



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



GREGORY FAULKNER, CHAIRPERSON

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 17th, 2009 @ 6:30 PM

Fordham Hill Senior Center, 2455 Sedgwick Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468

- I) Public Session: Greg Faulkner opened the Public Session at 6:35pm.
 - A) Alec Diacu of "Yes, the Bronx," described his plans to rebrand the Bronx on a national and international level. He displayed a picture of a tower which he hoped to have constructed in the Bronx. A restaurant is planned for the top of the tower.
 - B) Nick Napolitano from the "Norwood Food Co-op" told the Board about membership benefits in the co-op. One can join for about \$310 per summer and receive fresh organic produce for 14 weeks.
 - C) William Stanton (Mr. X) discussed the MTA meeting set for 3/25/09.
 - D) Dr. Fernando Cabrera: Thanked the Board for the return of the bus stop on Sedgwick Ave. He asked the Board's help with the problems of over-night truck parking on Bailey Ave, gambling and noise in Devoe Park, and car break-ins.
 - E) Arlene Peralta from Assemblyman Nelson Castro's office announced a Town Hall meeting for 3/19/09 at M.S. 399.
 - F) Judy Gonzalez described the strike by Stella D'Oro workers and asked everyone to boycott the company's products.
 - G) Betsy Ucharius representing Regional Education for the State Dept. of Environmental Education announced a free summer camp program for 12-14, and 15-17 year olds.
 - H) Geraldine Salvatore whose father lives at 3001 Briggs Ave., the site of the transitional housing, complained about the lack of a super in the building and the need to wait 6 months for a repair. She also stated that her father did not have mail service at the building since July.
 - I) Mr. Perez, a black belt instructor from a karate center located at 80 W. Kingsbridge Rd. reported that the center has revamped its pricing for young people.
 - J) Mr. Flores and Ms. Bell from the American Cancer Society described the services which are offered at their Bronx office located at 2330 Eastchester Road. They also advertised a fundraiser to be held at Lehman College on 5/13/09.
 - K) Clinton T. Flanagan from "Big Brother and Big Sister," a volunteer group asked for individuals to volunteer their service as mentors for young people in grades 4-9.
 - L) Reverend Joseph Smart who works with Senator Espada on faith based initiatives stated that grant money was available and groups need to work together to obtain this funding.
 - M) Councilmember Oliver Koppell updated the Board on the MTA crisis, senior centers, education, day care problems, transitional housing, and the Kingsbridge Armory re-development.
- II) The Board meeting opened at 7:20 PM. Attendance was taken and a quorum was present.
- III) Chairperson's Report:
 - A) Greg Faulkner announced that he had sent two letters regarding the re-development of the armory. One letter was sent to IDA encouraging them to approve the tax rebates for Related. The 2nd letter went to the Comptroller's Office stating that all parties must be included in the negotiations for a community benefits agreement.
 - B) Mr. Faulkner also announced that we are still working to obtain a community center at the former Fordham Library site.



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



GREGORY FAULKNER, CHAIRPERSON

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

- C) A nominating committee was selected by the Chair. The committee consists of Ozzie Brown, Michael Pimental, George Berdejo, Socrates Caba, Carmen Cordero, and Yvette Page. The committee will consist of 5 members and one alternate.
- IV) Executive Committee Report
- A) Paul foster introduced Judy Gonzalez, an ER nurse and union leader at Montefiore Hospital. Ms. Foster requested a letter in support of retaining their pension benefits at the hospital. The issue was referred to the Health Committee to study and decide whether to send a letter. A suggestion to set-up a sub-committee to decide similar issues was made.
- B) Mr. Foster proposed three motions:
- 1) Motion #1: A letter of support to the State Liquor Authority be sent requesting that a liquor license be given to 30 de Marzo, a social club located at East 198th St. The motion was approved with one abstention.
 - 2) Motion #2: A letter of support not be given to Common Ground for the construction of 159 studio apartments for homeless veterans on the Grand Concourse and E. 192nd Street. Although this agency has an excellent track record, it is felt that this location is not appropriate. The motion carried with one opposition.
 - 3) Motion #3: The by-laws be changed to incorporate the proposed changes for Board elections dated 2/17/09. (see Attached). The motion passed with 16 in favor and 6 abstentions.
- C) Paul Foster closed his report with the announcement of a meeting of the Educational Committee on 3/19/09.
- V) District Manager's Report: Fernando Tirado updated the Board on the following items:
- A) Transitional Housing in the area.
 - B) DOT's sidewalk repairs slated for the summer.
 - C) Upcoming opening of the Dallas Barbecue Restaurant on Fordham Road.
 - D) The Board's partnership with the Children's Arts and Science Workshop for summer youth employment.
 - E) Graffiti removal
 - F) The Board's requirements for supporting the renewal of liquor licenses.
 - G) The status of the Board's website.
 - H) Return of the Sedgwick Ave. bus stop.
 - I) The need for the Board to learn about the intricacies of a community benefits agreement.
- VI) Committee Reports:
- A) Environmental/Sanitation: Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky proposed the following change in the by-laws:
- 1) Motion #4: The name of the Environmental/Sanitation Committee be changed to Environmental Issues. The motion passed unanimously.
 - 2) The committee chair requested residents and Board members to report areas needing signs to remind dog owners to clean-up after their pets.
- B) Health and Hospitals: Socrates Caba announced that the next committee meeting will be on 3/24/09.
- C) Land Use: Ozzie brown reviewed the change in zoning for Webster Avenue.
- D) Parks' and Recreation: The Parks' Committee proposed the following two motions:
- 1) Motion #5: The committee recommends that the board approve the plans for the creation of the Putnam Greenway through Van Cortlandt Park from the City line to W. 230th Street. The area is a 2.5 mile segment of the decommissioned Putnam Railroad Right-of-Way. The motion was approved.



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



GREGORY FAULKNER, CHAIRPERSON

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

- 2) Motion #6: The Parks Committee recommends that the Board approve the scope of work for the Aqueduct Lands Project. The rehab work will extend from Kingsbridge Road to Morton Place. The motion was approved.
- E) Traffic and Transportation: Lowell Green announced that DOT would be improving pedestrian safety in the University Heights area. She also requested sites to be transformed from illegal to legal parking areas.
- F) Youth Services: Waleska Roldan announced that the CASW is looking for businesses to provide work experiences for summer youth jobs. She proposed the following motions:
 - 1) Motion #7: The Youth Services Committee co-sponsor a day of parent workshops with MS 80 on Sat. May 2nd from 10:00am -3:00pm. The motion was approved.
 - 2) Motion #8: A Youth Committee webpage or site be created and linked to the CB#7 website. The motion was approved.
- VII) Greg Faulkner asked the Board to approve the minutes from our February meeting. The minutes were approved.
- VIII) Borough President's Report: Andy Toledo distributed flyers describing how to claim unemployment benefits.
- IX) 52nd Precinct Report:
 - A) P.O. Wilson Hernandez gave the monthly crime report.
 - B) P.O. Matt Crowley discussed the work of the Graffiti Coordinator and gave the phone number for the Clean Halls Project. Contact Officer McGuire at 220-5807.
 - C) Greg Faulkner again requested the presence of the Deputy Inspector at our monthly meetings.
- X) The meeting was adjourned at 9:10PM.