

**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

**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Barbara Stronczer</b>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>February 14, 2024</b>
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center</a></u> 3225 Reservoir Oval E, Bronx, NY 10467</b>
<b>Members In Attendance:</b>	<b>✓ Barbara Stronczer    ✓ Jesús López-Jensen          _ Daisy Perry    ✓ Gwen Thomas Steed          ✓ Tobie Buford    _ Tasha Andrews</b>
<b>Minutes done by:</b>	<b>Barbara Stronczer</b>

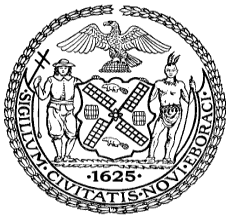
**Minutes:**

- I. Meeting Guidelines and Code of Conduct were read**
  - A. The meeting opened with the reading of the guidelines.
- II. Introduction/Attendance**
  - A. Introduction and attendance was taken. Quorum met.
- III. Review of January 2024 Minutes**
  - A. The minutes from the January 10th meeting were presented. The minutes were approved
- IV. Follow-up from Previous Month**
  - A. Complaints regarding the dim lighting at the World War I monument were addressed by Parks’ Manager Joe Magneri. He promised to check out the current wattage and request brighter bulbs for this site.
  - B. Reports of fires along Mosholu Parkway North, just west of Jerome Avenue, were attributed to the local homeless population. Joe described the detailed process needed to remove this group. He promised to look into the matter.
  - C. A request for the renovation of Harris Field was also made
- V. New Business:**

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## A. NYC Parks Updates

### 1. Maintenance Issues:

- a) There were some reports regarding the lack of snow removal along Frisch Field and Webster Ave. Joe described the difficulties with a limited supply of snow removal equipment, which is shared with other boards.
- b) Reports of a homeless encampment behind the tennis courts at the Oval were addressed.
- c) The Gardener at the Oval, Andrea Gaskin, requested help in stopping a citizen from cutting branches off the new trees at the Oval and on Mosholu Parkway. She supplied some contact information from this individual and asked for help from CB#7.

### 2. Personnel Update:

- a) Summer staffing will not be known until later in the year.

### 3. Capital Projects Update:

- a) **St. James Recreation Center:** The center is slated to re-open in May of this year. Work however is still needed on the floors and ceiling tiles. A paint job is also needed.
- b) **Frisch Field:** The project is in the design phase to be completed by June 30, 2024. Additional work is needed on a storm plan, which must be approved by DOT.
- c) **Webster House Roof:** Some improvements were made in house but the replacement of the roof needs to become a capital project.

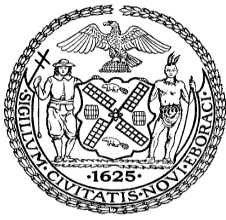
### 4. Park Walk:

- a) Tobie Buford reported on a recent park walk taken with Barbara. The walk started in **Devoe Park** where they noticed the corral is being used for the illegal dumping of small appliances and

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household garbage. Tobie will follow-up with the Park Manager, Clinton, to request the removal of the corral.

- b) The next stop on the walk was **Fordham Landing Park**. The park was in good condition except for the need to repaint the key lines on the basketball courts. New backboards have been installed and the park was clean.
- c) The next stop was **St. James Park** where the park was well maintained.
- d) Our next walk will cover **Poe Park** and the parks in the northern part of our district. All are invited to join.

#### **B. CB 7 Parks Recreation Centers & Civic Groups**

1. POE Park: There will be a virtual meeting to discuss ideas for the reconstruction of the playground at Poe Park. The meeting will take place on Feb.28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM.

#### **C. Other Business:**

1. **Caroline Abreu** distributed flyers and invited everyone to join the community garden, which she oversees on Bainbridge Ave. and E.193<sup>rd</sup> Street. Caroline works with the Fordham Bedford Lot-Busters and is a member of the Bronx Land Trust.
2. The upcoming annual meeting of **Bronx Parks' Speak Up!** was announced for Sat. February 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-5:00PM. It will be held in the Music Building at Lehman College

**VI. Next Meeting Date:** March 13, 2024

#### **VII. Discussion for Next Agenda:**

- A. We are hoping to have additional information from the Amateur Astronomer's Association regarding the opening of the Observatory which is being constructed on Goulden Ave

#### **VIII. Meeting was adjourned**

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