



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

ANDREW SANDLER, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 21, 2016 @ 6:30 PM

- I) Attendance sheet in file
- II) Meeting opened at 6:35 PM
 - A) Adaline Walker-Santiago welcomed all and introduced Ted Goldstein, Dean of Bachelor Degrees at Monroe College
 - B) Mr. Goldstein spoke about the college and the various degrees offered
- III) Public Session / Elected Officials & Representatives / Agency Representatives:
 - A) Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz:
 - 1) Reported on the State Budget and cited the passing of the minimum wage and family leave laws that were passed
 - B) Inspector Nilda Hofmann, 52nd Pct.
 - 1) introduced two community officers
 - 2) Announced the next precinct meeting will be held on 4/28 at the Kingsbridge Library Center
 - 3) CompStats were reviewed and the all-out date for June 27th
 - 4) The Inspector then announced that her last day at the Pct. would be the next day as she was promoted to Chief and would be moving on
 - C) Nathalia Fernandez, Mark Gjonaj's Office:
 - 1) Congratulated and thanked Inspector Hofmann for her service
 - 2) Announced several services offered by the Assemblyman's Office
 - 3) Announced the annual Bronx Day trip to Albany
 - D) Gregory Faulkner, Fernando Cabrera's Office:
 - 1) Described the services for seniors available at the office
 - 2) Announced the Councilman's support of a mental health staff in schools
 - 3) Invited everyone to a Fiesta Fair at St. James Park on May 7th from 2pm to 9pm
 - 4) There will be health screenings, free popcorn, hot dogs and drinks at dusk where a screening of "Star Wars" will be shown
 - E) Rachel Ferrari, Gustavo Rivera's Office:
 - 1) Reported on the various activities offered and the schedule of Senator Rivera's tour of local Senior Centers with important information of connecting seniors to a number of resources
 - F) Andy Toledo, Borough President's Office:
 - 1) Announced the appointment to community boards will be next week
 - 2) The BP reported that \$97M will be awarded to rehabilitate the Sheridan Expressway
 - 3) Bronx Week will begin on May 5th
 - G) Nestor Medina, Victor Pichardo's Office:
 - 1) Announced a workshop on April 30th at 1pm for new parents on well-being and breast feeding
 - H) Lowell Green, Board Member:
 - 1) Reported on the reconstruction of the Jerome Avenue retaining wall to begin in the Spring of 2016. The impact on the community will be water service interruption, trash collection and traffic and parking restrictions
 - I) Katrina Asante:
 - 1) Announced her candidacy for the upcoming election



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- J) Sylvia Cox, HRA, Child Support Unit:
 - 1) Reported on the services offered to the public through HRA
- K) Jim Mutton, Independent Living:
 - 1) Announced the opening of a new site and the need to fill job openings. He distributed job descriptions for interested applicants
- IV) Public Session was interrupted to allow for attendance to be taken to permit 2 Board Members to leave on important business.
 - A) Attendance was taken:
 - 1) Quorum present
- V) Public Session continued with the remaining speakers:
 - A) Dianne Jones, USPS:
 - 1) Gave an update on postal service
 - B) Mr. Franklin Thomas, HELP USA Home Base:
 - 1) Described services for preventing homelessness
 - C) Alan Bell, B&B Urban Planning:
 - 1) Requesting a letter of support for the building at 2700 Jerome Avenue
 - D) Samelys Lopez, Board Member:
 - 1) Reported on the "Livable Neighborhoods Program" held on March 26th. A follow up to the workshop is to be held on Saturday, April 23rd at P.S. 24. All are welcome. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided
 - E) Evia Marque, Big Brothers / Big Sisters:
 - 1) Talked about a meet and greet at Bronx Library Center on Friday, April 22nd to learn about the power of mentoring
 - F) K. Born Rivera, "I am my Community, Inc." is seeking assistance in forming a committee in the support of children and the prevention of crime and gang control
 - G) Christine Catz, NCBH:
 - 1) Spoke about the quality of service at the hospital
 - H) Elizabeth Thompson, KHNJA:
 - 1) Looking for support from the community to support community services
 - I) Michael Alvarez, Kingsbridge Library Center (NYPL):
 - 1) Announced a program for all ages to encourage reading. The program begins on May 7th
 - 2) On Saturday and Sunday, there will be a workshop for creating Mother's Day Cards
 - J) Valerie Hudson, Cedar Avenue Resident:
 - 1) Spoke about the need for a mail box on Cedar Avenue
 - 2) She is requesting a traffic study of Cedar Avenue in order to make the street a "one-way" or to place a speed bump to slow down the speeding vehicles
 - 3) She was invited to attend the Traffic & Transportation Meeting on May 8th to register her concern
 - K) Alina Dowe:
 - 1) Presented a program for children called "More to Learn"
- VI) Public Session ended; Meeting opened:
 - A) Agenda and minutes approved with the corrections
- VII) Chairperson's Report by Adaline Walker-Santiago:
 - A) Presented the Motions:
 - 1) Housing Committee MOTIONS:



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- (a) Motion to send a letter of Approval for Stagg Group Project, Norwood Gardens, located at 400 East 203rd Street; Bronx
 - i. Motion approved unanimously
- (b) Motion to send a letter of Approval for B&B Urban for their Project at 2700 Jerome Avenue; Bronx
 - i. Motion approved unanimously
- (c) Motion to send a letter of No Objection to Landmark Preservation Corporation for Melnick Developers for their project at 2500 Jerome Avenue, near St. James Church, Bronx
 - i. Motion approved unanimously
- 2) Traffic & Transportation MOTIONS:
 - (a) Motion to send a letter of No Objection to the Kiss Car Service for the renewal of their car service license
 - i. Motion approved unanimously
 - (b) Motion to send a letter of No Objection to the Diplo Car Service for the renewal of their car service license
 - i. Motion approved unanimously
- 3) Education Committee MOTION:
 - (a) Motion to send a letter of support to Bailey Houses to gain access to the RAIN Center after 3pm to support youth and family programming
 - i. Motion approved unanimously with change in wording
- 4) Parks & Recreation MOTIONS:
 - (a) The Parks Committee recommends the approval of the plans for the updating and rehabilitation of the entrance and surrounding grounds at Poe Cottage
 - i. Motion approved unanimously
 - (b) The Parks Committee recommends that the Board joins the coalition to Daylight Tibbetts Brook
 - i. Motion approved unanimously
- B) Ms. Walker announced her appointment by the BP to the NCBH Community Advisory Board and the BBP Health and Hospitals Corporation Community Advisory Board
- C) Reported on her visit to City Hall with Alfred Grant to support keeping the City Hospitals open
- D) Attended the participatory budget meeting of Councilman Ritchie Torres and Andy Cohen
- E) Announced appointment to the BBP Veteran's Advisory Board
- F) Reported on the BP's plans on the Platforms over the railway yard near Lehman College
- G) Planned events must be approved before invitation
- H) Annual CB7 bus tour in planning stages
- II) Executive Committee Report by Barbara Stronczer:
 - A) Gave an update on the Armory
 - 3) Urged chairs to take pictures of events
 - 4) Reviewed future event procedures
- III) District Manager's Report by Andrew Sandler:
 - A) Referred everyone to the DSC minutes
 - B) Reported on the budget committee approving the proposed budget modifications that were filed with OMB. The amounts modified will be used for the following:



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- 1) The hiring of consultants, including a marketing firm for event coordination and outreach, a consultant to do surveying and a needs assessment, an urban planner to conduct a zoning study and a consultant to do a redesign of the board website

IV) Committee Reports:

- A) Budget / Personnel & Ethics by Andrew Laiosa:
 - 1) Reported on funds available and future possible expenditures
- B) Community Relations / Long Term Planning by Samelys Lopez:
 - 1) Reported on the mail delivery system
 - 2) Reviewed the on-going workshops on urban planning and creative vision.
 - 3) Next session will be on Saturday, April 23rd @ P.S.24
- C) Economic Development by Eleanor Lundeen:
 - 1) Commented on Kingsbridge Armory development
- D) Education by Adaline Walker-Santiago (Acting Chair):
 - 1) Adaline will continue to Chair the Education Committee until a new appointee is chosen
 - 2) Presentations were made on Community resources by the Bronx Library, programs at Poe Center, the Big Brothers / Big Sisters program and the need for mentors for young people
- E) Environment & Sanitation by Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky:
 - 1) Updates on the raccoon problem
 - 2) Cat colony continues to be a concern
 - 3) Need for an animal shelter in Bronx is critical
 - 4) May 25th meeting to discuss composting and organic planting by Botanical Gardens
- F) Health & Hospitals by Gregory Clarke:
 - 1) Next meeting will be held at NCBH on May 10th at 6:30pm
- G) Housing / Land Use & Zoning:
 - 1) Plans for a presentation by City Planning on the rezoning of Jerome Avenue
 - 2) Exploring the problem of the number of developers in the community
 - 3) The possibility of a down-zoning request to be refused
- H) Parks & Recreation by Barbara Stronczar:
 - 1) Announcement of new Parks Manager, Tony Rosa
 - 2) Next meeting will be held on May 11th
- I) Public Safety by John Snider:
 - 1) John Snider praised the Police Department on their actions addressing crime in the community, citing crime issues in the Bangladesh community
 - 2) Reported on neighborhood policing
- J) Senior Services by Nora Feury:
 - 1) Report on plans for a Senior Fair to be held in the Fall
- K) Traffic & Transportation by Lowell Green:
 - 1) Lowell Green requests that any complaints about transportation be sent to her. She will collate the concerns and address them with DOT
- L) Veterans by Robyn Saunders:
 - 1) The Committee is seeking more members to strengthen their ranks to continue their good work
 - 2) New ideas are needed to assist veterans
 - 3) Upcoming Career Fair will be held on Friday, June 3rd @ 11am-4pm at the Bronx Library Center
- M) Ad-Hoc (WAM):
 - 1) WAM to hold next meeting on April 27th



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- 2) Invitation to Botanical Garden on May 11th were distributed
 - 3) Bronx Visitors Guide available at CB office
- V) Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm