



The City of New York
Bronx Community Board Three

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RUBEN DIAZ, JR.
BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT

GLORIA ALSTON
CHAIRWOMAN

JOHN W. DUDLEY
DISTRICT MANAGER

BOARD MINUTES

Date: 11/14/17
 Place: 1332 Fulton Avenue
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

Kolaco Acqui
 Gloria Alston
 Xiomara Arriola
 Winifred Bama
 Joetta Brown
 Dawn Carter
 Rev. Frederick Crawford
 Randy Dillard
 Francis Dsouza
 Eric Henry
 Abdul Johnson
 Marilyn Johnson
 Kathy Johnson-Morris
 Abraham Jones
 Rita Jones
 Linda Kemp
 Una Lawrence
 Elizabeth Luciany
 Marlon Molina
 Judith Ojo
 Laila Patino
 Anddy Perdomo
 Alberto Pimentel
 Edna Quinones
 Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera
 Olympia Jay Striplin
 D'Andra Van Heusen
 Saadia Walters
 Patrick Willis

Staff Present

Etta F. Ritter
 John W. Dudley

Members Excused

Gilberto Constantinez
 Evang. Patricia Dyson-Johnson
 Wanda Ellis
 Wilbert Tee Lawton
 Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.
 Cassandra Saunders
 Terrence Podolsky

Members Absent

Robin Morgan
 Lanet Rivera
 John Wilson III

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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Linda Kemp
 2nd Vice-Chairperson

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 Secretary

Kathy Johnson Morris
 Treasurer

Rita Jones
 Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

Guests Names

Erik Koester, NYS DOT
Alvin Feng, NYS DOT
Mini Varghese, NYS DOT

All Other Guests Names on File

Call To Order

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera, 2nd Vice-Chairperson at Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

Invocation

Mr. Abraham Jones led us in prayer.

Community Concerns/Exchange of Information

At this time, the following information was exchanged:

- Mr. Colbert Nembherd, branch librarian at Morrisania Public Library, informed those in attendance that on Wednesday, November 15th, they will be hosting their second **Employer Pop-Up Recruitment Event** from 11:00am-2:00pm. Morrisania Public Library is located at 610 East 169th Street.
- Ms. Rita Jones, board member, informed those in attendance her organization will be feeding the less fortunate for Thanksgiving at 1591 Boston Road, on Saturday, November 18th. All are welcome to attend.
- A representative from Partnership for Parks informed the community at large of a recruitment to clean up Claremont Park located within Community District Four. A meeting is scheduled on November 29th from 6-8pm, at Butler Community Center.
- A representative from the NYC Department of Correction distributed the following flyers:
 - Confronting Recidivism II on November 16th from 11:00am-3:00pm, at Bronx Borough Hall located at 851 Grand Concourse
 - The NYC Department of Correction is hosting a 3rd Annual Turkey Giveaway on November 17th, 5:00pm at 1288 Rev James A. Polite Avenue
 - NYC Department of Correction is now hiring; interested individuals can visit nyc.gov/jointheboldest for more information
- Ms. Joetta Brown, board member, requested that the Housing, Land-Use & Economic Development Committee find out what is proposed for 792 E. 169th Street, a soon to be vacant lot within Community District Three.
- Min. Abraham Jones, board member, requested assistance in getting the garbage removed along the metro north train line on Brook Avenue East 167th Street. The district manager requested that Mr. Jones call 311 to report said complaint and receive a reference number. Mr. Jones was further instructed to contact the board office with the 311 reference #.
- Ms. Marilyn Johnson, board member, wanted to know what are the steps required to gain “**custodianship**” for **Seabury Park**. The district manager stated that Ms. Jones should look to file a “**special event permit**” identifying the dates in which they would like to use Seabury Park.
- Ms. Joetta Brown spoke on behalf of the Tinton Avenue Homeowners on East 169th Street between Tinton and Union Avenues, regarding summonses issued to homeowners for dirty sidewalks.
- Det. Washington, NCO from the 42nd Police Precinct, stated that he covers E. 159th to E. 160th between Webster Avenue and Boston Road. The 42 Sector Charlie is hosting a **42nd Precinct Safety Meeting III** on Tuesday, November 21st, 5:00pm, at 1245 Washington Avenue between East 168th and East 169th Streets.

Roll Call

Ms. Kathy Johnson-Morris, treasurer, called the roll and a quorum was established at this time.

Members Requesting to be Excused

Gilberto Constantinez
Evang. Patricia Dyson-Johnson
Wanda Ellis
Wilbert Tee Lawton
Rev. Idus Nunn, Jr.
Terrence Podolsky
Cassandra Saunders

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Motion

It was motioned and seconded to excuse the following member(s):

- Gilberto Constantinez
- Evang. Patricia Dyson-Johnson
- Wanda Ellis
- Wilbert Tee Lawton
- Rev. Idus Nunn, Jr.
- Terrence Podolsky
- Cassandra Saunders

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

Motion

It was motioned and seconded to approve the minutes of the prior meeting held on Tuesday, October 10, 2017, with the necessary corrections, if there be any.

