



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

DUSTIN ENGELKEN, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2015 @ 6:30 PM

Meeting held at: Botanical Garden ◇ 2900 Southern Blvd. ◇ Visitor's Center Café ◇ Bronx, NY 10458

- I. Meeting began at 6:39 pm
 - a. Community Board Chair Adaline Walker-Santiago acknowledged the following for their service:
 - i. 52nd Precinct Explorers members for their assistance at the K2 Forum, Explorer Corporal Naisha Monegro, Explorer Corporal Ermelinda Vushaj, Explorer Corporal Anthony Landron, Explorer Mike Lopez, Explorer Chris Toro, Explorer Junior Investigator Devin Mendoza, Explorer Junior Investigator Lesley Reyes, Explorer Deputy Inspector Jennifer Landron, Explorer Captain Frank Casado and Explorer Sergeant Joey Toro. Also thanked were the advisors, Police Officer Palermo-Ortega and civilian advisor, Jerry Landron.
 - b. Community Board members for their years of service to the Board:
 - i. Barbara Stronczer, Nora Feury, Paul Foster, Lowell Green and Andrew Laiosa
 - c. Other influential recipients:
 - i. City Councilman Ritchie Torres (accepted by Juan Antigua) for his work in getting the North Central Bronx Hospital's Labor and Delivery Unit reopened, City Councilman Fernando Cabrera (accepted by Brittany Cesarini) for his work in getting the PS. 51 disclosure law passed in the city council, District Manager, Dustin Engelken, for his service to CB7
- II. The Chair opened the Public Session and reminded all speakers that they would have only 2 minutes to speak:
 - a. Nicole Minichiello, Walk for our Water:
 - i. working on a walk on October 3, 2015 along the Bronx River.
www.walkfourwater.org
 - b. Aldo Perez, Northeast Bronx Dawah:
 - i. Spoke in favor of the current board leadership
 - c. Evy Virnet, Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition:
 - i. Spoke in favor of the current board leadership
 - d. David Cruz, editor of the Norwood News:
 - i. said hello to the body
 - e. Representatives of the Montefiore Nurses who are also members of the NY State Nurses Association:
 - i. Thanked the Community Board for its support in working toward a better staffing level at Montefiore Hospital
 - f. Robert Ward, The Children Village:
 - i. Spoke on the need for foster care placements. www.Childrenvillage.org . For information, call 718-220-4700 ext. 7240
 - g. Elizabeth Quaranta, Twinn Palms Homestay Services:



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- i. Is looking for homes in the community for Chinese students who will be attending Academy of Mount St. Ursula. 347-371-3085
 - h. Jane Addison-Amoyaw, Mosholu Branch Library:
 - i. Thanked City Councilman Andrew Cohen for providing funds to replace windows at the library. There will be a block party on August 27, 2015 2-5pm, to celebrate Reading
 - i. Velvet Ross, CB7 member:
 - i. Talked about a theater group that she is involved with
 - j. Mohammed S. Ali, CB7 member:
 - i. Spoke about a Bangladesh Block Party for July 26, 2015
 - k. Marisol Akanbre, NY State Nurses Association:
 - i. Thanked CB7 for its efforts to improve health care in the area as well as for its support of nurses
 - l. Officer John Dinoia, 52nd Precinct Community Affairs Unit:
 - i. Precinct Open House on Friday, June 19, 2015. Reminded all that fireworks are illegal and do not use
- III. Chair opened Board Meeting at 7:31pm
 - a. Attendance taken, Quorum Present
 - i. Members in attendance include: Mohammed S. Ali, Lynette Arroyo, Alora Bailey, Gloria Bent, Nilsa Cintron, Shanequa Charles, Gregory Clarke, Sr., Sandra Erickson, Nora Feury, Paul Foster, William Francis, Fidel Gomez, Carlos Gonzalez, Alfred Grant, Lowell Green, Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Jean Hill, Bruce Kaufman, Andrew Laiosa, Samelys Lopez, Eleanor Lundeen, Kevin Miner, Amjad Mujaahid, Cynthia O'Neal-Riley, Diletta Pina, Kevin Pellet, Charlesetta Rhett, Velvet Ross, Marcos Sierra, Barbara Stronczer, Adaline Walker-Santiago
 - ii. Absent Unexcused: Ruben Torres
 - iii. Excused: Edward DeJesus, John Snider, Jermaine Johnson, Ellen R. Ray
 - b. Minutes and Agenda were approved
- IV. Chairperson's Report by Adaline Walker-Santiago:
 - a. The CB7 newsletter was presented
 - b. Thanked all who attended the May Trolley Tour
 - c. On Friday June 19, 2015, Job Fair at Bronx Library Center
 - d. Announced that the K-2 forum went well
- V. Executive Committee Report by Barbara Stronczer:
 - a. The Board has been spending down its money. July 1, 2015 starts a new fiscal year.
- VI. District Manager's Report by Dustin Engelken:
 - a. He has been DM for a year now
 - b. Although the Community Board does not meet again until September, the Board Office is opening Monday thru Friday
 - c. He is working with the Jerome Avenue/Gun Hill Road BID to improve condition along Jerome Avenue
- VII. Committee Reports:
 - a. Budget/Personnel/Ethics by Andrew Laiosa:



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- i. There is a need to work on Board members absent
- b. Community Relations & Long Term Planning by Fidel Gomez:
 - i. The committee came up with a list of future goals for the community
- c. Economic Development by Eleanor Lunden:
 - i. No report was given at this time
- d. Education/Libraries/Cultural Affairs & Youth Services by Bruce Kaufman:
 - i. The committee is working on a forum with youth and the police
- e. Environment & Sanitation by Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky:
 - i. Thanked her committee for turning out for the St. James Park, Dog Event on May 30, 2015
 - ii. The Williamsbridge Oval Park, Dog Event will be on Saturday, June 27, 2015
 - iii. "Pick Up After Your Dog" Signs for private homes as well as doggie bags are still available
- f. Health & Hospitals by Gloria Bent:
 - i. The K2 forum was very successful
 - ii. June's committee meeting was at Montefiore. Mary Fitzgerald, Assistant Vice Chair and assistant to the hospital's president, was not prepared to answer all the questions that the committee had previously submitted. She did say that the hospital was working hard to reduce waiting time in the Emergency Room. Also, the hospital is working on discharging patients on weekends so there will be available beds on Monday mornings
 - iii. The committee is working on getting a member of the Community Board on the Montefiore Hospital Board. There will be a tour of the hospital in October
- g. Land Use/Zoning & Housing by Jean Hill:
 - i. Wednesday, June 16, 2015 is next meeting. City Planning and HPD will talk about planning for new senior housing needs
- h. Parks & Recreation by Barbara Stronczer:
 - i. There is a need for a dog run in St. James Park. June 24, 2015 is the last meeting till September
- i. Public Safety & Quality of Life:
 - i. Chair not present, therefore, no report was given at this time
- j. Senior Services by Nora Feury:
 - i. The committee will be meeting with the Land Use/Zoning & Housing Committee on June 16, 2015 to talk about what senior housing should have; i.e. parking, located near transportation, building accessibility, etc.
- k. Traffic & Transportation by Lowell Green:
 - i. Spoke on the new elevators at the Kingsbridge Road stop on the "D" subway line. She will be doing a walking tour of the Mosholu Parkway (Jerome Avenue to Webster Avenue) on Saturday, October 3, 2015
 - ii. Board members expressed concern about pot holes in area streets
- l. Veterans by Amjad Mujaahid:
 - i. Thanked all for their support of the committee. The committee is working on creating ties with the VA hospital's outreach program



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- m. WAM (Website/Acknowledgment & Media) by Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky:
 - i. Thanked the office staff for its' support in creating the newsletter

