



**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, May 25th, 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) Now that the warmer weather is here, encourage everyone to continue to stay safe as Covid is still among us.
 - b) Issues of Safety – a big concern. Encourage community to call 911, 311, NCO’s and saving the claim number(s).
 - c) Kingsbridge Armory- activity picking up
 - d) Discussion with the Advisory council – as of now everything is moving forward Projection Q4 of this year to Q1 of 2022. There are some things that need to be resolved with the Empire State Financing Company – resolution in the next couple of months. Will continue to provide information in the next couple of months.
 - e) Meeting Rules – read by CB7 Staff – Michael Rosario
- II) **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 Barbara Stronczer
 - Motion Passed.
- III) **Nominations Committee: Sandra Erickson – Chair, Betty Arce, Cole Hawkins Untwain Fife, Victor Saldana.**
 - a) Nominations will be accepted during this meeting and vetted by the nominating committee and CB7 staff. Candidate(s) will receive an



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email to which they must respond either accepting or declining the nomination.

- b) Candidate who is nominated for more than one position, must only accept one position.
- c) The vote will take place on June 23, 2021, via google forms.
- d) There is an open period for members to vote is from 6/16/21 through 6/23/2021
- e) Candidates will need to be present at the time of the vote, be on while attendance is taken, and quorum is established on June 23, 2021 if you are late your vote will not count.
- f) Once quorum is established Candidates will have 2 minutes to address the members.
- g) After all the candidates finish addressing the members, the google form will be closed. If you leave before your vote is casted, your vote will not count and there will no other opportunity.
- h) Nominations are as follows:
 - 1) Chair: Chad Royer nominates Emmanuel Martinez; Jean Hill nominated Myrna Calderon
 - 2) 1st Vice Chair: Nora Fury nominates Barbara Stronczer
 - 3) 2nd Vice Chair: Yajaira Arias nominates Erick Ascensio; Victor Saldana nominates Chad Royer
 - 4) 3rd Vice Chair: Barbara Stronczer nominates Andrew Laiosa; Jean Hill nominates Helene Redd
 - 5) Secretary: Andrew Laiosa/Chad Royer nominates Yajaira Arias
 - 6) Treasurer: Chad Royer nominates Edgar Ramos; Jean Hill nominates Daisy Perry
- i) Members can the office for a list of members.
- j) Not permitted to call or campaign to any member of the nominating committee.

III) Motions

- a) Motion presented by Housing Committee Chair, Alex Karman:



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1) Motion concerning the application by the Department of Citywide Administrative Service (DCAS) for the Fordham Building CTAC Site Selection (C 210338 PSX).

- Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) site selection ULURP – Fordham Building Computer and Testing Center - Site Selection
- DCAS presentation – Fordham Building - occupancy will be on the 2nd Floor
- First floor community use has not been identified yet. DCAS presentation included location and transportation accessibility.
- A couple of years of conversations took place with former councilman Ritchie Torres as to
- a potential Pride Center or a youth health center for the first floor. Nothing materialized as of today.
- DCAS – would like to have a larger presence in the Bronx.
- Brief Discussion held with members.
- Questions: Would DCAS partner with local High School? Community would like to see the incorporation of prep and testing to Bronx high school students.
 - DCAS answer: Yes, partnerships with schools will be taking place
- Does the redesign have safety measures – lessons learned from Covid?
- The project has not started and lessons with covid will be taking place in conjunction with the building codes
- Motion was second by Barbara Stronczer
 - Vote taken - Motions Passed.



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b) Motion concerning the proposed Citywide Hotel Special Permit zoning text amendment the NYC Zoning Resolution because it would give CB 7 greater oversight over hotel proposals.

- 1) Rational: At present, there is only one hotel in Bronx Community District 7. However, there have been proposals in the past to locate hotels in the area given the area's proximity to major Bronx attractions and institutions. The committee believes the special permit requirement would give Bronx CB 7 greater oversight over proposals to develop hotels in the area.**
- 2) No questions or discussions from members**
- 3) Motion taken to vote.**

- **Motion was second by Barbara Stronczer**
 - **Vote taken - Motions Passed.**

c) Motion presented Veteran chair Chad Royer:

- 1) MTA Reduce Fare for Veterans**
- 2) Letter of support from elected officials - Bills placed into this year's budget**
- 3) Mayor and City Council had agreed to provide fare discount for Veterans**
- 4) However, the eligibility requirements changed, yet making some Veterans illegible to receive the reduced fare.**
- 5) Deadline is June 10, 2021, deadline or Memorial Day Announcement this weekend.**
- 6) Questions: Income Eligibility and Funding (Starting Program)?**
 - **HP Schroer, if MTA where to allocate 2 cents per fare it would cover the program**
- 7) Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz has presented this bill in Albany**
- 8) Community agree that we would take care of our Vets.**
- 9) Question: would a vet who is dishonorably discharge be eligible to receive the discount?**



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- Under the bill if a vet is dishonorably discharged would not be eligible. However, there are several discharge categories (dishonorable being the worst)

10) Motion second by Emmanuel Asamoah

- Vote taken - Motions Passed.

11) Brief discussion: Can a member of the nominating committee nominate a member for an open position.

- After clarification – yes, a member of the nominating committee can nominate. The only thing

IV) Committee Reports

a) Environment and Sanitation – Betty Arce

- 1) Committee did not meet this month.

b) Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer

- 1) Design Bill Procurement Received letter from 1010 - to support if the parks would adopt would move construction along faster. Committee is in the process of contacting parks as to the procurement.

- 2) Discuss issues creeping up on our parks. Illegal activities and Quality of life issues

- 3) Suggestion to do a walk at Fordham Landing Park – Toby Beauford, Joe Magneri and I took a walk It is our hidden park – Not in the greatest of shape.

- 4) Fordham Landing is a park for active sports. Parks agreed to get it cleaned up for league(s) to use the park.

c) Housing, Land Use & Economic Development – Alex Karman

- 1) In addition to the City-Wide Hotel discussion and motion

- 2) Presentation 2528 grand avenue privately financed affordable senior housing – units set aside are not accessible AMI 80%

- 3) Emergency rental assistance program \$2 Billion aid and help (tenants and landlords) is going into effect

- 4) If you know anyone who needs helps- please contact the Department of Emergency and Temporary Assistance



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- 5) See Housing minutes for more details**
- d) Education, Youth & Libraries – Jhenelle Robinson**
 - 1) Schools will be return in person in September.**
 - 2) Covid number are now exceptionally low in our public schools**
 - 3) NY Library started limited in person operations.**
 - 4) Presentation from Include NYC Pina Poto discussed children with disabilities**
 - 5) For more information, please see Education minutes.**
- e) Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos**
 - 1) Hoping to obtain information from DOT**
 - 2) Following up as to DOT as to how they are putting the Federal money received to work**
 - 3) For more information, please see Traffic minutes.**
- a) Veterans Affairs – Chad Y. Royer**
 - 1) Veterans Round Table Event will take place tomorrow**
 - 2) Guest Speakers will provide insight and information as to health and housing**
 - 3) Upgrading honorable discharge**
- b) Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila**
 - 1) Committee did not meet this month.**
- c) Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Andrew Laiosa**
 - 1) Attendance letters are being emailed by the end of this week to members in violation of CB7 by laws. Attendance is importance.**
 - 2) Reminder attending meetings**
 - 3) Budget due to Covid - CB7 would not have spent all of money for Fiscal Year ending 2021**
 - 4) For more information, please see Budget minutes**
 - 5) Questions: How much money has the board spent and what has CB7 spent to date? Unfortunately, the City provides this information.**
- d) Public Safety & Quality of Life – Victor Saldana**
 - 1) Unfortunately, no minutes for Public Safety.**



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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) Motion to close board business
- VI) Public Session:
- a) Councilmember Oswald Feliz
 - 1) Newly elected Councilman Oswald Feliz - Gave well wishes to all
 - 2) Office continues to be the same as former councilmember Ritchie Torres
 - 3) His office has a full-time tenant lawyer on staff to help our community.
 - 4) He has been appointed to Housing, Land Use Education and Sanitation.
 - 5) Working together with Sanitation Department and NYPD.
 - b) Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz:
 - 1) Gave well wishes to all
 - 2) Eviction moratorium passed last month and in effect now.
 - 3) Large amount of money allocated to help those in needs in rent assistance.
 - 4) Prevailed against Montefiore to evict seniors who are residents at Montefiore Building on Wayne Avenue.
 - 5) Hoping MTA will approve Veteran Discount Fare
 - 6) Constituents can call our office for assistance.
 - 7) Assemblyman welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.
 - c) Councilman Eric Dinowitz:
 - 1) Working around the district – setting up tables and providing services
 - 2) Passed bill expanding right to council with free legal services
 - 3) Office is located at 277 West 231st Street



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- 4) Councilman welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.**
- d) Bronx Borough President's Office: Representative Ish Gonzalez**
 - 1) Gave well wishes to all**
 - 2) If any board member who had an issue completing the Sexual Harassment Training – please contact our office and DCAS for assistance.**
 - 3) The reappointment will be sent out in early June.**
- e) Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez:**
 - 1) Gave well wishes to all**
 - 2) Today partnered with 52nd Precinct for a Food Box Giveaway**
 - 3) Tomorrow will have another zoom forum to discuss mental health**
 - 4) Coming to end of session – disability rights package just passed**
 - 5) Introduced to bring social workers in our schools – will continue to provide information**
 - 6) Assemblywoman welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.**
- f) Bronx District Attorneys' Office:**
 - 1) Representative Erika Diaz**
 - 2) Gave well wishes to all**
 - 3) Child Safety Fair Event took place – did child id's and hands on activities**
 - 4) Hosting an Anti-Violence Rally followed by a resource fair on June 4, 2021**
 - 5) DA's office is now helping those with in need of mental health services**
- g) Senator Alessandra Biaggi: Representative Tyler Wong**
 - 1) Gave well wishes to all**
 - 2) OTDA Program**



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- 3) Senator Biaggi sponsored the Domestic Violence Record for Prosecutors. This bill will allow prosecutors to obtain records like violated orders of protections etc.**
- 4) Senator welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.**

h) Others:

- 1) Ana Berlanga Assistant Vice Principal of Brilla Caritas**
 - **Located at 3336 Andrews Avenue - Next to Devoe Park**
 - **Serve K but growing to K to 8 Schools**
- 2) Ciro Guerrino**
 - **Reminder 52nd Precinct Council meeting (in person)**
 - **Guerrino's against Graffiti will be presenting Gold Brush Award**
 - **First Gold Brush Award will be presented to Emmanuel Martinez**
 - **Hope to see everyone there.**

VI) Next meeting date: Wednesday, June 23rd, 2021

VII) Adjournment – Motion to close meeting

a) Motion second by Myrna Calderon

1) No opposition – Meeting ended at 8:52 PM