

(Pending Committee Approval)
Minutes of the Economic Development Committee for Bronx Community Board 8
Tuesday, March 3, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

The meeting was held at the Bronx Community Board 8 office, 5676 Riverdale Avenue, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471-2194.

Committee Members in attendance (7): Constance Barnes-Watson (Chair), Caesar Tobar-Acosta (Vice Chair), Richard Perez, Karen Walker, Daniel Nunez, Laura Levine-Pinedo, Nick Fazio, Ashley Medina (CCM)

Absent Committee Members (1): Angel Ortega

Board Members/Staff in attendance: Julie Reyes

Guests/Attendees: No guests in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

Welcome and Introductions:

The Chair began the meeting with their report below;

Chairperson's report:

- Community Planning Fellow, Kahdija Jabbi, working on the backend of LiveXYZ and presenting to KHCC this week.
- We continue to work with the Save Knolls Coalition; Caesar shared organizing tips with the group on 2.21.2026. Nick spoke with Karen Kawaguchi, Save Knolls Coalition lead, about the Community Reinvestment Act, community banks, and federally chartered banks. Barbara Kail, Chair of Aging, also wants to work with us and the Coalition to apply to become a [Naturally Occurring Retirement Community \(NORC\)](#).

Next agenda item:

Roll Call

- Attendance listed above

The next agenda item was Approval of the January and February Minutes:

- Unanimously approved

The next agenda item was the discussion of the EDC's 27-28 Budget Priorities:

- Caesar and Constance shared notes they had collected on the agency's past responses across the Board regarding the EDC. We noted overlap between items that would state "EDC" and those for "SBS." For Capital Expenses, we suggested pushing again for support for the SBS BEST & CLA programs.
- Farrah mentioned Labor Law 75; however, the compliance due date is 7/1/26.
- For Expenses (<\$5000), we discussed the possibilities of supporting small businesses with social media,
 - Another suggestion, is to partner with the Kingsbridge BID &/or the Kingsbridge Merchants Associations to provide support similar to the request made by the Jerome Avenue Revitalization Collaborative (JARC): *"SBS, EDC and HPD should continue to support and collaborate with the Jerome Avenue Revitalization Collaborative (JARC), to create economic growth for area residents and small business development for*

organizations like WHEDco and BronxWorks to engage with street vendors to find acceptable locations and obtain licenses to sell wares. In particular, working with JARC steering committee members to deploy Cross-Collaboration

- We also suggested cross-collaboration with other Committees, i.e., Safety, T&T, and ENT, for a combined request to address needs arising from the long-lasting MTA construction.

The next agenda item was Old Business:

- The MVM application has been shared; only two applicants thus far. Daniel will do a “Business Walk” along the 231 & Albany Crescent area to hand out the BXCB8 one-pager.
- A discussion ensued regarding contact information and ways to collect and store it. Julie noted that previous digital attempts by former Board members are no longer available, and our efforts are starting from scratch.

The next agenda item was New Business:

- Daniel suggested creating a BXCB8 one-pager to begin distributing to businesses in the district so they are aware of the Community Board and the support it provides.
- Caesar spoke on behalf of the “Our Bronx” Coalition about the Public Feedback Session of the Bronx Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy on **Saturday, March 28th at 3 PM** at The Freeman House, 1125 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY
 - On Saturday, March 28, from
 - 10:30-12pm Workforce Tabling Fair
 - 11-2pm Our Bronx Community Meeting
 - 3-5 pm public feedback session on the Bronx Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Adjournment

- Meeting ended at 8:02 PM

Submitted by Constance Barnes-Watson
Chair BXCB8 Economic Development Committee