



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

JEAN HILL, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

# General Community Board Meeting Minutes

<b>Chair</b>	Jean Hill
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Tuesday, October 23rd, 2018
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	6:30pm
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	110 East Gun Hill Road – Cherkasky Auditorium at Montefiore Medical Center
<b>Minutes Done By:</b>	Nora Feury, Secretary

## Minutes

### I. Capital & Expense Budget Public Hearing

- a) At 6:00 pm Andrew Laiosa opened the Public Hearing to review the Capital and Expense Budgets for FY 20. The public was invited to comment on the priorities. After input from the public the hearing was closed.

### II. Introductions

- a) Jean Hill opened the meeting at 6:40 pm by introducing Lillian Perez a Vice President from Montefiore Hospital who graciously provided space and refreshments for the meeting.
  - 1. Ms. Perez spoke briefly and addressed the members with a warm welcome.

### III. Public Session

- a) Ron Jordan, from Councilman Richie Torres Office remarked on the change in the weather and how landlords are responsible for providing heat in the building when it gets cold. If you are not receiving heat you should call 311. If you continue to have no heat, call his office for further assistance.
  - 1. There will be a Halloween gathering at the Bronx Museum on Wednesday. All are welcome.
- b) Councilman Fernando Cabrera addressed the Board with news on projects he is working on.
  - 1. He spoke of the resources that the Board could avail themselves of with the influx of the \$ 42,000 awarded through the City Council.
  - 2. He noted his involvement with the Dominican Veterans Memorial at Bronx community College where over 300 veterans’ remains have been identified.



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- c) Councilman Andy Cohen reported on his meeting at the Parks Committee meeting where the use of Frisch Field was discussed.
1. He is very interested in seeing the field being used again and is offering funds towards a complete renovation.
  2. He reported on a session he attended on expanding ferry service in the Bronx.
  3. Another one of his interests includes support for Mom and Pop businesses in his district. He noted the disappearance of these stores on Webster Avenue and Jerome Avenue and would like to establish resources to enable them to open and thrive.
  4. The Councilman announced that Participatory Budgeting is again available to community residents for their ideas on benefitting the community.
- d) Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz thanked Jean Hill for her recent support in regarding an elevator at the Mosholu subway station. 2,000 signatures were obtained and sent to DOT.
1. Food donations are on-going due to the need in the community.
  2. On November 29<sup>th</sup> a Town Hall meeting will be held to address complaints.
  3. Mr. Dinowitz reminded people to vote and to look on the reverse side of the ballot to vote on proposed City Charter revisions one of which concerns Community Boards.
  4. Mr. Dinowitz provided a shredder machine for the community for which Jean Hill thanked him profusely.
- e) Andy Toledo, from the BP's office welcomed the new Board members.
1. He also noted the 3 proposals on the ballot. Information on the proposals is available on line.
  2. The Letter of Acknowledgement must be signed by all Community Board members. Call him or the DM for a copy if you have not signed.
  3. On November 1<sup>st</sup> there is an orientation for new members.
  4. All members must receive *Sexual* Harassment training before Dec.14. Training may be taken at the BP's office or at the Board office.



