



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



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON  
MANAGER

VACANT, DISTRICT

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Barbara Stronczer</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>April 20, 2023</b>
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	<b>Via Zoom Video/Teleconference</b>
<b>Meeting Recording:</b>	<a href="https://youtu.be/8MAO8fgUF6E">https://youtu.be/8MAO8fgUF6E</a>
<b>Members In Attendance:</b>	<p>✓ Erick Ascensio ✓ Myrna Calderon ✓ Andrew Laiosa</p> <p>✓ Edgar Ramos ✓ Barbara Stronczer ✓ Chad Royer</p> <p>✓ Yahaira Arias ✓ Betty Arce ✓ Michelle Avila</p> <p>_ Victor Saldana ✓ Leurys Acosta _ Ruth D. Caraballo</p>
<b>Minutes done by:</b>	<b>Ruth D. Caraballo</b>

**Minutes:**

- I. Meeting Guidelines & attendance read and taken by Barbara Stronczer**
- II. Review of Previous Minutes postponed until next meeting**
- III. District Manager’s Update**
  - A. Yankee Scholarship is closing tomorrow 4.21 @ noon
  - B. Sunday 5/21 Bronx Week Parade no longer in district will be @ 170 & The Grand Concourse
  - C. Upcoming Community Events
  - D. 5/13 Flagging Event
  - E. 6/3 Veterans Resource Fair
  - F. Last week of June Annual Resource Fair
    - 1. Board Member Andrew expressed concerns about the Bronx Week Parade being no longer in the district, we want to know who, why and when the decision was made.



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- a) Karla responded by saying that she does not know the specifics, but the decision came from the Bronx BPs office. She also stated that she would speculate that since that is the BPS old district that may be a reason for the relocation of the event. She also found it strange that the location was changed. We can circle back with the BPs office and share their response with you.
- b) Barbara chimed in that she thinks that it is nice to see a longer parade this year will be 8 blocks compared to 3 on Mosholu parkway,

#### IV. Chairperson's Update

- A. Chairperson chimed in to state that we were notified of the change, and were not a part of the decision making process. We do our best to abide by the directions given to us by them.
- B. There was an email sent by the BPS office regarding training parliamentary procedures, please take at one of the sessions.

#### V. VI. Motion(s)

##### A. Ad Hoc District Manager Screening

1. The committee determined that Karla Cabrera Carrera was the best candidate to hire Karla Cabrera for the position of District Manager at the salary of 96,000. Michelle shared with the board the justification for the motion. She shared more detail of the process for the committee and thanked them for their integrity, dedication to this work over the past few months. Mention of appreciation to Jade for the labor she put into this process. This information has been sent to the board on multiple occasions for the past couple months via email, but is being shared again tonight for transparency inclusive of a timeline. Chair selected screening committee they were trained by the Bronx BPs office in regard to interview process, appropriate questions and more. (See Slides) Over 40 applicants were received 6 in person interviews were conducted 3 were invited back for second round interviews.
  - a) Motion to hire Karla Cabrera for the position of District Manager at the salary of 96,000. made by Michelle and was seconded by Betty.
  - b) Andrew made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Michelle. All other members voted in agreement.

##### B. Executive Session



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1. The Executive Session ended, and Michelle Avilla made the motion to hire Karla Cabrera Carrera for Bronx Community Board 7 for the position of District Manager at the salary of 96,000. made by Michelle and was seconded by Betty.
  - a) Vote Taken Motion Carries with one abstention.

#### **C. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs**

1. Chair shared that the committee received a very informative presentation and request from Armando (AJ) Ramos, regarding the raising of a PRIDE flag during the month of June. The committee recommends the raising of a PRIDE flag in the month of June somewhere in CB7s district. In honor of pioneers for the LBGQTQ+ Community who lived and worked in our board and others. A flag must be first purchased, then a location must be secured and then permissions from the agency involved must be obtained.
2. Barbara makes the motion Betty seconds. Vote is taken Motion Passes with no abstentions
3. Question from Edgar Ramos regarding the cost of the flag and noted that he would expect that to be included in the presentation. Barbara responded that the office staff will follow up on the cost. She also allowed AJ a moment to speak regarding the motion. He shared that he is adamant that the flag should be raised at the Bronx Victory Memorial and no other place in the district and listed the reasons why. He also stated that this is the second time he has made this request to the board, he even offered to purchase the flag himself and requested the appropriate dimensions. Barbara responded that the location would not be fitting and the purpose of the memorial.
  - a) Vote is taken, motion passes with one abstention.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. NYC Mural Arts Project**

1. Presentation from Ryan (See slides) NYC Mural Arts Project that is expanding in our district. A mental health community initiative. Questions from the board regarding the location process with them working in the community. Installation will be in June. Chairperson requested they share the flyers of the upcoming events with the office to share with the community.

