



**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, December 22 nd , 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) Edgar Ramos second the opening of the meeting
- b) Well wishes for the holidays and New Year.
- c) Reminder CB Membership applications – send to family and friends who may want to join.
- d) Election for Second Vice Chair and Procedures

II) District Managers Report

- a) Welcoming to all to the meeting and reading of virtual meeting disclosure.
- b) Updates:
 - 1) Rent Freeze Regulations and Programs available to residents
 - 2) State ACR accepting applications from 12/18/2020 to 2/1/2021.
 - 3) Applications are being taken over the phone - Bedford Park Residents are the highest affected in unable to pay rent.
 - 4) New initiative of Loading Zones (Traffic and Transportation Committee can provide more details).
 - 5) HHC conducting Free Covid testing (test and tracing) must wait in line
 - 6) If anyone know of any business with less than 100 employees Free PPE can be provided please reach out to CB7 office.
 - 7) If anyone would like to set up give away for PPE, masks and supplies please reach out to CB7 office.



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- III) Chair opened the floor to Nominees Jean Hill and Erick Ascensio to give 1 minute speech**
- a) **Nominees give their 1 minute speech; move on to vote.**
 - 1) **Vote taken; results 24 votes for Erick Ascensio and 14 votes for Jean Hill.**
 - **Erick Ascensio is now the Second-Vice Chair of CB7.**
 - b) **Attendance Taken: Quorum was met.**
 - c) **Motion to approve last month's minutes.**
 - 1) **Barbara Stronczer seconds the motion. Motion passed with no corrections.**
- IV) Motion(s): Housing, Land Use & Economic Development**
- a) **Motion concerning the proposed Zoning for Coastal Floor Resiliency text amendment.**
 - b) **Deadline to submit comments to City Planning is December 28, 2020.**
 - 1) **Rationale for Recommendation:**
 - **Because this proposed zoning change would have a de minimis impact on Bronx community district 7, the Executive Committee voted in December 2020 to take no position and instead defer to the positions of Bronx Community Boards more substantially affected by the proposed zoning change.**
 - c) **Board Discussion: Geethanjali MR – City Planning - DCP provided some information but was unable to answer board's questions as to cost; Karen Argenti and Robert Fanuzzi of Bronx Council for Environmental Quality for BCEQ. The board discussed and questioned how neighboring boards voted on this matter since it has a more direct impact to them. Board must provide a response to City Planning prior to February 2021.**
 - 1) **After more discussion, the board decided to table this motion.**
 - **Motion was sent back to Committee. Motion was not second.**
- V) Committee Minutes and Reports**



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- a) **Environment & Sanitation: DOS Rep. Angnelli discussed the sanitation conditions at CB7.**
 - 1) **Discussed vegetable markets; not enough enforcement for alternative side parking. Winter Season snow removal**
 - **See Environment/Sanitation minutes for more details.**
- b) **Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Affairs: No ceremony at the Tree Lighting due to Covid restrictions. The tree symbolizes a sign of hope. Everyone should stop by and take a look.**
 - 1) **Myrna Calderon: Friends of Devoe also held a tree lighting ceremony at Devoe Park with the help of volunteers. Solar power lights were used.**
 - **See Parks minutes for more details.**
- c) **Housing, Land Use & Economic Development: Committee discussed items coming up in City Planning.**
 - 1) **Bedford Green Building 2 is under their third general contractor. Developer hopes to finish and open building in late 2021. Next phase will be 2023.**
 - 2) **In January 2021 committee will provide an update as to the Botanical Gardens/Webster – Bedford project.**
 - **See Housing minutes for more details.**
- d) **Education, Youth & Libraries: Not much of an update: Schools continue with hybrid learning.**
 - 1) **Parents continue to have questions as to school reopening and remote learning.**
 - **See Education minutes for more details.**
- e) **Traffic & Transportation: Covered Loading Zones in our district and how it will affect parking spots.**
 - 1) **Discussed effects of what traffic and transportation budgets will look like in 2021.**
 - **See Traffic minutes for more details.**
- f) **Veterans Affairs: Committee is in plans to hold a round table January 27, 2021. The round table will include Veterans, their families and**



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professionals to highlight and address consumer protections and pitfalls.

1) See Veterans minutes for more details.

g) Health & Human Services: Committee discussed the most recent Covid data and vaccination information.

1) See Health minutes for more details.

h) Budget, Personnel & Ethics: No report.

VI) Motion To Close Board Business

a) Barbara Stronczer second the motion.

1) All members agreed to close Board Business.

b) Motion presented to move to executive session:

2) Motion second by Emmanuel Martinez

VII) Executive Session

a) Today is Ischia Bravo's last board meeting. Taking leave of absence as of January 4, 2021

1) This is not a final goodbye. This is a temporary leave. She will be using her personal time during this leave. She will still be available via phone and text. Hemmy will be handling emails. Ischia will be available on Mondays for check in with committee chairs.

2) Michael/Londy and Hemmy will be the staff available.

3) Tom Luciana at Bronx BP's office will be available as well for any questions.

b) Note: As of January 2021 General Meetings will be held live. This will encourage transparency.

VIII) Public Session:

a) 52nd Precinct Officer Echevarria

1) Provided update in the community crime stats (for more information please use the link below)

- <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/stats/crime-statistics/borough-and-precinct-crime-stats.page>**

b) Bronx borough presidents office: representative Ish Gonzalez



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- 1) Monthly reports sent to DM
 - 2) Encourage Covid testing
 - 3) Reappointment applications due back in February – please send back as soon as possible.
 - 4) Happy Holiday wishes to all.
- c) Bronx District Attorney’s Office: Representative Erica Diaz**
- 1) Salutations and reminder to please contact the DA’s office for assistance.
 - 2) Wished all Happy Holidays
- d) SENATOR GUSTAVO RIVERA: Representative Rachelle Ferrari**
- 1) Encourage Covid testing
 - 2) Wished all Happy Holidays
- e) ASSEMBLYMAN JEFF DINOWITZ: Representative Fredrick Klein**
- 1) Encourage Covid testing
 - 2) Assemblyman Dinowitz is working hard on addressing the problematic parking issues and Systemic issues occurring in our district.
 - 3) Assemblyman welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents to combat these issues.
 - 4) Wished all Happy Holidays
- f) Final notes:**
- 1) CB7 members and residents send their best wishes to Councilman Andrew Cohen who is now joining the New York Judicial System as Judge.
 - 2) CB7 members and residents send their best wishes to DM Ischia Bravo as she takes her leave effective January 2021.
 - 3) **HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021 TO ALL!**
- III) Next meeting date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021**
- IV) Adjournment – Motion to close meeting**
- a) Motion second by Edgar Ramos
 - 1) No opposition – Meeting ended at 8:37 P.M.