



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, February 20, 2018 @ 6:30 PM | Bronx Library Center

- I) Public Session – The meeting opened at 6:30 pm
 - A) Assemblyman Victor Pichardo reported on the budget in Albany where they are working on the Congestion Pricing Plan.
 - 1) He also invited all to the Black History Month Celebration on 2/23.
 - 2) Residents can have their taxes prepared free of charge at the Assemblyman's office. Call for an appointment.
 - B) Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz also referred to the Congestion Pricing Plan.
 - 1) He explained the need for revenue for transportation that is fair and affordable.
 - 2) The problem of gun control was raised with the Assemblyman who explained that despite all the regulations in place regarding guns more had to be done to address the issue.

He addressed the many complaints about illegal car towing where cash payments were demanded not credit cards.

 - (a) He also reminded people that if a car is already hooked up but still in place only half the price should be charged.
 - C) Councilman Andy Cohen reported that the homeless shelter scheduled for Sam's Carpet will be relocated to the former F.E.G.S. site at 3600 Jerome Avenue after which cluster sites and commercial hotels will be closed.
 - 1) Bronx Works will provide essential social services to help these clients regain their footing with dignity.
 - D) Gregory Faulkner, representing Councilman Fernando Cabrera announced that the gates for Devoe Park were ordered and should be in by spring and the work on the handball court in St. James Park was in progress.
 - 1) The Councilman is also concerned about the unfair summonses that livery cars and taxis receive.
 - (a) When they receive a summons they are charged by both the Police and the Taxi Commission for the same infraction.
 - i. He is working on a bill to correct this injustice.
 - 2) The mention of a DOE application is available to report bullying.
 - (a) Also, there is a new college tuition program for eligible students.
 - E) Ron Jordan, who represents Councilman Richie Torres, announced free tax preparation.
 - 1) Call for an appointment.
 - 2) There will be training on Participatory Budgeting on March 29th.



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

- 3) On March 13th the Councilman will co-host a Senior's Appreciation Breakfast at the Botanical Gardens from 9 am – 10:30 am, followed by a tour of the gardens.
- F) P.O. Steven Eccevario from the 52nd Precinct reviewed the stats with rape, felony assault, burglary and grand larceny auto up.
- G) Tom Lucania, from Borough President Ruben Diaz's office thanked all for coming out.
 - 1) Renewal applications are being reviewed for reappointment.
 - (a) New applicants are being interviewed.
 - 2) NYCHA is a concern to the Borough President.
 - (a) He has urged the Governor and the Mayor to announce procurement for boilers.
 - (b) The Borough President has assigned funds to NYCHA for new boilers and he is working with the City Council to move the issue. He also supports legislation regarding gas stoves in homes with children less than 7 yrs. of age, where the stoves must have burner covers and locks. There will be on-going training in our schools by the Fire Department about fire safety. All are invited to the State of the Borough address on Thursday at the Bronx High School of Science.
- H) Jean Happersaud from the Bronx Library Center announced the activities for the month with flyers.
 - 1) In addition to book readings there will be a play "Exposing Politics".
 - (a) All are invited.
 - 2) There will be an immigration attorney on Fridays by appointment.
- I) Jane Addison Arroyo, from the Mosholu Library announced the hiring of two new librarians who will be assisting in the programs planned for the upcoming months.
- J) Carlos Montero, a community resident spoke against the men's homeless shelter to be located in the former FEGS center since it is located too close to the Dance School which teaches girls from 10 to 15 years of age.
 - 1) He is deeply concerned for the safety of the students.
- K) Sidney Finley is involved in raising awareness about child development to prepare them for the world we live in by books designed to stimulate, fascinate and promote active listening and active learning.
- L) Shaniqua Charles is involved in raising funds for fire victims.
 - 1) She needs donations to provide food, clothes and other necessities.
 - (a) She is sponsoring a fund raiser on Thursday 2/22 at 6 pm at 608 East Fordham Road.
- M) Lucy Ponte from Poe Park announced the programs being provided by the Park.
 - 1) Black History Month is an on-going event.