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Erik Koester, Project Director, NYS Department of Transportation Region 11

TOPIC: Discuss two transportation projects: Arthur Sheridan Enhancement Project (PIN X731.49) & Hunts Point Interstate Access Improvement Project (PIN X731.55), within Bronx County

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera, 1st vice chairperson at Bronx Community Board Three, introduced Mr. Erik Koester, project director at the NYS Department of Transportation Region 11, to those in attendance.

Mr. Erik Koester came before the community at-large to discuss two transportation projects:

Arthur Sheridan Enhancement Project From Westchester Avenue to 177th Street PIN X731.49 & Hunts Point Interstate Access Improvement PIN X731.55, see attached PowerPoint presentations which describe the nature of the prospective studies. Questions and comments were entertained.

Bronx Borough President’s Report

Mr. Tom Lucania, representative from the Bronx Borough President’s Office, stated that applications to become a board member will be available in late November. Leadership training sessions will be conducted in January and February 2018 relating to parliamentary procedures, land-use issues and the ULURP process.

The November Bronx Borough President’s report is as follows:

Borough President Diaz Hosts Preview of 7th Annual 'Savor The Bronx' Restaurant Week

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. hosted a preview of the 7th Annual “Savor the Bronx” Restaurant Week at Porto Salvo Bronx, a newly-opened Nautical Italian Cookery & Wine Bar in the South Bronx.

“Savor the Bronx” Restaurant Week, produced by the Bronx Tourism Council and co-hosted by the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (BOEDC), showcases the borough’s best eateries by offering special values and discounts.

For more information about “Savor the Bronx” Restaurant Week, as well as a list of participating restaurants, visit www.savorthebronx.com or follow @SavorTheBronx on Twitter.

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“We have some of the best eateries and food producers in the world, right here in The Bronx,” said **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.** “Our annual ‘Savor The Bronx’ Restaurant Week event is a great opportunity for foodies from all over the region to sample the epicurean delights our borough has to offer. If you love great food you’ll love The Bronx, and there’s no better time to enjoy our many flavors.”

“There are over 200 eateries in this great borough. Savor The Bronx Restaurant Week offers just a small sampling to help Bronxites and visitors discover their new favorites,” says **Olga Luz Tirado**, executive director of The Bronx Tourism Council.

This 12-day event, which runs from November 6th through November 17th, will feature over 30 participants, and is the perfect opportunity to explore your taste buds at a various restaurants around The Bronx.

The preview event featured samples from some of the borough’s top eateries and food producers, including Porto Salvo Bronx, the Chelsea Craft Brewing Company and Delicioso Coco Helado.

In addition to hosting the preview, Borough President Diaz and The Bronx Tourism Council also unveiled the two latest installments in the “Savor the Bronx” video series, produced by Bronxnet, which highlights Bronx restaurants and other borough culinary businesses.

The video showcasing Porto Salvo Bronx can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/8soAZLC9iHE>. The video showcasing the Mott Haven Bar & Grill can be viewed at https://youtu.be/rJ-OHhC_iW8.

Mayor de Blasio Announces Opening of New City Island Bridge in The Bronx

After years of planning over the new bridge’s design, a state-of-the-art structure will serve as the island’s only connector to the Bronx mainland

Mayor Bill de Blasio today announced the opening of the new City Island Bridge. At a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new bridge, an inaugural walk and ride was led by Department of Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., State Senate Co-Leader Jeff Klein, Assembly Member Michael Benedetto, and City Council Member James Vacca. The replacement of the previous permanent bridge, built in 1901, had been the subject of decade-long controversy that included a lawsuit over a proposed replacement bridge’s cable-stayed design. The dispute was resolved in 2014, when the de Blasio Administration chose to pursue a more restrained causeway design with far wider community support.

“Improving infrastructure is key to strengthening a city and its economy, which is why I have always placed a high priority on investing in projects like rebuilding the City Island Bridge,” said **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.** “City Island is one of the jewel neighborhoods of The Bronx, one of the hidden gems of our great city. While we can be nostalgic about the bridge that it replaced, the new bridge represents the ongoing vitality of this island. This new bridge further opens up this great nautical village for tourists and local residents alike, giving them the opportunity to sit down and enjoy great seafood, breathe in that fresh sea air, admire the waterfront view. I want to thank Mayor de Blasio, Commissioner Trottenberg and the Department of Transportation, the Parks Department, the NYPD and FDNY, Community Board #10 and everyone else who worked on this important project.”

