



**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, February 23, 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 becoming accessible – we must encourage our residents to get vaccinated.
- c) Testing site are available
- d) DCAS Sexual Harassment Training
- e) Email was sent to all members
 - 1) If you have not received an email, please contact the staff, chair or Tom Luciana
- f) Attendance – important for all board members to attend meetings.
- g) Review of meeting Rules and Governor’s Rules

II) Attendance Taken: Quorum was met.

- a) Review of previous month’s minutes.
- b) Corrections made to the following:
 - 1) Section IV (e) Committee is planning to hold
 - 2) Section IX – Public Session
 - 3) Section I – second sentence should read “it is important”.
 - 4) Motion to accept minutes with corrections made by Chad Royer
 - Motion second by Barbara Stronczer
 - Motion Passed.

III) Committee Reports

- a) Environment and Sanitation – Betty Arce
 - 1) Recap of outreach to business district as to education and avoid violations.



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- 2) **Presentation by Alex Patt of SWAB Advisory Board**
 - 3) **Discussed garbage increase through the borough (increase since pandemic)**
 - 4) **Reporting to Sanitation**
 - 5) **Discussed Capital Budget Items**
 - 6) **Next Meeting will be March 2, 2021.**
 - 7) **See Environment/Sanitation minutes for more details.**
- b) Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer**
- 1) **Concentration in the Southern Part of the District**
 - 2) **Pillar Organizer of Devoe and Aqueduct Walk**
 - 3) **Committee spoke with Parks Manager – they hope to have staff for the Spring and Summer months.**
 - 4) **Next Meeting will be March 10, 2021.**
 - 5) **See Parks minutes for more details.**
- c) Housing, Land Use & Economic Development – Alex Karman**
- 1) **Follow up with DCAS as to the Old Fordham Library**
 - 2) **DCAS plans are to have a testing application site on the 2nd Floor**
 - 3) **First floor use is undetermined at this time**
 - 4) **Discussed updates with regard to the Botanical Gardens and Cherry Valley Project**
 - 5) **Discussed the St. James Church landmark application**
 - 6) **Discussed City Council Comprehensive Bill**
 - 7) **Next Meeting will be March 9, 2021.**
 - 8) **See Housing minutes for more details.**
- d) Education, Youth & Libraries – Jhenelle Robinson**
- 1) **Discussed availability of head start program at Cardinal McCloskey Community Services**
 - 2) **Head start program is available for those interested**
 - 3) **Continued conversations with BOE as to reopening of schools**
 - 4) **Middle schools to reopen on 2/24/21**
 - 5) **Planning a cross over event with Veteran’s Committee**
 - 6) **Next Meeting will be March 3, 2021**



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- 7) For more information please see Education minutes.**
- e) Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos**
- 1) Discussed sending questions ahead of time to DOT as committee feels that it would be more productive.**
 - 2) Citi Bike Program is now moving to CB7 and site recommendations and suggestions are needed**
 - 3) Also bike rack locations (recommendations) are needed as well.**
 - 4) A monthly link has been sent to all members as to the City Bike Program.**
 - 5) For more information please see Traffic minutes.**
- f) Veterans Affairs – Chad Y. Royer**
- 1) Committee discussed planning a second roundtable event in conjunction with Union Community Health Center.**
 - 2) Discussed possible locations to hold event (Possibly Woodlawn Cemetery).**
 - 3) See Veterans minutes for more details.**
- g) Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila**
- 1) Committee discussed the 7-day average Covid cases – which has decreased.**
 - 2) Covid Vaccine updates – changes are expected to take place day to day**
 - 3) Vaccine locations and testing site around CB7**
 - 4) Public is receiving a lot of misinformation**
 - 5) Suggestion to hold a vaccine related panel with residents who have taken the vaccine**
 - 6) Next Meeting will be March 16, 2021**
 - 7) For more information please see Health minutes.**
- h) Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Andrew Laiosa**
- 1) Committee reviewed the CB7 statement and Mandatory Sexual Harassment training which all members must do.**
 - 2) No update on the costs**



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- 3) Discussed the preliminary letter to members – similar to a wellness check.
 - 4) Next Meeting will be March 15, 2021
 - 5) For more information please see Budget minutes
 - i) By-Laws – Cole Hawkins
 - 1) Committee discussed further the Amending of By Laws
 - 2) Discussed attendance language to incorporate
 - 3) Open to suggestion and changes
 - 4) For more information please see By Laws minutes
 - j) Public Safety & Quality of Life – Victor Saldana
 - 1) Committee had a reset – Victor Saldana is the new chair
 - 2) Discussed enforcement of rules for Parks (huge number of complaints received for Devoe Park and Aqueduct Walk) unleashed dogs
 - 3) Push for NYPD to provide more safety at parks
 - 4) Father Zieser Place criminal activities continue to be an issue
 - 5) Chair is looking forward to work with 52 Precinct – prepare for Spring and Summer (noise, motorcycles, establishments etc.)
- IV) Motion to Close Board Business
- a) Emmanuel Martinez – motion to close board business
 - b) Motion second by Michelle Avila
 - c) All members agreed to close Board Business.
- V) Public Session:
- a) Councilman Fernando Cabrera:
 - 1) Gave well wishes to all
 - 2) Councilman worked hard to bring more vaccines to our residents, especially to the seniors in our district.
 - 3) Vaccines were given to all Seniors at Kittay Houses.
 - 4) E-scooter and E bike pilot program will start in March in the Bronx.
 - 5) Legislation passed with regard to filing complaints in conjunction with state agencies.



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- 6) Councilman welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.**
- b) Senator Alessandra Biaggi: Representative Andy Laub**
 - 1) Gave well wishes to all**
 - 2) Senator is involved in Vaccine Rollout**
 - 3) Working on bringing Pop up sites for Covid testing and vaccine.**
 - 4) Passed bill to have more oversight of care in Nursing Homes.**
- c) Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez:**
 - 1) Gave well wishes to all**
 - 2) Passed bill to have more oversight of care in Nursing Homes**
 - 3) Related 3/5/21 opening of Movie Theaters at 25% capacity**
 - 4) Weddings can take place as of 3/15/21 with 250 Capacity**
 - 5) 35% capacity for indoor dining**
 - 6) Summer Camps will open in June**
 - 7) Continue to do Food Giveaways in the community**
- d) 15th Council District: Walter Algarin**
 - 1) The 15th Council District continues to be operation through the vacancy**
 - 2) Continue to provide constituent services.**
 - 3) Special Election will take place on March 23, 2021 – once Board of Elections certifies the winner a direct memo will be given to the new councilperson to continue operations in the District.**
- e) Senator Gustavo Rivera: Representative Rachelle Ferrari**
 - 1) Senator Rivera continues to chair the Health Committee in Albany**
 - 2) Passed Nursing Home Reform Bill (Transparent Data and Direct Patient Care Ratio)**
 - 3) Senator welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.**
- f) Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz:**
 - 1) Gave well wishes to all**
 - 2) Encourage Vaccine and Covid testing**



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- 3) **Assemblyman Dinowitz worked on passing the Covid Eviction Act Prevents massive evictions for constitutes who had hardships through May 1, 2021**
 - 4) **Residents who want to file hardship forms must do so before 2/26/21 – Do not go to court.**
 - 5) **Assemblyman welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.**
 - g) **Bronx District Attorney’s Office: Representative Carlos Torres**
 - 1) **Gave well wishes to all**
 - 2) **DA’s office will be holding another Gun Buy Back Event – more details to follow**
 - 3) **DA continues to hold concepts education programs**
 - h) **Assemblyman Victor Pichardo: Representative Heidi S.**
 - 1) **Gave well wishes to all**
 - 2) **Assembly Session still ongoing**
 - 3) **Office continues to work remotely**
 - 4) **Assemblyman welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.**
 - i) **NY Public Library - Melissa Davis**
 - 1) **NYPB continues with grab and go services throughout the city.**
- VI) Next meeting date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021**
- VII) Adjournment – Motion to close meeting**
- a) **Motion second by Erick Ascensio**
 - 1) **No opposition – Meeting ended at 7:59 P.M.**