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

- 2) There are also concerts and programs for adults and children.
 - N) David Cruz is the Editor of the Norwood News.
 - 1) He announced the upcoming celebration of 30 years.
 - 2) He is looking for stories for the paper that residents remember as memorable.
 - O) Jason Caraballo from Montefiore Hospital announced activities at the Hospital to maintain good health.
 - 1) There will be workshops on respiratory disease and heart problems.
 - 2) In keeping with American Heart Month, Montefiore Hospital is sponsoring the Bronx Zoo Run on February 28th.
 - P) Ralph Jean is the Outreach Coordinator for Bike NY.
 - 1) He announced that there are classes for safe bike health which are available for schools.
 - (a) A bike run is scheduled for the first Sunday in May. All are invited to join in.
 - Q) Chad Royer reported on the on-going lack of communication with the Post Office officials regarding lack of ADA requirements at the 10458 P.O. on Webster Avenue.
 - 1) He is circulating a petition to address the situation. He presently has 150 signatures.
 - R) Jean Hill from Tracey Towers announced the following:
 - 1) On 2/21 a mini Health Fair from 10 – 3
 - 2) On 2/24 an Immigration Forum with Councilman Andy Cohen
 - 3) On 2/24 a Black History Program from 10-4.
 - S) Natalia Fernandez announced that she no longer represents Governor Andrew Cuomo as she is a candidate for the Assembly for the 80th District.
 - 1) She is seeking support.
 - T) Lorita Watson is arranging visits to the Museum of the City of New York.
 - 1) There is a sign in sheet for any Saturday.
 - 2) Lorita noted an upcoming school walk-out around the issue of school safety.
 - U) Tasha Allen is offering support and assistance for those who need it at her church at 3132 Steuben Avenue.
- II) Attendance taken – Quorum present
- A) The Agenda and minutes were approved with corrections



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

III) Chairperson's Report

- A) Adaline Walker Santiago thanked all for attending and reported on the various meetings and activities for January and February including the moving of the men's homeless shelter from Sam's Carpet to the former FECS site on Jerome Avenue.
- B) She attended the inauguration of Councilman Mark Gjonaj and the State of Address by Congressman Espaillat.
- C) An important announcement for those who use Access-A-Ride is a new addition of the E-Hail pilot program where one can call for a ride without a 2 day notice.
- D) To be eligible one may apply online.
- E) A notice about jails to be built throughout the communities is noted due to the possible closing of Riker's Island.
- F) There was a reminder about the upcoming Women's Empowerment Event in March.

IV) Executive Committee Report

- A) The Motions were addressed.
 - 1) The Motion from the Senior Services was moved to the By Laws Committee.
 - 2) The motion from Traffic and Transportation was corrected to omit the last 7 lines.
- B) **Motion(s):**
 - 1) The Executive Committee recommends a letter be sent to Parks' Commissioner Iris Rodriguez Rosa requesting Devoe Park be placed within the jurisdiction of the District 7 Parks' Manager for all maintenance and repairs.
 - (a) The Motion was approved unanimously.
 - 2) WAM Committee – To purchase 250 tote bags for the Women's Empowerment Event at the cost of \$ 732.50.
 - (a) The motion was approved unanimously.
 - 3) Traffic & Transportation – Letter of support for Complete the Concourse for the Department of Transportation to extend the Grand Concourse.
 - (a) The Motion was approved unanimously.
 - 4) By Laws Committee – To have the standalone Senior Services Committee be dissolved and the duties of this committee be included in a new Health and Human Services Committee.
 - (a) This motion was approved by the Senior Services Committee by unanimous vote at the February 14, 2017 meeting.
- C) Barbara Stronczer announced that the election of the 2nd Vice Chair would take place.



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

- 1) Each candidate made a statement.
 - (a) Jean Hill went first with Lorita Watson following.
 - (b) Ballots were distributed and collected.
 - (c) The votes were counted by Andrew Laiosa and P.O. Eccevaria.
 - (d) Jean Hill received 25 votes and Lorita Watson received 2 votes.
 - i. The next 2nd Vice Chair is Jean Hill.
- V) District Managers Report
 - A) Ischia Bravo introduced herself and gave her report.
 - 1) Ischia has met with board members to discuss needs, wants and expectations for the board and its progress.
 - 2) She is currently working on the office structure, i.e.: lease, phone system etc.
 - 3) Ischia discussed her participation with the committees and gave a synopsis of the Housing Committee meeting for the Chair.
 - B) Discussion – 3600 Jerome Avenue
 - 1) 200 Bed-Men Shelter, 70 staffers, Physician and social workers on site, 3 daily meals will be served.
 - 2) Shelter Population: Mental Illness, Handicap, Substance Abusers, all of which have to be 50 years and older.
 - 3) NO Sex Offenders.
 - 4) Bronxworks along with DHS will put together an Advisory Committee.
 - 5) Met with the North West Clergy Coalition to discuss the small businesses on Kingsbridge Road.
 - 6) Met with the Stagg Group to discuss 150 Van Cortland Ave.
 - 7) Ischia attended Borough Board meeting to adopt the Borough President's Budget Priorities for Fiscal 2019.
 - 8) Ischia held her first District Service Cabinet Meeting (Bullets to follow).
 - 9) Ischia created informational packets for board chairs that included: data (on the age, gender, demographics etc. of CB 7.)
 - 10) Discuss the need for detailed mission statement for the committees (handed out examples).
 - E) Distributed Parliamentary procedures hand out.
 - 1) Ischia expressed that her goals are to ensure all committee chairs are well informed on the issues and data of the Community Board.



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

VI) Committee Reports

A) Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Andrew Laiosa

- 1) Andrew Laiosa reported that the letters to absentee members were mailed.

B) Community Relations & Long Term Planning – Lorita Watson

- 1) Lorita Watson reported that there would be a Spring Clean Up planned with the Dept. of Sanitation.
- 2) All are invited to a Health Fair on March 6th.

C) Economic Development – Tiffany Wheatland-Disu

- 1) Information on tax filing and scams will be provided at the Feb. 27th meeting.
- 2) Scott Stringer will be doing a series of workshops for Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises at MWBE University.

D) Education, Youth & Libraries – Joseph Nieves

- 1) On February 7th there was a presentation by DOE on UPK registration.
- 2) The deadline is March 30th.
 - (a) Call 311 for more information.

E) Environment & Sanitation – Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky

- 1) Residents are reminded to sign up for compost areas.
- 2) Recycling continues to be a concern that needs to be addressed.

F) Health & Hospitals – Anthony Perez

- 1) March is National Nutrition Month.
- 2) On Wed. March 14th, NCBH is sponsoring a Nutrition Day Conference From 11 am – 3 pm.
- 3) There is an exhibition of undersigned Red Line Districts where health is tracked at the Arthur DOH site.
- 4) Next meeting on March 6th.

G) Housing, Land Use & Zoning – Jean Hill

- 1) Jean Hill met with Bronx Works the oversight of the planned homeless shelter in CB 7 at 3600 Jerome Ave.
 - (a) The age of the occupants will average about 50 yrs. of age who have substance abuse and mental health issues.
 - (b) There will be a 70 person security staff with parking for staff. Montefiore Hospital will oversee any health issues.
 - (c) Three meals a day will be served with food being brought in from the outside. There will be a curfew.



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

- (d) Bronx Works will address any concerns due to the shelter being in the community.
- (e) On Feb. 22nd, at the 52nd pct., concerns about the shelter will be discussed.
- H) Parks & Recreation – Barbara Stronczer
- 1) There were two presentations about parks.
 - 2) One from the Dept. of Parks regarding the improvements to the Tibbetts Brook Wetlands and the other from the Dept. of Design and Construction regarding the construction of a pedestrian ramp crossing the Major Deegan Highway.
 - 3) The second presenter is requesting a letter of support from the Board. There were many questions about the design of the ramp which must be reviewed before support is forthcoming.
- I) Public Safety & Quality of Life – Monique Weston
- 1) There were two presentations at the meeting. One from the NYPD and another from the NYFD.
 - 2) Reports were given about crime reports and citizen safety rules.
 - 3) The FD addressed the issue of smoke detectors and the need to check batteries frequently.
 - 4) Due to the excess of fires in the community fire safety rules were discussed. Smoke detectors are available through the Red Cross.
- J) Senior Services – Lowell Green
- 1) Lowell Green discussed the need for a safety program for seniors which are sponsored by the NYFD.
 - 2) She will work with the DM to set something up in senior housing sites not funded through the Dept. for the Aging.
 - 3) NY Statewide Senior Action Council calendars were distributed to all.
 - 4) The question "Does CB 7 need a Senior Services Committee" ?
 - (a) After much discussion it was decided to make a motion to dissolve the duties of the Senior Committee and include them into a new Health and Human Services Committee.
 - 5) At the next meeting of the 52nd pct. Council meeting senior safety will be addressed.
- K) Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos
- 1) Edgar Ramos thanked Ischia Bravo for the clean underpasses in the CB and the attention of DOT to the numerous potholes throughout.
 - 2) On March 1st safety issues on train stations to be discussed.



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

L) Veterans – Carmen Miranda

- 1) The Veterans luncheon is scheduled for April 20th at Lehman College at 11 am. Five veterans will be honored. Send names and bios to the Committee to be considered.

M) Ad Hoc Committees

- 1) Website, Acknowledgement & Media – Cole Hawkins

(a) Cole Hawkins gave an update on the Women's Empowerment Event set for March 24th.

- 2) By-Laws – Andrew Laiosa

(a) Next meeting on February 28.

VII) New Business

- A) On February 22 in Coop City a meeting on Investment Enterprises

- B) On February 24th, the "Power of Voting" to be discussed at Tracey Towers.

- 1) All are invited.

VIII) Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.