



**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

## PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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| <b>Chair:</b>                 | <b>Barbara Stronczer</b>   |
| <b>Meeting Date:</b>          | <b>September 14, 2022</b>  |
| <b>Meeting Time:</b>          | <b>6:30 pm</b>   |
| <b>Meeting Location:</b>      | <b>Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center</b><br><i>3225 Reservoir Oval E, The Bronx, NY 10467</i>  |
| <b>Members In Attendance:</b> | <b>✓ Barbara Stronczer    ✓ Betty Arce    ✓ Tasha Andrews</b><br><br><b>✓ Daisy Perry    ✓ Gwendolyn Thomas Steed</b><br><br><b>__ Ruth Caraballo    __ Leury Acosta</b> |
| <b>Minutes done by:</b>       | <b>Barbara Stronczer</b>   |

**Minutes:**

- I. **Attendance:** Betty Arce, Daisy Perry, Tasha Andrews, Gwendolyn Thomas Steed, Barbara Stronczer. **Absent:** Ruth Caraballo, Leury Acosta
- II. The minutes were accepted as presented.
- III. **New Business:** Katherine Borrome and Doug Nash gave a presentation of the preliminary design for the rehabilitation of Poe Park. The plans include work in the southern section of the park. More shade, green space, and additional trees will be added to the Park. Colorful pavers will be placed around the bandstand area. Improved lighting and work on the bandstand for ADA accessibility are also included. Organized activities such as dance and exercise classes now bring more residents to the park. The improvements will benefit a growing community who use the park for recreational activities.
  - A. **Motion 1:** A recommendation was made by Gwendolyn Thomas Steed to support the design work for the rehabilitation of Poe Park. The motion was seconded by Daisy Perry. The vote by the committee was unanimous.
- IV. **Fall Staffing/Maintenance:** Joe Magneri, the District Manager, reported on fall staffing throughout the district. There will be 21 employees for our parks this

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season. A request for repairs to the night-light in front of the Webster House was made. Concerns with the collection of trash throughout the district were raised. Currently the packer is inoperable and local maintenance workers are required to pick up the trash and cart it to a central location. The promise of an allocation of 1% of the City budget for parks was never kept by our mayor.

**A. Motion II: The committee recommends a letter be sent to our three councilpersons requesting additional funding for parks. The motion was made by Betty Arce and seconded by Gwendolyn Thomas Steed. The committee unanimously approved the motion.**

V. Letter of Support for the Rehabilitation of PS 8 Playground: The Friends of Mosholu Parkway were informed about the passing of this motion in September of 2021. A copy of the motion template from the meeting was sent to the “Friends.”

VI. **FY 2024 Budget Requests:** Members were asked to review last year’s requests and provide the committee with new projects. October’s meeting will be used to review, keep or discard previous requests.

A. Several new projects are being considered. They include:

1. Lighting along the newly created path at Mosholu Parkway which leads to the new crossing between Bainbridge Ave and Van Cortlandt Ave.
2. Cleaning and pruning of trees along the islands of the Grand Concourse (Kingsbridge Rd. to Mosholu Pkwy.)
3. Night Lighting for Games at Williamsbridge Oval

VII. **Recreation Centers:** Sara Bishow, the Recreation Director, at the Oval announced the upcoming activities which include after school help with homework, flag football, fitness classes, a “back to school” event, and PickleBall. Those 24years old and younger can attend for free.

VIII. Friends’ Groups:

**A. Friends of Mosholu Parkland:** Elizabeth Quaranta announced a park cleanup on Sept. 18th. The cleanup will take place between 10:00 AM and 1:00PM. Meet at Bainbridge Ave. and Mosholu Parkway. The group will

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- also be working with the “**Bronx is Blooming**” on September 24th for a tree give-away (10:00AM-3:00PM).
- B. **Friends of Devoe Park**: Tobie Buford reported on the Peace Rally held at Devoe Park over the summer. The event included a pollinating project, face painting and the distribution of school supplies. The group is planning to plant bulbs on November 10th.
- C. Sirio Guerino announced the formation of a Friends group for **French Charlie’s Park**. Although the park is heavily used by CB#7 residents, it is not in our community district.
- D. **Orisha Wellness** is sponsoring a fitness and health day on October 16th at Poe Park.
- IX. The next meeting is scheduled for **October 12th**. The discussion will pertain to the committee’s budget requests. Prior to the meeting, members will receive a breakdown of last year’s requests along with the replies from OMB.
- X. A motion to close the meeting was made by Betty Arce and seconded by Gwendolyn Thomas Steed. The meeting ended at 7:45 PM.