

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



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON., BOROUGH PRESIDENT YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

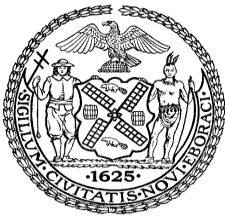
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chair: | Barbara Stronczer |
| Meeting Date: | December 14, 2023 |
| Meeting Time: | 6:30pm |
| Meeting Location: | <u>The Bedford's Learning Center</u> 211 East 203rd Street, Bronx, NY 10458 |
| Members In Attendance: | ✓ Barbara Stronczer _ Yajaira Arias ✓ Chad Y. Royer ✓ Jean Hill ✓ Betty Arce ✓ Erick Ascensio ✓ Michelle Avila _ Leurys Acosta ✓ Samantha Souvatzis ✓ Edgar Ramos |
| Minutes done by: | Michelle Avila |

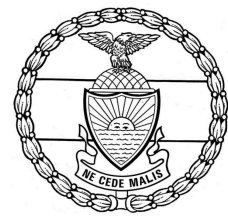
Minutes:

- I. Meeting Guidelines were read by Barbara Stronczer**
- II. Introductions/Attendance -**
 - A. Attendance was taken and quorum was met
- III. Review of November 2023 Minutes -**
 - A. Minutes reviewed and approved by the Committee
- IV. Follow-up from previous month (If applicable)**
 - A. N/A
- V. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera Updates:**
 - A. Liquor license renewal:
 - 1. Queen of Tacos (9 East Mosholu Parkway North) is requesting a renewal for their liquor license. The establishment has no complaints filed according to the NYPD 52nd Precinct. Comments can be sent to the District Manager by January 10, 2024.
 - B. Cannabis Notice to Municipality:

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: KCABRERACARRERA@CB.NYC.GOV ♦ WEBSITE: WWW.NYC.GOV/BRONXCB7



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1. We received a Notice to Municipality for Jupiter Café (61 E Kingsbridge Road). Establishment is seeking an Adult Use Retail Dispensary License. The Chair of Health and Human Services will provide an update during the committee report.

C. Tree lighting:

1. The Board had a successful tree lighting event on December 7 and we look forward to planning the next one for 2024.
2. She thanked the sponsors:
 - a) *New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), 52nd Precinct, Future of Mosholu Parkland, Part of the Solution (POTS), Ridgewood Savings Bank, Montefiore Einstein, Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr., and Bedford Mosholu Community Association*

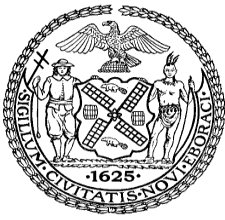
D. Community Associate:

1. The DM is going through resumes to narrow the search. She will provide an update to the Board as progress is made.

E. Department of Construction (DOC):

1. Agency will reach out to CB once they are ready to present

| Project ID | Phase | Type |
|------------|--------------|------------------------|
| GI-BX-PP | Design | Green Infrastructure |
| HED569 | Construction | Trunk Water Main |
| HWCRADB | Design | Pedestrian Safety |
| HWCSCHPBX | Construction | Vision Zero |
| HWD105-03 | Design | Roadway Reconstruction |
| HWXJEROME | Design | Intersection |



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| | | |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Improvement, Pedestrian Safety |
| HWXP136C | Construction | Vision Zero |
| HWXP136D | Design | Roadway Reconstruction |
| QED1063AC | Initiation | Distribution Water main |

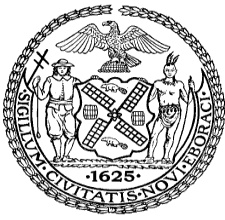
VI. Chair Yajaira Arias Remarks -

A. In the absence of the Chair, the District Manager extended the Chair’s gratitude to the Board, Sponsors and attendees of the December 7 Tree Lighting. Photos will be shared in the near future

VII. New Business:

A. Decatur Block Association Presentation

1. Ms. Nkosa Barrett from the Decatur Block Association introduced herself and shared background on the Decatur Block Association.
2. The Decatur Block Association (the Association) is a small group of community members residing on Decatur Avenue that formed three years ago and officially became a block association this year. They are now considering becoming a 501 C3.
3. Over the past three years they have conducted yearly book bag giveaways and this past year coordinated their largest Bookbag giveaway to date partnering with Assembly Member George Alvarez’s office and providing over 300 bookbags to the community.
4. The Association also participated in the Department of Transportation’s Trick or Streets program this year and collaborated with Street Labs.



