



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

## **GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 16, 2018 @ 6:30 PM | Tracey Towers

I) Adaline opened the meeting at 6:30 pm with a greeting to all.

### II) Public Session

- A) Dilletta Pina, who wished to express her admiration and thanks for the care that Montefiore Hospital, gave her son during his recent surgery.
- B) Robert Amaya is a striking worker out of work for 10 months from Spectrum Cable Co. He seeks support from elected officials to intervene in the negotiations for medical benefits and pension.
- C) Chad Royer reported that he has had no response from the Postmaster to his concerns about handicap accessibility at the 10468 Post Office.
- D) Jean Happersaud, from the Bronx Library Center announcing the available access at 6 pm on January 17<sup>th</sup>, the presence of 3 authors from the Bronx on Sat., Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, a movie on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, computer classes schedule for January and free tax preparations at Manhattan Libraries.
- E) Jennifer Tausig reported from the Mosholu Preservation and the BID about the DOT study to beautify the area with lights, benches, planters, greening the neighborhood and plans for a sculpture to be erected.
  - 1) A salesperson will be hired by the Norwood News to seek ads.
- F) Richard Montenegro, from the District 10 Educational Council reported about a meeting to discuss failed programs in district schools due to poor administration.
  - 1) All are invited to a meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at 3202 Steuben Avenue.
    - (a) NYC Officials are invited.
- G) Jane Addison-Amoya, from the Mosholu Library announced the hiring of 2 new librarians allowing the children's programs to be restored.
  - 1) The first one will be on February 12<sup>th</sup> from 3 pm to 6 pm On February 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am there will be story time for young children.
- H) Ken Small announced a new office address at 3133 Webster Avenue (near 205<sup>th</sup> Street).
  - 1) Ken thanked all for their support in helping him find space.
- I) Detective June Cortez, from the 52<sup>nd</sup> precinct introduced Officer Tara from Sector Charlie who has been assisting him.



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- 1) He reviewed the stats and reported on arrests of suspects who have committed crimes in the area.
- 2) Detective Cortez reported on bank account scams warning people to beware of free offerings of trips from Delta Airlines.
- 3) Burglaries continue through unlocked fire escape windows and mailbox fishing is still a problem.
  - (a) Warnings to all to beware of their surroundings especially at Target where purses have been stolen.
- 4) On March 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a meeting for the community on safety issues at St. Philip Neri School, where all are invited.
- J) Elizabeth Quaranta, from Friends of Mosholu Pkwy is looking for volunteers to help out in beautifying the Parkway.
  - 1) The first project will be on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- K) Mercedes De La Cruz, from Independent Cares Systems explained the services offered in managed home care i.e. health, special services, assistance with Medicaid eligibility and mental health trainings.
  - 1) Ms. De La Cruz is available for presentations.
- L) Claire McLeveighn, from Councilman Cabrera's office reported that the Councilman was unanimously elected Majority Whip of the City Council which is the third highest leadership position in the Council.
  - 1) He will also serve as Chair of Governmental Operations.
  - 2) He will be re-introducing 65 bills from the previous session that addresses public safety, health and mental health, environment, education, safe affordable housing and other matters.
    - (a) We are very proud of our Councilman.
- M) Adolfo Abreu, who represents Councilman Ritchie Torres, reported the availability of free tax preparations at his office.
  - 1) Adolfo also mentioned the combined assistance of his office with local churches in assisting the recent fire victims with food clothing and shelter.
  - 2) Other services offered are immigration questions, housing, green cards and domestic violence problems.
- N) Mariel De La Cruz, from NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's office announced an invitation to the Trailblazers program and award ceremony in honor of African American History Month on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at 2116 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.
  - 1) Mariel also distributed a transit study on the NYC Bus System prepared by Mr. Stringer.



