



**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, June 23rd, 2020
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) Addressing of rules of order for virtual meeting**
 - b) Importance of wearing mask, washing hands and using sanitizer**
 - c) Board Operations - minutes to be submitted within 48 hrs**
 - d) Importance of informing the public about the upcoming CENSUS**
- II) District Managers Report**
 - a) Briefly discussed Zoom functions for meeting**
 - 1) ** to hear prompts**
 - 2) *6 to mute and unmute**
 - 3) *9 to virtually raise your hand**
 - 4) Be mindful of background noise**
 - b) Updates:**
 - 1) Reminder of the importance of the census**
 - 2) Department of Labor is handling a lot of unemployment applications: if anyone needs to file -please file online obtain a number and call follow their instructions. If any issues, please**



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reach out to our office and we will do our best to help you through the process.

- 3) Covid Testing and Antibody testing are being done for free. The City has set up several sites. If you do not know where to go or need assistance please reach out.
- 4) Reminder the CB7 Board is fully operational remotely. Until further notice.
- 5) Noise complaints of loud music and fireworks are being handled as best as possible.
- 6) We will continue to keep an eye out for masks and gloves dumped on the streets and any complaints thereof.
- 7) Continue to wear mask, sanitize, wash your hands and adhere to 6ft distance rule.
- 8) Closing remarks: Stay Safe and have a wonderful summer.

III) Attendance was taken: Quorum was met

- a) Motion to approve last month's minutes
- b) Dileta Pina second the motion. Motion passed with no correction or edits.

IV) Motion(s)

a) Housing, Land Use & Economic Development

- 1) To Support the application of Fokkus Room & Cucine to temporary extend its licensed premise to the sidewalk.
 - **Committee Recommendation:** Committee voted 6-0 in favor of providing letter of support to application by Fokkus to SLA to temporarily extend its licensed premise to the Fordham Road sidewalk. However, the



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committee recommends to SLA that service outside end at 9:00PM on Sunday through Thursday and 10:00 pm on Friday – Saturday for the benefit and welfare and quire enjoyment of its neighbors.

- **Board Discussion: As long as the measures are met; ○ Liquor License allows for sidewalk service until 11:00 AM; ○ Fokkus can self-certified with SLA. ○ Board wants to support local businesses but there are reservations of how the noise level will be controlled and how pedestrian safety will be implemented.**
 - **Motion second by Dilleta Pina. ○ Vote taken to provide letter of support to SLA on behalf of business operations this summer.**
 - **Motion passes with 25 Yes, 1 No, No Abstentions.**

2) Motion in support of application by Planet Fitness to the Board of Standards and Appeals for an extension to its special permit.

- **Committee Recommendation: The committee supports the application by Planet Fitness to the BSA to extend its special permit by 10 years. The committee was satisfied that the operator has given consideration to the safety and security needs of running a business that is open to the public during overnight hours.**
- **Board Discussion:**
 - **Is a 10 year permit renewal typical?**



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- **Discussion that health is important to continue within the community.**
- **Myrna Calderon second the motion.**
- **Vote taken to provide letter of support to Planet Fitness application to the Board of Standards and Appeals for an extension to its special permit.**
- **Motion passes with 23 Yes, 1 No, 2 Abstention (Cristina Contreras and Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky)**

b) Health & Human Services

1) Motion in support for opening of school-based health centers for the Community.

□ Recommended Action: Motion for CB7 to write a letter of support to the mayor's office to advocate for the opening of school-based health centers so that children can receive primary care services, vision care, dental care and behavioral health services (speech and physical therapy).

□ Board Discussion:

- **Discussion held as to the motion at length. Questions arose as to the need for more information. ○ Concerns as to the pandemic and how these centers will operate especially with children. ○ Vote taken to provide letter to the City/ Mayor for opening of school-based health centers for the Community. ○ Motion second by Michelle Avila**



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- **Motion passes with 20 Yes, 2 No (Myrna Calderaron and Rosalie Leslie – insufficient information) 3 Abstention (Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Jhenelle Robinson, Adaline Walker-Santiago).**

V) Committee Reports

a) Traffic and Transportation – Edgar Ramos

1) No meeting held

b) Housing, Land Use & Economic Development – Alex Karman 1)
Chair Alex Karman briefly discussed the committees meeting (two held last month).

2) Meeting consisted of discussing zoning, land use and construction.

3) Construction of buildings being erected on Villa Avenue

4) Two Motions were presented to the Committee to vote

- **Motion to Support the application of Fokkus Room & Cucine to temporary extend its licensed premise to the sidewalk. ○ Committee voted 6-0 in favor of providing letter of support to application by Fokkus to SLA to temporarily extend its licensed premise to the Fordham Road sidewalk. However, the committee recommends to SLA that service outside end at 9:00PM on Sunday through Thursday and 10:00 pm on Friday – Saturday for the benefit and welfare and quire enjoyment of its neighbors.**
- **Motion in support of application by Planet Fitness to the Board of Standards and Appeals for an extension to its**



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special permit. ○ Committee voted 6-0 in favor of providing letter of support to Planet Fitness application to the Board of Standards and Appeals for an extension to its special permit.

c) Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer

- 1) Committee met on 6/10/20. There was a presentation by two guests**
- 2) President of Bronx Botanical Gardens**
 - The Bronx Botanical Gardens will try to set up donations to the community for mid-July.**
 - Due to the pandemic there are limitation as to what can be done to help the community.**
- 3) Bronx Park Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa discussed how this is not good year for parks. Budget cuts due to the pandemic has limited the help that they can get to keep parks clean and accessible to the public.**
- 4) Committee hopes to resubmit it in September as a budget request the addition of a garbage truck for keeping parks clean and sanitary for the community.**

d) Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Andrew Laiosa

- 1) Committee met - no quorum**
- 2) Discussed needs for board and needs for some of our local community organizations**
- 3) Discussed budget cuts which will be happening city wide**



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- 4) Due to the pandemic it has been clear that essential items are not available
- 5) There is no certain date as to when office will be personally operational.
- 6) No determination as to next meeting.
- 7) Mentioned of delay in appointed members to the board.
 - e) **Environment & Sanitation – Betty Arce**
 - 1) Steve Caruso – Dept. of Sanitation Community Affairs was present at the meeting.
 - 2) Discussed the need for sanitation enforcement; a lot of garbage in our community.
 - 3) Needs to address summonses to private homes owners
 - 4) Briefly discussed items to add to the capital budget
 - 5) Discussed how the Farmer’s Market at Jerome Avenue and Mosholu continues to leave garbage in the area.
 - 6) Committee hopes to continue to advocate for cleanliness in our community even in these tough times.
 - f) **Health & Human Services – Chad Royer**
 - 1) Discussed the restart mental health hotline for residents.
 - 2) Discussed support of the Health Act which will provide more services to our community.
 - 3) Continued to discuss how people are not practicing social distancing and or wearing masks.
 - 4) Budget cuts to health services can or will create a bigger need.
 - g) **Census Complete Count – Michelle Avila**
 - 1) Discussed community events to reach out to the community.



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- 2) **The need for phone banking/text banking to remind our community of how important it is to participate in the Census. Distribution of materials explaining the census is key.**
- 3) **Census webinar set for 7/14/20 at 6:00 pm (more information will be sent out shortly).**
 - h) **Chair Emmanuel Martinez presented Motion to Close Board Business – Yajaira Arias – second the motion/no opposition VI)**
Elected officials/City Agencies/Representatives:
 - a) **Bronx Borough President’s Office Representative: Ish Gonzalez**
 - 1) **Reminded that the reappointment application are being worked on and will be sent out soon.**
 - 2) **Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. is hold virtual Covid 19 Memorials – if you want to be a part or want to list someone in the memorial, please contact the office or send an email.**
 - 3) **Discussed that food and masks are still being distributed in the borough for those in need, please contact the office.**
 - 4) **Wished us all a happy and safe summer.**
 - b) **52nd Precinct Report: P.O. Reveron**
 - 1) **P.O. Reveron provided 52nd Precinct stats □ Crime stats are on their site.**
 - 2) **Car burglaries rising due to pandemic – check on your vehicle(s)**
 - 3) **Social Distancing and staying safe is key.**
 - 4) **Fireworks and noise complaints have risen significantly.**
 - **Problematic Areas have been 2500 Webb, 3176 Decatur, Devoe Park, Williambridge Oval, 3400 Webb, St. James Park and Bailey Avenue.**



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- **Discuss how intel is crucial in stopping the firework activities. Encouragement for the public to call and provide information before it happens can help the NYPD.**

c) Residents:

2) Marisela – Devoe Terrace Resident (190th Street and Webb)

- **Discussed how her block is being inundated with drugs and gangs.**
- **Her home and several neighbors' houses have been broken into.**
- **They have called 311 and 911 numerous times and she and her neighbors get no results.**
- **Every night there is constant fireworks, drug dealing and loud music playing!**
- **She has reached out to elected officials – Fernando Cabrera's office, Senator Rivera's office and Gustavo Rivera's office.**

To date they have received no response to their multiple calls and emails. She and her neighbors are quite fed up and what the NYPD and our elected officials to do something. They block is a war zone and they have been left to fend for themselves.

3) Victor Saldana – Resident (Cedar Avenue)

- **Discussed how the scooter and the noise are disrupting the daily lives of the residents of his block. The noise is overwhelming. It seems to be a systemic problem and no**



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one is doing anything about it. He has also reached out to local elected officials only to receive no response.

d) Councilman Fernando Cabrera:

- 1) Office continues to work remotely.**
- 2) Discussed his ongoing work in the City Council; budget cuts that will come in the near future due to the pandemic.**
- 3) Food distributions are still being held throughout the district for those in need.**
- 4) Passing of three bills; scooters/ebike/ride share pilot program (City Wide).**
- 5) Councilman Fernando Cabrera was not aware of the complaints presented by resident Marisela.**
- 6) An invitation was set forth for Marisela and her neighbors to contact his office for immediate attention to their concerns.**

e) Alessandra Biaggi Office: Priya 1) Office working remotely.

- 2) Discussed the need for a suicide prevention forum 3) Working on the same issues as her colleagues.**
- 4) Mask giveaways**
- 5) Food distributions**
- 6) Working hard on obtaining resources to our district – her nightly newsletter sent and listed on her website.**

f) Senator Gustavo Rivera Office: Rachel

- 1) Office open virtually - 718-933-2204**
- 2) Senator continues to have community and resident approach with essentials of masks, gloves and food giveaways.**



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3) Reminding public of Census and how important it is to be counted.

g) Public Advocate's Office: Terrance Miller

1) Office open virtually

2) Discussed remote training during this pandemic

3) Discussed how the budget cut will affect everyone as a whole.

4) They are in meetings with the City Council as to how to continue to provide services in the midst of the pandemic.

5) Continue to do masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and food drives to communities throughout the city.

h) Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz: Frederick Klein

1) Discussed the importance of counting the absentee ballots

2) Mandate tracing for absentee ballots

3) Housing/Rent issues are prevalent since Covid; Housing courts are now open and available to

4) Provide guidance and assistance with any housing issue.

5) Continue to do masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and food drives to communities throughout the community.

i) Assemblyman Victor Pichardo:

1) Office functioning remotely 718-933-9309

2) Working on the same issues as his colleagues

3) Resources are available in Spanish and English

4) Continue to do masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and food drives to communities throughout the community.



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j) Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez: Forhad Rahman

- 1) Working on the same issues as his colleagues
- 2) Office functioning remotely 718-409-0909 3)

Discussed the need for mental health response.

Assemblywoman is working to have a bill passed that will ensure better response to our community.

- 4) Continue to do masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and food drives to communities throughout the community.

k) Civil Complaint Review Board: Naqi Cruz

- 1) Complaint review board has received over 750 complaints to date since George Floyd death.
- 2) The CCRB is actively working on examining each complaint and will go through their review. The CCRB is committed to provide the most transparent information to the public.
- 3) Should anyone need to file a complaint – they can do so by going online or calling their offices directly.
- 4) <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ccrb/complaints/file-online.page> or 1800-341-2272 (CCRB).

VII) Discussion on next month's agenda

VIII) Next month's meeting date: Wednesday, September 23rd, 2020 @ 6:30 PM

IX) Adjournment – This is the last meeting before the summer break - CB7 wishes everyone a Happy and Safe 4th of July. See you all in September. Everyone Stay Safe and Healthy.



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