

## **Bronx Community Board 12**

### **September 26, 2019**

The regularly scheduled meeting of Community Board 12, the Bronx, for September 26, 2019, was called to order at 7:30 pm at Town Hall, 4101 White Plains Road, The Bronx, by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman, Mr. Karl Stricker. Those wishing to participate were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Stricker requested a moment of silence for the husband of Board Treasurer Ms. Hilary Bloomfield, and for Ms. Hazel Berry, both of whom passed away.

#### **I Selection of Community Board 12's Executive Members**

Dr. Michael Burke announced the slate of candidates for Community Board 12 executive offices. He invited nominations from the floor for all offices. There were no nominations from the floor for Chairman, First Vice Chairman, Second Vice Chairman, or Treasurer. Ms. Lisa Hayes was nominated from the floor for the office of Secretary.

There was discussion around whether candidates who were unable to be present due to illness were still permitted to run per Board by-laws. Dr. William Hall and Ms. Tollyne Dickerson were absent due to illness. The determination was that candidates unavailable due to illness would be permitted to run as they had notified the Board in advance.

Candidates provided brief statements. Mr. Robert Hall spoke on behalf of current Chairman Dr. William Hall in his absence.

Dr. Michael Burke announced the slate of candidates:

Chairman: Dr. William Hall (incumbent) and Mr. Ivan Borrás  
First Vice Chairman: Mr. Karl Stricker (incumbent) and Dr. Michael Burke  
Second Vice Chairman: Mr. John Isaac (incumbent)  
Treasurer: Ms. Tollyne Dickerson and Mr. Felix Roldán  
Secretary: Ms. Carmen Ortiz (incumbent) and Ms. Lisa Hayes

Mr. Carl Lanzano requested clarification regarding the Board's by-laws in terms of requiring the presence of a candidate on the day of the election, and whether a member of the Nominating Committee is permitted to run for executive office. After some discussion Dr. Michael Burke responded that the presence of a candidate is not required if his or her absence had been communicated to the Board prior to the meeting; and that members of the Nominating Committee

are permitted to run for office. It was also confirmed that the Board's by-laws of 2000 constitute the governing document for this evening's election.

Dr. Dena Robins suggested that a copy of the relevant by-laws be kept at hand at Board meetings to facilitate easy reference as questions of procedure arise. Dr. Burke reminded the Board that a copy of the 2000 by-laws was distributed to all members earlier in the year.

At this point Candidates gave a brief synopsis of their qualifications.

There was discussion around the requirement that ballots be signed by Board Members. Mr. Tom Lucania, Bronx Borough President's office responded that as public officers of the City of New York all Board votes must be recorded and made public by name.

Mr. Robert Hall asked why the Board is still using old by-laws. Mr. Lucania responded that he understands that amending the Board's by-laws require a three-fourths vote in order to be approved, so in order to change that requirement the Board must first have the three-fourths vote.

Dr. Michael Burke reported the results of the election:

Chairman: Dr. William Hall

First Vice Chairman: Dr. Michael Burke

Second Vice Chairman: Mr. John Isaac

Treasurer: Mr. Felix Roldan

Secretary: Ms. Lisa Hayes

## **V Report of the Borough President**

- Borough President Diaz Provided \$7.3 Million to Bronx Schools
- Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Testified Before the New York City Council Re: Borough Based Jail System
- Borough President Diaz Hosted 'Opioid Overdose Crisis Public Education & Responder Training' Session
- Borough President Diaz Calls for Reform of the School Construction Authority
- Borough President Diaz Renewed Call for Gun Crime Registry
- Borough President Diaz Supported Libraries in Latest Capital Budget
- Borough President Provided \$600K for Regional Food Hub
- Borough President Diaz Invested \$6.1 Million in Orchard Beach Pavilion

The Borough President's report is available in its entirety in the Community Board office.

### **Report of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz**

Assemblyman Dinowitz reported that the City is now responsible for the cost of sidewalk repairs where city trees caused the damage. Previously homeowners were issued a violation and sometimes received a lien on their property.

The Assemblyman announced a paper shredding event, which will take place this Saturday, September 28, 10am – 2pm, in front of DeWitt Clinton High School.

He stated that the Legislature passed new laws on climate change, laws to protect tenants and keep rents stable, and to provide funding support for trains and buses. There will be improvements to bus routes. There was additional legislation bail reform, speedy trial reform, and health legislation including strengthening vaccination requirements.

### **Report of Council Member Andrew Cohen**

Council Member Andrew Cohen reported that there will be CUNY citizenship event, held at North Central Bronx Hospital to provide assistance with completing applications. There are a number of flu shot events coming up. PS 19 received funding for a safety program and technology improvements. Bronx HS of Science received funding to improve the cafeteria. The City Council will be voting on a commercial waste plan to address issues around commercial waste vehicles.

### **Report of State Senator Jamaal Bailey**

Senator Bailey noted that the state recently announced that homeowners will no longer be issued violations for sidewalk issues caused by city trees.

He announced that early voting will begin October 26, 2019 and this is the first time that early voting has been offered in New York State. On October 11, 2019 at the greenway in Co-Op City his office will be hosting a senior walk. They will also be collecting donations for those in the Bahamas affected by recent storms.

Senator Bailey's office is located at 955 E. 233<sup>rd</sup> St.

## **II Guest Speaker: Mr. James Garland, MBA—Woodlawn Cemetery**

Mr. James Garland, MBA provided an update on the current programs offered by Woodlawn Cemetery. These include educational and workforce development programs, and the placing of flags on veterans' gravesites. He also reported on the organization's Arbor and Earth Day Event, which engaged over 400 students.

## **III Good and Welfare/Community Speaks**

### **Ms. Marian Taylor Martinez/School District 11**

Ms. Martinez stated that she has worked for District 11 for almost 20 years. She provided an update regarding current initiatives within the district. She commented on the correlations between student color and suspensions, achievement and test scores.

**Ms. Shirley Fearon/Office of Congressman Elliott Engel**

Ms. Fearon introduced herself as the new staff assistant for Congressman Engel. She can be reached at (718) 320-2314.

**Mr. Michael X. Hinton/Community Resident**

Mr. Hinton stated that there are many issues in the community which require civic engagement to address them. He expressed concerns that there have been insufficient efforts to educate residents about how to engage in the community. He also expressed disappointment that speakers at the Community Speaks portion of the Board meeting were limited to one minute per speaker tonight due to the additional time required for Board elections.

**Ms. Pamela Hamilton Johnson/President of 47<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council**

Ms. Johnson is the new president of the 47<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council. Ms. Johnson reported that there will be a Halloween Party at the 47<sup>th</sup> Precinct. She also encouraged the community to contact her for further information about the public hearing next week regarding applications for grant funds.

**Ms. Olga Glenn/Community Resident**

Ms. Glenn raised issues around city trees causing damage to sidewalks, sewer systems, and electrical lines near Wickham and Gunther Avenues. She also said that there are speed issues in the neighborhood, her community would like more speed bumps.

Board Member Mr. John Isaac, Chairman of the Transportation and Capital Projects Committee, responded, stating that the city is only installing speed bumps on blocks where there are schools, because a speed bump can cause a car to become a dangerous projectile if the driver doesn't see the speed bump and hits it at a dangerous speed. Mr. Isaac stated that he would visit Ms. Glenn's community to document issues this week.

**Ms. Susan Boose/Community Resident**

Ms. Boose stated that she called the Board several months ago regarding a family member's stolen wallet. She stated that she had questions about replacing the lost social security card and Municipal ID card. She said that she was dissatisfied with the response she received from the Board and expressed that she felt she had been addressed in a derogatory and disrespectful manner.

Mr. Torres responded, stating that he believed that he had provided appropriate guidance based on the scope of the Board's responsibility and control. He stated that he had directed Ms. Boose to the appropriate resources, including 311.

### **Mr. Oloruntoba LaCrown/Community Resident**

Mr. LaCrown stated that he was dissatisfied with the course of the meeting because the community residents present were required to witness the public election of Board executives.

Mr. LaCrown said that he came to the meeting to emphasize the importance of recognizing the veterans in the community. He noted that there is no veteran's committee on the Board.

### **IV District Manager's Report**

See attached.

### **VII Committee Reports**

#### **Parks and Recreation Committee**

Chairman Mr. Ivan Borrás reported on the ongoing challenge of obtaining city resources to trim trees and address issues with tree roots which push up the sidewalk.

#### **Legislative Affairs *ad hoc* Special Committee**

Chairwoman Ms. Carla Borsotti reported that the committee met on August 7<sup>th</sup> and assigned each committee member a liaison role with a local elected official's office, to obtain updates regarding recently passed and proposed legislation impacting the Board's constituency.

Library and Cultural Affairs Committee

See Attached.

### **VIII Old Business**

Mr. Carl Lanzano requested clarification regarding how many Board Members there are, and who appoints them. District Manager Mr. George Torres responded that there is a maximum of 50 board members for Board 12.

### **IX New Business**

Dr. Dena Robins provided an overview of the New Amsterdam Musical Association and asked for the support of everyone present.

**X     Adjournment**

There being no further information to discuss the meeting was duly adjourned at 10:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carla Borsotti". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Carla Borsotti