

Bronx Community Board 8
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
February 7, 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NssPFBxZbuw&t=6s>

Committee Members Present

Sylvia Alexander, Bob Bender, Kelli Buford, Margaret Della, Nicholas Fazio, David Gellman, Rosemary Ginty, Edward Green, Scott Krompinger, Oscar Martinez, Laura Spalter, Debra Travis, Julie Reyes, Martin Wolpoff

Committee Members Approved Hybrid for Extraordinary Circumstances

Committee Members Absent

Dr. Julia Gomez, Robert Fanuzzi, Charles Moerdler, Sergio Villaverde, Rabbi Bob Kaplan

Staff/Board Members

Farrah Kule Rubin, Mary Ellen Gibbs

Chairperson Reyes convened the meeting at 7:05pm with a roll call. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order.

Approval of Executive Committee Minutes: January 3, 2024

The Committee unanimously approved the January 3, 2024, Executive Committee minutes as amended.

Chairperson's Report

1. Resolutions and any meeting materials must be submitted to the office by noon the day prior to any meeting so they can be reviewed and distributed.
2. During meetings, please do not speak unless you are called upon and given the floor.
3. During Full Board meetings with packed agenda, Chair is considering hearing up to three opposing/favorable points on resolutions before the vote, up to 10 minutes. She asked for feedback on this consideration.
4. Agendas will include Council Members (CM) separately from other elected officials. Representatives will get 1 min to discuss upcoming matters in the next 1-2 weeks. CMs and elected officials will still get 3 mins and will speak before reps whether in person or on Zoom. Questions will be limited by 1min. All other questions can be sent to the office for follow-up.
5. At the next General Board, Conflict of Interest Board (COIB) will present 10-15 mins. Including Q&A. Any questions can be sent to the office for follow-up.

6. During meetings, all board members should address the Chair and follow norms as directed. Board members should contact the Chair prior to the next meeting if they do not understand. Do not wait for the meeting to ask for clarification.
7. During meetings, Committee chairs may read the 'Whereas' portion of resolutions but should explain the resolution succinctly. The Chair will call on individuals for comments for discussion. Board members will get materials timely and must-read materials before meeting.
8. CB8 Board will be moving forward with the removal of a board member.
9. The Chair will discuss awards for new business.
10. The Chair attended Borough President's (BP) Board meeting, CB8 voted in opposition to City of Yes with conditions. She also met with the BP separately on City of Yes and office space.
11. Considering Special Committee on City of Yes with one resolution emerging. She mentioned it to the BP. Everyone can attend the Committee meetings with representation from relevant Standing Committees. Joint meetings did not work. Any Committee can bring its own resolution to the Board but should strongly consider only doing so when asked by the Special Committee.

Executive Session

Voted unanimously to go into session based on Open Meetings Law 105-H regarding the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property and 105-F regarding personnel. Voted to come back out of session - unanimous.

Treasurer Report

1. Presented monthly report - February 2024 - as of January 31, 2024
2. Funds spent down on office supplies, contractual cleaning, microphones, and speakers for upcoming meetings.
3. No budget modifications for the month. \$10k cushion remains.

District Manager Report

1. Events held:
 1. 100 COVID test kits received from CM Dinowitz distributed to community; 102 more kits from DOHMH being distributed.
 2. After the successful Department of Buildings (DOB) Constituent Services event in December, office working to schedule another.
2. Office secured all meeting spaces through the rest of the year. Check the calendar for the location of the meeting since it is different every month throughout the district.
3. Office is researching new speaker equipment for meetings: affordable, learning from other Community Boards, looking to purchase and set up ourselves rather than a service. Continue to use portable system for now.

4. Working on posting press releases for 2/15 for Awards: Community Merchant and Community Service. We want to get nominations in from Feb 15 to March 15.
5. DM District Service meeting. Will send minutes.
6. Reminder to send Committee Agendas to the office 10 days before and minutes 10 days after the meeting.
7. Thank you for well-wishes and support. Feeling better.

Committee Reports If you have a resolution, Committee will go first.

1. Aging - 2/7 speaker canceled so the meeting was canceled. Next meeting 3/14.
2. Budget - Received Agency responses to FY25 capital and expense requests. All submissions and responses on CB8 website. Office asked for comments. Chairs should follow up with respective agencies. Mayor's office expects a response from CB8 by 2/20. Budget hearing 6:30pm 2/13 for community to review Agency responses. Reminder on the FY26 Timeline: February separate capital/expense lists, March prioritize, April finalize prioritization. Recommended that Committees vote to approve a final prioritized list. Lists due to Budget Chair and Board Chair by April 17, 2024.
3. Economic Development - 2/6 meeting. Refer to minutes discussed budget, KRVC grant, DSNY container laws and zones, street vendors. 3/8 walk thru potential date with DOT re: permanent outdoor dining.
4. Education, Libraries, & Cultural Affairs - 1/23 meeting discussed Mayoral Control of Schools - deadline June 30th. Next meeting 2/27.
5. Environment & Sanitation - Meeting held in January. Awaiting Committee edits on Resolution regarding MTA waste transfer station near Marble Hill. Next meeting 2/21.
6. Health Hospitals & Social Services - None.
7. Housing - No quorum at last meeting. Seeking presenters on housing, NYC Housing Preservation & Development (HPD) representative Ted Weinstein coming to next meeting. Received documents for updating the Housing brochure. Asked CM Sanchez to attend the March meeting. See minutes.
8. Land Use - Resolution regarding City abdicating responsibility to come to CB prior to establishing casino. Seeing NYS to select sites without community input. Resolution reaffirming right of review. Upcoming agenda: 1) 4401 Manhattan College Parkway - changes were made to the property without prior approval by Landmarks because it's in a historic district. Want to make more repairs. Tabled with questions until March meeting. 2) Section surrounding Van Cortlandt Park (VCP) Library /Jewish Center - developer wants to knock down and put-up housing. Jewish Center leadership presented. Nothing for us to review as proposal not filed. Concern is what happens to religious institutions. 3) Met with Stagg to discuss plan due in December, but construction has been delayed.
9. Law Rules & Ethics (LRE)- COIB coming to Feb Board meeting, March LRE meeting. Next meeting will discuss a plain language guide. Will discuss timing of elections for nominating and elections of officers to include transitional period and ethical guidance memo on nominating committee calendar revision that does not require change in bylaws.

10. Parks - National Society of Colonial Dames attended. Next meeting 2/28. Spoke to Parks this week. At next meeting, will discuss Dames' next steps, muggings in the Park and response from NYPD, and budget items.
11. Public Safety - See minutes. Upcoming agenda: 2 SLA, 1 SLA Corp change, closure 236 and Broadway. Preliminary budget items.1 Resolutions for Full Board:
 1. Renewal Wine/Beer/Cider: Caridad Restaurant - Approved
12. Traffic & Transportation- Next meeting 2/15. NYC DOT will be present to discuss VCP South & I-87 Deegan entrance/intersection.
13. Youth - None.
14. Special Committee on Hudson River Greenway - MTA acknowledged that they have severe resiliency problems along Hudson. They are conducting a 20-year capital assessment with a 5 yr. capital budget plan. Resiliency project to benefit or not inhibit Greenway.
15. Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) - Discussed recent FBI report in which hate crimes at elementary school are the third most likely place where individuals reported instances. The Committee initially discussed just collaborating with the Youth and HHS - impact on health - Committees, ... soon, every Committee and collaboration was deemed critical. The Committee recommends each Committee should consider taking on 'hate' in some way.
16. Special Committee on Veterans Services - None

Old Business

None

New Business

The Chair clarified Board Awards. For example, Community Service Award is a Board award, rather than a committee award. Committees make recommendations, brings recognitions like awards and other commemorations by Committee with recommendations to Executive Committee, and then to the Full Board for vote. Tabled until next month.

Member relayed that CM Dinowitz asked for volunteers to join with NYPD for homeless outreach remuneration.

Next Executive Committee is March 6th.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The chairperson adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:26pm.

Submitted by,
Margaret Della, Secretary