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- O) Ranell Ogilvie, from State Senator Jamaal Bailey's office announced they are having a coat drive on January 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at 959 East 233 Street.
- 1) On January 26<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Human Trafficking Awareness Assembly from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at 3710 Barnes Ave.
  - 2) The FBI and the NYPD will be presenting data, trends, tips and other information regarding their work in combating human trafficking in the Bronx and nationally.
    - (a) All are invited.
- P) Ariana Calludo, from Councilman Andy Cohen's office announced that the Councilman is sponsoring a Landlord/Tenant Forum with an Immigration attorney present on February 24<sup>th</sup> at Tracey Towers.
- Q) Frederic Klein, from Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz's office reported that the Assemblyman is in Albany working on court evidence issues.
- 1) There is assistance available at his office for anyone who has problems with tenant leases.
    - (a) Often tenants receive increases for major capital improvements when none have been done.
- R) Andy Toledo, from the BP's office reminding CB members to send in their reappointment letters as soon as possible.
- 1) Applications to serve on the CB are available to the public.
    - (a) All are encouraged to apply.
  - 2) There is information at the BP's office for home owner's exceptions.
    - (a) Call for further information.
- S) Hideke Salazar, from Assemblyman Victor Pichardo's office reported that housing assistance is available every Thursday from 11:00 am to 3 pm at 2175 Jerome Avenue, Suite C.
- 1) The Assemblyman is sponsoring a "Know Your Rights" Forum to learn about immigrants' rights and how to avoid immigration fraud and other services available to the community.
    - (a) It will be held at 8 Clinton Place in the Bronx on January 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

### III) Closing of the Public Session at 7:30 pm

- A) Attendance – Quorum present
- B) Agenda and minutes approved



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#### IV) Chairperson's Report

- A) Adaline introduced the newly hired District Manager Ischia Bravo who spoke a few words.
- B) Adaline continued reporting on meetings and information pertinent to the community.
- C) At the DSC meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>, the new Deputy BP was introduced who spoke of the BP's issues of concern and how they are handled.
  - 1) One issue is snow removal on subway stairs.
    - (a) The advice is to call 511 when a problem is encountered.
  - 2) With the severe cold weather, fire prevention remains as a topic of concern.
    - (a) Tips are available.
- D) The DOE has finally sent a representative to cabinet meetings.
  - 1) It was mentioned that School Construction is looking for space for new schools.
  - 2) Plans for a Community Resource Fair are in the works.
  - 3) More information is forthcoming.
- E) There is a job description for the District Manager if anyone is interested.
- F) Board Chairs have been instructed to select Vice Chairs for their committees in case of their absence.
- G) A thank you was given to Ms. Campbell for the refreshments for this evening's meeting.

#### V) Executive Committee Report

- A) Barbara Stronczer introduced the motions to be voted on.
  - 1) Executive Committee
    - (a) To post a sign in English and Spanish in the office and the conference room indicating the presence of a surveillance camera.
      - i. Motion approved unanimously.
    - (b) To update the message on the telephone.
      - i. Motion approved unanimously.
    - (c) To utilize the telephone system to notify the public of changes or closings.
      - i. Motion approved unanimously.
  - 2) Treasurer's report
    - (a) To hold a Community Resource Fair
      - i. Motion approved unanimously.



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- 3) Housing, Land Use & Zoning
  - (a) To send a letter of support for the DOE Fund project located at 3188 Villa Ave.
    - i. Motion approved unanimously.
- 4) Public Safety & Quality of Life
  - (a) To send a letter to CITI Bank on Jerome Avenue, requesting a security guard to be posted after bank hours.
    - i. Motion approved unanimously.
- B) The names of the newly appointed Chairperson's of the Veteran's Committee and the WAM Committee were announced.
  - 1) Carmen Miranda for the Veteran's Committee and Cole Hawkins for the WAM Committee.
- C) Seven members for the By-Laws Committee were announced: Anthony Perez, Jean Hill, Andrew Laiosa, Barbara Stronzcer, Cole Hawkins, Myrna Calderon and Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, with Andrew Laiosa named Chair of the Committee.
  - 1) These appointments were approved with one "no" vote from Cynthia O' Neal-Riley.
- D) The WAM Committee gathered sufficient petitions to support the WAM Committee in its request to become a full-fledged committee.
  - 1) The vote on this petition will take place at the February meeting of the full Board.
- E) Nominations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair were conducted:
  - 1) Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky was nominated and accepted.
  - 2) Jean Hill was nominated and accepted.
  - 3) Lorita Watson was nominated and accepted.
    - (a) Election will take place at February's General Board meeting.
- F) The MAS contracts for Women's Empowerment, Bus Tour and the Newsletter were described.
- G) A motion was made to spend an additional \$1,500 to print the newsletter in Spanish.
  - 1) The motion was approved.