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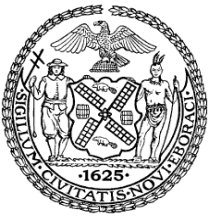
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5. All members must receive Sexual Harassment training before Dec.14. Training may be taken at the BP's office or at the Board office. Call for an appointment. It takes about 2 hours.
  6. The "Tour of the Bronx" will take place on Sunday October 28<sup>th</sup> to begin at East 164<sup>th</sup> Street and the Grand Concourse. It will be cancelled if we have heavy rain.
  7. Farhara Rachman from Assemblywoman Nathalie Fernandez office invited all to a Halloween Party on Saturday.
  8. She also reminded us of a Mental Health Workshop to be held on Saturday at Jacobi Medical Center from 10 am – 6 pm. Light refreshments and Breakfast will be served.
- f) Jane Addison, from the Mosholu Library, is requesting support from the CB for a new roof and a HVAC system for the Mosholu Library.
  - g) P.O. Steven Echivaria, from the 52 precinct, reviewed the crime stats for the month with robbery and grand theft auto up. He reminded the community to shop early in the day due to the large amount of crime that takes place late at night. He also mentioned to call the precinct for Halloween nuisances.
  - h) Jason Caraballo, the Director of Community Relations for Montefiore Hospital, welcomed the CB to the hospital for its monthly meeting. He invited all to join the hospital in kicking-off American Diabetes Month on Friday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm in the Grand Hall by Cherkasky Auditorium. There will be a month of events posted on line. Jason mentioned the "Tour of the Bronx" event sponsored by Montefiore to be held on Sunday.
  - i) David Cruz, from the Norwood News, announced the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the paper to be celebrated on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> at Lehman College where there will be 3 honorees Sally Dunford, Gary Axelbank and MMCC. Tickets are \$ 30 and can be purchased by calling (718 ) 324 – 4998.
  - j) Lowell Green, representing the NY State Senior Action Committee, reminded all that Medicare cards have been mailed. If you have not received a new one call (800) 633 – 4227. Scams are widespread so beware of strangers asking for your SS #.
  - k) David Berger, a community resident reported on the delays he is experiencing getting a housing inspection. He is asking for support from the CB.



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- l) Heidi, from Assemblymember Victor Pichardo's office, reported that housing assistance support is available every Thursday from 11 am - 3pm at 3175 Jerome Avenue Suite C.
  1. There will be a Job Fair on Nov. 1st at Bronx Community College from 3pm – 6pm. Call (718) 933 – 6909 for further information
  2. Immigration information will be available on Saturday, October 27th from 12 pm – 3 pm at P.S. 33 located at 2424 Jerome Avenue.
  3. There will be free mammograms on Friday, October 26th from 9am- 3 pm in front of Creston Avenue Baptist Church at 114 E. 188th St.
- n) Maximo Javier, who represents Congressman Adriano Espaillot's office, reported on some of the projects the Congressman is working on ie: issues in the Northern part of the District and in Kingsbridge Heights.
  1. He is planning a Job Fair for January.
  2. The Congressman is deeply concerned about the outbreak of Legionaires Disease in Washington Heights and is working towards a solution.
  3. His office number is ( 718 ) 450-0241 for any issues.

#### **IV. Public Session ends/ Board Meeting opens at 7:35 pm.**

- a) Attendance taken with a quorum present
- b) Agenda and minutes approved with minor changes

#### **V. Chairperson's Report**

- a) Jean Hill reported on the October 16th Croton Reservoir meeting about the complaints of foul drinking water. The different taste in the water was due to a change in using water from another reservoir. The problem was the lack of communication from DEP about the change and its effect on consumers.
- b) Jean attended a meeting with Montefiore hospital about the overcrowding in the Emergency Room. Monte agrees and attributes the overcrowding on patients using the Emergency Room for illnesses other than emergencies. Patients also do not use NYC Hospitals when there is one nearby.
- c) Jean also attended several housing meetings.
- d) Jean attended a meeting with other CB Chairs to discuss the additional funding that all CB's received.



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- e) Jean shared that plans are being made to familiarize the public with the services available to them through North Central Bronx Hospital.

#### VI. Executive Committee Report

- a) Barbara Stronczer explained how CB members attendance affects the goals of the Committee to which they are assigned. Due to this problem of attendance the Budget Committee is meeting on November 19 to discuss solutions.
- b) Barbara introduced 2 motions, one from the Traffic Committee and one from the Budget Committee.

##### 1. Motion(s):

- Traffic & Transportation - The Committee approves Change Study to make Marion Avenue from the southbound lanes of Moshulu Parkway to the Service road of Moshulu Parkway a one way street. Parking should be preserved on both sides of street. DOT will install appropriate signage as needed on Moshulu Parkway. Motion approved unanimously
- Budget, Personnel & Ethics Motion - Send attendance letters to the board members who have not complied with the attendance requirements as defined in the CB7 by laws. The list names is information and under review. Alphabetical list of names: Ralph Beck, Gloria Dapaah, Ritchie Ramos, Stanley Richards, Ruth Santana, and Monique Weston. The motion was approved with one abstention.

#### VII. District Manager's Report

- a) Updated link on Bronx Borough Consultations FY 2020
1. DSNY- <http://files.constantcontact.com/b392c2a4701/13135732-f3a3-483e-8991-e196bb854b03.pdf>
  2. DEP- <http://files.constantcontact.com/b392c2a4701/8778ca11-6713-4de8-8bd3-0bce226f4935.pdf>
  3. FDNY- <http://files.constantcontact.com/b392c2a4701/c1677573-05cc-4234-9fc2-bd1aa9085bd2.pdf>



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4. DOE- <http://files.constantcontact.com/b392c2a4701/d50a4636-e080-48ad-950e-4c20931e1c17.pdf>
  5. DPR- <http://files.constantcontact.com/b392c2a4701/186a1759-982a-4959-b1f9-8497bcdb368b.pdf>
- b) Update: Lehman College New Building –The new building will be located in what is currently the Davis Hall parking lot at Gate 2.
1. The site of the new building is on the campus side (east side) of Goulden Ave. located between 2850 Goulden Ave. (Davis Hall) and 2790 Goulden Ave (Carman Hall) and is the current site of the Bookstore building 2830 Goulden Ave.
  2. The Bookstore will be moved to a newly renovated facility in the Old Gym Building this winter, allowing us to demolish the temporary building and construct the new Nursing Education, Research and Practice Center that will house our growing and expanding Nursing Department.
  3. The new building is 51,000 gross square feet, three stories above grade and two below (basement and cellar) and includes teaching labs for nursing skills and physical assessment, a simulation suite, simulating hospital room training and an ADL lab for home health care workers training, general classrooms, computer labs and faculty offices.
- c) October District Service Cabinet Meeting:
1. NYPD – Gun Buy Back Event October 13<sup>th</sup>
  2. FDNY – Stats
    - <http://files.constantcontact.com/b392c2a4701/5eaf79c0-d663-4ad9-8d5e-a2107cd4b0ff.pdf>
  3. DHS – Announced the launch of DHS Financial Independence Now (DHS FIN)
    - DHS FIN: is a customized training program that will equip shelter staff with the tools they need to assist adults, young adults and families experiencing homelessness citywide with economic counseling, financial literacy, and effective budgeting.
  4. DSNY –Snow Readiness & Winter Preparation Plans- Prepping by having salt spreaders throughout the district.
    - Garbage Issue Throughout Knox Place (taken care of)
    - Trash Concern (Alleyway) Old Fordham Library – 2556 Bainbridge Avenue (taken care of).



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5. DPR – Hazardous/Poor Tree Condition – 3073 Hull Avenue (taken care of).
  6. DOT – General Information
    - Project: HBCR03B – Grand Concourse Over East 204<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge (Rehabilitation)
  7. HPD – Updates | Stats | General Information
  8. Con Edison – Smart Meters coming to the Bronx soon
    - <https://www.coned.com/en/our-energy-future/technology-innovation/smart-meters/features-benefits>
  9. NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer update:
    - Comptroller Stringer’s Suggestions on the Charter Revision <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/a-new-charter-to-confront-new-challenges/overview/>
    - Immigrant Rights Manuals English [https://comptroller.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/documents/Immigrant-Manual-2018-English\\_fv.pdf](https://comptroller.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/documents/Immigrant-Manual-2018-English_fv.pdf)
    - Immigrant Right Manuals Spanish [https://comptroller.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/documents/Immigrant-Manual-2018-Spanish\\_fv.pdf](https://comptroller.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/documents/Immigrant-Manual-2018-Spanish_fv.pdf)
    - Immigrant Right Manuals Bengali <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/documents/Immigrant-Manual-2018-Bengali.pdf>
    - LGBTQ Rights Manuals <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/services/for-the-public/lgbtq-guide/overview/>
- d) Update: Fordham Plaza
1. The Fordham BID has expressed concern about a neighboring property in CB 7. Fordham Plaza is having issues with: homeless, drug Addicts, illegal dumping, encampments, issues with the public restrooms and rat infestations. DOT will continue to work with other city agencies and contractors to help address these issues.
  2. The Plaza currently has a café and 2 kiosks that will be fixed for rentals. The RFP for the Café will come out in 2020 and the Kiosk the spring of 2019. You can rent the plaza for an event; please see the SAPO website on how to rent it.
- e) Technology updates: Instagram – BXCB7



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- f) Outreach: We will take a more active role in informing the community when new development is proposed. Outreach will include but not be limited to canvassing neighboring buildings and posting in lobbies. We need to increase are community participation and input.