City Council Approves Bronx Point, a Mixed-Use Project on the Lower Concourse North Site

Bronx Point will deliver up to 1,000 units of housing, including hundreds of units of deeply affordable housing, world-class open space on the Harlem River Waterfront, cultural destinations and will create over 150 permanent jobs and over 1,200 construction jobs

Bronx Point is a critical component of the \$194M Lower Concourse capital investment strategy

The New York City Council today approved [Bronx Point](#), a dynamic mixed-used development that will feature over two acres of world-class public open spaces with a waterfront esplanade, up to 1,000 units of housing, a home for the Universal Hip-Hop Museum, a state-of-the-art multiplex theater, community space, educational programming, a neighborhood food hall and incubator and more. Today’s vote marks the final step in the City’s Uniform Land Use Review Procedure process.

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Bronx Point is a key component of a [\\$194 million capital investment strategy](#) for the Lower Concourse neighborhood, announced by the de Blasio Administration in 2015 and led by NYCEDC. The unprecedented capital investment into the South Bronx neighborhood's assets was developed through a two-year community process led by NYCEDC that included interactive workshops and visioning sessions to engage the local community in prioritizing the area's needs.

Major components of the strategy include the acquisition of private properties to develop a new 2.3-acre waterfront park at East 144th Street, a few blocks south of *Bronx Point*; new sewer infrastructure and a full reconstruction of Exterior Street including three large Vision Zero intersections; and installation of commercial-grade broadband access. All improvements are anticipated to be completed by 2022.

"Bronx Point represents an excellent opportunity to bring new housing units of all types, waterfront access and expanded park space, a new school and other much anticipated cultural and recreational amenities to our borough's waterfront. I congratulate the City Council for moving this project forward, and I look forward to working with the NYCEDC, HPD, the Parks Department, L+M Development Partners and Type A Projects on this proposal's forthcoming implementation," said **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.**

BP Diaz Hosts the 15th Annual DiVA Spa

On Tuesday, October 17, 2017, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. hosted the 15th annual DiVA Spa at the Bronx Museum of Arts. The event was designed to bring domestic violence awareness information to Bronx residents.

"While October is Domestic Violence awareness month, we are working year-round, across agencies to put an end to this epidemic. Domestic violence impacts all of us, and I am committed to providing survivors with the power and the resources to survive and thrive," said **Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.** "It is my hope that our guests will leave feeling better about themselves and armed with the info and resources to prevent domestic violence or help a victim of domestic violence."

This year's event included a morning brunch and discussions on topics including domestic violence, financial literacy and career development. The brunch was followed by a yoga and meditation workshop, as well as free spa services for victims of domestic violence.

This year, DiVA Spa was sponsored by the New York Hispanic Cosmetology Chamber of Commerce, HBO and MetroPlus.

Mayor's Community Assistance Unit

Mr. Famod Konneh, representative from the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit, stated the NYC Human Rights law amended to ban employers from requesting job applicant salary history will begin on October 31, 2017. NYC employers will be prohibited from making inquiries about the salary history of job applicants during the hiring process.

CM Rafael Salamanca's Report

Shana Knotts, representative from CM Rafael Salamanca office located at 1070 Southern Boulevard, in the 17th council district. CM Rafael Salamanca office provides assistance in housing and immigration services. Ms. Knotts also noted that the Participatory Budget

Participatory Budget process is still open to those who would like to participate. The Participatory budget process is a democratic deliberation and decision-making process in which ordinary people decide how to spend \$1 million in their community. The Participatory budget allows citizens to identify, discuss and prioritize public spending projects, and give them the power to make real decisions about how the money is spent

State Senator Gustavo Rivera's Report

Ms. Latoya Matthew, representative from State Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office, located at 2432 Grand Concourse, extended Happy Holidays to those in attendance. Ms. Matthew distributed time sensitive information to those in attendance, not limited to the following:

- Ms. Latoya Matthew stated that the State Senator will be co-sponsoring a **SCRIE** event on November 29th at Belmont Library, from 2:00pm-4:00pm, located at 610 East 186th Street.
- **3rd Annual Canned Food Drive for Holiday Season** – Monday through Friday from 11:00am-5:00pm until Friday, December 8th at the State Senator's office.

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- Housing Assistance is available at State Senator Gustavo Rivera office as follows:
 - Specialists from New York City's Tenant Support Unit
 - Right to Counsel & Free Legal Assistance
 - Utility Assistance

CM Vanessa Gibson's Report

A Clergy Connection Brunch will be held on Thursday, November 16th, from 10:00am-12pm, at Bronx Museum of the Arts, South Wing, Lower Gallery, 1040 Grand Concourse.

Benediction

Rev. Frederick Crawford led us in prayer led us in prayer.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.

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