VIII. Elected Official Reports:

- a. Senator Jeffrey Klein's Office by Jennifer Rosado:
 - i. Talked about Town Hall meetings on SCRIE and EPIC that would be held in various locations in the area. Flyers distributed
- b. Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office by Rachel Ferrari:
 - i. Talked about rent law issues
 - ii. Any problems call 311 or the office at 718-933-2034
 - iii. July 10, 2015 there will be a Senior Health Fair; call office for more information
- c. Borough President's Office by Andy Toledo:
 - i. June 25, 2015 Firework Show at Orchard Beach 6-10pm
 - ii. July 20, 2015 Community Board Orientation

IX. Nomination Committee by Eleanor Lundeen:

- a. Rules were announced:
 - i. Community Board 7 members can only vote
 - ii. Ballots are by name and members must sign and date their ballot
 - iii. The committee members: Eleanor Lundee, Sandra Erickson, Helen Hartman-Kutnowsky, Gregory Clarke, Sr., will count the ballots
 - iv. All candidates running for office will be able to speak for 2 minutes
 - v. Candidates will speak in alphabetical order as presented on the ballot

b. Running Members:

- i. CHAIRPERSON:
 - 1. Francis, William
 - 2. Walker-Santiago, Adaline
- ii. 1st VICE-CHAIRPERSON:
 - 1. Gomez, Fidel
 - 2. Stronczer, Barbara
- iii. 2nd VICE CHAIRPERSON:
 - 1. Arroyo, Lynette
 - 2. Feury, Nora
 - 3. Lopez, Samelys
- iv. 3rd VICE CHAIRPERSON:
 - 1. Cintron, Nilsa
 - 2. Laiosa, Andrew
- v. TREASURER:
 - 1. Charles, Shanequa
 - 2. Hill, Jean
- vi. SECRETARY:
 - 1. Miner, Kevin

c. Vote Results:

- i. **Chairperson:** William Francis (15 Votes): 1) Lynette Arroyo, 2) Alora Bailey, 3) Shanequa Charles, 4) Paul Foster, 5) William Francis, 6) Fidel Gomez, 7) Carlos



