



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:	April 12, 2023
Meeting Time:	6:30 pm
Meeting Location:	Via Zoom Video/Teleconference
Meeting Recording:	https://youtu.be/9MIVg2I9XyQ
Members In Attendance:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara Stronczer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Betty Arce <input type="checkbox"/> Tasha Andrews <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daisy Perry <input type="checkbox"/> Gwendolyn Thomas Steed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruth Caraballo <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tobie Buford
Minutes done by:	Barbara Stronczer

Minutes:

- I. **Previous Minutes:** The minutes were accepted by a motion from Daisy Perry and seconded by Ruth Caraballo.

- II. **New Business:** Matt Donham and Annie Weinmayr, landscape architects, presented updated information on the **Van Cortlandt Pedestrian Bridge**. The routes presented have eliminated a bridge due to cost concerns. Crossing the park from east to west via 233rd Street or Gun Hill Road and Mosholu Parkway has presented dangers, which must be addressed with DOT. Steps located near Mosholu Parkway would also not be ADA accessible. The plan is a “work in progress” and future presentations regarding the project will be forthcoming.

- III. **Parks’ Maintenance/Summer Staffing:** Joe Magneri, the manager, announced the start of grass cutting is planned for next Monday. Summer staffing has, not as yet, been determined. The area off Sedgwick and Bailey Avenues has been cleaned. Requests for Parks’ included: 1. Repair of Lighting and the return of an information sign at the WWI Monument. 2. Hours of enforcement at Devoe Park. 3. A “No Motorcycle” sign for Devoe Park. 4. Fencing for the north side of the

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

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new Pickleball Courts at the Oval. 5. Hopscotch and Skelly painted lines at Devoe Park.

IV. **“One Million More Trees” Initiative:** Emily Maxwell, the Director of Nature Conservancy presented information on expanding the future canopy of trees in New York City. Her goal is to expand the canopy of trees to about 30% in N.Y.C. CB#7 has 14.7 - 20.8% of City trees. We fall in the middle of other areas. The agency offers help to community gardens and not for profit organizations.

V. **Request for a Pride Flag at the WWI Monument:** Amando Ramos made a comprehensive presentation on the need for a pride flag at the monument. He traced the history of the work done for the LGBTQ community by Ronald Jacobowitz. A secondary street renaming in his honor was done on Kossuth Ave. and Mosholu Parkway North. Concern was raised by a member of the committee regarding the location for the flag. The monument is a memorial for those killed in warfare. It was felt this installation would create numerous requests from other groups for installations not related to a war. The committee discussed some options and presented the following motion:

Bronx Community Board #7 will have a Pride flag raised during the month of June somewhere in Bronx Community Board 7’s district.

The motion was approved by Ruth Caraballo and seconded by Barbara Stronczer. The committee voted in favor of the motion.

VI. **Capital and Expense Budget Agency Responses:** A summary of the responses was presented. The request for cameras at the Oval, St. James, and Devoe parks is under study. Rehabilitation for Fordham Landing Park is in procurement. All other capital outlay requests were answered by the agency suggesting the Board go to their council people. Most of the expense budget requests for parks were for additional staffing. The Parks’ Dept. approved the requests but the final outcome will depend on the City’s budget. One request for the removal of dead trees and the planting of new trees was answered with the Parks’ Dept. agreeing to plant



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new trees in all available locations. The need for funding for tree guards, however, was stated.

- VII. **Recreation Centers:** Sarah Bishow, the recreation specialist from Williamsbridge Oval announced the upcoming plans for the recreation center. They include an Art Festival, Drawing classes, and a soccer program for young people. Sarah was congratulated on the Easter Egg Hunt. The turnout was great and everyone had a good time.
- VIII. **Friends' Groups: Friends of Mosholu Parkland** announced its plans for their Edible Garden. The group will also be celebrating Earth Day on April 22nd with a cleanup and planting on Jerome Ave and Mosholu Parkway North. The event runs from noon until 3:00PM. Friends of Devoe Park are planning a Pollinator Day on Sat. April 22nd. The event will start at 10:00 AM.
- IX. **Other:** 263 East 203rd Street, where a charter school is under construction was the site of the removal of a large tree, which interfered with the foundation. The developer has promised to replace this tree with 132 new trees. As many as possible of the new trees will be planted in the CB#7 area.
- X. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10th.