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5. Drawing off of the success of those events for the community, the Association is applying for the Department of Transportation' Open Streets program for Decatur Avenue between 194th Street and 195th Street.
6. The Open Streets program and permit would close the referenced street to traffic and provide an open space for youth to play and for community partners to provide engaging programming to the community.
7. The Association has been in active conversation with Street Labs and should they be approved, Street Labs will be a partner for programming.
8. Ms. Barrett relayed that three letters of support are required by the Department of Transportation for their application.
9. The Association has already secured a Letter of Support from Assembly Member George Alvarez and are requesting a letter of support from Bronx Community Board 7.

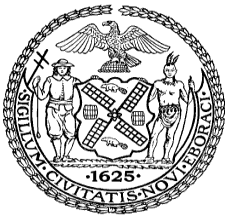
B. Q & A:

1. B. Stronczer: What is your relationship with Ms. Abbey's Daycare?

a) *Ms. Barrett answered that she and her neighbors grew up with Ms. Abby's Daycare. The Association recalls the joy of having open streets and play areas and are hoping that they can create the same environment for the youth of the neighborhood through the Open Streets programs.*

2. S. Souvatzis: Were you able to give receipts for donations for the Bookbag Giveaway?

a) *Ms. Barrett answered that they were not able to because the Association is not a 501 c3.*



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3. B. Arce: What are the time frames and hours the Association is proposing for the Open Streets?

a) *Ms. Barrett answered that if approved the Open Streets permit would be for the duration of the summer and could run from Monday through Saturday. Currently the times are undecided but the Permit would allow the Open Street to operate from 10 am – 6pm.*

4. B. Stronczer: Is the Association required to provide supervision for kids playing on the Open Street location?

a) *Ms. Barrett answered yes, the Association would need to provide supervision. They are working with Street Labs as a partner for this effort and would like to collaborate with Summer Youth Employment providers to cover some staffing.*

5. C. Royer: How many days in the summertime are you considering to open?

a) *Ms. Barrett answered that they are considering operating the Open Streets program from the beginning of June through September. They would like for the Open Street's last day to coincide with their Book Bag Giveaway the Friday before Labor Day.*

6. E. Ascencio: Is the street one-way or two ways?

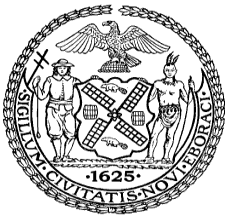
a) *Ms. Barrett answered that it is one-way northbound.*

7. B. Arce: Do you have support from the neighborhood?

a) *Ms. Barrett answered that it is in process. She referenced the Halloween event and they worked with NYPD, Con Ed, and Sanitation.*

8. B. Arce: School ends in June, so have you considered that?

a) *Ms. Barrett answered that the Association is looking to start the day after the last day of school.*

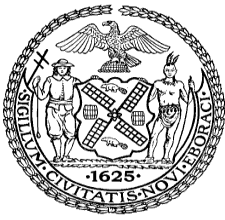


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- 9. S. Souvatzis: Are you planning to look for partnerships like a Bio bus?**
- a) *Ms. Barrett clarified what a bio bus is and relayed that they are looking into partnerships with organizations like GoSports which provides skating programming. They are in several discussions with partners and are open to potential partnerships.*
- 10. E Ramos: How many members in the block association?**
- a) *Ms. Barrett relayed that there are 8 members part of the Association. There was a follow up question that asked whether she knows how many tenants are on the block?*
- b) *Ms. Barrett answered that there are hundreds of tenants on the proposed block.*
- 11. A Committee member: How many people attended your last community event?**
- a) *Ms. Barrett answered approximately 100 people. S. Soutvasis asked if they come from other blocks and Ms. Barrett confirmed they come from the neighborhood through flyers and word of mouth.*
- 12. E. Ascencio: Does DOT need to know what activities are planned before they can approve?**
- a) *Ms. Barrett answered that they do not need an extensive list of programming for the application. Purpose of Open Streets is to allow for a community space and events to occur.*
- 13. B. Arce: When is the application due?**
- a) *Ms. Barrett relayed that it is due on January 31.*
- 14. E. Ramos: He said that DOT asks for supporting agencies so that someone is responsible for providing activities to kids. He also stated that DOT usually asks for a petition with neighbors' signatures for other types of permits.**

