



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



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT

YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON VACANT, DISTRICT MANAGER

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Chair:	Barbara Stronczer
Meeting Date:	January 11, 2023
Meeting Time:	6:30 pm
Meeting Location:	Via Zoom Video/Teleconference
Meeting Recording:	https://youtu.be/oBKISDV67Jc
Members In Attendance:	<p>✓ <u>Barbara Stronczer</u> ✓ <u>Betty Arce</u> ✓ <u>Tasha Andrews</u></p> <p>✓ <u>Daisy Perry</u> ✓ <u>Gwendolyn Thomas Steed</u></p> <p>✓ <u>Ruth Caraballo</u> ✓ <u>Tobie Buford</u></p>
Minutes done by:	Barbara Stronczer

Minutes:

I. Attendance/Introductions

II. The minutes were accepted as presented.

III. Follow-up from Previous Month: Comments and suggestions regarding last month's Tree Lighting were requested. All were in favor of how the ceremony was conducted.

IV. New Business:

A. NYC Public Observatory at Jerome Park: Bejan Haghnegahdar presented on behalf of the Amateur Astronomer's Assn and Dirtworks Landscape Architecture. The observatory is currently on the property of Nassau Community College. It will be moved to the grassy area along the Jerome Park Reservoir opposite Harris Field on Gulden Avenue. Shrubs and trees will be added to the area. A concrete walkway will also be constructed. The dome is made of steel and will be painted and cleaned. Two or three individuals can work inside at the same time using the

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

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telescope. Events will be planned at the site and for the 8 schools located within one mile of the observatory. The public will be able to take part in these activities.

Concerns regarding vandalism were raised. The observatory will be locked if not in use and cameras will be installed. A mural along the outside of the structure will also be done in the future. The issue of curb cuts for handicapped individuals was also discussed.

Motion: The committee requests a letter be sent to the Amateur Astronomer's Association stating Community Board 7's support for the observatory's installation at the Jerome Park site.

The committee voted in favor of the motion with one abstention.

B. Parks' Updates: Complaints were made about the condition of the sidewalks along Webster Avenue in front of the Webster House. The sidewalk along Mosholu Parkway South from Marion Ave. to Webster Avenue is also not being cleaned.

The lack of trash receptacles along the Parkway was also addressed.

C. Recreation Centers: Sheroly Jones, representing St. James Park reported on the planned activities for this spring. All activities will remain outdoors. The bidding process for a vendor to rehabilitate the recreation center is currently taking place. Funds are available. Sara Bishow, representing Williamsbridge Oval Park, announced a Valentine Tea Party. Plans are also being made for the spring egg hunt. Partners are needed for the event. Fatima Brown, the Park Supervisor at the Poe Park Visitor's Center, introduced herself and reported on the photography program at the Center.

Questions regarding the adopt-a-bench program were raised. Valerie Davis, representing the Parks' Dept. discussed the fees for a 10 year installation. Currently the cost runs from \$1,500-\$2,500.



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D. Friends' Groups: David Rosas, representing the Friends of Mosholu Parkland, reported on a planned visioning session for Mosholu Parkway with architects from the American Society of Landscape Architects. Concerns were raised regarding illegal use of cut curbs and the neglect of the east to west crossings. These complaints will be forwarded to the Traffic and Transportation Committee. Tobie Buford reported on plans for Devoe Park. The group is currently planning for the summer months. Activities will include movies and a storybook time.

V. Other: Malcolm Gray introduced himself as the new Director of the Jerome-Gun Hill Bid.

Next Meeting Agenda: The lack of attendance at these meetings by the Forestry Division of Parks was discussed. Sirio Guerino complained about his numerous 311 complaints never being done or answered by Forestry. Valerie Davis promised to have a representative from Forestry at our next meeting. Sirio forwarded his outstanding 311 complaints to her.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8th.