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- Gonzalez, 8) Lowell Green, 9) Andrew Laiosa, 10) Samelys Lopez, 11) Kevin Miner, 12) Amjad Mujaahid, 13) Dilletta Pina, 14) Kevin Pellot, 15) Velvet Ross
- ii. Adaline Walker Santiago (16 Votes – WINNER): 1) Mohammed S. Ali, 1) Gloria Bent, 3) Nilsa Cintron-Hernandez, 4) Gregory Clarke, Sr., 5) Sandra Erickson, 6) Nora Feury, 7) Alfred Grant, 8) Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, 9) Jean Hill, 10) Bruce Kaufman, 11) Eleanor Lundeen, 12) Cynthia O’Neal-Riley, 13) Charlesetta Rhett, 14) Marcos Sierra, 15) Barbara Stronczer, 16) Adaline Walker-Santiago
- iii. **1st Vice Chairperson:** Fidel Gomez (13 Votes): 1) Lynette Arroyo, 2) Shanequa Charles, 3) Gregory Clarke, Sr., 4) Paul Foster, 5) William Francis, 6) Fidel Gomez, 7) Carlos Gonzalez, 8) Lowell Green, 9) Andrew Laiosa, 10) Amjad Mujaahid, 11) Dilletta Pina, 12) Kevin Pellot, 13) Velvet Ross
- iv. Barbara Stronczer (18 Votes – WINNER): 1) Mohammed S. Ali, 2) Alora Bailey, 3) Gloria Bent, 4) Nilsa Cintron-Hernandez, 5) Sandra Erickson, 6) Nora Feury, 7) Alfred Grant, 8) Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, 9) Jean Hill, 10) Bruce Kaufman, 11) Samelys Lopez, 12) Eleanor Lundeen, 13) Kevin Miner, 14) Cynthia O’Neal-Riley, 15) Charlesetta Rhett, 16) Marcos Sierra, 17) Barbara Stronczer, 18) Adaline Walker-Santiago
- v. **2nd Vice Chairperson:** There were multiple ballots. This is the results from the final ballot. Nora Feury (10 Votes): 1) Mohammed S. Ali, 2) Sandra Erickson, 3) Nora Feury, 4) Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, 5) Jean Hill, 6) Eleanor Lundeen, 7) Cynthia O’Neal-Riley, 8) Charlesetta Rhett, 9) Barbara Stronczer, 10) Adaline Walker Santiago
- vi. Samelys Lopez (15 Votes – WINNER): 1) Lynette Arroyo, 2) Alora Bailey, 3) Nilsa Cintron, 4) Shanequa Charles, 5) Gregory Clarke, Sr., 6) Paul Foster, 7) William Francis, 8) Fidel Gomez, 9) Andrew Laiosa, 10) Samelys Lopez, 11) Kevin Miner, 12) Amjad Mujaahid, 13) Dilletta Pina, 14) Velvet Ross, 15) Marcos Sierra
1. Carlos Gonzalez – abstained
 2. Two (2) ballots were unsigned
- vii. **3rd Vice Chairperson:** Andrew Laiosa (15 Votes): 1) Lynette Arroyo, 2) Shanequa Charles, 3) Gregory Clarke, Sr., 4) Nora Feury, 5) Paul Foster, 6) William Francis, 7) Fidel Gomez, 8) Alfred Grant, 9) Lowell Green, 10) Andrew Laiosa, 11) Samelys Lopez, 12) Amjad Mujaahid, 13) Dilletta Pina, 14) Charlesetta Rhett, 15) Barbara Stronczer
- viii. Nilsa Cintron (16 Votes – WINNER): 1) Mohammed S. Ali, 2) Alora Baily, 3) Gloria Bent, 4) Nilsa Cintron-Hernandez, 5) Sandra Erickson, 6) Carlos Gonzalez, 7) Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, 8) Jean Hill, 9) Bruce Kaufman, 10) Eleanor Lundeen, 11) Kevin Miner, 12) Cynthia O’Neal-Riley, 13) Kevin Pellot, 14) Velvet Ross, 15) Marcos Sierra, 16) Adaline Walker-Santiago
- ix. **Treasurer:** Shanequa Charles (12 Votes): 1) Lynette Arroyo, 2) Shanequa Charles, 3) Paul Foster, 4) William Francis, 5) Fidel Gomez, 6) Carlos Gonzalez, 7) Andrew Laiosa, 8) Samelys Lopez, 9) Kevin Miner, 10) Amjad Mujaahid, 11) Dilletta Pina, 12) Marcos Sierra



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x. Jean Hill (19 Votes – WINNER): 1) Mohammed S. Ali, 2) Alora Bailey, 3) Gloria Bent, 4) Nilsa Cintron-Herandez, 5) Gregory Clarke, Sr., 6) Sandra Erickson, 7) Nora Feury, 8) Alfred Grant, 9) Lowell Green, 10) Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, 11) Jean Hill, 12) Bruce Kaufman, 13) Eleanor Lundeen, 14) Cynthia O'Neal-Riley, 15) Kevin Pellot, 16) Charlesetta Rhett, 17) Velvet Ross, 18) Barbara Stronczar, 19) Adaline Walker-Santiago

xi. Secretary: Kevin Miner (29 Votes – WINNER): 1) Mohammed S. Ali, 2) Lynette Arroyo, 3) Alora Bailey, 4) Nilsa Cintron-Herandez, 5) Shanequa Charles, 6) Gregory Clark, Sr., 7) Sandra Erickson, 8) Nora Feury, 9) Paul Foster, 10) William Francis, 11) Fidel Gomez, 12) Carlos Gonzalez, 13) Lowell Green, 14) Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, 15) Jean Hill, 16) Bruce Kaufman, 17) Andrew Laiosa, 18) Samelys Lopez, 19) Eleanor Lundeen, 20) Kevin Miner, 21) Amjad Mujaahid, 22) Cynthia O'Neal-Riley, 23) Dilletta Pina, 24) Kevin Pellot, 25) Charlesetta Rhett, 26) Velvet Ross, 27) Marcos Sierra, 28) Barbara Stronczar, 29) Adaline Walker-Santiago

1. Gloria Bent and Alfred Grant - No vote was marked on ballot

xii. Samelys Lopez thanked all the candidates for servicing

X. Meeting adjourned at 9:53pm