### **B. Liquor License Procedure**



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1. Chad makes a motion to go into Executive Session Barbara seconds the motion. Andrew asks for the motion to state we are going into executive session to discuss the procedure of the liquor license for Bronx CB7. Barbara feels this conversation should be had in Executive Session and Andrew disagrees because it is a general procedural discussion not specific to an entity and that should be information available to the public. Betty agrees that the discussion should not be in executive session. Karla chimes in to state that she suggests we discuss in executive session and share with the public our final plan. Yahaira asks if this is a procedure specific to this board and Karla responds yes. Each community board adapts their own procedure. Currently the DM handles the process, and it is the opinion of the Chairperson that at least one person of the committee should be involved in the process to provide more transparency. Andrew mentioned that in the past cb members in this sense are discouraged to be too close to this process to avoid suspicion of improprieties. Hugo mentioned that when he started on the CB in 2018, he was assigned to the Economic development committee who discussed these things, and he is concerned about a policy change that he is unaware of. Edgar reiterated the same notion of receiving information regarding this matter to the board and he believes the procedure changed during the pandemic. Karla responded that the staff would remain responsible for receiving and processing the request but will share a list with the board for their information. Barbara feels it should go to a committee. Eric shared his experience with other cbs where it is discussed with the general board meetings. Yahaira stated that conversations should be tabled for another time with the general board for transparency and



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to hear their opinion on this process for this district. Eric states he believes that this conversation should be held within the executive committee as these are the types of things that fall in our purview. Barbara suggests that we take the next few weeks to circle back with the Bronx BPs office to gather more information and we follow up with an executive committee agenda next month and then share with the general board our findings. Michelle supports that process and more research. Edgar agrees with the final suggestion. Andrew states that he doesn't know if we should spend this time -quotes the liquor license commission.

## VII. Committee Reports

- A. Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Andrew Laiosa No report did not meet this month next meeting April 27 ,2023
- B. Education, Youth & Libraries – Leurys Acosta No report did not meet the next meeting next Monday with a packed agenda. Betty asked if anyone had addressed the board regarding Saint Brendan’s. Laurys stated a parent shared a petition. Karla stated that they reached out to the office to notify us of their closure. She invited them to the Education committee, and they did not respond.
- C. Environment & Sanitation – Betty Arce Safe Disposal event @ Orchard Beach April 29th April 30 deadline water bill amnesty program. See minutes next meeting May 2, 2023
- D. Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila met earlier this week, committee discussion about services available for seniors specifically around crime prevention. Summer quality of life issues concerns lack of garbage cans across the district. NCB is doing some facelift and will have scaffolding put up.



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- E. Housing, Land Use & Economic Development – Erick Ascencio. Presentation by EDC uses the Amory and is moving forward with the RFP process late summer.
- F. Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer next We had a presentation from the million trees program and an update on the Van Cortlandt Park pedestrian bridge. We are anxious to find out how many park workers we will have in the district this summer.
- G. Public Safety & Quality of Life – Victor Saldaña no report
- H. Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos met in April with no outside presentations. Next meeting, May 4, 2023, was hoping to have an MTA rep on the agenda. Requested information from school staff regarding parking.
- I. Veterans Affairs – Chad Y. Royer The last meeting had multiple presentations and we have the following upcoming events. 5/13 @ 11 am Annual Flagging Event @ Bronx Victory Memorial 5/24 Flagging event @ Woodlawn Cemetery 6/3 will be Veterans Resource Fair @ The Fordham Library. next meeting May 17, 2023
- J. Ad Hoc Bylaws – Yahaira Arias, Bylaws are complete and will be shared with the board with the new and old for review and comparison. It will be added to the agenda for the next executive meeting and then to the general board.

VIII. **X. Next Meeting Date:** May 18, 2023

IX. **XI. Discussion on Next Month’s Agenda** Bylaws, Liquor License Yahaira stated that there is a Nominating committee appointed for June elections Eric A. Sandra E. Helene R. Tasha A. Myrna C. nominations will be taken on the floor in May for a vote in June.



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- X. **XII. Adjournment** Motion to close made by Chad seconded by Yahaira all voted in favor.