP applications have been extended another two weeks. Invite youth to apply.
- Bronx Borough President would like Community Board Members' feedback on the Borough Budget by March 6, 2025.
- Con Edison will send the DM a report on gas-main work being done in North Riverdale from West 246th Street through Independence Ave and HHP Service road Northbound. Work will begin next week.
- DM a part of a working group on the future of DMs. Discussing Board turnover and development. April Executive Committee will have a Board training with the Civic Engagement Commission re: procedures and efficient meetings.
- Executive Committee must review April calendar and give DM any feedback prior to distribution
- Special Committees should let the DM know if they need meeting dates.

Committee Reports:

Board Members are reminded to read resolutions prior to meeting. [Board Calendar](#).

- Aging - Met 2/3 - NYC Department of Finance presented on programs available to older adults to assist with housing. Resolution on Intro 1096-2024 regarding protecting municipal retirees' and eligible dependents' choice on Medigap and Medicare plans. This resolution passed the Aging Committee and the amended resolution will be presented to the Full Board for consideration. Next meeting 3/13 (subsequently canceled).
- Budget - The Borough President Budget Report did not highlight any of our requests, and the City agency responses to CB8, submitted 23 capital and 30 expense requests, but only charted 10 capital and 5 expense requests. Committee chairs appear to be progressing on potential FY27 requests. Board Chair encourages Chairs to go back to 4/3/24 for best practices on CB8 YouTube as well as SCRE Equity Map.
 - April 3, 2024, Exec: Nicholas Stamper, Department City Planning (DCP) Analyst and lead for community district needs process presented at the Executive Board Committee on Guidance and Best Practices for Community Board Budget Requests. [Go to Video section 20:00 Executive Committee - April 2024](#)
 - [CB8-Cap-Request-Map-FY25.pdf](#)
- Economic Development - None. Refer to minutes.
- Education, Libraries, & Cultural Affairs - Held meeting on 2/25. Discussed 60th Anniversary of Wave Hill and dissolution of the federal Department of Education.

Refer to minutes.

- Environment & Sanitation - Meeting on 3/19 - Department of Environment will present on the reclassification of the Harlem River.
- Health Hospitals & Social Services - None.
- Housing - Last meeting 2/24. NY Accelerator presented. Refer to minutes and resources available. Next meeting 3/24.
- Land Use - Last meeting 3/3 to discuss: 1. Tishman Speyer addressed misguided reports on the Visitation Site; 2. Renovation presentation on 5294 Sycamore Ave., and 3. Discussed poor relationship with developer, Innovative, and status of Van Cortlandt Village
- LRE - None.
- Parks & Rec - Met 2/26 to discuss Van Cortlandt Master Plan with the Van Cortlandt Park Alliance and capital budget items. 3/25 6pm Fort Independence meeting on Community Parks Initiative (CPI) funds to renovate the playground. Next Committee meeting 3/26.
- Public Safety - Met 3/4 to discuss: five new resolutions for Full Board consideration:
 - Renewal: Buffalo Wild Wings (193 W 237th St), Smashburger (193 W 237th St), Great Performances (Wave Hill, 655 W 252nd St), P&K Grill (Bronx Public, 170 W 231th St) - unanimously approved
 - New application: ShakeShack (5510 Broadway) - unanimously approved
 - Seeking greater detail on FDNY community data and implications
- Traffic & Transportation (T&T) - Previous meeting 2/20 presentation from DA's office. Next meeting 3/17 to discuss safer intersections, Open Streets.
- Youth - None.
- Special Committee on Hudson River Greenway - Met 2/27 to discuss MTA incorporating fortification along the Hudson River into its 5 year plan, Committee wants to continue to meet with MTA and elected officials to be sure Greenway is prioritized with the plan.
- Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) - Next meeting 3/6 with Deputy Commissioner, NYC Commission on Human Rights.
 - Years prior SCRE created a digital map, which is updated through the years, showing Capital Request throughout the district. It should be viewed by all committees when discussing the Budget Request items. [C B8-Cap-Request-Map-FY25.pdf](#)
- Special Committee on Veterans Services - Refer to minutes. Next meeting 4/24.
- Irving Latimer Committee - Next meeting 3/14.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Executive Session

None.

Adjournment

Next meeting April 7, 2025. A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The chairperson adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:16 pm.

Submitted by,
Margaret Della, Secretary

*Legacy Council Interest Form -in part-
Background

Van Cortlandt Park Alliance (VCPA) is partnering with the Design Trust for Public Space to reimagine an Enslaved African Burial Ground site in the Bronx as a memorial space that fosters long-term healing and restoration. Through community engagement, a series of meaningful activations and events, and a design competition to reimagine the space, the goal of Reimagining the Enslaved African Burial Ground at Van Cortlandt Park will be to create a destination in Van Cortlandt Park that honors the memories of those who shaped it, as well as provides a place for deep reflection, meaningful education, collective healing, and vibrant community engagement for all. This project's process invites a citywide conversation on memory and interconnection for African Burial Ground sites across New York.

Role of Legacy Council {LC}

The role of the LC is to advise on engagement initiatives with creative methods to enhance interaction between the burial ground descendant and diaspora community, park visitors, local residents, and place-based elements for the design competition. The goal is to support and sustain creative pathways to express history, legacy, culture, and programming surrounding the African burial ground and beyond.

