



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



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

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair:	Emmanuel Martinez
Meeting Date:	Tuesday, April 27, 2021
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Via Zoom Video/Teleconference
Minutes done by:	Yajaira Arias

Minutes:

I) Welcoming Remarks from Chairman Emmanuel Martinez

- a) Nearing the end of the pandemic
- b) Vaccinations are accessible in our community
- c) Census: update our community fell short in the census threshold. We lost a seat.
- d) Reminder that our community need to be more aware and informed.
- e) Community Advisory Council Meeting will be held tomorrow 4/25/21
- f) Agenda: Kingsbridge Armory (project in ongoing) A more detailed report to be provided at next month’s meeting.
- g) Attendance – important for all board members to attend meetings.
- h) Chair will continue to reach out to board members and continue to provide an open line of communication.

II) District Manager’s Report

- a) Review of meeting Rules and Governor’s Rules
- b) We will have CB7 Elections in June
- c) Nominating committee has been established- Guidelines sent via email today for full transparency.
- d) DM read the email sent to all in attendance.
 - 1) All members will receive a google form via email
 - 2) Email will contain a specific code
 - 3) Michael and Londy will be available in case of any issue
- e) Nominations will take place at the May meeting
- f) Vote will take place on June 23 Open positions are as follows:
 - 1) Chair



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- 2) 1st Vice Chair
- 3) 2nd Vice Chair
- 4) 3rd Vice Chair
- 5) Secretary
- 6) Treasurer

g) Nominating Committee Members are as follows:

- 1) Sandra Erickson – Chair
- 2) Betty Arce
- 3) Cole Hawkins
- 4) Untwain Fife
- 5) Victor Saldana

h) Any questions relating to nominations can be related to the nominating committee.

i) District Manager will be on leave as of tomorrow 4/25/21

j) Members can nominate themselves but if they win more than one position, they must only choose one.

III) Attendance Taken: Quorum was met.

a) Review of previous month's minutes.

b) Corrections made and noted

1) Motion to accept minutes with corrections made by Chair Emmanuel Martinez

- Motion second by Betty Arce

- Motion Passed.

IV) Motions

a) Motion presented by Housing Committee Chair Alex Karman

1) Motion concerning the proposal by Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC) for placemaking improvements to Jerome Avenue.

2) Recommended Action: Bronx Community Board 7 supports the plan to install additional lighting along Jerome Avenue. However, Bronx Community Board 7 has reservations about the additional features proposed, suggests that NWBCCC test and



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evaluate the features before making them permanent, and limit the features to the area between Kingsbridge Road and 196th Street.

- 3) Juton Hortsman of City Planning provided some information as to the motion presented.
- 4) Brief Discussion held with members.
- 5) Motion was second by Edgar Ramos
 - Vote taken - Motions Passed.

b) Motion presented by Housing Committee Chair Alex Karman (this motion was tabled at the March 24, 2021 General Board Meeting)

- 1) Julio Salcedo Fernandes of NW Bronx Clergy Coalition provided more insight as to the motion and presented their proposal.
- 2) Proposal consists of new lighting to make neighborhood safer (Jerome and Kingsbridge)
- 3) A link to the presentation was shared.
- 4) Members questioned where the money would come to fulfill this project?
- 5) NWCC indicated that they would be seeking funds from City and State.
- 6) Motion was second by Barbara Stronczer
 - Vote taken - Motion Passed (1 abstention noted)

V) Committee Reports

a) Environment and Sanitation – Betty Arce

- 1) Noise Complaints are at an all-time high – 311 should be called
- 2) Street Cleanup needed
- 3) Continued discussion on garbage increased through the borough (increase since pandemic)
- 4) Reporting to Sanitation
- 5) Water quality and open hydrants (especially in the Summer months)
- 6) See Environment/Sanitation minutes for more details

b) Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer



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- 1) Report from Parks installation Photography Exhibit at Poe Park
 - 2) Black Lives Matter demonstration from last June. Exhibit installation will be 5/7/21 through end of October.
 - 3) Pep Squad/Police Department/2 Park Managers throughout the Summer Months
 - 4) Encouraged to call 311 then get in touch with Pep (24hours/7 days a week)
 - 5) For crime issues always call 911
 - 6) See Parks minutes for more details.
- c) Housing, Land Use & Economic Development – Alex Karman
- 1) Committee discussed the \$2 Billion Rental Assistant Program
 - 2) Information to follow for tenants and landlord
 - 3) Long Term Provision for Land and Economic Development
 - 4) See Housing minutes for more details.
- d) Education, Youth & Libraries – Jhenelle Robinson
- 1) Committee did not meet quorum
 - 2) NYPL virtual programs are still accessible (Grab & Go)
 - 3) 5 community residents selected as recipient of the NY Yankee Award
 - 4) Public Schools continue to be hybrid.
 - 5) For more information, please see Education minutes.
- e) Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos
- 1) DOT will present their take on safe streets and City Bike Program
 - 2) Discussed sending questions ahead of time to DOT as committee feels that it would be more productive.
 - 3) Citi Bike Program is now moving to CB7 and site recommendations and suggestions are still needed.
 - 4) Also bike rack locations (recommendations) are needed as well.
 - 5) For more information, please see Traffic minutes.
- f) Veterans Affairs – Chad Y. Royer