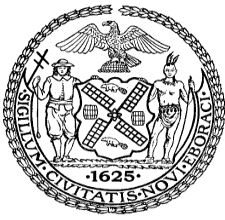


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- a) *Ms. Barrett clarified the application only asks for letters of support and that Assembly Member Alvarez already provided one.*
- 15. A Committee member: What is the plan of communication to inform the community?**
- a) *Ms. Barrett answered that the current plan is word of mouth.*
- 16. B. Arce: She asked from a Sanitation perspective – how will this impact garbage pick-up and street cleaning?**
- a) *Ms. Barrett shared that she had not considered that but she would now take that into consideration and look into adjusting the days and times to allow for some street cleaning.*
- 17. B. Stronczer: She asked if they would consider fewer days since this is their first year in operation?**
- a) *Ms. Barrett relayed that they are open to doing 2-3 days a week*
- 18. C. Royer proposed excluding days with alternate side parking from the schedule.**
- a) *Ms. Barrett was open to accommodating alternate side parking operations.*
- 19. B. Arce suggested having a volunteer cleaning crew for end of day clean up.**
- 20. Member of the Public AJ Ramos made a statement in support of the letter of support prioritizing kids before cars and children's ability to play.**
- 21. M. Avila: She asked if the Association would be open to getting a petition to solicit community support and feedback?**
- a) *Ms. Barrett agreed and the Committee incorporated the suggestion into the Motion.*
- 22. C. Royer: He asked if there was a need for sound permits?**



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a) Ms. Barrett relayed that there is and they would work with the NYPD 52nd Precinct to secure the appropriate permits

VIII. Motion(s) -

- A. Betty Arce introduced a motion to provide a letter support for the Decatur Avenue Association’s application to the Open Streets Program for Decatur Avenue between 194th Street and 195th Street with the provision that we (the Community Board) are provided a petition with at least 100 signatures of residents and additional details of the program’s operation.
- B. The motion was seconded by Erick Ascencio and passed unanimously

IX. Committee Reports

A. Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Jean Hill

- 1. Not present

B. Education, Youth & Libraries – Leurys Acosta

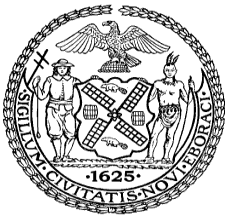
- 1. The committee met on Tuesday and they had a great presentation from the New York Public Library. The committee would like to consider a recognition event for the education community with input from CEC. Event could honor: Educator, Principal, Parent Coordinator, etc. More details to come

C. Environment and Sanitation – Betty Arce

- 1. The Committee did not meet this month and will meet January 2

D. Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila

- 1. The committee did not meet this month, but they will meet in January.
- 2. The Committee will hold a Public Hearing on January 16 to listen to community feedback on the Notice to Municipality for Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary by Jupiter Café.



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3. M. Avila also relayed that earlier this month, there was a meeting with the Office of Cannabis Management and Bronx Community Boards. The application window will formally close on December 18 and OCM has not indicated when the next application window will open. OCM will keep Community Boards apprised of updates.

E. Housing, Land Use & Economic Development – Erick Ascensio

1. Did not meet this month. Will meet in January

F. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer

1. She thanked everyone that assisted with the Tree lighting and the Committee will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of January. She is hoping to get the District Manager for Board 5 for Parks who takes care of Devoe Park to come to the meeting.

G. Public Safety & Quality of Life – Samantha Souvatzis

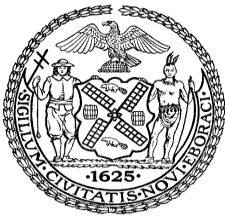
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H. Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos

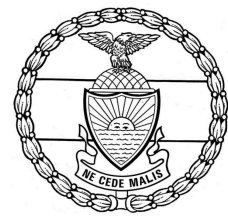
1. DOT, MTA and TD11 did not attend
2. The committee discussed issues raised at the public safety town hall
3. Betty suggested bringing up to DOT to move the locations of Citi bikes.
4. Edgar relayed that there have been challenges with obtaining the user data. DOT asks for data from Citibike and they only provided data on rides started and ended within CB7, not by Citibike site within the district.

I. Veterans Affairs – Chad Royer

1. Veterans plans to meet on Jan 17 and the chair is hoping to get a rep from the city's Department of Veterans Services (DVS).



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X. Discussion on Next Month's Agenda

- A. Barbara Stronczer suggested moving the Meeting Guidelines to the second page of the agenda to allow for Board business to be more prominent on the agenda. The Committee agreed.
- B. Chad Royer shared a suggestion by a member of the public for the Community Board to make Welcome Packets for residents of newly constructed buildings. There will be more discussion at a future meeting.

XI. Next meeting Dates:

- A. Thursday, January 18, 2024

XII. Adjournment:

- A. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 P.M.