



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

GENERAL BOARD MINUTES

Date: 3/12/2019
 Time: 6:10PM
 Location: 1332 Fulton Avenue

Members Present

Kolaco Acqui
 Gloria Alston
 Xiomara Arriola
 Joetta Brown
 Dawn Carter
 Gilberto Constantinez
 Rev. Frederick Crawford
 Nelson Delerme
 Abdourahamane Diallo
 Randy Dillard
 Francis Dsouza
 Wanda Ellis
 Abdul Johnson
 Marilyn Johnson
 Kathy Johnson-Morris
 Rita Jones
 Linda Kemp
 Una Lawrence
 Wilbert Tee Lawton
 Marlon Molina
 Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.
 Laila Patino
 Terrence Podolsky
 Edna Quinones
 Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera
 Lanet Rivera
 Carmen Rodriguez
 Cassandra Saunders
 Olympia Jay Striplin
 Keziah Sullivan
 D'Andra Van Heusen-Thomas
 Saadia Walters
 Patrick Willis

Staff Present

Etta F. Ritter
 John W. Dudley

Members Excused

Winifred Bama
 Abraham Jones
 Elizabeth Luciany
 Judith Ojo
 Anddy Perdomo
 Cherno Sow

Members Absent

Alexis Salgado

Bronx Borough President's Office

Tom Lucania

Councilmember Vanessa L. Gibson's Office

CM Vanessa Gibson
 Michael Ivory

Councilmember Rafael Salamanca's Office

Shanna Knotts

CM Ritchie J. Torre's Office

Nanetta Alvarado

NYS Senator Luis Sepulveda's Office

Fiorella Bini

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Rev. Bruce Rivera 1 st Vice-Chairperson	Linda Kemp 2 nd Vice-Chairperson	Joetta Brown Secretary	Lanet Rivera Treasurer	Rita Jones Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian
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Mayor's Office

Famod Konneh

Guests Names

Roy Koshy, COIB
Arlo Chase, SUS
Jasmin Vega, WHEDCo
Shawn Brede, DCP
James Dobbins, Lincoln Hospital
All Other Guests Names on File

Call to Order

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera, 1st vice chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:07pm

Invocation

Rev. Frederick Crawford led us in prayer.

Exchange of Information/Community Concerns

At this time, community concerns were exchanged as follows:

Community Concern

- Mr. Francis Dsouza, board member, stated that one of the responsibilities of being a board member is being a custodian within the community you live. Board members should take voting items into consideration with care and concern when they come before the full board. Mr. Dsouza noted that concern should be focused on the long term effects of the voting item; how it may affect seniors and those starting out in life. What are the benefits ie: permanent jobs, construction jobs, and affordable housing? Mr. Dsouza noted that it was stated by a NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development employee, that "land is cheap in the Bronx" and that is one of the reasons why there are so many "special need" housing developments proposed.
- Mr. Nelson Delerme, board member, distributed informative information to board members in attendance.
- Rev. Frederick Crawford, board member and pastor of Union Grove Baptist, requested that Hoe Avenue between East 173rd and East 172nd be closed on Sunday, May 19th, from 1:30-5:00pm, due to an unveling ceremony to co-name the street after his mother.
- Ms. Rita Jones, board member, stated that everyone deserves a place to live; however, Bronx Community Board Three is over saturated with special needs residences.
- Mr. Abdul Johnson, board member and founder of C-Ball, thanked everyone who contributed to the MLK trip. Mr. Johnson asked that everyone save the date for Friday, May 10th.
- Mr. Chaz Green, community resident, stated that he will be hosting "Battle of the School Starz" on Saturday, March 30th at Charles R. Drew Campus, located at 3630 3rd Avenue. Doorrs open at 1:00pm.

Roll Call

Ms. Joetta Brown, secretary, called the roll and a quorum was established.

Members Requesting to be Excused

Winifred Bama
Abraham Jones
Elizabeth Luciany
Judith Ojo
Anddy Perdermo
Cherno Sow
Motion

It was motioned by Saadia Walters and seconded by Rev. Frederick Crawford, to excuse the following member(s):

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Winifred Bama
Abraham Jones
Elizabeth Luciany
Judith Ojo
Anddy Perdermo
Cherno Sow
Motion

All In Favor

Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes of the Prior Meeting

Motion

It was motioned by Rev. Frederick Crawford and seconded by Terrence Podolsky, to approve the minutes of the prior meeting held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, with the necessary corrections, if there be any.

All In Favor

Motion Carried

Amendment to the Agenda

At this time, Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera, stated that there is an amendment to the agenda to include Mr. Arlo Chase, Senior VP of Real Estate & Property Development, Services for the Underserved, to tonight's agenda.

Motion

It was motioned by Keziah Sullivan and seconded by Terrence Podolsky, to include Mr. Arlo Chase, Senior VP of Real Estate & Property Development, Services for the Underserved, to tonight's agenda.

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

Presentation(s)

Roy Koshy, representative from the Conflicts of Interest Board's Education & Engagement Unit

Topic: Discuss the Conflicts of Interest Law and how it pertains to Community Board Member's private interests and their public duties

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera introduced Mr. Roy Koshy, representative from the Conflicts of Interest Board's Education and Engagement Unit, to those in attendance. Mr. Koshy came before the full board to discuss the Conflicts of Interest Law and how it pertains to Community Board Member's private interests and their public duties. Mr. Koshy noted that Community Board Members are unpaid public servants employed by the City of New York.

Mr. Koshy stated that all community board members should remember the three (3) D's:

- **Disclose**
- **Discuss**
- **Don't Vote**

The City's Conflicts of Interest Law's purpose is to ensure that public servants do not use or appear to use their public positions, to benefit their private interests or those of their families or associates. Mr. Koshy spoke on regulations concerning conduct and activities of community board members, not limited to the following:

- A Community Board member **is not entitled to vote** on any matter that may result in a personal and direct economic gain to the member or any person or firm with whom the member is "associated". The Community Board member has to disclose and recuse oneself from voting which is different from abstaining from voting.
- A Community Board member who is a city employee, **is not entitled to vote** on any matters concerning the member's agency, but may take part in discussions on such matters. The Community Board member has to disclose and recuse oneself from voting.

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- A Community Board member who serves on the board of directors of a not-for-profit organization, **is not entitled to vote** on Board recommended funding by City agencies for that organization, or benefit through a direct economic gain. The Community Board member has to disclose and recuse oneself from voting.

Mr. Koshy stressed that Community Board members have to disclose their affiliations, can take part in the discussion(s) but are not entitled to vote. If a Board member is not entitled to vote on a matter as a result of complying with the restrictions concerning conflicts of interest, then the number of members entitled to vote on that matter is reduced, and the majority required for passage is reduced accordingly. When a vote is taken, a member not entitled to vote due to conflict of interest, is not counted as abstaining. Such a member, is counted as present for the purpose of maintaining a quorum. It is suggested that such members be marked “**present but not entitled to vote**” rather than abstaining for cause, to make sure that votes are properly tabulated.

Mr. Koshy spoke on chairing or serving on committees as follows:

- A community board member who is a city employee, may serve on a committee that considers matters that have come or may come before the member’s agency, but cannot be the chairperson of a committee that regularly considers such matters.
- A community board member may not chair a committee that is likely to have matters before it that concern the member’s private interests or employment.
-

Mr. Koshy spoke on other activities as follows:

- No community board member may use or appear to use his or her position as a public servant, to obtain any financial gain, contract, license, privilege or other private or personal advantage, direct or indirect, for the public servant or any person or firm associated with the public servant
- A board chair can have a private interest in a firm or organization that regularly has matters before the board, provided that he or she refrains from making any decisions or taking any other official board actions on matters involving that interest, and does not preside at board meetings when such matters may be considered or voted upon.
- A community board member who is a professional, may not personally represent any party presenting a project or proposal for consideration to the community board on which he or she serves.
- A community board member may run for public office while continuing to serve on the board; however, the community board can’t help in the political process at all. Pursuant to Section 1115 of the City Charter, which prohibits individuals from holding more than one civil office, a community board member would need to resign from the board upon assuming elective office.
- Former community board members may not appear before their former community board within one year of leaving community board service. An appearance is any communication for compensation, other than those involving ministerial activities.
- Community board members can’t accept gifts

At this time, questions and concerns were entertained and answered satisfactorily. Mr. Roy Koshy concluded his presentation by providing members with the Conflicts of Interest Board’s telephone number to speak with the Attorney of the Day at 212-442-1400, if they have any further questions or concerns.

