



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Chair:	Barbara Stronczer
Meeting Date:	Wednesday, June 10th, 2020
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Via Zoom Video/Teleconference
Members (Check Those In Attendance)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara Stronczer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leury's Acosta <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tasha Andrews <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Betty Arce <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Davis <input type="checkbox"/> Morganne Maselio <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gwen Thomas-Steed
Minutes done by:	Barbara Stronczer

Minutes:

- I) Introductions
- II) Review of previous minutes
- III) Follow-up from previous month (If applicable)
- IV) New Business
 - a) Community Programs at the New York Botanical Garden:
 - 1) Ms. Carrie Barratt, Ms. Elizabeth Figueroa, Angel Hernandez, and Aaron Bouska represented the New York Botanical Garden. Ms. Barratt, the President of the Garden, described how her essential staff of gardeners was maintaining the Garden even though the facility was closed to the public. Their educators continue to work with local schools via teleconferencing. Ms. Barrat hopes to open the grounds to the public in mid-July. A voucher system will be offered to Bronx residents to visit the Garden with free admission.
 - 2) Ms. Figueroa described how the Garden donated personal protective equipment to North Central Bronx Hospital and the 52nd Precinct. 400 plants were also donated to both Jacobi and Montefiore Hospital as a thank you to the staff for all their hard work during the pandemic.
 - 3) Angel Hernandez highlighted donations of produce to both Pots and the Veteran's Hospital. Additional fresh food donations will be distributed this Saturday at Poe Park during CB#7's personal protective equipment event.



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The work of Bronx Green-up in establishing 20 community gardens since 1980 throughout the Bronx was also highlighted.

b) Summer Staffing in District 7 Parks:

- 1) Ms. Iris Rodriquez, the Bronx Parks' Commissioner and Joe Magneri, the Parks' Manager for District 7 were in attendance. Ms. Rodriquez reported on the lack of any additional staffing for this summer. Ambassadors from different City agencies will work in the parks to try to maintain social distancing among park attendees. It is anticipated that golf and tennis areas will open first. Basketball and area playgrounds will probably open at a later time.**
- 2) Permits for field use with restrictions may start to be issued in August. If not, current permit holders will receive preference for 2021. The summer youth employment project has been suspended for the summer. The commissioner pointed out that groups of 10 or less volunteers may help in the parks. Complaints about the lack of a packer to service garbage pick-up were addressed. Currently, staff rides a gator to collect the garbage. The need for the Sanitation Department to work with the Parks' Dept on this issue was discussed. Grass cutting is being done by the current staff.**

Existing staff will also do trim work. It will be a difficult summer for Parks since staff has been cut and city residents are eager to get out and into the parks after 3 months of quarantine.

c) Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2021-22:

- 1) Last year's requests were reviewed. It was suggested to include a new packer in the capital outlay budget. Since passed requests were not obtained, they will be re-submitted. Priorities will be discussed at our September meeting.**

V) Next meeting date

VI) Discussion on next agenda

VII) Adjournment

- a) The minutes from our February meeting were approved. A motion by Kevin Davis to end the meeting was seconded by Betty Arce. The meeting ended at 7:30 PM.**