



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

SOCRATES A. CABA, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 @ 6:30 PM

Meeting held at: Kittay House ♦ 2550 Webb Avenue ♦ Bronx, NY 10468

- I) Attendance sheet in file
- II) Public Session started at 6:30 pm with the following speakers:
 - A) Kay Boonshoft , Jewish Home:
 - 1) Welcomed the Community Board to Kittay House
 - 2) Spoke about the new University Avenue Assisted Living facility. This new building of 72 studio apartments is for seniors on Medicaid who need assistance with the daily activities of life. She asked people to take the information and inform people in the community to apply
 - B) Deputy Inspector Nidia Hofmann, Commanding Officer of 52nd Precinct:
 - 1) Spoke about the increased number of shootings in the precinct, 30 this year over 15 last year. The increase is due to gangs fighting over drugs.
 - 2) She handed out her cell phone number, [REDACTED], and asked for people to call if they had information about drug activities
 - C) Ron Jordan, representing Council Member- Elect Ritchie Torres:
 - 1) Said hello to the body
 - D) Sue Watson from Children Village, located on Webster Avenue:
 - 1) Spoke about a special project to help foster children by providing intense short term help. She is looking for individuals to become foster parents. Contact number is Robert Ward at 718-220-4700x7240 or rward@childrensvillage.org
 - E) Jane Addison-Amoyan, Mosholu Branch Library:
 - 1) Mentioned that the library had added an outdoor book drop for when the library was closed
 - F) John Liu, Controller for New York City:
 - 1) Spoke on how the controller's office works
 - 2) In response to a question about how the Park's Department funds its projects, he stated that the controller reviews all the contacts and audits the work. But, that the Park's Department needs better management to get the work done on time and on budget
 - G) Shanequa Charles, Charles Enterprises:
 - 1) Thanked the Community Board for their help in making her "Miss Abbie's Halloween" and Health Fair such a successful event
 - H) Michael Alvarez, Chief Librarian of the Bronx Library Center:
 - 1) Announced it was setting up a homework help program for grades 3-6



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- 2) He introduced Gretcher Kelder, who is in charge of setting up new programs for teenagers
- I) Tom Lucania, Bronx's Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.'s office:
 - 1) Announced that all 12 District Managers for the Bronx's Community Boards had contributed to the Community Board District Office Management Taskforce Report that had just been released
 - 2) The Bronx just had a "Savor the Bronx' Restaurant Week" with many Bronx's restaurants participating
 - 3) Bronx Lawmakers Celebrate Re-Opening of Tony's Pier Restaurant, a Family-owned City Island restaurant that burned to the ground in a fire during Superstorm Sandy
 - 4) CPC Unanimously Approves Kingsbridge Armory
 - 5) Lawsuit Against Proposed New City Island Bridge Announced
 - 6) Upcoming Events:
 - a) December 3, 2013 at 1:00pm will be Hanukkah Celebration with Dr. Ruth Westheimer; Please RSVP at 718-590-6116 if you plan on attending
 - b) December 5, 2013 at 5:30 pm will be Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Both events will be at the Bronx's Court House Building
 - c) Thursday November 21, 2013 Puerto Rican Heritage Month Celebration at Monroe College King Hall, located at 2501 Jerome Avenue
- III) Public Session ended at 7:15 pm and meeting began
- A) Attendance taken / Quorum present:
 - 1) Members in attendance (25 Members were present): Mohammed S. Ali, Walter Bell, Gloria Bent, Nilsa Cintron, Edward DeJesus, Dustin Engelken, Sandra Erickson, John Francis, William Francis, Fidel Gomez, Lowell Green, Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Jean Hill, Bruce Kaufman, Andrew Laiosa, Samelys Lopez, Eleanor Lundeen, Margaret Mack, Charlesetta Rhett, Khadijaha Saeed, Cynthia O-Neal-Riley, Dilletta Pina (arrived late), John Snider, Barbara Stronczer, Adaline Walker-Santiago
 - 2) Absent (2 Excused) members: Nora Feury, Paul Foster
 - 3) Absent (5 Unexcused) members: Stephanie Arthur, Nelson Cruz, Hector Lopez, Lisa Sills-Short, Chris Singh
 - 4) Request for Six Month Leave of Absence: Dalma Cristostom-Ward
 - B) By voice vote, excused absents and six month leave of absence was approved
 - C) Agenda for the meeting and the November General Meeting minutes were accepted by voice vote
 - D) **MOTION** by Economic Development was presented by Eleanor Lundeen:



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- 1) The CB7 Economic Development Committee approves the NYC EDC Lease to KNIC Partners LLC pursuant to Section 384(b)(4) of the New York Charter, Block 3247, Lot 10 and part of Lot 2
 - a) This motion was not part of the ULURP presentation. A roll call vote was called for
 - i) There were 20 "Yes" votes: Mohammed S. Ali, Gloria Bent, Nilsa Cintron, Edward DeJesus, Dustin Engelken, Sandra Erickson, John Franco, Fidel Gomez, Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Jean Hill, Bruce Kaufman, Samelys Lopez, Eleanor Lundeen, Margaret Mack, Charlesetta Rhett, Khadijaha Saeed, Cynthia O'Neal-Riley, John Snider, Barbara Stronczer, Adaline Walker-Santiago
 - ii) There were 2 "No" votes: Lowell Green, Andrew Laiosa
 - iii) There was 1 "Abstain" vote: William Francis
 - iv) Walter Bell left before the vote and Diletta Pina arrived after the vote had taken place
- E) The Chairperson presented a proposal to amend the By-Laws:
 - 1) Housing Committee and Land Use Committee would merge to form one committee
 - 2) Education, Libraries and Culture Affairs Committee and Youth Committee would merge to form one committee
 - a) The proposal will be voted on at the December General Board Meeting
- F) CB 7's Annual Tree Lighting will be on Wednesday December 11, 2013 at 6:00pm. The location is Mosholu Parkway Lawn at the Intersection of Mosholu Parkway & Bainbridge Avenue
- G) Chair announced a Parliamentary Procedure Workshop will be led by Board Member Dustin Engelken on December 14, from 1-2pm and, following the workshop there will be Networking Event from 2-4pm
- H) The Chair and the DM attended the opening of the new Psychiatric Emergency Room at the North Central Bronx Hospital (NCB) on November 6, 2013. At this event, it was announced that the Labor and Delivery Unit was coming back to NCB.
- I) The Chair announced that on November 28, 2013 at 6:30 pm a meeting will be held at St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church to discuss the Community Benefits Agreement for the KNIC project at the Armory
- J) The Chair announced that applications for the Yankees Community Youth Award were now available and a meeting will be held at 10:00am on Friday to submit the 5 candidates
- K) Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz spoke on his efforts to pass legislation to prevent rent increase based on added fees and not justifiable rent increases
- L) Andrew Cohen, City council Member Elect said hello to the body



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IV) District Manager's Report by Socrates A. Caba:

- A) Thanked the staff for their help in running the office
- B) The DM shared that he took a walking tour of Oliver Place with Nilsa Cintron, Lowell Green and Barbara Stronczer
- C) He thanked Jean Hill for her help with the budget.