Yesmin Vega, Sr. Program Manager, WHEDco (Women’s Housing & Economic Development Corporation)

Topic: Provide an update on the results from WHEDco’s Morrisania Cultural Assessment and the Crotona Park East Community Needs Assessment

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera introduced Ms. Yesmin Vega, sr. program manager at WHEDco, to those in attendance. Ms. Yesmin Vega came before the full board to provide an update on the results from WEDco’s Morrisania Cultural Assessment and the Crotona Park East Community Needs Assessment.

Ms. Yesmin Vega distributed the Melrose/Morrisania Arts and Culture Survey Summary of Findings. The goal of the survey was to better understand community members culture and community interests and address neighborhood challenges. The meaning of “culture” captured an expression of local history, food, painting, theater, quilts, zoos, museums, dominoes, music, libraries, poetry, art, fashion, science and so much more.

The **top cultural activities** community members would like to see in the neighborhood are as follows:

- After school programs
- Programs in parks and public spaces
- Classes: dance, music, performing arts
- Community festivals and events that celebrate diversity
- Music performances

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- Spoken Word, Poetry, Comedy, Literary
- Open Artist Studios
- Work by local artists
- Classes: Digital Media
- Film/Movie Screenings
- Classes: Visual Arts, Graffiti Art
- Exhibitions: Photography, Visual Art
- Open mic events

The **key findings from survey respondents** are as follows:

- Top places community participates in arts and culture
- Top cultural events in Morrisania
- Top ways community learns about events
- Top deciding factors for attending an arts and culture activity

The **most important** community issues are as follows:

- Safety
- Youth engagement
- Quality of life and community connection
- Police and community interactions
- Education

Neighborhood recommendations are as follows:

- Address cultural gaps and interests
- Activate informal outdoor venues
- Expand communications and outreach
- Build strategic area partnerships

Potential **positive impact** of neighborhood arts and culture

- Community-led public arts projects can mitigate issues of community safety by bringing more “eyes on the street”
- Opportunities for skill building, bringing people together, and providing a channel through which to address community and social justice issues
- Arts can create economic and job opportunities and foster community pride
- Arts can correct the narrative around a community, place issue and people

At this time, questions and concerns were entertained and answered satisfactorily. Ms. Vega concluded her presentation by requesting that community stake holders answer three (3) questions as follows:

What needs to happen for you to feel comfortable and accepted at a cultural activity?

What does this look like?

What does finding out about events through word-of-mouth look like for you?

Ms Vega also noted that the full report from the Melrose/Morrisania Arts and Culture Survey is anticipated to be completed in the Spring 2019.

Shawn Brede, Assistant Director, New York City Department of City Planning (DCP)

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera introduced Mr. Shawn Brede, assistant director, NYC Department of City Planning, to those in attendance. Mr. Brede came before the community at-large to invite and inform them of DCP’s hosting of the Southern Boulevard Neighborhood Study which is topic based, **Focused Deep Dive Meetings.**

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Mr. Brede stated that the next round of meetings will take place as follows:

- On Thursday, March 14th from 6:00pm-8:30pm, they will be discussing , **“Parks, Public Space & the Waterfront”**
- On Thursday, April, 11th from 6:00pm-8:30pm, they will be discussing **“Housing.”** Both meetings will take place at East Bronx Academy, located at 1716 Southern Boulevard

Mr. Brede noted that DCP is looking to host a meeting on Thursday, May 9th to discuss Neighborhood Food Landscape; however, a time and location has not been determined. In June, they would also like to host a meeting to discuss Violence as a public health issue; however, a date, time and location has yet to be determined.

Mr. Brede encouraged all local stakeholders to attend said meetings and thanked Bronx Community Board Three for their participating support throughout this process thus far. Questions and concerns were entertained and answered satisfactorily.

Vanessa Gibson’s Report

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera introduced CM Vanessa Gibson, to those in attendance. Council member Vanessa Gibson thanked everyone for allowing her to serve as their council member and thanked everyone who attended her State of the District Address. A copy of Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson’s **“State of the District Address 2019”** was distributed to those in attendance.

CM Vanessa Gibson did not provide a written report. She did inform the community at-large of the following:

- Little Claremont Playground underwent a complete renovation which entailed and upgraded outdoor urban farm, playground equipment, mini soccer field, sprinkling system, picnic area, and seating area.
- Drew Playground has been allocated \$500,000, which will provide for enhanced LED lights and a complete renovation of this playground.
- March is **Womens’ History Month** to honor all the **“SHEROES”** in our community.
- As of January 2019, 17 states offer same day registration (SDR), which allows any qualified resident of the state to go to register to vote and cast a ballot all in that day.
- The Participatory Budget process has begun
- NYC’s Preliminary Budget is \$92.3 billion
- Woodstock Terrace’s Senior Center will be opening soon
- The Osborne Association will be operating the Elder Re-entry Program at the old Fulton Correctional facility located at 549 East 171st Street. The Osborne Association is currently negotiating a contract for the Elder Re-entry Program.

At this time, questions and concerns were entertained and answered satisfactorily. CM Gibson noted that conversations have been held with developers and General Contractors to discuss how to hire local skilled tradesmen/women on construction projects in the Bronx. A partnership is being formed with 32 BJ on behalf of these discussions. It was also noted that a lot of projects within the district are as of right.

Bronx Borough President’s Office

Rev. Bruce Rivera introduced Mr. Tom Lucania, representative from the Bronx Borough President’s Office, to those in attendance. Mr. Lucania provided a written report which was distributed and e-blasted to those on Bronx Community Board Three’s list serve.

Mr. Tom Lucania stated that current board members who are up for re-appointment, should anticipate receiving their re-appointment letter in April 2019. New board member appointments have not been determined, to date.

Mr. Tom Lucania spoke briefly on the following:

- Camp Junior at Harriman State Park in memory of Lesandro “Junior” Guzman-Felix, operated by the “Fresh Area Fund” – 10451 through 10460. The applications are available at child.freshair.org or by calling 800-367-0003. The application deadline is May 31, 2019.
- The NYC Department of Education and the Borough Presidents’ Offices created the Extended Use Pilot Hardship Waiver Program in order to provide community organizations with greater access to school facilities. The Waiver Program will provide communities with more instructional, sporting, and recreational opportunities for students. This has been decided upon, due to rent space being expensive for community based organizations. As a result the BP’s offices will pay the opening fees for public school use now known as the “Extended Use Hardship Program”.
- On Wednesday, March 13th, a Job Fair for **“Construction Jobs”** will be held at 851 Grand Concourse in the rotunda, from 10:00am-5:00pm, sponsored by Building Skills New York.

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Report of Elected Officials

Mayors Office

Famod Konneh, representative from the Mayor's Office informed the community at-large that March 12th is **Lobby Day**. On Friday, March 15th at 10:00am, a meeting will be held at 250 Broadway to discuss a three (3) year extension for Mayoral control over NYC DOE schools.

NYS Senator Luis R. Selpulveda's Report

Ms. Fiorella Bini, representative from NY State Senator Luis R. Selpulveda's Office, distributed a flyer pertaining to "Constituent Services" and the services they provide to the community at-large. Ms. Bini exchanged the following information:

- Green Light NY Driving Together which will allow undocumented individuals the right to obtain their drivers license.
- On March 30th at Gothman Collaborative High School located at 1980 Lafayette Avenue, there will be a "Spelling Bee" for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders.

Ms. Bini concluded by stating that NYS Senator Luis Selpulveda's office is located at 900 Rogers Place.

CM Rafael Salamanca's Report

Shanna Knotts, Deputy Chief of Staff for CM Rafael Salamanca, distributed the following information:

- Team Salamanca is looking to hire a Director of Communications which was distributed to those in attendance
- A flyer pertaining to CM Salamanca's "Constituent Services" was distributed to those in attendance.

District Managers Report

- Mr. John Dudley, district manager at Bronx Community Board Three, provided a written report relating to the Statement on the Preliminary Budget and Financial Plan FY'2020.
- On Wednesday, April 24th from 6:00pm-8:30pm at Boricua College, located at 890 Washington Avenue, Bronx Community Board Three along with the 42nd Police Precinct and PSA #7, will host a **"Meet and Greet" with the Neighborhood Community Officers and Community Affairs Officers** within Community District Three.

Mr. Dudley openly thanked CM Rafael Salamanca for his assistance with the street co-naming of "The Chantels" on Friday, April 5th and a concert to follow.

Committee Report(s)

Education/Consumer Affairs Committee

Emily Kim, CEO, Zeta Charter School

The Education Committee came to a consensus to recommend a letter of support for the proposed opening of two (2) new Zeta Charter Schools, in Community School Districts 9 and 12

At this time, Ms. Emily Kim informed the community board members that Zeta Charter School was **able to secure a favorable letter from the NYS Department of Education** and no longer requires a letter of support from Bronx Community Board Three.

Mr. Dudley thanked Ms. Kim for her attendance and updated information. At this time, a letter of support was no longer required.

Parks & Recreation/Youth Services Committee

James Dobbins, Assistant Director of Affairs/Emergency Services, Guns Down Life Up Initiatives, Lincoln Hospital

The Parks and Recreation Committee came to a consensus to recommend a letter of support for the Guns Down Life Up Initiatives at Lincoln Hospital

Ms. Rita Jones, chairperson of the Parks and Recreation/Youth Services committee, introduced Mr. James Dobbins to those in attendance. Mr. James Dobbins, assistant director of affairs/emergency services, Guns Down Life Up Initiatives, Lincoln Hospital, stated that Guns Down, Life Up

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(GDLU) is partnering with public health professionals and community-based organizations to prevent and interrupt the cycle of violence that robs youth of their full potential. This partnership will engage youth early in long-term mentorship and developmental activities to divert them from involvement with violent peer groups and behaviors. It will also engage concerned organizations and neighborhood residents to build community strategies to reduce neighborhood violence.

Ms. Jones requested that a motion be made to approve support for the capital GDLU Initiative:

Motion

It was motioned by Saadia Walters and seconded by Kathy Johnson-Morris to approve a letter of support for the Guns Down Life Up Initiatives at Lincoln Hospital.

Yes	Recusal
26	3

It was noted that members Rita Jones, Linda Kemp and Marilyn Johnson were present but not entitled to vote, due to a conflict of interest.

Housing, Land-Use & Economic Development Committee

Shante Edgehill, Pastor, St. Peter’s Deliverance Church
Shawn M. Belle, Principal, CMC Development Group
David Cleghorn, Chief Housing Officer, HELP USA
Laura Michemer, Senior Project Manager, HELP USA

The committee members in attendance came to a consensus to recommend approval of a letter of support for the proposed development of the Home Simpson project to be located at 937 Home Street; a seven-story building with 72 units of affordable housing and a newly constructed church building, within Community District Three.

At this time, this matter was tabled due to the non attendance of the above representatives.

Arlo Chase, Senior VP of Real Estate & Property Development, Services for the Underserved

The committee members in attendance came to a consensus to recommend approval of a letter of support for the proposed development of the Boston Stebbins Supportive Housing project to be located at 1472 Boston Road and 1420 Stebbins Avenue, within Community District Three.

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera, chairperson of the Housing, Land-Use and Economic Development committee, introduced Mr. Arlo Chase and his representative to the community at-large.

Mr. Arlo Chase and his representative, stated that they are looking to development 1472 Boston Road and 1420 Stebbins Avenue. The tenant at 1472 Boston Road is a Fine Fair supermarket. The tenant at 1420 Stebbins Avenue is currently a parking lot. There will be a total of 230 units.

Rev. Dr. Rivera noted to board members that the current agenda had a summary attached to this voting item. At this time, Rev. Rivera noted that Community Board 3 is at an empass and believes the community board has accepted much beyond what is needed. Other community boards need to take up the burden. This is not a slur for Services for the Underserved; however, a Fair Share siting needs to be conducted within the Bronx.

At this time, several board members spoke openly not limited to the following:

- They were against the population being served
- The were against losing the Fine Fare Supermarket
- Over saturation of supportive housing sites

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At this time, a motion was made as follows:

Motion

It was motioned and seconded to not grant a lettet of support for the proposed development of 1472 Stebbins and 1420 Boston Road – This is an as of right development

YES

NO

ABSTAIN

29

1

Ms. Lanet Rivera, treasurer of Bronx Community Board Three noted that DHS, has the ability to select individuals and families from the shelters that are from Community District Three; therefore, community board members and local stake holders, need to advocate that those individuals and families are selected for newly constructed residences.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Bruce Rivera led us in prayer.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

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