

**(Pending Committee Approval)**  
Minutes of the Special Committee on Racial Equity Meeting  
February 2, 2022, via Zoom

**Attendees**

Committee: Bob Bender, Margaret Della, Camelia Tepelus, Julia Gomez, Ramdat Singh, Bob Fanuzzi

Absent: Julie Reyes

Other CB8: Laura Spalter

Community: Satinah Choudhury, Danielle Guggenheim

Presenter: Sandra Lobo, Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC)

**Agenda**

The meeting began at 7:02 pm and Chair Margaret Della welcomed the community to the meeting. Minutes of December 2021 were approved unanimously with edit to C. Tepelus committee assignments. SCRE is awaiting edits from the following Standing Committees to update their work/activities focused on advancing racial equity:

Budget

Education, Libraries and Culture

Health, Hospitals and Social Service

Housing

Land Use

Public Safety Committee

Chair Spalter will work to update this information that will be updated on the CB8 website as a link from the SCRE report.

Sandra Lobo, Executive Director, Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC), presented on its work in the community as a social justice organization. They work in housing/tenants rights, community land development, economic development, voter registration, education and offer an [agenda](#) that focuses on the advancement of the Bronx.

NWBCCC priorities in CB8 are housing, land use and youth issues:

- The goal is to keep tenants in their homes - top causes for homelessness are lack of affordable housing and mental health issues.
- NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) took over the Armory agreement as of December 2021 and this is a huge priority for the entire Bronx. The Kingsbridge Armory

is the world's largest armory and requires community engagement and benefit from whatever comes from this agreement.

- Youth need resources in the community. Schools require a reinvestment model, ensure nurses in every school, summer youth employment (SYEP), appropriate school safety measures.

NWBCCC are very interested to work with all committees of CB8 as they do with CB6 and CB7. All are invited to attend their annual meeting on February 12th to learn more:

<https://www.northwestbronx.org/>

SCRE has a few gaps on committee assignments in other standing committees:

- Camelia agreed to attend T&T as official committee member, if Chair allows, or as regular board member
- Margaret agreed to attend LRE as official committee member, if Chair allows, or as regular board member
- Still have opening on HealthHSS

SCRE members are tasked with prioritization of equity in the Budget at each of their Standing Committees. SCRE members recommend all Committees to make their budget recommendations investing in areas of the Community Board that have been overlooked and underinvested. Laura/Margaret offer to do review of capital and expense as an analysis on budget investment from year to year to review, quantifying measure of how we serve the community.

SCRE members reviewed recommendations from the January 2021 SCRE Initial Report and will look more closely at them prior to our March meeting:

- SCRE and standing committees initiatives that address racial equity - *In-progress*
  - SCRE member to formally attend at least one meeting of a standing committee to share research and/or gather information relating to racial equity and racial equity assessment - *In-progress*
  - Provide resources on topics to advance RE component of discussion - *unknown*
  - Consider enshrining this process in the by-laws and ethical guidance manual of the community board - *unknown*
- Interim Report by May 2022 - High-level updates/updated list of activities each year in May that is an addendum to existing SCRE report - *In-progress*
- Identify and compile a list of equity-focused, community-oriented, and faith-based organizations that are interested in engaging in this work - *In-progress*
- Public Forum - *On hold*
- Hold meetings in various parts of district - *On hold*
- Training and ongoing discussion with Board members and staff on (un)conscious bias, structural racism - *unknown*
- Support increased diversity on CB8 through BP, public events, reach community where they are - *In-progress*

- Consider creating RE Standing Committee - *On hold*

**Action items:**

- Review Recommendations from SCRE report and make edits, suggestions, comments - All SCRE members
- City Investment in our District Assessment by Agency/Map Resources/Determine Gaps/Make Recommendations move to March - Ramdat
- Circulate CB Application to NWBCCC and through social media - **Take action now due March 4th** - Office staff, M. Della
- Equity in ethical guidance - LRE working on this
- Review community list - B.Bender
- Interim report with variable parts - J. Reyes to oversee
- Finalize Committee Activity list and upload to website - J. Reyes, M. Della
- Training and ongoing discussion with Board members and staff on (un)conscious bias, structural racism - Laura Spalter will follow up with Borough President Office on training

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm. Minutes submitted by Margaret Della

SCRE Member Committee Assignments							
	Bob B.	Margaret D.	Bob F.	Julia G.	Julie R	Ramdat S.	Camelia T.
Aging		X					
ELCA						X	
Econ Dev							X
Env & Sanit			X				
Housing		X		X			
HealthHSS							
Land use	X		X	X			
LawRE		X					
Parks & Rec	X					X	
Public Safety					X		
Traffic&Trans p					X		X
Youth				X			