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- 1) **Second round table event in conjunction with Union Community Health Center to be held on May. Round table will focus on Mental Health.**
 - 2) **Continued to discuss Memorial Day Event (Possibly Woodlawn Cemetery)**
 - 3) **See Veterans minutes for more details.**
- g) Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila**
- 1) **Committee Chair was not present for this meeting.**
 - 2) **Chair Emmanuel Martinez encouraged all members to read through the health committee minutes.**
 - 3) **For more information, please see Health minutes.**
- h) Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Andrew Laiosa**
- 1) **Committee expected to review budget records**
 - 2) **Member attendance**
 - 3) **Clean up and disinfection of the office by professional clean service.**
 - 4) **For more information, please see Budget minutes**
- i) By-Laws – Cole Hawkins**
- 1) **Committee discussed further review of by laws.**
 - 2) **Discussed combining several committees to create a Municipal Services**
 - 3) **For more information, please see By Laws minutes**
- j) Public Safety & Quality of Life – Victor Saldana**
- 1) **Committee met and discussed vandalism noise and park safety**
 - 2) **Discussed the Sex trafficking issue Jerome Avenue along St. James Park**
 - 3) **2nd 1 Block at time Events**
 - 4) **Encouraged members to follow 52nd Precinct on Twitter for updated information.**
 - 5) **Briefly discussed for next meeting/possible meeting with representatives as to the state of marijuana laws and its affects.**

IV) Motion to Close Board Business



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- a) Emmanuel Martinez – motion to close board business
- b) Motion second by Chad Royer
- c) All members agreed to close Board Business.

V) Public Session:

a) Senator Alessandra Biaggi

- 1) Gave well wishes to all
- 2) Senator has now been named chair of Transpiration Committee in the Senate
- 3) MTA prioritizing the Bronx is on the top of her agenda
- 4) Senator helped in allocating \$2.4 Billion Dollars to help renters and landlords with arrears going back to 12 months.
- 5) Senator helped allocate funding for small business in their recovery of pandemic.
- 6) Senator will be hosting a Town Hall in which Sexual Assault will be the topic.
- 7) Senator welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.

b) Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez:

- 1) Gave well wishes to all
- 2) Continue to do Food Giveaways in the community
- 3) Continues to provide Covid Vaccine and Covid testing (High Schools and Houses of Worship)
- 4) Assemblywoman welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.

c) Councilman Eric Dinowitz

- 1) Newly elected Councilman Eric Dinowitz - Gave well wishes to all
- 2) Councilman Dinowitz wants to be engaged in our community and their needs.
- 3) In his 12 days in office, he has started to work on several issues that concern our community Food insecurity, eviction moratorium, affordable housing, and education.



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d) Senator Gustavo Rivera: Representative Rachelle Ferrari

- 1) Senator Rivera will be hosting a virtual webinar via Facebook/zoom to discuss immigration policies.
- 2) Registration is needed for more information see the chat or contact the Senator's office.
- 3) Senator welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.

e) Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz:

- 1) Gave well wishes to all
- 2) Encourage Vaccine and Covid testing
- 3) Assemblyman Dinowitz worked on tenant reform legislation
- 4) Assemblyman welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.

f) Bronx Borough President's Office: Representative Ish Gonzalez

- 1) Gave well wishes to all
- 2) BP's monthly report was sent out
- 3) Community Board reappointment applications deadline March 31, 2021
- 4) If any board member who had an issue completing the Sexual Harassment Training – please contact our office and DCAS for assistance.

g) Bronx District Attorney's Office: Representative Erika Diaz

- 1) Gave well wishes to all
- 2) DA's office will be holding another Gun Buy Back Event – more details to follow
- 3) Child Safety Fair will take place in May – more details to follow
- 4) DA's office is now helping those with in need of mental health services

h) Assemblyman Victor Pichardo: Representative Heidi S.

- 1) Gave well wishes to all
- 2) Assembly Session still ongoing
- 3) Office continues to work remotely



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- 4) Friends of Tremont Park Clean up taking place 5/8/21
- 5) Assemblyman welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.
 - i) NYC Department of Finance
 - 1) Homeowners to apply for property tax exemptions
 - 2) Rent Freeze – over 500 household who did not apply for rental freeze
 - 3) Fallen Behind in Taxes Events
- VI) Next meeting date: Tuesday, May 25th, 2021
- VII) Adjournment – Motion to close meeting
 - a) Motion second by Myrna Calderon
 - 1) No opposition – Meeting ended at 8:49 PM