# Bronx Community Board 8
# Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
# Bronx Community Board 8 Office
# September 2, 2026 7:00pm

Meeting Recording

**Committee Members Present** (16): Martin Wolpoff, Debby Allen, Dr. Wayne Debeatham, Margaret Della, Edward Green, Barbara Kail, Daniel Rowen, Sylvia Alexander (ADA on Zoom), Debra Travis, Caesar Tobar-Acosta, Constance Barnes Watson, Rhashida Hilliard, Brittany Reynoso, Bob Bender, Jessica Sosa and Charles G. Moerdler.

**Committee Members Absent**
Absent (3): Sergio Villaverde, Julie Reyes (on zoom), Althea Eboh

**Staff**
Farrah Kule Rubin

**Board and Community Guests**

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

**Presentation: NYC Independent Budget Office**

- Speaker Hanna Leverrenz - Community engagement specialist and Camron Chapman- Budget and policy analyst, provided a budget review from New York City Independent Budget Office (IBO)
- IBO is a nonpartisan city agency that provides data driven analysis of how New York City raises and spends money; offers budget presentations and education, testimony, trends from agency responses to medical emergencies; reviewed primary budget actors, budget timeline, revenues and expenses and expense and capital budgets
- Question arose regarding the footnote regarding on the community boards participating in the city's budget
- Questions arose regarding which agency is currently understaffed while the presenters stated that Human Resources was understaffed in EBT department etc.

**Roll Call**

Quorum met

**Approval of Executive Committee Minutes: June 3rd, 2026**

Minutes unanimously approved.

**Chairperson's Report**

- Thank you to Immediate Past Chair Julie Reyes, Marty Wolpoff, Vice Chair Bob Bender, Steve Matthews, Dr. Constance Barnes Watson, Farrah, and Jaylyn for their support over the summer.
- Thank you to those who volunteered over the summer, including Marble Hill Day, and Marty, the LRE Committee, Dr. Barnes, Emily Hausman for their wisdom and guidance in onboarding new members at the New Member Orientation.
- As a reminder, we will be following CB8 Bylaws in which three unexcused meetings will be brought before the Executive Committee.
- Chair will be calling all ADA members to review and approve for FY27.
- Chair will send formal letter to Bronx Borough President Gibson for Vice Chair Bender to vote on behalf of Chair when absent.
- CB8 seeks Chair of the Traffic and Transportation Committee. Please speak with colleagues about taking on this important leadership opportunity.
- CB8 submitted its FY27 Letter of Priorities as requested by Bronx Borough President Gibson to complete her 4-Year Policy Statement as required by the NYC Charter.
- FY27 kicks off the transitional year — first year of term limits, executed in March 2027. CB8 requests current Board Members sign up to become mentors (existing)/mentees (new and under 3 years of service) — aim for one conversation per quarter (coffee, Zoom, etc.). Emily created conversation starters to help get new engagements rolling.
- Transition planning begins next Executive Committee:
    - Standing Committees to nominate Vice Chair by October Executive meeting, two Vice Chairs as possible.
    - Attend October Executive Committee meeting, virtually, if possible, to accommodate seating.
    - Think about the optimal ways to preserve institutional memory — standard operating procedures, contacts, plans, and long-standing, perennial, and upcoming issues.
    - CB8 considering establishing Working Group on Transition

- CB8 will nominate three members for Westhab Community Advisory Board at 6661 Broadway: Laura Spalter, Debra Harris, Bob Bender
- CB8 will renew the Social Media Working Group — will offer up opportunity to newer members
- Focus in FY27 is to increase visibility in the community — community clean-ups scheduled for 9/26 and 10/3 - please attend, business visits vs in-office meetings. We welcome other ideas.
- Under new business, we review how the committee presents its work to the community

**Treasurer Report**

**September** 2026 Treasurer's Report

- $782,534 CB8 FY27 operating Budget
- No budget mods at this point
- Will work closely with DM on accounting for supplies purchased and open personnel position

**District Manager (DM)Report**

- Welcomed 9 new members
- Reported on busy summer working on our calendar, doing events and re-organizing everything for this new term. Thank you, Marty, for meeting DM at the office and for your guidance on the calendar.
- There were many issues with computers and phones this summer and DM has been working to fix and upgrade. Will upgrading our phone systems to Verizon next week and also had the office repainted.
- Office tabled at these events over this summer -
    - National Night Out, Marble Hill NYCHA Family Day
    - Upcoming events: Back to School on September 18 at IN TECH, Food
    - Distribution with Theory 9 on Friday September 25.
    - Clean Up events:
        - Friday September 11th 11-2 clean up with Angel Ortega Henry Hudson Service Road 246 to W. 252 (need a couple of board volunteers)
        - Saturday September 26 at Marble Hill and West 225th and Jacobus Pl.
        - Saturday, October 3 at VCV by Sedgwick and Ft. Independence - meet at KHHCC
        - Volunteers needed.
    - Thanked Senator Rivera's office, for supplying us with bookbags to distribute for the IN-TECH Academy event and food distribution event.

Other upcoming events: Boo Bash on October 24 and our Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway in November.

- Distributed 150 tickets to organizations and residents in our district for NYBG Flower Power events.
- Laura Spalter and DM participated in 8/24 Site Visit at the WestHab Men's Shelter opening up next week on Broadway and sent memo to board members.
- Vice Chair Bob Bender and DM attended the BP Orientation and Swearing in for our 9 new Board members.
- Attending the Manhattan University Street Co-Naming event with Bob Bender 9/3/2026 at 1:00. Open to the public.
- Completed several trainings including Dining Out NYC CB Portal Training and Upkeep of records DORIS
- The office worked on many constituent services cases over the summer. We appreciate the partnership and communication we have with our elected official offices and City agencies that work with us on these issues.
- DM held the first District Service Cabinet Meeting September 1. Next meeting will be on October 6, 2026.
- Office is working on our Summer into fall newsletter.
- Reported on a wonderful New Member/New Chair Orientation at Bronx Alehouse in August. Thank you to Chair Margaret Della, presenters Marty Wolpoff and Emily Hausman and to our Community Associate Jaylyn Adorno for making it such a successful evening. We gave out information and guidance for our new members.
- Interviewed applicants with the Search committee for the Community Coordinator position, an offer was made and will say more in Exec Session.
- Will submit 2 proposals for the NYC Fund Fellowship program again due September 4th.
- Summer Office Hours will end this week and we resume our 9-5pm Regular Office hours on September 8, 2026

**Committee Reports:** Board Members are reminded to read resolutions prior to meeting. View Board Calendar for up-to-date meeting dates and locations. View Committee minutes or CB8's YouTube Channel.

- Aging - Piloting Aging Resource Guide and hope to distribute by October or November. Next meeting 9/10.
- Budget - Meeting 9/8 before next Regular Board meeting to offer public hearing on FY 28 Capital and Expense list, which was amended and voted on in June. Final vote will take place at September Regular Board meeting.

- Economic Development (EDC) - Met 9/1 and discussed plans for the year ahead, including quarterly walk thrus and ongoing issues with MTA/Marble Hill commercial corridor.
- Education, Libraries, & Cultural Affairs - None.
- Environment & Sanitation - Next meeting 9/16. Join us for two posted clean ups. We will be welcoming new members.
- Housing - Next meeting 9/28. Discuss Mayor's Block by Block initiative and plan to break up discussion of Initiative over 4 months from October to January.
- Health, Hospitals and Social Services (HHSS)- Next meeting 9/9. Discussion regarding New York Health Act.
- Land Use - Met 9/10. Discussion on Charter Revisions vis a vis Amalgamated/Van Cortlandt Village area and others to come; implications of these actions on independence of Landmarks Commission.
- Law Rules and Ethics (LRE) - Next meeting 9/14 Discussion on Charter Revisions, diminishing NYC Council, Borough President and Community Board authority. Filing letter on Term Tenure.
- Parks & Rec - No meeting in June. Ewen Park stairs construction started, monitoring parking issues. Continue to ask Parks for Van Cortlandt Park Stadium Plan. New Parks Resource Guide to be translated into Spanish. Miriam Filer agreed to be Vice Chair. Tibbett's Brook Daylighting to start any day now. Next meeting 9/23.
- Public Safety - Next meeting 9/15. Top issues: auto theft, quality of life specifically noise complaints, and gun violence. Will discuss 3 State Liquor Authority applications (one renewal, two new applications).
- Traffic & Transportation (T&T) - Next meeting 9/17. Seeking new committee chair and actively recruiting for this position.
- Youth - Met 6/23 to discuss the year ahead. Next meeting 9/24.
- Special Committee on Hudson River Greenway - 1. MTA/Metro-North planned resiliency project along the Hudson River shoreline in Riverdale. MTA/MNR will present the design for this plan this fall. After Labor Day, we will contact them about the date to try to prevent it from conflicting with any other CB8 committee meeting. This project has significant implications for the proposed greenway. We have alerted all of the local officials whose district includes the waterfront. There are issues regarding who owns the property on which MTA/MNR proposes to build. This matter will be discussed at that meeting. Working with Councilman Eric Dinowitz on getting a city agency to become the official sponsor of the HRG. At present no city agency is responsible. We have identified the appropriate agency -- the Economic

Development Corporation (EDC). The Councilman is working on making this happen.
- Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) - None.
- Special Committee on Veterans Services (SCVS) - None.

**Unfinished Business**

- Members discussed Transition planning, creating templates and utilizing AI for helping create Committee and long-standing member transition plans
- Members discussed engaging new members, so they know how to get involved
- Members discussed engaging the Riverdale Press to broadcast what the Community Board is doing
- Disclosure of Chuck Moerdler that in his professional capacity he represents the United Federation of Teachers and will evaluate conflicts of interest, where applicable.

**New Business**

- In FY27, focus is less presentation, showing more work being done.
- Chair seeks to differentiate the purpose of Executive Committee reports - where we discuss issues, challenges, uncertainties - versus Regular Board Meetings where we present on Standing Committee work.
    - Executive Committee chair remarks (brief): 1–3 goals/priorities, including 311 data, action items, where help/collaboration is needed, and resolution timeline
    - Regular Board: present most urgent goal/priority, focusing implication on community, action items related to NYC agencies, and deadline for resolution. Refer to minutes for all other context. Each report takes no more than 3 mins, optimally less.
- Imperative that we keep Regular Board Meetings within agreed upon time or we will lose space. Max 2.5 hour meetings.
    - 3 minutes allotted for: gallery, elected officials, and committee chair reporting at Regular Board Meetings.
    - Resolutions (est. 3–6 per meeting): length of discussion to be limited
        - 5 minutes per resolution; group germane resolutions together
        - 1 minute for Q&A
- CB8 asks new board members to get involved and seeks input on how to engage them:
    - Social Media Group / website revamp
    - Recommending high school students to serve as interns
    - Joining Special committees: Veterans, SCRE, HRG
    - Participating in standing committee restructuring following LRE review

- Celebrate CB8 outgoing Board Members in March 2027
- Assist in preparing outgoing transition documents

**Executive Session**

A motion was made and seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 8:51pm.

Executive Session concluded at 9:01pm

**Adjournment** A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:02 pm.

The next Executive Meeting anticipated 10/07/26 at 7pm.

Submitted by,

Brittany Reynoso, Secretary
Margaret Della, Chair