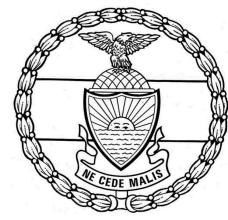


# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

### COMMUNITY BOARD 7



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON., BOROUGH PRESIDENT    YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON    KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Barbara Stronczer</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>March 20, 2025</b>
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	<b><u><a href="#">The Bedford's Community Room</a></u> 211 East 203rd Street, Bronx, NY 10458</b>
<b>Members In Attendance:</b>	<b>✓ Barbara Stronczer   ✓ Yajaira Arias   ✓ Jean Hill ✓ Betty Arce   ✓ Michelle Avila   ✓ Edgar Ramos ✓ Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky   ✓ Bernard Wright ✓ Leurys Acosta   ✓ Andrew Laiosa</b>
<b>Minutes done by:</b>	<b>Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky</b>

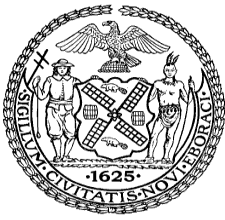
### Minutes:

- I. Meeting Guidelines and Code of Conduct were read
- II. Introductions/Attendance - Quorum met
- III. Review of previous minutes - Minutes were approved unanimously with 3 corrections:
  - A. Remove Andrew Laiosa from the attendance
  - B. Minutes done by, should read by recording, not Helene Hartman
  - C. Page 2, VIII A.2- Environment and Sanitation will read "Betty wants to see if the committee can be more involved in environmental issues that impact the community and the world."
- IV. Follow-up from previous month - None stated
- V. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera Updates
  - A. The Apparel Swap event will include a DSNY collecting E-Waste and shredding truck.
  - B. The event is this Saturday from 11-2PM at P.S. 246. Please attend and bring your friends.

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- C. The Yankee Scholarship deadline may be extended to 4/1/25, if allowed by the Yankees, there is only one application so far. The stricter application requirements of 50 Hours of volunteer week may have discouraged applicants.

#### VI. Chair Yajaira Arias Remarks

- A. The Housing committee met on 3/11 to discuss the Old Fordham Hill Library, where Council Member Oswald Feliz updated the committee on the property.
- B. It has been proposed the building be sold to allow housing to be built. The building is abandoned and in such disrepair, and it was determined that it would be too costly for the city to rehabilitate the building. Council Member Feliz is having the property appraised and looking for a developer. A board member suggested that the state get involved to try and save the property for public use.
- C. The Ad-Hoc Committee met and will convene again on Monday 4/14/25 to review two items in the By-Laws.
- D. Board elections will be held this June and the Chair met with the DM to reach out to board members to form a Nominating Committee.

#### VII. New Business

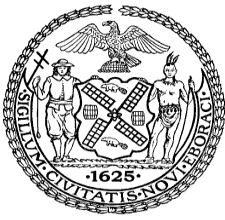
#### VIII. Motion(s):

- A. **Executive:** (<https://bit.ly/4kKLLwF>): A letter of support for City Intro Bill 1096, Senate Bill S7673, and NYS Assembly Bill A4639 will be sent to our Bronx Community Board Seven elected officials asking that they support the bills to preserve health care choices for retirees from city service. Intro 1096 will amend the administrative code to preserve health care choices for retirees from city service. The bill provides that the City must offer Medicare-eligible City retirees and their Medicare-eligible dependents at least one Medigap plan with benefits equivalent to or better

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than those available to City retirees and their dependents as of December 31, 2021.

1. Camille Dee, of the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees, came to the Board asking for a letter of support to be sent to our City Council Members to protect the health care choices of retired city civil servants. Currently, they have options such as straight Medicare, but the push is to force them into a plan that severely limits their health care options. They have been fighting this battle and won eleven unanimous victories in the courts, but that is not enough. They are asking for our help with obtaining support from our City Council Members. The Board decided to include all our other electeds, as well.
2. The Executive Committee created a motion, voted on it with 7 voted in favor and 2 voted to abstain, Michelle Avila and Bernard Wright.

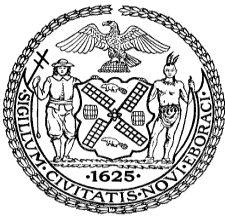
**B. Traffic & Transportation, (<https://bit.ly/3Ft3iJs>):** Send a letter recommending approval of a sidewalk cafe at Mirador Restaurant located at 44 West Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10468, with the following modifications:

- a) Ensure the sidewalk cafe is ADA-compliant.
  - b) Ensure the sidewalk cafe adheres to providing a clear 8 feet clear path for pedestrians.
  - c) Ensure the side plan reflects an accurate number of 16 or 18 seats.
1. A public hearing was held, and a vote was taken at the committee level. NYC DOT and Council Member Pierina Sanchez also recommended approval for the café. After some discussion, a vote was held and the Executive Board voted unanimously in favor of the approval, with the ADA recommendations.
  2. DOT will be notified of this approval.

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## IX. Committee Reports

### A. Ad Hoc Bylaws - Andrew Laiosa

1. The committee met on 3/10 at Tracey Towers and discussed combining the current committees. The proposal will likely be presented in May and voted on in June, it will pare down the committees from 9 to 7 committees. The combined committees will be listed out with their combined co-chairs; with each co-chair taking the lead on their particular sub-committee. A suggestion was made that the entire board be canvassed with a survey or other tool, as to their opinion on the combining of the committees.
2. The next meeting will be 4/14, 6:30 PM at Tracey Towers. The topic will be attendance and excuses.

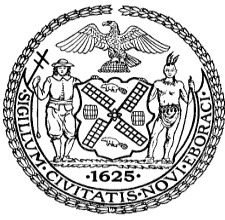
### B. Environment and Sanitation – Betty Arce

1. The committee created a motion to curb canine waste around school property but after some discussion, it was withdrawn due to the concern that it would unfairly penalize the DOE. This issue will be incorporated into our expense request citing the serious health implications around canine waste. Canine waste is a danger to humans as well as animals. Ms. Avila, Health Chair, then suggested that the elected officials be asked to increase the fines for canine waste rather than wait for new budget requests.
2. It was agreed that when discussing combining committees, that this committee be merged into Municipal Services, which includes a section on Animal Welfare.
3. West Fordham Road had a water main break and DEP was responding to address the issue.
4. As of April 1, 2025, DSNY will start ticketing buildings that don't have composting in separate bins.

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5. This Saturday, 3/22 at P.S. 246 there will be a DSNY event with Senator Gustavo Rivera where community members can get free clothes, drop off paper to be shredded and leave E-Waste such as computer equipment. All are invited; volunteers are welcome.
6. The next meeting will be on May 6th.

#### **C. Education, Youth & Libraries – Leurys Acosta**

1. The committee received only one application for the Yankee Scholarships. A discussion was held as to why the number was so low. Hopefully, with more outreach to Bronx Science and other schools, we will have more applicants. It was noted that with Bronx Science, the student must live in our community board district.

#### **D. Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos**

1. Motion to approve Sidewalk café - see above.

#### **E. Housing, Land Use & Economic Development – Yajaira Arias**

1. See the Chair's report above, regarding the Old Fordham Library. For details, see the committee report which is 5 pages long.

#### **F. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer**

1. Carlos Santiago of the Citizens Committee of NY is looking for applicants for the Community Leader and Business Grants. The grants are for \$5,000 and they can be used for items such as tree guards. Community leaders can apply where groups as small as 2 individuals can be eligible. Ms. Stronczer stated it is not a difficult process and encouraged interested parties to apply.

<https://www.citizensnyc.org/communityleaders>

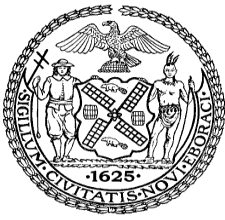
2. Jessica Einhorn from Citywide Forestry spoke about the new procedure for tree planting; it will be fully implemented by 2027. Citizens can no longer call or text 311 to request a tree be planted.

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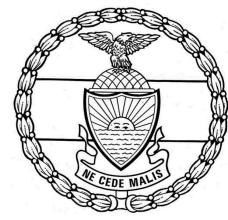




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Every three years, Forestry will assess your block. Tree planting is contracted out to private vendors.

3. A concern was raised that since Forestry will plant trees without tree requests in the new process, what will happen if a tree is planted, and it is not requested/not wanted? Who will be responsible for the tree plant care?

#### **G. Public Safety & Quality of Life – Vacant**

1. The committee did not meet.

#### **H. Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila**

1. The committee did not meet since they did not have quorum. The Executive Committee voted on the Health motion.

#### **I. Veterans Affairs – Bernard Wright**

1. He thanked Jean Hill for chairing in his absence.
2. Last month it was reported that the Brooklyn and Manhattan VA Hospitals were closing, but this has not happened and the individuals who were fired by DOGE have been re-hired with back pay.
3. Ms. Bryce of Veterans Services (VSO) spoke about a new program Veterans are entitled to.
4. In Bronx Community Board 10, they had a resource fair, and we are hoping to have one in our area in June.
5. Ms. Bryce can help with disability claims, HEAP, affordable housing applications, etc. Family members can also get help, spouses and children.
6. A Date selection will be made for the flagging event and the Centennial Celebration

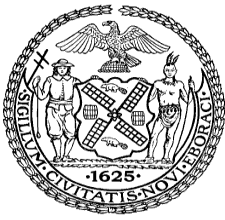
#### **J. Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Jean Hill**

1. The committee did not meet.

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**X. Next meeting date - April 17, 2025 at the Bedford Community Room, 211 East 203rd Street.**

**XI. Discussion on next agenda**

A. Jeffrey Hunter Award

B. Planning for the flagging at Woodlawn Cemetery.

C. On Sunday, May 18th is the Bronx Week Parade, where the Chair and the DM will meet with the Borough President's office to discuss options for an event at the Bronx Victory Memorial on Mosholu Parkway. Other options include Saturday, May 17 from 11AM to 1 PM, May 3, or in November 2025.

**XII. Adjournment - Motion to close made by Jean Hill and seconded by Bernard Wright. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM.**

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