V) Announcements:

A) Nivardo Lopez from the Mayor's Community Affairs Office:

- 1) Talked about the 5-Boro Taxi Program; this program has the green cabs that are now appearing in the Bronx
- 2) The Chair of the Traffic and Transportation Committee said she will have a speaking on this program at her January's Committee Meeting

B) Committee Reports:

- 1) Budget / Personnel / Ethics by Andrew Laiosa:
 - a) No report
- 2) Community Relations / Intergovernmental & Long Term Planning by Mohammed Ali:
 - a) The Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month and all are invited to attend
- 3) Economic Development by Eleanor Lundeen:
 - a) There is a need to update the economic map of the area
- 4) Education / Libraries / Cultural Affairs by Bruce Kaufman:
 - a) The Committee will be working on a mission statement. In addition, the Committee will be creating a list of the schools in the area, i.e. Elementary, Middle Schools, High Schools as well as Special Education Programs, etc.
 - b) Applications for the Yankees' Community Youth Award are now available. The award is for \$750 and is open to youth 13 to 17 years old. Five awards are available to CB7 youth
- 5) Environment & Sanitation by Helene Hartman-Kutnoswky:
 - a) There is a new Sanitation Manager for our District
 - b) CB7 had a poor clean street rating for September; The new manager is working to improve the rating
 - c) New "pick-up after you dog" decals are available
- 6) Health & Hospital by Khadijaha Saeed:
 - a) C-BALL (Community Board Athletic Leadership League) applications are now available
 - b) The Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of the Month and all are welcome to attend.



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- 7) Housing and Land Use by Jean Hill and Nilsa Cintron:
 - a) STAGG and the DOE fund who are building on Webster Avenue came to a combined meeting of the two Committees
 - b) The Committees would like to see mixed-use housing rather than just supportive housing for the area. The Committees would like ground as floor retail space with market rate housing buildings. Lack of available parking spaces is a concern
 - 8) Park & Recreation by Margaret Mack:
 - a) Williamsburg Oval Recreation Center will reopen on Saturday November 23, 2013 11:00am to 4:00pm. The following MOTIONS were approved by voice vote:
 - i) The Parks' Committee recommends that a letter be sent to DDC, DOT and the Parks' Dept. requesting their presence at our January Parks' Meeting to discuss the problems with the construction site at the Bryan Park. (Fordham & Kingsbridge Road)
 - ii) The Park's Committee recommends that a letter be sent to Park's Commissioner Veronica White, Bronx Parks' Commissioner Hector Aponte, and Borough President Ruben Diaz expressing our dissatisfaction with the Park's Department's decision to discontinue their help in decorating holiday trees for neighborhood celebrations
 - 9) Public Safety & Quality of Life by John Snider:
 - a) The Committee meets the 1st Tuesday of the Month and all are welcome to attend
 - 10) Senior Services by Nora Feury:
 - a) Chair was not present, therefore there was no report provided
 - 11) Traffic and Transportation by Lowell Green:
 - a) The 2013 NYC Bike Map is in member's folders
 - 12) Youth Services by John Franco:
 - a) The Committee will meet on November 26, 2013 and all are welcome to attend
- VI) Elected Officials Reports:
- A) Assembly Mark Gjonaj by Nathalia Fernandez, Executive Coordinator:
 - 1) Job Fair on December 3, 2013 at Bronx House from 4:30pm to 8:30pm.
 - 2) The Assemblyman will have a new local office by February
 - B) City Council Member Fernando Cabera by John Zaccaro, Jr., Housing Specialist:
 - 1) There will be an employment and Small Business Opportunities Expo sponsored by the NYC Council Black Latino and Asian Caucus, which will be held on Saturday December 7, 2013 from 10:00am to 3:00pm at the Murry Bergtraum High School. Register at <http://bitily/blac expo2013>.



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C) City Council Member G. Oliver Koppell by George Diaz, Community Liaison:

- 1) Council Approved Legislation Sponsored by Koppell renaming a Queens's thoroughfare, Tuskegee Airmen Way
- 2) In response to constituents concerns, Koppell contacted MTA about having the Bx1 Bus Service start before 7:00am. The MTA agreed to start the bus service earlier
- 3) Koppell funded the placement of surveillance cameras at East Gun Hill Road and Jerome Avenue
- 4) All are invited to a final Holiday Reception for Council Member Koppell on Sunday December 1, 2013 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the Riverdale YM-YWHA located at 5625 Arlington Avenue

VII) Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm by a voice vote