



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:	February 15, 2024
Meeting Time:	6:30pm
Meeting Location:	<u>The Bedford's Community Room</u> 211 East 203rd Street, Bronx, NY 10458
Members In Attendance:	✓ Barbara Stronczer _ Yajaira Arias ✓ Chad Y. Royer ✓ Jean Hill ✓ Betty Arce ✓ Erick Ascensio ✓ Edgar Ramos _ Michelle Avila _ Leurys Acosta ✓ Samantha Souvatzis
Minutes done by:	Helene Hartman-Kutnoswky

Minutes:

- I. Meeting Guidelines were read by Barbara Stronczer**
- II. Introductions/Attendance -Quorum was met**
- III. Review of January 2024 Minutes -**
 - A. Minutes were reviewed where Barbara Stronczer made a motion to approve the minutes with one correction (noted below) and it was seconded by Edgar Ramos.
 - B. Betty Arce noted that on page 2, section VIII, column c) the term lids should be replaced with **“As of 3/5/24 businesses will need to containerize trash or else they can be ticketed.”** Call 311 for non-compliant businesses
- IV. Follow-up from previous month (If applicable): none**
- V. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera Updates:**
 - A. She reminded the members that the deadline for applications and reapplications to the Board are due March 1. Please help to spread the word about this. The applications are online.



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- B. She congratulated the Public Safety & Quality of Life Committee for being highlighted in the Bronx Times for their event at Tracey Towers on Fire Safety on February 2, 2024.
- C. She sent kudos to four Board members who had perfect attendance from July 2023 - December 2023. They are Andrew Laiosa, Bernard Wright, Hugo Gonzalez & Kim Alicordy.
- D. The Borough President is hosting a hearing regarding the 2025 Mayor's budget. The hearing is on 2/24/24 at 11AM.
- E. She sent a reminder that the Board has already voted for two proposed amendments for the City of Yes. She encouraged the members to attend public info sessions where it will enhance their understanding of these amendments. The dates are 2/27, 3/27, and 4/17. Please see the Board Newsletter for more details.
- F. The office continues to auction items on public surplus. Many items sell for as little as \$5 to \$10.
- G. The Department of Buildings (DOB) will be in the office on Monday 2/26 from 2PM-4PM. Please register in advance where it will be an opportunity to get one on one training on how to use their DOB NOW web page.
- H. CB7 will be hosting an E-Waste Event with DSNY at the Board office.
 - 1. TVs, computers & other electronic items can be brought to the office. Two dates were discussed Friday 3/15 from 9AM to 6PM and Sunday, 3/17 from 10AM to 3PM or 4PM.
 - 2. It was agreed that Sunday, March 17 would be the date.
- I. The District Manager will be on vacation from 2/20-2/22.
 - 1. Steven Ochoa-Camacho will be available and our DM can be reachable for any emergencies.
- J. Betty Arce asked about a spreadsheet or more details on when term limits begin. A few people said it was 4 terms, meaning 8 years.
 - 1. Many District Managers are concerned about losing institutional knowledge. Ms. Cabrera-Carrera will get the official details and important dates.



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K. Barbara Stronczer requested an updated listing of the current Board members, noting it has been a while since they received one.

1. The Borough President's office will be contacted with this request.

VI. Chair Yajaira Arias Remarks -

A. In the absence of Chair Arias, the District Manager reported that the chair wanted to remind us to re-apply for the Board if we are due.

VII. New Business

A. Motion from Budget, Personnel, and Ethics - July 2023-December 2023 Attendance Violation Letter

1. To send a letter to Board members whose attendance at the required Board meetings has fallen below 50%. Please see the attached Motion
2. Jean Hill proposed a motion for discussion and Samantha Souvatzis seconded the motion
3. The Budget & Ethics Personnel Committee approved the motion with five (5) affirmative votes and no abstentions.
4. Chad Royer asked what does the letter mean/next steps?
 - a) A response is expected within 20 days after receipt of the Attendance Violation letter.
 - b) A response with an explanation should be sent to the Board Chair, District Manager and Budget & Ethics Chair.
5. Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky asked if the rules are different if a person is on one committee versus two committees? Does the formula stay the same?
 - a) The rule is that the attendance percentage is the same regardless of how many committees an individual is on.
 - b) The District Manager suggested that each person needs to evaluate their level of attendance that they can commit to. If two committees are too much, a person can lower the commitment. Being on more committees doesn't impact the rules.
6. Erik Ascencio asked if absences from the committee meetings are counted.
 - a) The answer is yes, all the committees are counted.



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7. The Motion was voted on and the Executive Committee voted 7 Affirmative with one Abstention from Chad Y Royer, who wished to be noted and there were two absences. The Attendance Violation Letters will be sent out.

