

September 28, 2021 - General Board Meeting Minutes

Chair's welcoming remarks

As restrictions loosen, please keep in mind proper protocols.

Quality of life more than ever is a key issue, please continue to report any (noise complaints, sanitation etc. to 311, elected officials and to CB7 office for follow up. The more complaints reported creates urgency among elected officials and City Agencies.

DM - Ischia Bravo - Reading of executive order and zoom rules and commands

District Manager's Report:

- Vaccine Referral Program – City will give residents \$100.00 to obtain their vaccinations if they have not done so. Employers can also make a request to the city to have a set location for employees to obtain their vaccinations.
- NYC Mobile Vaccine Vans – all over the city – if you need vaccine you can walk up to the van or book an appointment
- Free in home Covid test available to any resident 65 years old or home bound.
- ERAP is still available to residents – Elected officials have been helpful in providing the necessary information
- NYCHA Rental Assistant Program – residents can apply through NYCHA for ERAP
- Note that a Marijuana Dispensary is community to our community at 2425 W. Fordham Road.
- Cannot stress the importance of Capital and Expense Request that need to be submitted. As we all know this is a daunting process. Training sessions have been set up. Please take advantage of it. It can help a great deal.
- Kingsbridge underpass– working with 52nd Precinct as the issue of cleanliness and support services.
- Noise Complaints – matters are being related to proper agencies (Parks & NYPD) to resolve or follow up.

For further information or if you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact DM directly or CB7 Staff via email.

Board Business:

Attendance taken - quorum met

Motion to approve minutes by Chair Emmanuel Martinez

Second by Barbara Stronczer

Motion passes 1 abstention

1. Parks' Recreation & Cultural Affairs

Motion: The renovation of PS 8 Playground

Recommended Action: The committee recommends a letter of support be sent to Parks' Commissioner Rodriguez and Councilperson Dinowitz requesting renovations for PS8 Playground.

Background: Both the public and the students at the school use the playground. Renovations were last done in 2003. The playground gets much usage and needs some major repairs and updates.

Rationale for Recommendation: The increase in the local population will mean an increase in school enrollment and the need for public recreational spaces. A letter of support is needed to obtain funding for this project.

After brief discussion board members agreed with PS8 need of renovations. Questions arose as to funding.

Motion second by Chad Royer

Motion taken to vote: Motion Passes

2. Parks' Recreation & Cultural Affairs

Motion: The Parks' Committee approves the design work for the rehabilitation of Frisch Field.

Background: Frisch Field was last renovated 20 years ago. The field has landmark status and needs work on drainage and the reseeding of the outfield. Little league teams, softball leagues and tee ball teams will be able to use the field.

Rationale for Recommendation: Many new buildings are being constructed along Webster Ave. and within the local side streets. In order to meet the growing population in Bedford Park and Norwood, it is important to have a facility for active sports in the area.

No concerns brought by members – everyone agreed.

Motion second by Betty Arce

Motion taken to vote: Motion Passes with 1 No and 1 abstention

3. Motion presented by Chair Emmanuel Martinez

Motion: Naming of CB7 Committee Chairs

- Housing, Land Use, & Economic Development – Erick Ascencio
- Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs– Barba Stronczer
- Education, Youth & Libraries – Jhennelle Robinson
- Environment & Sanitation – Betty Arce
- Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos
- Public Safety & Quality of Life- Victor Saldana
- Health and Human Services – Michelle Avila
- Veterans Affairs – Chad Royer
- Executive – Barbara Stronczer
- Personnel, Budget & Ethics – Andrew Laiosa
- By Laws – Myrna Calderon

Motion taken to vote – Motion passes

4. Housing, Land Use, & Economic Development

Motion: Bronx Community Board 7 to support the proposed zoning text amendment which removes geographical restrictions on sidewalk cafes.

Background: Presently, sidewalk cafes for restaurants are only allowed in certain parts of the city. Restaurants must obtain a permit to operate sidewalk cafes from the Department of Consumers and Worker Protection (DCWP) formerly known as Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). The current program has limitations on size, location and clearances from existing street infrastructure for all sidewalk cafes.

However, during the Covid-19 Pandemic the City via a special filling process under the Department of Transportation (DOT) allowed restaurants to establish and operate sidewalk cafes in all areas (neighborhoods) of the city. Under the proposed zoning regulation text amendment, sidewalk cafes can continue to operate and be established without any geographical restriction through the health emergency program. This is the first steps to revamping the sidewalk café program and permitting process that will be regulated by DOT.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The Committee supports the establishment of sidewalk café as they are a vital neighborhood amenity. They not only activate the sidewalks, but also can provide additional income to a

restaurant and safe outdoor eating areas. Removing the geographical restriction on sidewalk cafes regulations provides the option to all restaurants throughout the city to operate an outdoor café.

After lengthy discussion it was determined that one of the major concerns were sidewalks space, sanitation and noise.

Motion second by Sandra Erickson

Motion taken to vote: Motion Passes, 5 No's and 3 Abstentions

Motion to Close Board Business: Motion second by Gloria Bent

Committee Reports – please see email sent by CB7 staff enclosing such.

Public Session Opened:

Councilman Fernando Cabrera – Representative Sayid

Worked on street naming of Celia Cruz

Working to bringing the International Salsa Museum to our community

Continues to work on legislation relating to NYCHA and updating the City's 311 Reporting System.

Councilman Erick Dinowitz

Working with the Veteran's Committee in correcting discharge status'

Continue to work on residents in providing Covid Vaccines, Relief, ERAP etc.

State Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office - Rachel Ferrari

Continue to help to provide information and assistance with the eviction moratorium, ERAP and other issues facing the community.

We can be reached at 718-933-2034 or grivera@nysenate.gov.

Senator Alessandra Biaggi

Continues to work on Covid Relief, Eviction Moratorium and ERAP for constituents

Working together with colleagues as to the closing of Rikers Island

Pierina Sanchez – Democratic Candidate for Council District 14

Quick introduction

She was personally hit by a moped and wants to inform residents that she is committed to working with us in resolving issues affecting our community.

Cirio Guerino – 2 complaints to report to the CB7

Three (3) stabbings took place in one week at DeWitt Clinton High School

BOE has not sent any information, nor have they answered any questions.

Fruit and Food vendors along Mosholu Parkway; vendors are leaving rotting food and garbage.

Complaints have been made to NYPD and Sanitation – neither have resolved the issue.

Jane – Mosholu Library

The library is operational, and they now have after school programs for children ages 6-12.

Resident – Kwasi

Addressed the board regarding the loud noise in the district. He feels that the noise levels of car mufflers, music systems, dirt bikes etc. are creating a public health issue. He works from home and it is hard at times because of the noise. Would like to see the community rally against this issue.

End of Public Session

Chair presents motion to close - Motion second by Betty Arce

Meeting closed at 9:03 pm