



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

PAUL FOSTER, CHAIRMAN

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013 @ 6:30 PM

Held at: St. Philip Neri Church ♦ 3025 Grand Concourse ♦ Parish Center ♦ Bronx, 10468

I) Opening Statements by Paul Foster:

- A) Paul asked for a minute to reflect on the Boston massacre victims

II) Public Session:

A) Lowell Green, Board Member:

- 1) Spoke about the River Plaza complex, as well as Target's proposal for installing a storage building on the site. A public hearing about a change in zoning to approve the project will be held
- 2) Villa Avenue became a one-way street going north
- 3) Ms. Green reported on the Concourse project that is in construction
- 4) Williamsbridge Oval pedestrian safety improvement at a meeting on Wednesday at MMCC with DOT on Wednesday 4/17 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm

B) Kwasi, Community Resident:

- 1) Concerned about the condition of Parks in the Community, especially the trees and he would like to see more green areas

C) Dilletta Pina, Board Member:

- 1) Announced Health Information Forum to take place on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at St. James Park
- 2) The next Health and Hospitals Committee meeting will take place on 5/20/12 at 6:00pm

D) Victor Vazquez, Puerto Rican Day Parade Rep:

- 1) Parade will take place on June 2nd at 1pm. The parade will start at 192nd Street and Grand Concourse

E) Zelnor Myrie, Chair of the Neighborhood Advisory Group 7 (NAB) 7:

- 1) Talked about federal grants that benefit the community and the responsibility of the Community Board to get the word out about the priorities. Surveys are due on June 28th
- 2) The amount to be awarded is \$360,000. The needs of the community is paramount
- 3) Public Hearing to be held on June 15th will discuss how to obtain funding. The Public Hearing will be held at the Bedford Park Senior Center

F) Walter Bell, Board Member:

- 1) Announced that on June 16th, women over 40 without health insurance are eligible for a free Mammography



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- G) Inspector Joseph Dowling, 52nd Pct:
- 1) Crimes are up during the last 3 weeks (14%). 3 shootings during this time have been reported
 - 2) 4/4, there was a Federal take down on Narcotic (194th Street and Briggs Avenue)
 - 3) Some assaults in the Parks; Grand Larceny is also up
 - 4) Questions about security in NYC after the Boston Massacre were raised and discussed at length
 - 5) Comp-Stats were available for distribution
- H) William Smith, Congressman Charles Rangel's Office:
- 1) Announced that the congressman will hold a tenant meeting on Monday 4/22 at 6:00pm at Tracey Towers, all are welcome
- I) Timothy Tapia, Councilman Cabrera's Rep:
- 1) Reported on the Crime Mapping Bill that Councilman Cabrera will introduce
 - 2) FREE Big Apple Tickets are available from the Councilman for local schools
- J) Natalia Fernandez, Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj's Office:
- 1) The Assemblyman will be at M.S.80 on May 1st regarding a Graffiti initiative
 - 2) "Take Back the Night" will be held on 4/24/13 at Lehman College at 5:00pm
 - 3) They are looking for a satellite office in the community
- K) George Diaz, Councilman Oliver Koppell's Office:
- 1) There will be an "Access-A-Ride" workshop on May 14th
 - 2) Spoke about "ENCORE! A JAZZ REVIVAL" to be held on 4/28 at the Woodlawn Cemetery from 1-4pm
 - 3) Discussed the "FREE Quit Smoking Program", An 8-session program to help people quit smoking is starting on April 29, 2013 in the 1st Floor Conference Room at Montefiore Medical Park, 1695 Eastchester Road from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
 - 4) Neighborhood Leadership Institute, FREE skill building workshops for emerging immigrant leaders are being offered by the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs from April 13th through May 4th, 2013 from 11 a.m. to 2 or 3 p.m. The workshops will cover navigating city government, organizing communities, grassroots fund-raising and emergency preparedness
 - 5) Talked about The Family Center Buddy, a program that provides mentoring services to children 6-16 that have been impacted by parental illness, incarceration, crisis or other destabilizing factors. The children are matched with carefully screened mentors to enjoy recreational activities, outings and various cultural events around New York City
 - 6) Informed everyone about the Small Business Neighborhood Achievement Awards



