



**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, January 26, 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) Issue of member attendant to meetings. It important that members attend their community board meetings
 - b) CB7 staff is available and provide assistance.
 - c) Thank you to Barbara and Betty for their continued support in canvassing the district and speaking with our small business in educating them in rules and regulations of sanitation and environment. Feedback was positive.

- II) **Attendance Taken: Quorum was met.**
 - a) Motion to approve last month’s minutes.
 - 1) Barbara Stronczer seconds the motion. Motion passed with one correction to be added. Note presented by Chad Royer.

- III) **Motion(s):**
 - a) **Housing, Land Use & Economic Development – Motion concerning the proposed Zoning for Coastal Floor Resiliency text amendment.**
 - 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. Subsequent to this meeting, CB 7 staff learned that Bronx Community Boards 2, 9, and 10 approved motions in support of this zoning text change.
 - 2) **Board Discussion:**



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- **Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky – what are the money ramifications associated with these changes?**
 - **Christine Camilleri – Bronx City Planning This is a city-wide effort; additional funds are being looked at Federal/State conversations need to be held.**
 - **Motion Vote Taken: Motion Passed 28 Yes, 1 Abstention**
- b) Housing, Land Use & Economic Development: Motion concerning the request by Stagg for an early Saturday construction start time.**
- 1) Rationale for Recommendation: While acknowledging that early construction on Saturdays may be disruptive to neighbors, the Committee believes an earlier start time would mean less traffic impacts to West Fordham Road. Balancing these factors, the Committee agreed that an 8:30 am start time was reasonable.**
 - 2) Board Discussion:**
 - **Myrna Calderon – CB7 and President of Fordham Hill Owners Corp. presented a letter of opposition to Stagg’s start time. Stagg did not approach FHOC or the community as to their request. This community has a large working class and noise complaint just adds to the decreased quality of life.**
 - **Sandra Erickson – CB7 Member – Stagg should have notified the community of this proposal. As a compromise we would be willing to change the start time from 8:30 am to 9:30 am.**
 - **In light of the several conversations – Yajaira Arias presented amendment to the actual motion which would reflect the time change for Stagg to be from 8:30 am to 9:30am. Amendment to the motion was seconded by Barbara Stronczer.**
 - **Motion vote taken: Motion Passed. 21 Yes; 3 Abstentions, 1 No**



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c) Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Motion to send letter to CB7 Members who have consecutively missed committee/general board meeting based on our bylaws.

1) Rationale for Recommendation: Committees are not meeting quorum.

- **Names of Member who are not in compliance: Gloria Bent; Edgar Cisneros; Yenny Medina; Carmen Miranda; Helene Wilson**

2) Board Discussion: Briefly discussed what the letter should entail. Letter should give member an opportunity to respond. CB7 has sent letters in the past to member who are not compliant based on our bylaws. Andrew will provide information to CB7 staff and have letter drafted.

- **Motion vote taken: Motion Passed: 23 Yes; 6 Abstentions**

IV) Committee Reports

a) Environment & Sanitation

- 1) Presentation of Kate Kurera, Deputy Director, Environmental Advocates NY
Discussed EANY's agenda for 2021: Removing lead & contaminants from drinking water, transitioning off fossil fuels, and banning single use plastics.**
- 2) Discussed community outreach**
- 3) A motion was tabled. Committee to discuss once again at 2/2/21 meeting.**
- 4) See Environment/Sanitation minutes for more details.**

b) Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Affairs:

- 1) Glad to report that our community now has 4 Friends Group**
- 2) 2 in the South side; 2 in the north side**
- 3) St. James and Poe Parks in need of a Friend Group**
- 4) Budget cuts to parks are severe.**
- 5) Plans to discuss Spring and Summer 2021.**
- 6) Next meeting 2/10/21.**



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- 7) See Parks minutes for more details.
- b) **Housing, Land Use & Economic Development:**
 - 1) Aside from the two motions previously discussed, committee is coordinating an update of the most recent developments.
 - 2) The St. James Church Building; 202nd and 203rd Construction and Botanical Garden-Cherry Valley.
 - 3) Next meeting 2/9/21
 - 4) See Housing minutes for more details.
- c) **Education, Youth & Libraries:**
 - 1) Schools continue with hybrid learning.
 - 2) Parents continue to have questions as to school reopening and remote learning.
 - 3) Cardinal McCloskey Community Services - www.cmcs.org has opening for their head start program for children ages 3 and 4.
 - 4) Next meeting 2/3/21
 - 5) For more information please see Education minutes
- d) **Traffic & Transportation:**
 - 1) Committee discussed traffic changes and issues that are ongoing in our district.
 - 2) Working on having DOT present to the committee as to the Citi Bike Program and update ongoing projects. Also working on having MTA Representative to present at committee to obtain update on MTA's ongoing projects and programs in our district.
 - 3) Next meeting 2/4/21
 - 4) For more information please see Traffic minutes.
- e) **Veterans Affairs:**
 - 1) Committee is in plans to held round table January 27, 2021.
 - 2) The round table was a success. Veteran advocacy was discussed Know your rights and tenant support. Committee would like to host another round table in the near future.
 - 3) For February's Meeting committee plans to have a Rep from USHC formerly Union Hospital to discuss resources and



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services that they provide and can provide to our community and Veterans.

4) See Veterans minutes for more details.

f) Health & Human Services: No Report

g) Budget, Personnel & Ethics:

1) Committee discussed member attendance and review of the budget. Budget cuts are being made throughout the entire City.

2) Additional budget cuts are looming

3) See Budget minutes for more details.

h) By-Laws:

1) Committee discussed Amending of By Laws. Last Amendment was done 2 years ago.

2) Possible increase of committee members from 7 to 11.

3) Discussion on joining two committees to form a Municipal Services Committee

4) (Suggestions welcomed)

5) Next meeting will be 2/22/21

6) See Bylaw minutes for more details

i) Executive:

1) Committee discussed Budget Responses

2) Chairs will be working on putting together a letter in response to the responses received.

3) We have 30 days to do so. Deadline to provide information will be 2/5/21.

4) Next meeting will take place on 2/18/21

5) See Executive minutes for more details.

V) 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

VI) Public Session:



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a) 52nd Precinct Officer Echevarria

- 1) Provided update in the community crime stats (for more information please use the link below)**
- 2) Crimes: Rape, Murder and Grand Larceny are up in our area:
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/stats/crime-statistics/borough-and-precinct-crime-stats.page>**
- 3) Next Precinct Council Meeting will be 1/28/21**

b) Senator Gustavo Rivera: Representative Rachelle Ferrari

- 1) Senator Rivera continues to chair the Health Committee in Albany**
- 2) 1/27/21 Event to hold a tenant/mortgage holder educational forum – everyone invited to attend.**
- 3) Town Hall in the works as to the Covid 19 Vaccine**
- 4) Stay on evictions is now 60 days.**
- 5) Senator welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.**

c) Councilman Fernando Cabrera:

- 1) Gave well wishes to all**
- 2) Councilman worked hard to bring more dollars to Community Boards. Now with the hardship that the city is facing due to the Pandemic severe cuts are taking place.**
- 3) For year 2021 and 2022 a 20% reduction of money to CB will take place.**
- 4) Councilman suggests that a letter be written to OMB asking to stop the reductions.**
- 5) Community Boards are concern on losing their staff.**
- 6) Food Distributions continue to take place**
- 7) Councilman welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.**

d) Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz:

- 1) Gave well wishes to all**
- 2) Encourage Covid testing**



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- 3) Assemblyman Dinowitz worked on passing the Covid Eviction Act**
 - 4) Prevents massive evictions for constitutes who had hardships through May 1, 2021**
 - 5) Help passed help to small businesses with under 50 employees**
 - 6) Assemblyman welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.**
- e) Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez:**
- 1) Gave well wishes to all**
 - 2) Expanding Voter Applications**
 - 3) Relief for Bars and Restaurants**
 - 4) Encourage more online businesses**
 - 5) Covid Town Hall taking place on 1/27/21 everyone is encouraged to attend.**
 - 6) Rank Choice Voting – new way of voting in our upcoming elections – Assemblywoman supported this change.**
- f) Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson:**
- 1) Gave well wishes to all**
 - 2) Expand right to counsel tenant for free representation**
 - 3) Non-profit application should apply for grants**
 - 4) Equitable distribution of vaccine**
 - 5) Yankee Stadium is opening to the residents of the Bronx only for vaccine**
 - 6) Councilwoman is now the New Chair of oversight/investigation**
- g) Bronx Borough President’s Office: Tom Luciana**
- 1) Gave well wishes to all**
 - 2) Reappointment applications are due on 2/5/21**
 - 3) Bronx BP Website continues to be a source of resources.**
- h) Assemblyman Victor Pichardo: Representative Heidi S.**
- 1) Gave well wishes to all**
 - 2) Assembly Session still ongoing**
 - 3) Encourage Covid testing**



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- 4) Assemblyman has been appointed to the Standing Committee**
 - 5) Office continues to work remotely**
 - 6) Assemblyman welcomes any feedback from CB 7 members and residents.**
- i) Senator Alessandra Biaggi: Representative Andy Laub**
- 1) Gave well wishes to all**
 - 2) Senator is involved in Vaccine Rollout**
 - 3) Working on bringing Pop up sites for Covid testing and vaccine.**
 - 4) Working with new administration**
- j) City Department Of Workr Protection: Representative Alberto Roldan**
- 1) Gave well wishes to all**
 - 2) Informed Public of the Sick Paid Leave Law that went into effect as of 1/1/21**
 - 3) 40 hours of sick time to be given to employees of companies 0-99 employees**
 - 4) 56 hours of sick time to be given to employees of companies 100 and more**
 - 5) Free Tax Preparation available through www.nyc.gov/taxprep**
 - 6) Free Financial Consultations**
- k) Public Advocate Office: Representative Terrence Miller**
- 1) Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams requested an analysis of racial impact and rezoning.**
 - 2) More oversight over Land Use applications**
- l) Speaker Engagement Unit – Nyc Council District 11: Representative Guillermo Rodriguez - Stepping for Andy Cohen**
- 1) Office continue to function as normal**
- m) More Information To Public**
- 1) Accessible Dispatch – Steve Williams**
 - Accessible Disptach.com - provides transportation services to the community**



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- **Wheelchair and other vehicles available for Senior and Disabled help.**
- **Service is 24 hours a day/7 days a week at (646) 599-9999**

VII) Next meeting date: Tuesday, February 23, 2021

VIII) Adjournment – Motion to close meeting

a) Motion second by Edgar Ramos

1) No opposition – Meeting ended at 8:37 P.M.