#### VI) Committee Reports:

##### A) Budget, Personnel & Ethics

- 1) The MAS Contracts were reviewed and approved.
- 2) The attendance records of Board members at were reviewed and it was decided to send letters to those who have missed 3 consecutive meetings.



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#### B) Community Relations & Long Term Planning

- 1) There was a report on the Fab Lab at Lehman's Adult Learning Center.
- 2) Plans are on-going on the proposed use of the Old Fordham Library.
  - (a) It is likely that the site will be used as a workforce development site where people can take Civil Service Exams.
  - (b) There will be a public review which will allow the public to express their opinion on the use of the building.
- 3) Reminder of the January 20<sup>th</sup> Women's March.

#### C) Economic Development – No Report

#### D) Education, youth & Libraries

- 1) Report given by Adaline in the absence of Joseph Nieves.
- 2) There was a presentation by Grace Institute about the program they offer which provides women with support in economic self-sufficiency, lifelong learning, gender equality and professionalism.
- 3) The NY Yankees Award resumes were ranked and voted on

#### E) Environment & Sanitation

- 1) Helene recommended that Committee reports be given before the Public Session.
- 2) The report from the Committee was that the gas station property on Van Cortlandt was approved.
- 3) The conditions at St. George Crescent are questionable, with parking in the area compromised.
- 4) The graffiti on Van Cortlandt has been removed.
- 5) DOH will do a presentation on Rat Prevention.
  - (a) Additional money was added to the NYC budget to support this initiative.

#### F) Health & Hospitals – No report

#### G) Housing, Land Use & Zoning

- 1) The DOE Fund gave a report on their project on Villa Avenue
- 2) The Stagg Group reached out to discuss the St. George project and was referred to DOB to separate his two lots which he bunched together.
- 3) The issue of the removal of parking spaces without notification arose.
  - (a) The people affected by this want an adjustment.

#### H) Parks & Recreation

- 1) There is a new manager for the district, named Joseph Magniri.
- 2) The goals for the Committee were discussed and it was decided they will be:
  - (a) Better maintenance of the parks



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- (b) Expediting the contracts for capital projects
- (c) Helping and supporting beautification projects

3) Next meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

I) Public Safety & Quality of Life – No report

J) Senior Services

1) There was a presentation on Long Term Care by Independent Care Systems.

- (a) They described their services and the assistance available to apply for Medicaid and eligibility if needed.

2) Lowell also encouraged seniors to take advantage of the Fitness Center at the Oval.

3) There is a program for seniors at the cost of \$25 a year.

4) A computer lab will take place on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

K) Traffic & Transportation

1) Ambulances blocking the entrance to the Hospital continue to be a problem.

L) Veterans

1) The Annual Brunch is planned for April 20<sup>th</sup> and the Committee is seeking veterans to be honored at the event.

- (a) They are requesting bios with background information on areas of service and citations by February 20<sup>th</sup>.

M) Ad Hoc

1) WAM Committee

(a) Technical training sessions are being prepared for members.

(b) Women's Empowerment planned for March 24<sup>th</sup>.

2) By Laws

(a) Next meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

(b) Announcement that Public Safety will meet on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

VII) Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.