



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7**



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT BARBARA STRONCZER, ACTING CHAIRPERSON ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT
MANAGER

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chair:	Chad Y. Royer
Meeting Date:	October 19, 2022
Meeting Time:	6:30 pm
Meeting Location:	Via Zoom Video/Teleconference
Meeting Recording:	https://youtu.be/2baoY45IMko
Members In Attendance:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chad Royer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emmanuel Asamoah <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hugo Gonzalez <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Hill <input type="checkbox"/> Helene Redd
Minutes done by:	Chad Y. Royer

Minutes:

I) Introduction

II) Review Of Previous Minutes

III) Follow-Ups

1) VA Updates

a) Patrick Cordova, Public Affairs Officer at Bronx VA, introduced himself to the members in attendance and shared upcoming events in the community. On October 20, there will be a grand reopening of their spinal cord injury and disorder wing at the VA where they now have 24 new inpatient beds for Veterans who have suffered from such injury or disorder.

b) The VA has a food pantry where they partner with New York City Food Pantry and they provide perishable food to Veterans in need. If any Veteran needs food resources or if anyone knows of a Veteran or family members of Veterans facing food insecurities, please reach out to the VA.

2) Woodlawn Cemetery

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: IBRAVO@CB.NYC.GOV ◊ WEBSITE: WWW.NYC.GOV/BRONXCB7



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a) The Committee took part in a flagging event at Woodlawn Cemetery this past May. Woodlawn Cemetery was contacted in an effort to set up a flagging event for the Veterans Day holiday theme, but we have not gotten a response regarding availability for a future event. If we get a response and a confirmation, we will extend the invitation to do a flagging event to the board and community members for participation.

IV) New Business

1) Bronx Victory Memorial at Mosholu Parkway and Marion Avenue

a) The Bronx Victory Memorial is a World War I memorial that is located at Mosholu Parkway and Marion Avenue. Upon doing a walkthrough, the Parks sign was not properly cleaned and there are no newly planted flowers or flags. The committee would like to resurrect flagging events as early as this upcoming November since the Veterans groups from the past no-longer do them. Several folks in the community have expressed interest in bringing a presence back to the memorial and hinted it would be a good gesture for that local community.

b) Motion for Bronx Community Board 7 to annually organize flagging events at Bronx Victory Memorial at Mosholu Parkway and Marion Avenue for the board and community in November or December. 4 in favor, 0 objections. 1 was not present for the vote. Motion passes and will be forward to the Executive Board for further discussion.

2) Presentation On The Pact Act: Shawn Kingston, Chief Officer of Center of Development and Civic Engagement of the VA

a) The PACT Act was recently passed in August 2022. The VA will be going through a series of upgrades, including modernizing technology and infrastructure, and streamlining employee hiring and bonuses for employees and healthcare professionals.



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b) One of the most important parts of the legislation is Veterans can file claims to receive additional VA benefits if a Veteran had been exposed to burn pits while serving in the Persian Gulf War or Vietnam. Veterans who experience toxic exposure and have respiratory issues, certain forms of cancer or related illnesses. Benefits can be in the form of monetary compensation.

c) Veterans are encouraged to see a claims officer at the VA or any outside source who is certified to file claims for compensation.

d) The VA expects to see an influx of over 5 million Veterans affected. Additional information on the PACT Act can be accessed through our Community Board Office and online at <http://www.VA.gov/PACT> Shawn Kingston can be reached at shawn.kingston@va.gov

e) [PACT Act Scams-Fact Sheet](#) and [PACT Act VA Health Care Eligibility](#)

3) Statement of Community District Needs and Budget Requests

1) The committee was asked if there were any capital and expense budget requests they would like to bring forth. The committee will discuss further outside of the meeting.

V) Other Business

1) Kittay House has apartments available for Veterans who are interested in independent senior living. It also includes activities, and a dining room with three meals a day. The location is directly across the VA. For additional information, please contact Lillian Negroni at 718-410-1450.

VI) Adjournment

1) The next meeting for the Veterans Committee has not been scheduled yet as of this meeting.

2) Motion to adjourn meeting by Emmanuel Asamoah, seconded by Jean Hill.



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