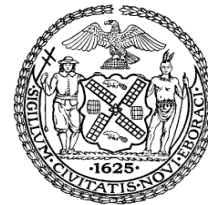




**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7**



VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT

YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON

KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair:	Yajaira Arias
Meeting Date:	June 25, 2024
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	<u>New York Botanical Garden Ross Hall Auditorium</u> 2950 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458
Minutes done by:	Yajaira Arias
Meeting Recording:	<u>https://youtu.be/Trz1ogMxzbI</u>
Minutes done by:	Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky

Minutes:

- I. Meeting Guidelines & Code of Conduct were read**
- II. Public Hearing/ Public Session**
 - A. Council Member Pierina Sanchez:**
 1. The building that collapsed in her district had hundreds of violations. The City Council, therefore, passed last Thursday Intro 904- Establishing a Proactive Inspection Program for Buildings, which requires landlords to respond to structural changes in 10 days and inspections will be data driven. It is crucial, therefore, to call 311 for building issues so that a database can be built. 16 Building Inspectors have also been added for inspections.
 2. The City Council is working hard on budget negotiations, with only 4 days left to pass a budget on time. Outstanding issues are Pre-K & Universal Pre-K cuts, Library cuts, Parks cuts and Cannabis enforcement approaches.
 3. The Council Member is hosting a Block Party outside her office on August 17th. The location is in Bronx CB5 district but CB7 is invited to attend. More details to follow.
 4. The Council Member is working with the Governor, the 52nd & 46th Precincts to address crime by launching a Task Force with the NYPD and the DA's Office to address crime from a social perspective. Anyone interested in

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getting involved should contact her office and be sure to sign up for their newsletters.

B. 52nd Precinct - PO Capo:

1. Crime stats were reviewed, where major crimes are up this year but down this month.
2. Unfortunately, manpower is down due to a shortage of officers citywide, and PO Capo asked that we encourage people to take the Police exam, where anyone aged 18 and older can take the test.
3. Chair Arias asked how many NCOs we have, and PO Capo responded that we only have 3 left for the precinct. Also, when assignments are made Patrolmen are a higher priority before NCOs.
4. The Autism Walk and the Precinct Open House were a big success. No Precinct Council meetings in the summer.
5. P.O. Capo's cell is (917) 753-4074

C. Decatur Block Association - Nikosa Barrett:

1. Ms. Barrett reported the association is having a Play Street every Wednesday to Friday through the Open Streets Program, all summer on Decatur Ave between 194th & 195th Street. She thanked CB7 for their help in making this a reality.

D. Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) - Yahi Rose:

1. Mr. Rose reported why the CCRB was established where individuals who have experienced Police misconduct can reach out to the CCRB. His contact info is (917) 208-9320.

E. Kingsbridge Merchants Association - Christian Ramos:

1. The Kingsbridge area has changed a lot since Covid, where the concerns range from St. James Park, street activity such as crime and drug use, unsheltered individuals, and many more. He is hoping there will be opportunities for training and his organization is offering to give assistance.

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F. Armando Ramos - Constituent:

1. Mr. Ramos protested that his tax dollars are going towards the war in Gaza. He urged there be a permanent ceasefire.

G. Rob Hernandez - Constituent:

1. Mr. Hernandez has lived in the area for 45 years and in the last four years, he has seen a dramatic change in the quality of life in the community. Neighbors make noise until 5AM and they use drugs openly. He stated there are unsheltered individuals living on the roof of his building and his landlord has been unresponsive to his complaints. His calls to 311 and 911 have been unanswered. He lives in 2720 Grand Concourse at the corner of 196th St & East Kingsbridge.
2. He was told to attend the Precinct Council meetings to voice his concerns and Chair Arias informed him to contact the Board office about these issues, so that he can get the quality of life that he and the community deserve.

III. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera Updates

- A. Our office collected 403 votes for the Civic Engagement Commission Participatory Budgeting event.
- B. Please come to our Resource Fair on June 29th from 12pm to 3pm. If you would like to volunteer, contact the DM.
- C. Our office is now open 5 days a week, in person, from 9am to 5pm
- D. Please continue to use 311 to submit your quality of life issues
- E. The mayor has assigned a neighborhood support team to work with CB7 on the following issues: public drug use and sale, graffiti, illegal dumping. The DM will send an email to community stakeholders to ask for specific locations.

IV. Chairperson Yajaira Arias Remarks

- A. CB7 is hosting a Resource Fair at Poe Park on 6/29 from 12PM-3PM. All are invited and there will be plenty of giveaways. Volunteers are needed, call the office.

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B. Chair Arias gave a big thank you to all the staff and Board members for their hard work this year.

C. The Bronx Borough President is hosting a Barbeque at the Split Rock Golf Course on July 16 for all the Bronx Boards.

V. **Attendance (Roll Call):** Quorum met

VI. **Review of Previous Months' Minutes:**

A. Minutes approved with one correction, on Page 17-Add Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Secretary to the Executive Board Attendance. Minutes approved by Chad Royer and seconded by Barbara Stronczer with one correction.

VII. **Motion A: Executive, <https://bit.ly/3VPjiej>:** Send a letter of support with recommendations to the NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) in favor of the proposed zoning amendments pertaining to **City of Yes for Housing Opportunity (ULURP Number: N240290ZRY)**.

1. Andrew Laiosa objected to the opening paragraph of the letter of support. After some discussion, the last sentence was removed.
2. Motion to approve language made by Yajaira Arias; seconded by Chad Royer. The motion to change the language of the motion was passed, with one abstention, Robin Rollan, who wished to be noted.
3. Motion A to approve a letter of Support for the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity.
4. Discussion and Q&A
 - a) Comment: Some members expressed objection that they only have one vote for this issue. Cesar Delgado from the Department of City Planning, (DCP) stated that we can say yes with conditions and that our conditions will be taken into account.
 - b) Question 1: Is this the Board's final vote on the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity?

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- (1) Response: Yes, the board will not have another opportunity to vote on this.
- c) Comment: A co-op owner felt it was unfair to not address the fixed conditions such as Insurance and Con Edison from people currently living in apartments and co-ops. Her co-ops spend 80% of their resources on Con Edison and Insurance.
 - (1) The response from DCP was that while this is a very important issue, it is not part of the zoning text amendment that we are voting on today. They also mentioned that the DCP does not control affordability issues such as the rate of AMI, etc.
- d) Ted Weinstein spoke about the Parking issues that created much debate for the board. He stated that the cost of a parking spot is about \$67,000 of apartment space. Private developers don't have to include parking, they can if they want to. It is only when they're dealing with HPD do these requirements come into play
5. The Motion passes with 13 yeases, 5 abstentions, and 3 nos. The 5 Abstentions wished to be noted: Tayna Pena, Robin Rollan, Samantha Souvatis, Lowell Green and Leslie Harrison

VIII. Committee Reports:

A. Environment and Sanitation – Betty Arce

1. The Committee did not meet.

B. Education, Youth & Libraries – Leurys Acosta

1. The Committee did not meet quorum.

C. Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos

1. Not Present

D. Housing, Land Use & Economic Development – Yajaira Arias

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1. The Committee met but a quorum was not met. The City of Yes Housing proposal was discussed but not voted on. The vote was passed onto the Executive Committee.

E. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer -

1. Sargent Marrero from Parks Enforcement Patrol attended the meeting, where he reported staffing is down because employees have left to join the NYPD or other agencies. In the past they had 40 grass cutters, but this year, they only have 20 grass cutters for the same number of parks. If you have an issue, then call 311 first and if you don't receive a response, then call the PEP Office at (212) 274-4560.

F. Public Safety & Quality of Life – Samantha Souvatzis -

1. The joint committees of Public Safety and Quality of Life (PSQOL) & Veterans Affairs met with the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) and a representative from the DA's Office to discuss Domestic Violence (DV). Chair Souvatzis then invited the public to attend the meetings and voice their opinions

G. Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila -

1. The Committee did not meet quorum.

H. Veterans Affairs – Chad Y. Royer -

1. The Committee met jointly with the Public Safety & Quality Of Life Committee. They had a guest from the CCRB & a speaker from the DA's Office to discuss Domestic Violence. Two Yoga Workshops were held at Tracey Towers on 6/22/24 & 6/24/24. The next proposed committee meeting date is 9/18/24.

I. Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Jean Hill -

1. The final meeting of the year will be held at Tracey Towers on 6/26, at 6:30PM. The final budget will be discussed.

IX. Elected Officials/Elected Official Representatives

A. Congressman Adriano Espaillat: Not Present

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B. Congressman Ritchie Torres: Not Present

C. Mayor's office- Alina Dowe:

1. Please call 311 and the Community Board office to report issues. Calls are needed to get results. Ms. Dowe can be reached at (914) 446-8393 and her email is adowe@cityhall.nyc.gov.

D. NYC Public Advocate's Office: Not Present

E. NYC Comptroller's office: Not Present

F. Bronx Borough President's office: Not Present

G. Bronx District Attorney's office-Trevon Blondet:

1. A court tour has been offered to Board Members, so please contact Mr. Blondet at (917) 946-3438 to attend.
2. On 10/19/24, the Bronx DA's Office is hosting a 5K Run against Domestic Violence.
3. Between 80-100 new District Attorneys will start this fall, but not all the DA's will stay with the office.

H. NY State Senator Gustavo Rivera- Sari Mendoza:

1. The Rent Guideline Board voted for stabilized rent increases and approved a 2.75 percent increase for year one and a 5.25 percent increase for a 2 year lease. Legal Cannabis establishments can be identified by looking for the QR Code in the front window. The Kingsbridge underpass and the surrounding area has been the subject of many meetings with the NYPD and other stakeholders. If your organization is in need of school supplies, contact the office

I. NY State Senator Robert Jackson: Not Present

J. Assembly member George Alvarez's Office: Not Present

K. Assembly member Jeffrey Dinowitz's Office: Not Present

L. Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr.'s Office: Ayanna Armstrong:

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1. A shredding event will be held outside the Office on Friday 6/28 from 11AM-1PM.
2. On July 27th, the movie Willy Wonka will be held in Devoe Park from 9PM-11PM.

M. Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia's Office: Not Present

N. Council Member Oswald Feliz's Office- George Cooke:

1. A big party was held at Poe Park on Sunday, sponsored by the elected officials and the Bodega Association.
2. Call 311 for complaints but you can also call the office at (718) 842-8100. They are open from Monday to Fridays from 10:00 AM to 5PM, and they work remotely on Fridays.
3. The Fine Fair supermarket on the Grand Course had a Grand Opening and Healthy Bucks will be available in mid-July, so stop by at the office to pick up some "Healthy Bucks."
4. Finally, the office is hosting a book bag giveaway, and your agency can email George Cooke at gcooke@council.gov or call the office number.

O. Council Member Pierina Sanchez's Office-Adrian Cacho:

1. For any further comments or questions, call CM Sanchez's office. The office is located at 2065 Morris Avenue and the number is (347) 590-2874.
2. A Helmet Giveaway will be rescheduled with more details to follow and there will be a block party on August 17th.
3. He thanked the Board for their work on the City of Yes, where it is much appreciated.

P. Council Member Eric Dinowitz's Office: Not Present

X. Board Members Questions and Comments:

XI. Meeting is adjourned:

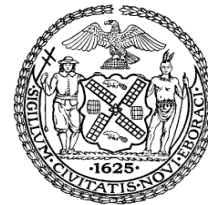
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A. Lowell Green moved to adjourn the meeting and Michelle Avila seconded. The meeting ended at 9:00PM

XII. Next Meeting Date:

A. Thursday, September 24, 2024 at 6:30PM, location to be announced.

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