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- 7) There will be an "Access-A-Ride Information Presentation" on 5/14 from 12:00 – 1:30pm at the Bedford Park Senior Center, located at 243 East 204th Street
 - 8) Councilman Koppell is holding a press conference on Intro. 0433A, which requires all newly manufactured taxicabs be accessible to people with disabilities who rely on wheelchairs. The Press Conference will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2013, at 11:30 a.m. on the City Hall steps
 - L) Nivardo Lopez, Mayor's Office, Community Assistance Unit
 - 1) Spoke about the Free Graffiti Removal Program
 - 2) Discussed the Small Business Achievement Awards
 - M) Victor Pichardo, Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office:
 - 1) Talked about minimum wage bill that was short of the amount needed
 - 2) Fulton Correctional facility will be run by Osborne Association Facility
 - 3) Discussed "Close to Home", a program for juvenile delinquents to begin a transition program
 - N) Bryan Daniel, Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz's Office:
 - 1) Reported on efforts by the Assemblyman for a "Slow Zone" at Williamsbridge Oval
 - O) Paula Caquias represented Public Advocate Bill DeBlasio
 - P) Jose Candelario reported on a Health Forum to be held at St. James Park on 4/24 at 6:00pm about the impact of over consuming sugary drinks on youth, seniors and families in the Northwest Bronx
- III) Public Session ended at 7:40pm and meeting opened
- A) Attendance taken; Quorum present
 - B) Agenda was unanimously approved
 - C) Minutes discussed with corrections to the Parks Minutes (V-E) and Health Minutes (II-G)
 - 1) Minutes were approved with changes
- IV) Reports:
- A) Bill de Blasio, Public Advocate
 - 1) Attended the meeting and discussed issues his office is involved in i.e. safety, education, health in our communities, etc.
 - 2) Fielded questions from the audience. Subject of interest was the living wage bill and paid sick leave coverage
 - B) Tom Lucania, Borough President's Report:
 - 1) Spoke about "Hand Across the Concourse", a major event that will unite thousands of Bronxites in opposition of violence
 - 2) Paid sick leave compromise statement was given



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- 3) Talked about a statement made by the Borough President regarding Marriage Equality / Defense of Marriage Act
- 4) The Borough President submitted a testimony to the NYC Council against proposed cuts to the Community Board's Budget
- 5) Bronx Week, May 9th through May 19th
- C) Chairperson's Report by Paul Foster:
 - 1) Paul announced the monitoring committee names; 4 were named. Paul asked if anyone else would like to volunteer for the Committee. The Committee names were voted on and the Committee was accepted unanimously
 - a) Nilsa Cintron
 - b) John Snider
 - c) Bruce Kaufman
 - d) Dilletta Pina
 - 2) District Manager Search is on-going
 - 3) Kingsbridge Armory report was given. There was no news at the present time
- D) Executive Committee Report by Adaline Walker:
 - 1) DM position is open
 - 2) New Microsoft school opening
 - 3) April 17, there will be a Housing meeting
 - 4) Election Monitoring Committee Report
 - 5) Free online college classes was announced
- E) District Manager's Report by Tom Lucania:
 - 1) Reported on the excellent work of the office staff, Maria Baez and Juan Londy Ramirez, in the absence of a District Manager
 - 2) Board's budget was reviewed by Tom and Andrew Laiosa. There are anticipated budget cuts (from \$206,000 to \$191,000)
- V) Committee Reports:
 - A) Community Relations / Long Term Planning by Nelson Cruz:
 - 1) Commented on the Playstreet Planned for East 197th & 198th
 - B) Sanitation & Environment by Helene Hartman:
 - 1) Reported on the P.S.51 environmental situation
 - C) There will be a public hearing to hear comments and answer questions on the PS 51 Remediation Work Plan. It will be held on April 30th at 6:30pm at the Bedford Park Senior Center, located at 243 East 204th Street. Concerned neighbors and former parents of students at the school should attend



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- D) Housing by Sandra Erickson:
 - 1) Provided an update on residences in CB7
- E) Parks & Recreation by William Francis:
 - 1) Reported on the Reservoir Oval facilities and may not open this summer
 - 2) Mr. Francis made remarks about how to contact CB7
 - 3) Spoke on the planting projects at Mosholu Parkway and St. James Park
- F) Health & Hospitals by Dilletta Pina:
 - 1) There will be a Health Information Forum on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at St. James Park. All are welcome
 - 2) Reported on the Botanical Garden's presentation. The Botanical Garden wants a year-round program for public school children to learn healthy eating habits. The Botanical Garden wants letter of support. The Botanical Garden representatives will give a presentation at the next General Board meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2013
 - 3) Bill Francis remarked about the fees charged by the Botanical Garden
- G) Senior Services by Nora Feury:
 - 1) There will be a Senior Safety Workshop on May 7th at Tracey Towers
- H) Traffic & Transportation by Lowell Green:
 - 1) 4 Motions to be held at the May Meeting
 - 2) Lowell wants the Community Board Members to read the motions before the May meeting, so they can be voted on
 - 3) Explained the "Slow Zone" and announced the April 17th meeting with DOT at MMCC at 6:30pm regarding this issue
- I) Youth / Public Safety & Quality of Life by Walter Bell:
 - 1) "Bullying Topic Forum: to be held at Monroe College on May 17 from 6:00 – 9:00pm
 - 2) Remarkd on the CBall, an athletic program for youth
 - 3) The honoring of the Seniors will be held on May 10th at St. James Rec. Center
 - 4) Shared information about "Hip Hop" Parade which is conscious positive rap designed as a role model with positive self-images for the youth in our communities
- VI) Other Announcements:
 - A) To find out about events happening in the Bronx, visit www.bronxevents.com
 - B) The Land Use Committee Meeting & Public Hearing ULURP regarding the zoning change for Target store will be held on Thursday, April 25
- VII) Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm