



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

JEAN HILL, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

# General Community Board Meeting Minutes

<b>Chair</b>	Jean Hill
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Wednesday, March 26, 2019
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	6:30pm
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	St. James Rcreation Center   2530 Jerome Avenue
<b>Minutes Done By:</b>	Nora Feury, Secretary

## Minutes

### I. Introductions

- a) Jean Hill opened the meeting with a warm greeting to all on such a cold night. She reminded all that there were still applications for the CB available.

### II. Elected Officials/Public Session

- a) Claire McElveighn, representing Councilman Fernando Cabrera, reported on the Community Boards Preliminary Budget hearing which was a huge success. Twelve Community Boards from the Bronx (3), Brooklyn (4), Queens (1), and Manhattan (4) testified at the hearing on their fiscal needs and how they've spent the additional FY 19 \$ 42, 5000 from Council Member Cabrera and Speaker Corey Johnson. The show of support and the quality of the testimony overwhelmingly demonstrated the need for baselining a funding increase in FY 20 Executive Budget. Among the issues raised were:
  - 1. Devolution of tasks such as bookkeeping from a Borough President's Office to Community Boards with no new resources
  - 2. Additional staff, especially urban planners
  - 3. Outdated IT systems
  - 4. Inadequate and inaccessible office space
    - A number of Boards are using their funds to build CRM systems to better manage and track contacts with constituents and agencies, issues and follow-up actions. Based on feedback regarding office space, Council Member will request a meeting for affected community boards and DCAS Commissioner Lissette Camilo.
- b) Jeffrey Klein, representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz reported on the Assemblyman's on-going meetings in Albany to finalize the budget.
  - 1. He announced the Norwood Town Hall meeting on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at Montefiore Hospital from 7 pm to 8:30 pm.



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2. Another Town Hall meeting on Tenant Protection and Rent Laws for Wednesday, April 17 at the Kingsbridge Library.
- c) P.O. Echevarria from Community Affairs at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct reviewed the crime stats.
1. He cautioned all to be wary of their surroundings during the upcoming holidays.
  2. He invited all to the next 52 precinct meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> at St. James Episcopal Church.
- d) Heidekee Salazar who represents Assemblyman Victor Pichardo reported on his work in Albany with the impending budget.
1. The Assembly member has been busy with celebrating Women's History Month by promoting equality and empowerment of women.
  2. The Assemblyman also celebrated Nutrition Month with meetings on nutrition, SNAP benefits and other resources.
  3. He also appeared on UCHA's live show demonstrating the preparation of his favorite meal.
  4. He also went throughout the district visiting bodegas who take part in BHR's Healthy Bodegas program.
  5. His office offers the following services:
    - Free notary services
    - Immigration Attorneys
    - Tenant Support Unit
    - The Assemblyman is in the office on Thursdays from 11 am – 3 pm
- e) Miles Burnett reported that Councilman Andy Cohen would be holding hearings on the Participatory Budget on Saturday for 1 week. One million dollars is available for programs with projects beneficial to the community. Once the projects are announced, eligible voters ( 6<sup>th</sup> graders up ) will be decide on projects to be accepted.
1. There will be a Norwood Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm to 8:30 pm at Montefiore Hospital.
- f) Jeffrey Tolentino, representing Congressman Adrian Espaillat reported on his activities in Washington DC on the Health Care Bill and the bill on Transgenders in the Military. Further progress on these bills will be reported.



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- g) Andy Toledo from BP Ruben Dias office reported that the re- appointment letters will be going out next week. He reminded Board members of the required training which must be given annually. Andy noted the BP's report on development in the Bronx. In CB 7, \$38 million dollars went to investment with 861 new units of housing. A booklet was available which described the 2018 investments and other highlights in residential housing.
- h) Elizabeth Thompson expressed her concern about the conditions in the parks, the Armory, the streets, the hospitals, the schools, everything. She wants action and support from the community.
- i) Michael Rodriguez and 3 other members of the BRAG team introduced themselves as members of the team who will be working in the neighborhood to address gun violence. Their target is 14-24 year olds. Their office is located at 1 East Fordham Road.
- j) Mariel DeLaCruz reported that NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer is working on improving the system under which a Non Profit Agency is able to register contracts in a more timely manner.
- The Comptroller is also sponsoring a petition drive demanding the Charter Review Commission include a Chief Diversity Officer for City Government. He is also providing a series of workshops to provide opportunities for minority and women owned business enterprises from Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.
- k) Frankie Mercedes reported that State Senator Alessandra Biaggi is in Albany participating in Budget negotiations. She is especially concerned with possible budget cuts to Nursing Homes. She will be fighting for continued support and additional funding.
- l) Ms. Biaggi will be partnering with CB 7 to provide direct services to the neighborhood on the second Thursday of the month from 11 am- 4 pm.
- m) Gloria Bent from NCBH and CB 7 announced an activity for National Nutrition Month to take place at NCBH lobby on Thursday from 11 am to 2 pm. All types of healthy food will be served.
- n) Adaline Walker Santiago introduced Turah Balik who will be heading up the Bronx Arts and Science Charter School to be open in August 2019. Each one spoke of the quality of the school as well as the talent and skill of its staff. Positions are available for qualified people for anyone interested in working with children.



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- o) Sirio Guerrero who is a concerned community resident who is vehemently supporting a 52<sup>nd</sup> precinct annex at Sam's Carpet Store. He stirred the audience with the whys and wherefores for the need for the annex along with other needed improvements throughout the community. He is also protesting the including of an additional high school at DeWitt High School when there is a parcel of land nearby where a new school could be erected. He closed with asking for support from everyone.
- p) Carolyn Heredio noted the lack of parking throughout the community and with all the new buildings it will be impossible to find any space.
- q) Elizabeth Thompson said she would take Carolyn's place if she had nothing more to say. Her question was about the status of the Armory. There are no updates at this time.
- r) Rachel Ferarri announced that State Senator Gustavo Rivera was busy in Albany working on the budget. Rachel reported on the Woman's Health Event sponsored by the Senator and the upcoming Fordham Town Hall where everyone is invited.
- s) Judy Sheridan and several nurses from the Nurses Association gave an update on their conflict with the local hospitals where they are fighting for safe staffing ratios, community accountability and safe and healthy hospitals. They are waiting for a contract where these issues will be spelled out and agreed upon.
- t) Nova Lucero from the NWBCC is urging the community to join them in a meeting at Monroe College on March 30 from 11 am-2 pm to learn about how the expiration of rent laws will impact the community. She also noted that there will be a Moral March for Housing on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at the Abyssinian Baptist Church at 132 West 138<sup>th</sup> St. All are invited to join in.
- u) Jane Addison Arroyo from the Mosholu Library announcing an Open House on Education Resources on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 11 am-5 pm. All are invited.
- v) American Red Cross Presentation: Amy from the American Red Cross described some of the services offered through the Red Cross with the help of volunteers. Volunteers help the community prepare for and respond to emergencies, deliver hope and comfort, meet new people – all while making a huge, positive impact on the lives of those who need it most. Amy described some of the positions available. If interested, contact [Anthony.Incarnato@redcross.org](mailto:Anthony.Incarnato@redcross.org).

### III. Public Session ends/ Board Meeting opened at 7:55 pm



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- a) Attendance taken - Quorum present
- b) The Agenda and Minutes with a correction was approved
- c) Motion(s):

1. Budget Committee:

- To amend the Bronx Community Board 7 by-Laws: Any board member with at least six months of service, and meeting attendance requirements, shall be allowed to take a six consecutive month, leave of absence, from the Community Board.

The request must be made in writing to the Board Chairperson, Board District Manager, and the Committee Chairperson of the Budget, Personnel, and Ethics Committee. An acknowledgement of receipt of the request, and grant of leave, will be made in writing and communicated to the person making the request.

The effective date of the six month consecutive leave will retroactive to the date of the last monthly general board meeting attended.

Only one request will be granted per 2 year appointment cycle.

- After much discussion, the motion was approved with 2 absentions from Adaline WalkerSantiagi and Denise Relf.

2. Health & Human Services:

- For CB7 to send a support letter for ECDC to be sent to the Board of Regents. Motioned by Alfred Grant; seconded by Kevin Davis.
  - Motion was tabled until a letter on the subject is presented to the Executie Board at the next meeting.

3. Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs:

- A letter be sent to Councilman Cabrera requesting funding for a Playground Associate at Devoe Park for the Spring and Summer.
  - Motion approved unanimously.

#### IV. Chairperson's Report

- a) Jean Hill congratulated the 2 honorees from CB 7 who were honored on Saturday; Ischia Bravo and Cristina Contreras.
- b) Jean attended the Borough Board and gave a report on the issues facing the community especially on-going flooding.



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**V. Executive Committee Report**

- a) See minutes

**VI. District Manager's Report**

- a) Report to be given next month due to illness.

**VII. Committee Reports**

- a) Economic Development & Long Term Planning
  - 1. The The meeting on the homeless was cancelled
- b) Veterans Affairs
  - 1. The Veterans Brunch is scheduled for May 17th
- c) Budget, Personnel & Ethics
  - 1. A report on the Budget expenditures was given
- d) Environment & Sanitation
  - 1. A Dog Poop day to educate the public on the need to clean up after their dog is being planned..
- e) Education, Youth & Libraries
  - 1. A report on the "Make A Wish Foundation " was given with a need for Spanish speaking volunteers needed
- f) Traffic & Transportation
  - 1. A report on the Jump Bike program was discussed.
- g) Housing, Land Use & Zoning
  - 1. An update was given on the Bedford Manor Housing complex. To date there will be an live-in super assigned to the buildings. The Committee will continue monitoring the situation.
- h) Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs
  - 1. Park permits were discussed with PEP officers monitoring the occupants.
- i) Public Safety & Quality of Life
  - 1. On April 6<sup>th</sup> there will be an Emergency Preparedness Safety Forum at St. James Park from 10 am-12 noon. Attendance at the Forum is in lieu of a meeting for April.
- j) Health & Human Services
  - 1. The Committee is requesting that the public respond to the Health Assessment by Montefiore Hospital online or on paper by April 30<sup>th</sup>. For more information call 347-418-4737



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2. There will be an “ Early Intervention Services in our Community” Forum on April 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm at Lehman College.

k) Public Relations

1. A Newsletter update was given. Tonight a group picture will be taken for the world to see who we are.

### **VIII. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm**