

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT

LEURYS ACOSTA, CHAIRPERSON

KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Chair:	Barbara Stronczer
Meeting Date:	May 13, 2026
Meeting Time:	6:30 pm
Meeting Location:	Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center 3225 Reservoir Oval E, Bronx, NY 10467
Members In Attendance:	✓ Barbara Stronczer ✓ Gwen Thomas-Steed ✓ Tasha Andrews _ Marcus McLarty ✓ Tobie Buford ✓ Jesús López-Jensen ✓ Yini Rodriguez
Minutes done by:	Barbara Stronczer

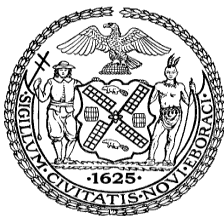
Minutes:

- I. **Guidelines & Code of Conduct:** Read by Barbara Stronczer
- II. **Introductions/Attendance:** Quorum was met.
- III. **Review of Previous Minutes**
 - A. April Minutes voted and approved.
- IV. **New Business**
 - A. **New York Botanical Garden (NYBG):**
 1. South Forest Riverwalk Project by Clarence Slotkin (bit.ly/3QNeO8r):
 - a) Clarence Slotkin, the project manager for the South Forest Riverwalk Project, presented slides on the proposed construction. The area presented was located along the south side of the Garden where the Bronx River enters the property. The purpose of the project is to provide the area with greater access and visibility for Garden visitors. The following items are included in the construction:
 - (1) Path deterioration will be corrected.
 - (2) View of the river will be opened.
 - (3) Stone paving will be added in the entrance area.
 - (4) Upgrading of plantings.
 - (5) Opening of the piped stream.
 - (6) Built in tables at the river's edge.

THIS MEETING'S MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT:

229-A EAST 204TH STREET ♦ BRONX, NY 10458 ♦ PHONE: (718) 933-5650

E-MAIL: KCABRERACARRERA@CB.NYC.GOV ♦ WEBSITE: WWW.NYC.GOV/BRONXCB7



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(7) Dock with seating to view the river.

b) The project's current timeline runs from Fall 2026 to Fall 2028.

B. Motion(s):

1. **Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs (bit.ly/4uaRJux):** Send a letter to the New York Botanical Garden in support of their proposed construction and renovation of the south forest area located at the southern end of the New York Botanical Garden.

a) Motion to approve by Gwen Steed; seconded by Tasha Andrews.

Motion passed. Yes: 6 ; No: 0 ; Abstention: 0 ; Absent: 1.

C. Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) Updates

1. Maintenance Issues

a) Work has been completed along Mosholu Parkway for the upcoming Bronx Day Parade and Festival. A request for more trash containers along the Parkway was made. Joe Magneri, the Park Manager, stated he will be chaining trash containers at park intersections for this season. Hopefully, they will remain in place.

2. Spring/Summer Staffing

a) Four employees have moved on to other positions. With the summer help, the district will have 24 employees.

3. A request was made to keep the restrooms and adjacent areas at the Oval clean.

4. A thank-you was given to Joe for the repairs to the athletic field at the Oval.

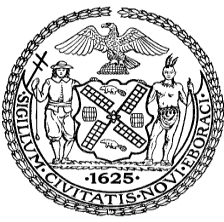
5. The condition of the fence around the Oval was discussed. Although it is impossible to lock the gates at night, Joe will try to paint them to improve the park's exterior appearance.

D. Public Safety at Bronx CB7 Parks

1. PEP officer numbers are low, and they must travel to Board area parks. The officer at the recreation center in the Oval is stationed indoors and remains at this post. The Police Dept. must provide extra security at the park.

V. Announcement (s)

VI. CB 7 Park Recreation Centers & Volunteer Groups Updates:



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- A. Fatima Brown, the Recreation Specialist who covers St. James and Poe Park, announced several tournaments planned for St. James Park. They include pool, pickleball, and basketball. A summer camp is also scheduled. The Poe Center is open on Thursdays and Saturdays. Dance classes are scheduled, as is a yoga session.
- B. Pamela Coleman announced a Fitness Festival at the Oval on May 23rd. The schedule for other events is being developed. Heather Guerino, from the Crusaders for Children's Rights, is working with Councilman Dinowitz and others to plan a memorial service in memory of the teen killed last year at the Oval.
- C. Norwood Cares, a newly formed community organization, is seeking a venue to hold meetings. Joshua Santiago, a member of the organization, requested help to clean the wooden area along Webster Ave and Parkside Place.
- D. AJ Ramos, a resident, complained about the lack of an LGBTQIA+ flag at the World War I Monument.

VII. Next Meeting Date: June 10, 2026

VIII. Discussion on Next Agenda:

IX. Adjournment