



**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, September 23rd, 2020
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) Addressing of rules of order for virtual meeting**
 - b) Importance of wearing mask, washing hands and using sanitizer**
 - c) Board Operations - minutes to be submitted within 48 hrs.**
 - d) Moment of Silence in Memory of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg who passed away on 9/18/2020.**
 - e) Brief discussion of City/State Budget Cuts**
 - f) Thank you to all CB7 Board Members and Residents who participated in get out and own our streets.**
 - g) Thank you all CB7 Board Members and Residents who participated who participated in voter registration drives**
 - h) Brief discussion of the Fordham Landing Project – more discussions and updates to be provided in January 2021**
 - i) Briefly discuss the evictions that have hit hard to our community due to the pandemic**
 - 1) A lot of residents in our community are out of work and unable to take care of their obligations**
 - 2) Moratorium to end in December 2020**
 - 3) Prepare for potential second wave of the pandemic and how it will affect our community**
 - j) Discussed the importance of CB7 Members participating in their meetings**
 - k) Reminder Census ends on 9/30/20 – We need our community to fill out the Census. It matters.**



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

II) District Manager's Update

a) Welcoming attendees

b) Briefly discussed Zoom functions for meeting

- 1) ** to hear prompts
- 2) *6 to mute and unmute
- 3) *9 to virtually raise your hand
- 4) Be mindful of background noise

c) Updates:

- 1) CB7 meeting notifications are being sent via social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) as well as via email.
- 2) Discussed the starting of Blended Learning for students' grades K-5, K-8, 6-8, 9-12
 - Enrollments to start 10/1/20. Students are need of smart devices. If anyone needs assistance in obtaining a smart device for their children, please contact the CB7 office.
- 3) Child Care at Parks Recreational Centers – more information to follow. Once information is obtained it will be posted on our website as well.
- 4) CUNY Emergency Grant for College Students
Program offers up to \$500.00 to CUNY Students who need help during the pandemic
Please contact DM or the CB7 office for more information.
- 5) Reminder Census ends on 9/30/20 – We need out community to fill out the Census. It matters.
- 6) Reminder of Vote Registration ends 10/9/20. Early voting starts on 10/24/20 through 11/1/2020.

III) Attendance was taken: Quorum was met

a) Motion to approve last month's minutes.

b) Barbara Stronczer second the motion. Motion passed with one correction: change date to state June 24, 2020.



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

IV) Motion(s)

a) Motion to send letter of support to MTA regarding proposed mural on their wall along Mosholu Parkway #4 train station.

1) Motion second by Betty Arce

2) Committee Recommendation: Community Project - proposal for aquatic mural to be erected at the wall of Mosholu Parkland.

<https://www.change.org/p/metropolitan-transportation-authority-the-aquarium-project?>

- **Executive committee voted unanimously in favor of the mural**

3) Board Discussion:

- **Questions arose during the discussion of the motion.**
 - **Content of the mural is a problem? Preference first responder's mural.**
 - **Where is the mural going to be placed? Near the #4 train at Mosholu Parkway Train station**
 - **Who will be maintaining the mural? Friends of Mosholu Parkland**
- **After much discussion vote was taken: Motion passes with 23 Yes, 6 No, 2 Abstentions.**

b) Traffic & Transportation:

1) Motion in support of City Proposed 5G Infrastructure Design

- **Committee Recommendation: Letter of Support to City Proposed 5G Infrastructure Design with the following concerns: 1.Local hiring for installation; 2.Health concerns**
- **Committee voted in favor of the letter of support. 2 abstentions were noted.**

2) Board Discussion:



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

- In the long run what will be health effects to our community?
- Given the times now high internet speed is needed.
- Motion to vote - second by Emmanuel Martinez
 - Motion passes with unanimously.

c) Education, Youth and Libraries:

- 1) Motion to write a letter in support of CEC's letter calling for the delay of schools until sooner of the following events - the January 2021 semester or when all safety recommendations are met.
- 2) **Recommended Action:** School personnel are concerned that the reopening plan for DOE schools is rushed and doesn't guarantee the safety of students, staff and families.
- 3) **Board Discussion:**
 - Discussion held as to the motion at length.
 - Questions arose as to safety and affects for all.
 - Motion to vote - second by Barbara Stronczer
 - Motion passes with 21 Yes, 3 No, 3 Abstentions.

d) Traffic & Transportation:

- 1) Motion to write a letter in support to DOT for Cedar Avenue Traffic Study
- 2) **Committee Recommendation:** There are safety concerns. Difficulty for School Bus Pickups, deliveries, and vehicle pickups and drop offs. They believe it would alleviate traffic caused at Fordham Road and Cedar Avenue and improve quality of life overall.
- 3) **Board Discussion:**
 - Discussion held with resident Victor Saldana for clarification of area and request.



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

- **Questions arose: DOT make determination of the south bound traffic from Cedar Avenue to Fordham Road.**
- **Motion to vote - second by Andrew Laiosa**
 - **Motion passes with 30 Yes, 2 Abstentions.**

e) Housing, Land Use & Economic Development:

- 1) Motion to write a letter in Support to the Recommended Modifications to the Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness by St. James Church.**
- 2) Rationale for Recommendation: The committee believes the views of the historic landmark church from Jerome Avenue should be preserved and not obstructed by the proposed building. The committee is also concerned that the proposed nine-story building may cast a shadow on St. James Park. The committee appreciates the church's effort to use exterior materials and create a courtyard that appropriately tie the historic landmark to the proposed building.**
- 3) BOARD DISCUSSION:**
 - **Discussion held members and many questions arose.**
 - **Many members are concerned with the proposed nine story building and the effects that it will have to the park.**
 - **Motion to vote - second by Emmanuel Martinez**
 - **Motion passes with 26 Yes, 2 No and 2 Abstentions.**

V) New Business

- a) Due the packed agenda Chair Emmanuel Martinez encouraged everyone to review the individual committee minutes and open the floor for questions and comments. None were presented.**

VI) Elected officials/City Agencies/Representatives:

b) Councilman Fernando Cabrera:

- 1) Office continues to work remotely.**



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

- 2) Discussed City Budget Cuts and how it will affect our district and borough.
 - 3) Council Cabrera continues to allocate funding for our local schools and needs of our community.
- c) Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson:
- 1) NY Women's Caucus honored the late RGB
 - 2) Discussed City Budget Cuts and how it will affect our district and borough.
 - 3) Our community is need of help during these trying time.
 - 4) The Councilwoman is working with various organizations and colleagues to continue to provide assistance to those in need.
- d) Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz:
- 1) Discussed City Budget Cuts and how it will affect our district and borough.
 - 2) Discussed the Tenant Harbor Act (back rent as 3/7/20 cannot be evicted)
 - 3) Will continue to hold back to school giveaways
 - 4) Reminds everyone the importance of getting the flu shot which is free and will be available as of 10/5/20.
- e) Councilman Eric Dinowitz:
- 1) As well as his colleagues touched on the City Budget Cuts and what effects it has on our community.
 - 2) Reminds everyone the importance registering to vote. Early voting in NY will be as of 10/24/20.
 - 3) If voting by mail track your ballot.
- f) State Commissioners Office: Representative Alex Karman
- 1) Provided information as to residents' Con Edison Bills' – Call if in need to change due to financial hardship (Covid). Payments



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

can be deferred until March 2021 and payment plans are available as well.

g) Bronx District Attorney's Office: Representative Eric Diaz

- 1) Provided information on the influx of shooting and violence due to recent events.
- 2) Reminded everyone to stay vigilant and safe.
- 3) The BXDA Office provides available resources to those in need.
- 4) Also, the BXDA will be holding several events to bring the community together and help combat the violence in our community. More information shall follow.

h) Bronx Borough Presidents Office – Representative Ish Gonzalez

- 1) Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. sent out his monthly report
- 2) New committee board members are being appointed – October 2020 CB7

i) Senator Gustavo Rivera Office: Representative Rachel Ferrari

- 1) Office open virtually - 718-933-2204
- 2) Senator continues to have community and resident approach with essentials of masks, gloves and food giveaways.
- 3) Senator will host Education Town Hall 9/24/20 via Facebook Live.

j) Public Advocate: Representative Terrance Miller

- 1) Discussed the gun violence on Labor Day Weekend.
- 2) Public Advocate has called for the delay of school until safety measures are met.

k) Montefiore Medical Center: Representative Jason Caraballo

- 1) Discussed the importance of getting the flu shot.
- 2) Montefiore has partnered with Walgreens residents can obtain the flu shot at the pharmacy.



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MARTINEZ, CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

I) North Central Hospital: Representative Christina Contreras

1) North Central Hospital will hold its first virtual back to school at the health clinic.

2) Discussed the importance of getting the flu shot.

VII) Discussion on next month's agenda

VIII) Next month's meeting date: Wednesday, October 27th, 2020

IX) Adjournment