



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015 @ 6:30 PM

Meeting held at: Scott Towers ♦ 3400 Paul Avenue ♦ Community Room ♦ Bronx, NY 10467

- I. Public Session / Elected Official Reports began with the following speakers:
 - A. Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz:
 - a. Thanked the Board for voting against the affordable housing proposal
 - b. Noted the lack of space for further expansion
 - c. Spoke regarding the lack of parking throughout the Community as a huge problem
 - d. Announced a future change in leadership in the Department of Homeless Services with the resignation of the Commissioner Gilbert Taylor
 - B. Inspector Hoffman, 52nd Pct:
 - a. Spoke about the shooting on Decatur Avenue from this morning. This is the 28th shooting for the Precinct
 - b. Reported that crime is down 3%
 - c. Williamsbridge Oval problems with fires from unknown persons is being investigated
 - d. There will be new 18 officers appointed in January
 - e. The Community is invited to help with the mentorship of the new officers
 - f. Police Commissioner Bratton is introducing a new invitation of technology in all precincts. Everyone will be issued a new phone for instant communication
 - g. The 52nd Precinct Council will meet on December 17th at Beso Lounge. All are welcome
 - h. Animal abuse calls were noted. 166 calls for the year. The majority of calls were for barking dogs
 - i. Holiday scams on Credit Cards were discussed. Cautions on the use of credit cards and the need to be careful were shared
 - j. The issue of gangs in the Precinct was raised by a board member. The PD is following all gang activity in the precinct
 - C. Elizabeth Quaranta, Friends of Mosholu Parkway:
 - a. She spoke of the programs for youth over the year sponsored through the Friends
 - b. To further their involvement with youth, her group will be writing a proposal requesting a grant for \$3000 from the Citizens Committee for NYC to work on a community improvements project
 - c. The group proposes to collaborate with Parks to create a mural about nature somewhere in the community. The group is requesting a letter of support from CB7 to include in their proposal
 - D. Michael Alvarez, Bronx Library Center:
 - a. There will be a book discussion tomorrow
 - b. Applauded the attendance of seniors at these book discussion sessions and encourage others of all ages to participate
 - c. Concert on Saturday at 2:30pm in the auditorium. All are invited
 - E. Jane Addison, Mosholu Branch Library:



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- a. Thanked CB7 for support on expanding the hours of service
- b. Beginning January 4th, the new hours are Mondays 10am-8pm, Tuesday-Thursday 10am-7pm, Friday-Saturday 10am-5pm
- F. Tiesha Jones, Bailey Houses:
 - a. Spoke about the debris in front of the building on Heath Avenue. Wants help in having it removed
 - b. Needs support for the newly formed youth board to involve youth in more fruitful activities
 - c. She was referred to the Youth Committee for further involvement and support
 - d. The Sanitation Committee Chair will do follow-ups with Sanitation regarding the debris on Heath Avenue
- II. Public Session was closed, and the General Meeting was opened:
 - A. Attendance taken, quorum present
 - B. Approval of Agenda & Minutes
 - a. 1 change in minutes. Under "L", add word "Capital" before the word "priority"
 - C. Welcome by the Chairperson with a sincere gratitude to all Board Members for their constant attendance at meetings
 - D. Thanked the group who arranged the Christmas tree lighting last week, especially Maria Graziano and Londy Ramirez
 - E. Announced the resignation of Nilsa Cintron as 3rd Vice-Chair, creating a vacancy on the Executive Committee. The nominations to be made in January and election in February
 - F. Trolley ride will be held in the Spring
 - G. Youth Awards were mentioned
 - H. Reminder regarding attendance at meetings
 - I. Lifeguards jobs available through the Parks & Recreation Department
- III. Executive Committee Report:
 - A. Thanked participation in tree lighting by CB members, especially Tom, Maria and Londy
 - B. Wished all a happy holiday season
- IV. DM Report by Tom Lucania:
 - A. Working on speakers by the Board Members
 - B. The member Re-appointment application has been mailed
 - C. Applications for new membership is available
- V. Committee Reports and Other reports:
 - A. Budget / Personnel & Ethics by Jean Hill (In the absence of a Budget Chairperson):
 - a. Provided the treasurer's report
 - b. Motion was mentioned regarding salary increases. The salary line was clarified of where the money will come from
 - c. Jean mentioned the job description and responsibilities of the staff and their latest evaluation
 - d. Jean read the motion adding that the budget committee approved the raise
 - e. Questions were raised from the floor regarding the salary increase. The Board voted to go into Executive Session for further discussion



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- f. After much discussion a motion to table the motion was made and seconded. A roll call vote was taken with the motion results "NO" to table. After the vote, the executive session ended
- g. The motion was again read by Jean. Motion to approve by a show of hands was unanimous
- B. Andrew Cohen, City Councilman, 11th C.D.:
- a. Wished all a happy holiday and thanked the Board for all its work throughout the year
- C. Community Relations / Long Term Planning by Samelys Lopez:
 - a. The Committee will concentrate on working with City Agencies and small business owners with the planning of the strip of East 198th Street between Webster Avenue and the Grand Concourse
 - b. Workshops are planned with other groups and the Economic Development Committee to identify the resources needed and a plan of action to discuss the impact on the community
 - c. No meeting in December
- D. Economic Development by Eleanor Lundeen:
 - a. "No meeting in December, working with LTP, and expect MPC to update their activities with merchants at the January meeting."
- E. Education / Libraries / Cultural Affairs by Marcos Sierra:
 - a. Announced the Yankee Leadership awards were submitted. Names of the awardees are as follows:
 - 1. Ermelinda Vushaj
 - 2. Peter Cruz
 - 3. Stephanie Ureña
 - 4. Shubarna Akhter
 - 5. Michael Torres
- F. Sanitation & Environment by Helene Hartman – Kutnowsky:
 - a. Bronx Animal Shelter funding in place. They are looking for a location for a suitable space
 - b. The public may have information about possible space and are asked to help out in this quest
 - c. Training programs are available in health and maintenance
 - d. Repainting of old signs will be on-going
- G. Health & Hospitals by Gregory Clarke, Sr:
 - a. Report on the previous meetings with Monte.
 - b. January 12th, the Moses Campus President will meet with the Committee to discuss 13 points at 7:30pm at the office
 - c. The 13 points will be sent to Board Members for their info
- H. Land Use / Zoning by Jean Hill:
 - a. Meeting tomorrow (12/16/15)
 - b. Information on avenues of how people get housing and the difficulties they encounter will be a subject for discussion



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- c. New Housing near Kingsbridge Armory will be discussed at the January meeting with a possibility of meeting with the developer
- I. Parks & Recreation by Barbara Stronczer:
 - a. Concern about the fires at Williamsbridge Oval Report from Parks that the leaves will be removed at once
 - b. Next meeting will be held on January 13th
- J. Public Safety & Quality of Life by John Snider:
 - a. Announced that at the December meeting, the Committee will discuss noise complaints about "Mangu Sabroso" Restaurant
 - b. Ideas were given on how to avoid scams of credit cards
 - c. Nilda Hoffman was invited to make a presentation to CB Members to avoid the hacking of credit cards
 - d. Everyone was reminded to be careful at ATM machines
 - e. Speed camera on Grand Concourse warning
- K. Senior Services by Nora Feury:
 - a. Report on Scams on Seniors was talked about by the DA's office and will arrange for another presentation on Social Security benefits
- L. Traffic & Transportation by Lowell Green:
 - a. Over-crowding on the "D" train is an issue. Also, delays in train service
 - b. Construction to begin on January 1st on Jerome Avenue going West. There may be street closings and possible water being shut off for periods of time
 - c. No meetings in January 12, 2016
 - d. December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 17th
- M. Veterans by Robyn Saunders:
 - a. HELP USA to address Vets needs
 - b. Will offer support and advocacy for those in need
 - c. Also, help in transitioning veterans will be made available
 - d. Monument signage installed
 - e. Academic institutions will come out to assist Vets in further education
- VI. Public Officials Reports:
 - A. Nestor Medina, Pichardo's Office:
 - a. Warm wishes from Assemblyman
 - b. Office closed on December 18th. Calls to be forwarded to 718-933-6909
 - B. Kenny Agosto, Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson:
 - a. Will be working with NYCHA by representing people with issues and crime prevention
 - b. Call office 718-547-8854 with any issues
 - C. Ashly Torres, NYC Comptroller's Office:
 - a. Presented a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing report prepared by the Comptroller, Scott Stringer
- VII. Old Business:
 - A. The appointment of new DM was raised
 - B. An update on the issue was given by Adaline saying that the Committee is almost ready to announce the candidate due to finalizing all paperwork needed



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- VIII. Borough President's Report by Tom Lucania:
- A. The BP urges Bronx residents to apply to their local community board. Deadline is February 5th
 - B. The BP voted unanimously 0-19-1 to disapprove Mayor Bill de Blasio's proposed changes to the zoning law, known as "Zoning for Quality and Affordability" (ZQA) and "Mandatory Inclusionary Housing" (MIH).
 - C. The Department of City Planning had previously presented on the subject to each Bronx Community Board and to the Bronx Borough Board. In addition, The BP hosted a public comment session last week to gather input from the Community
 - D. Bronx unemployment falls again. Unemployment down to 6.5%; More Bronxites employed today than ever before. Over 100k more Bronx residents working since May 2009
 - E. Mayor de Blasio, NYCEDC, Congressman Serrano, Speaker Mark-Viverito, Council Member Arroyo and Borough President Diaz, Jr. announce opening of Randall's Island Connector. The Connector will provide critical transportation Link for pedestrians and Bicyclists between South Bronx and Randall's Island, providing access to 330 Acres of Open space
 - F. Upcoming events include the BP's Annual Chanukah Celebration on December 8th, The Annual Tree Lighting Celebration, and Annual Diwali Celebration
- IX. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM