



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: 6/10/14
 Place: 1426 Boston Road
 Time: 6:00 P.M.

Members Present

Janette Alcalá
 Gloria Alston
 Xiomara Arriola
 Valerie Bailey
 Winifred Bama
 Rev. Joel M. Bauza
 Germain Bempah
 Nicole Brown
 Janet Bullock
 Dea. Ernest Dawkins
 Evang. Patricia Dyson-Johnson
 Wanda Ellis
 Gail Gadsden
 Cordelia Gilford
 Ernestine Graham Wright
 Juanita Hamilton
 Abdul Johnson
 Rita Jones
 Linda Kemp
 Hannah LaShaw
 Una Lawrence
 Lee Lightbourne
 Marlon Molina
 Anddy Perdomo
 Leslie Phipps
 Terrence Podolsky
 Edna Quinones
 Ilka Rios
 Rafael Rivera
 Clyde Thompson
 Joanne Webb-Dixon

Staff Present

Etta F. Ritter
 John W. Dudley

Members Excused

Eric Henry
 Ray Henry
 Kathy Johnson-Morris
 Wilbert Tee Lawton
 Elizabeth Luciany
 Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.
 Jose Perez
 Allen Rey
 Rev. Bruce Rivera
 Valerie Brown Simmons
 Deborah Terrell
 Walter Thomas
 Saadia Walters
 Rev. Monte Witherspoon-Brown

Members Absent

John Watson

Councilwoman Vanessa L. Gibson's Office

Yves Filius

Bronx Borough President's Office

Andy Toledo

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Rev. Bruce Rivera
 1st Vice-Chairperson

Linda Kemp
 2nd Vice-Chairperson

Gail Gadsden
 Secretary

Juanita Hamilton
 Treasurer

Rita Jones.
 Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

NYS Senator Ruben Diaz's Office

Rev. Samaris Gross

Guests Names

Sylvia Cox, HRA
Charlene Blackwell
Rella Fogliano, MacQuesten
Ronald Schulman, Best Development Group, LLC

All Other Guests Names on File

Call To Order

Ms. Gloria Alston, chairperson at Bronx Community Board Three, called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Ms. Alston requested that all new board members stand and introduce themselves to the community at-large.

Invocation

Rev. Joel Bauza led us in prayer.

Community Concerns/Exchange of Information

At this time, the following information was exchanged:

- Ms. Joanne Webb-Dixon, board member stated that the C-Town supermarket on Boston Road and East 169th Street sells outdated dairy products. Ms Webb-Dixon requested assistance from Bronx Community Board Three in contacting the owner/manager to discuss their inventory practices.
- Mr. Clyde Thompson, board member and representative from SEBNC, informed the board members that they have been invited to attend SEBNC's Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2014 from 5:00-7:00pm at McKinley Community Center located at 751 East 161st Street.
- Rev. Joel Bauza, board member stated that the Signature project located on Boone Avenue has not employed anyone from the community. Bronx Community Board Three has been requested to contact the Signature Group to inquire about said, employment.
- Ms. Gail Gadsden, board member wanted to know what happened to the trash bins in Crotona Park. Fellow board members commented and stated that park participant(s) are given trash bags to put their garbage into.
- Ms. Gina Miller, resident of Community District Three, informed the board that Prestige Management office has a sign in their window which can be condescending and she requested assistance from the board.
- Mr. Wali Abdun-Noor, community resident and CERT Leader, stated that OEM has a new campaign which is running from May to July regarding "flood zones" within the five boroughs. Mr. Abdun-Noor distributed flood zone maps to those in attendance.
- Mr. Hakiem Yahmadi, community resident, distributed flyers regarding S.O.S. Basketball Clinic/S.O.S. Day of Remembrance. Employment information was also exchanged.
- Unity Baptist Church will be hosting it's annual Health Fair on Saturday, June 21, 2014 from 12noon to 4:00pm at 839 Courtlandt Avenue.

Roll Call

Ms. Gail Gadsden, secretary, called the roll and a quorum was established.

Members Requesting to be Excused

Eric Henry
Ray Henry
Kathy Johnson-Morris
Wilbert Tee Lawton
Elizabeth Luciany
Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.
Jose Perez
Allen Rey
Rev. Bruce Rivera
Valerie Brown Simmons

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Deborah Terrell
Walter Thomas
Saadia Walters
Rev. Monte Witherspoon-Brown

Motion

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

Eric Henry
Ray Henry
Kathy Johnson-Morris
Wilbert Tee Lawton
Elizabeth Luciany
Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr.
Jose Perez
Allen Rey
Rev. Bruce Rivera
Valerie Brown Simmons
Deborah Terrell
Walter Thomas
Saadia Walters
Rev. Monte Witherspoon-Brown

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

Motion

It was motioned and seconded to approve the minutes of the prior meeting held on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 with the necessary corrections, if there be any.

All in Favor

Motion Carried

Presentation(s)

Ms. Sylvia Cox, Outreach Specialist, HRA/Child Support Enforcement/Outreach and Paternity Services

Mr. John W. Dudley, district manager introduced, Ms. Sylvia Cox, Outreach Specialist at the NYC Human Resources Administration, Office of Child Support/Outreach and Paternity Services, to those in attendance. Ms. Sylvia Cox came before the community at-large to inform them of HRA's Office of Child Support/Outreach and Paternity Services, program services.

Ms. Cox stated that the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) has three programs that work with low-income noncustodial parents (NCPs) to reduce their child support orders and arrears (child support debt) owed to the Department of Social Services (DSS).

- Modify DSS Order - Modify the Department of Social Services Order (MDO) can help low-income NCPs who have child support orders that are not based on their current income.
- Arrears Cap Initiative – Arrears Cap can put a limit on accumulated child support debt that you owe the government (DSS).
- Arrears Credit Program (ACP)- ACP can help you reduce the amount of arrears owed to the government.

Ms. Sylvia Cox stated that it is important to establish paternity as soon as possible and OCSE offers DNA Testing for \$40.00 per person, wherein it would cost approximately \$120.00 for both parents and a child to be tested. Parents will be referred to a state-certified laboratory. A swab is used to take DNA samples from inside the cheeks of the baby and both parents; the test is quick and painless. Parents do not have to go to the lab the same day; if you are under 18, the laboratory may require you to have one of your parents accompany you. Results will be sent to you by mail in approximately 2

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weeks after the lab receives all of the samples.

Mediation services is provided to one or both parents and a referral list is provided for mediation services. Mediation can be a no-cost or low-cost way for you and the other parent to discuss and resolve your problems about visitation and/or custody without going to Family Court. Mediation professionals do not take sides. Parents have a chance to express their concerns in a private and confidential environment. Parents may find new ways to think about their situation. Most importantly, children perform better in school and have fewer behavioral problems when they have both parents in their lives to support them both financially and emotionally.

It was noted that sneakers, clothing and jewelry are considered gifts and that they are not considered by the courts as another form of support. If a non-custodial parent wants to prove he/she is supporting their child, a money order or personal check written out to the mother with the memo section stating "child support", will be recognized by the courts and accepted as payment. Non-custodial parents can get their drivers license suspended after four (4) months of non-payment on their child support order. Non-custodial parents can claim their child on their taxes as long as the custodial parent gives their permission and an IRS form is completed. A child support order in NY State is in effect until the child reaches the age of 21.

Percentage rate for a non-custodial parent who has children by the same person:

- 1st child – 17%
- 2nd child – 25%
- 3rd child – 29%
- 4th child – 31%
- 5th child – 35%

Percentage rate for a non-custodial parent who has children by different people:

- 1st child – 17%
- 2nd child- 17%
- 3rd child – 17%

It was also noted that every three years a cost of living adjustment is conducted. Ms. Cox distributed information about said presentation to those in attendance. At this time, question and concerns were entertained and answered satisfactorily.

Ruben Diaz, Jr.-Borough President's Report

Mr. Andy Toledo, representative from the Bronx Borough President's Office, provided the following information:

- New board members were informed that the Borough President Office will be inviting them to a "**New Board Member Orientation Session**" in July 2014. All new board members were encouraged to make every effort to attend.
- At this time, time sensitive information was exchanged and Mr. Toledo wished everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

Councilwoman Vanessa L. Gibson Report

Mr. Yves Filius, representative from Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson's office, distributed the following information:

- **NEWS from Council Member Vanessa L. Gibson**
- **SCRIE (Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption) Program** – Starting July 1, 2014, NYC will modify the total household income to qualify from \$29,000 to \$50,000 for persons 62 years old or older.

Requirements

- Must be at least 62 years old;
- Rent an apartment that is regulated by the Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) (i.e. rent controlled or rent stabilized apartments or hotel stabilized);
- If applying before July 1, 2014 have a total annual household income of \$29,000 or less or;
- If applying after July 1, 2014 have a total annual household income of \$50,000 or less and;
- Pay more than one-third of the household's total monthly income for rent.

Tenants who qualify for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Program can have their rent frozen at their current level and be exempt from future rent increases.

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At this time, Mr. Filius shared time-sensitive information with the community at-large.

Chairperson's Report

At this time, Ms. Valerie Bailey, chairperson of the Nominations committee, read each position and requested nominations from the floor. She asked that each nominee accept or decline the position before entertaining receipt of ballots for vote tally purposes.

Ms. Bailey requested that Ms. Joanne Webb-Dixon and Ms. Juanita Hamilton of the Nominations Committee, collect the ballots for Election of Officers from the members in attendance.

Following are the results of the tally taken:

Chairperson

Gloria Alston 25

1st Vice-Chairperson

Rev. Bruce Rivera 17

2nd Vice-Chairperson

Linda Kemp 9

Secretary

Gail Gadsden 22

Treasurer

Juanita Hamilton 28

Sgt.-At-Arms/Parliamentarian

Rita Jones 10

The newly elected officers are as follows:

Gloria Alston	Chairperson
Rev. Bruce Rivera	1st Vice Chairperson
Linda Kemp	2nd Vice Chairperson
Gail Gadsden	Secretary
Juanita Hamilton	Treasurer
Rita Jones	Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

Ms. Alston congratulated everyone.

At this time, Ms. Alston requested a motion to empower the Executive Board to act on behalf of the Full Board during summer recess.

Motion

It was motioned and seconded for the Executive Board to act on behalf of the Full Board during summer recess.

	YES	NO
	29	1
MOTION CARRIED		

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Rev. Bruce Rivera	Linda Kemp	Gail Gadsden	Juanita Hamilton	Rita Jones.
1 st Vice-Chairperson	2 nd Vice-Chairperson	Secretary	Treasurer	Sgt.-at-Arms/Parliamentarian

Senator Ruben Diaz's Report

Rev. Samaris Gross, representative from Senator Ruben Diaz's Office, stated that the Senator sends his regards and would like for his constituents to feel free in contacting his district office if he can be of assistance.

Senator Ruben Diaz will provide a "free" bus trip to Washington, D.C., protesting his support of the 'Second Annual March for Marriage' on June 19, 2014. Senator Diaz has secured 100 free buses available to community based and faith based organizations. Interested organizations can contact his office at 718-991-3161.

District Manager's Report

Mr. John Dudley welcomed all the new board members and informed them that Community Boards are the smallest forms of city government for a non-mayoral agency. At this time, time sensitive information was exchanged.

Parks & Recreation/Youth Services Committee

The Parks & Recreation/Youth Services Committee members came to a consensus to recommend approval of a letter of support for the co-naming of Ritter Place between Prospect and Union Avenues to "Maxine Sullivan Way", within Community District Three.

At this time, Ms. Paula Morris, daughter of Ms. Maxine Sullivan, stated that her mother was a community activist and was very involved in the public education system. Ms. Sullivan was a founder of the "House that Jazz Built". A representative from the Bronx Music Heritage Center stated that Ms. Sullivan was truly worthy of this co-naming of Ritter Place between Prospect and Union Avenues.

Motion

It was motioned and seconded to approve a letter of support to co-name Ritter Place between Prospect and Union Avenues to "Maxine Sullivan Way", within Community District Three.

YES	NO
31	0

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

Housing, Land-Use & Economic Development Committee

The Housing, Land-Use & Economic Development Committee came to a consensus to recommend approval to support MacQuesten Development, LLC and Best Development Group, LLC's proposal to develop 1388-1400 Stebbins Avenue (Block 2965, Lots 6, 7, 8 and 13), into a low-income 75 unit senior supportive housing residence. This property is currently owned by New York City and is under the jurisdiction of the NYC

Department of Housing, Preservation and Development. MacQuesten Development, LLC and Best Development Group, LLC are requesting to be the sole source owners of this property.

At this time, questions and concerns were entertained and answered satisfactorily. Concern was raised regarding this building potentially changing into an open market/general population residence.

MOTION

It was motioned and seconded to approve a letter of support for MacQuesten Development, LLC and Best Development Group, LLC's proposal to develop 1388-1400 Stebbins Avenue (Block 2965, Lots 6, 7, 8 and 13), into a low-income 75 unit senior supportive housing residence. This property is currently owned by New York City and is under the jurisdiction of the NYC Department of Housing, Preservation and Development.

MacQuesten Development, LLC and Best Development Group, LLC are requesting to be the sole source owners of this property.

YES	NO
29	0

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ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

New Business

At this time, information was exchanged:

- Mr. Abdul Johnson, founder of C-Ball, stated that Curtis Jackson (50 cent) was in attendance at the C-Ball event held on Saturday, June 7th.
- Ms. Kerry McClean, representative from WHEDCo, distributed flyers for the Bronx Summer Fest on the Boulevard.

Birthday/Sickness and Distress

Ms. Hamilton requested that all those born in the month of June to stand and be acknowledged. The committee members sang Happy Birthday to the June babies.

Sickness

Ms. Etta Ritter, administrative manager at Bronx Community Board Three, informed those in attendance that Rev. Idus A. Nunn, Jr. is feeling better; however, he is still having some medical issues addressed and was unable to attend this evenings meeting.

Benediction

Dea. Ernest Dawkins led us in prayer.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, this meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.

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