VIII. Committee Reports + Motions

A. Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Jean Hill

1. See motion discussion

B. Education, Youth & Libraries – Leurys Acosta

1. No Meeting

C. Environment and Sanitation – Betty Arce

1. No Meeting

D. Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila

1. Not Present at the executive, but she will host her committee on 02/20

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

1. Canceled due to the weather

F. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronzcer

1. Ms. Stronzcer said that Harris Field needs renovation and the DM informed us that Council Member Dinowitz received \$2.6 Million for the rehabilitation of Harris Field.
2. Harris field will be closed this summer and open in the summer of 2025.
 - a) Erik Ascencio asked if the City was adding any additional money? The concern is that it may not be enough and Barbara Stronzcer said most of the projects for parks come from funds from our Council Member.
 - b) Betty Arce asked whether the park is getting natural or artificial turf? Erik Ascencio said that currently, the Soccer field is artificial but the rest is natural turf. The District Manager will let us know more details on the turf and the expense.
3. The Amateur Observatory that is coming from Hofstra University will be placed on Goulden Ave. The opening date is expected to be in

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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the spring. It will be a small building that will be transported to the Bronx.

4. Chair Barbara Stronczer and Tobie Buford visited the Parks in the south end of the Community Board and they noted that the parks were very clean and in good condition.
5. The gardener for the Williamsbridge Oval (WBO) came to the committee meeting to report that there is a woman who is pruning trees in the WBO and Mosholu Parkway on her own. The woman says that she is part of Friends of Mosholu Parkland and they will be contacted to confirm if this person is working with that group. Regardless of their affiliation, they should not be pruning trees on their own. Parks said that the trees could be harmed and that bird nests could be destroyed. If this individual is a pruner, they are only authorized to prune street trees.
 - a) Barbara Stronczer will follow-up on this, she has a name and a phone number for the individual as well.
 - b) Edgar Ramos suggested that the Parks Arborist might be a good source of information and Betty Arce informed us that what was formerly St. Brendan's is now Success Academy. There are supposed to be openings for trees where these trees are young which are more vulnerable.
6. Ms. Stronczer reported that there has been an increase in crime at the WBO. She did see that there was a large police presence for the Parks meeting. It was noted that there have been muggings inside and out of the park between the hours of 4PM-10PM.

G. Public Safety & Quality of Life – Samantha Souvatzis

1. The FDNY did a presentation on fire safety and The Bronx Times did an article on the event. It was well attended and the attendees learned a lot about how to keep themselves safe.
2. Robin Rollan also reported about the conditions on 196th Street between Creston & Kingsbridge. There are lots of unhoused



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individuals, some displaying mental illness; litter is a constant problem as well as shooting up in the parks.

- a) Options that were suggested: Working with Council Member Dinowitz and the Hope Project, BronxWorks and/or Part of the Solution (POTS).
3. Barbara Stronczer said that fires have been reported on the Northwest side of Mosholu Parkway. The fires were set by unhoused people to keep warm. Many options were discussed such as asking the City Council for help and meeting with the local providers who do direct services to get their suggestions and getting more money for DHS to increase shelters.
4. Litter and dumping are still an issue and a suggestion is to send a request for workable cameras.
 - a) DSNY will be coming to the next General Board meeting to speak about the changes of containerization of garbage for retail establishments.
5. Edgar Ramos suggested contacting the Merchants Association for trash removal. Apparently, they do not remove trash and it was agreed that it is worth reaching out to them.
 - a) The District Manager will reach out to the Merchant's Association.
6. Sector A has had an increase in public drug use and prostitution on Davidson Ave. It has been a revolving door with arrests and releases. Senator Rivera plans to host a roundtable on this topic in the future.

H. Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos

1. The Board received a list of Citi Bike locations but it is not user friendly. The database came from CitiBank and was sent to DOT.
2. It is not easily searchable and it will take time to find the bike locations in our district.
3. The data is broken down by borough, not zip code. If you want a bike station moved, give the Board a location. We were informed that CB7 had 170,000 bike renters.



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I. Veterans Affairs – Chad Royer

1. The Committee will meet on 2/21 with the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) and the NYC Dept. of Veteran Services.
2. The committee will discuss the Flagging event at Woodlawn Cemetery.
 - a) Jean Hill raised the idea of honoring a Veteran in our community. Perhaps, one Veteran that is alive and one that can be honored posthumously?
 - b) Chad Royer met with Senator Gustavo Rivera's office and he learned they just need a name and an honorable discharge and Mr. Royer will add the item to his agenda.
 - c) The VA should have a listing of local Vets and Betty Arce suggested naming the award for our former Board member, Jeffrey Hunter who passed away during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - d) The board has a new Veteran, Bernard Wright, and an ad Hoc committee will be needed.
 - e) Any inquiries must go through the District Manager and Chad Royer identified a war hero, a female vet at the meeting, who served in Iraq, who is a community member.

IX. Discussion on Next Month's Agenda

- A. No new items, but Betty Arce reported to the District Manager that there are three new illegal smoke shops. The two newest shops are on 204th Street and Bainbridge. The names are Rise Bud and the Lunch Box

X. Next meeting Date: March 21, 2024

XI. Adjournment:

- A. Barbara Stronczer requested a motion to close the meeting and Chad Royer made the motion and Jean Hill seconded. Meeting ended at 8PM