#### **VIII. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Position Election**

- a) Lowell Green was the only candidate for the position. Paper ballots were distributed. Before the votes were cast, Lowell described one of the duties of the position was to select monthly meeting venues. She asked for suggestions from the members.

#### **IX. Committee Reports**

- a) Economic Development & Long Term Planning
1. The Committee discussed economic conditions in the Community.
    - One of the problems is the opening and closing of Mom and Pop stores.
  2. Discussions about meeting and supporting the BID's and local Associations to address their needs.
  3. The problem of housing, homelessness, trash pickup by street vendors, safety and quality of life was addressed. Future meetings will address these issues.
- b) Environment & Sanitation
1. The Committee is supporting the coordination of community cleanups: Adopt-A-Block. One block at a time. Recycling is on-going. The difficulty is for building superintendents to separate out recycling materials from regular trash. There needs to be a system in place for organic recycling. People are recycling organic materials but there is no schedule for pickup.
- c) Education, Youth & Libraries
1. There was a presentation by Gary Smalls about the Urban Male Leadership Program at Lehman College.
    - The program provides academic and emotional support for Lehman students. A Youth Officer will attend the next meeting.
- d) Traffic & Transportation





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1. Edgar Ramos explained the motion voted on at the meeting.
  2. He also reported on the visit from DOT.
  3. The next meeting is on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- e) Housing, Land Use & Zoning
1. The Committee was informed of concerns from 2987 Webster Avenue from Barbara Stronczer, a CB member. The concerns include elevator malfunctioning, lack of security, pest control and lack of screening of new tenants. It was suggested to meet with the landlord ( STAGG ) to address the tenants concerns.
  2. There was a presentation by John Betts , Program Director of the Jerome Avenue Men’s Shelter. A number of complaints were addressed ie: thefts in local stores, hanging out in the park and many police calls to the site. Mr. Betts promised more supervision and will attend monthly CB meetings.
  3. CAMBA is proposing supportive housing and will present at November meeting.
- f) Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs
1. The Christmas Tree lighting will take place on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. Plans are on-going about the event.
  2. At the next Parks meeting there will be a presentation on the pedestrian bridge in Van Cortlandt Park.
- g) Public Safety & Quality of Life
1. The Crime Prevention Officer Frank Pacella attended the Committee meeting and updated the members on the status of recent crimes in the community.
  2. Heather Guerino addressed the negative effects of graffiti on the neighborhood. She believes that murals over graffiti is the answer. She is seeking support from property owners to help clean-up.
  3. Recognition was given to Councilman Andy Cohen on his sponsorship of a mural at E. 207<sup>th</sup> Street and Bainbridge Ave. It is a “must see”.
- h) Health & Human Services
1. Kevin Davis was named Vice Chair of the Committee.



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2. Leslie Grubler, from Lehman College's Speech and Hearing center, spoke about the services offered to children and adults on campus without charge. Early intervention and hearing screenings are part of the program.
3. Legionnaires Disease was discussed. A request was made to reach out to DOH to send a representative to the next Committee for more information and prevention of the disease.
  - i) Public Relations
    1. The Committee is seeking relevant speakers for future meetings.
  - j) Veterans Affairs
    1. The Committee will address the Veterans issues. Many veterans have concerns with housing, mental health problems and homelessness.

#### **X. Executive Session**

- a) Andrew Laiosa made a motion to go into Executive session. All non- members left the room.
- b) **Motion(s):**
  1. Authorize the Board to spend up to \$5,000 for the Bronx CB7 Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. No discussion Approved
  2. Upgrade the job title of current employee Michael J. Rosario from the current job title of Community Assistant from a yearly salary of approximately 33,000 to the new job of Community Associate at the incumbent. New yearly salary of \$40,000, effective July 1, 2018. Motion approved
  3. End of probation from the current \$73,000 yearly salary of the current District Manager, to a new yearly salary of \$81,760, effective July 1, 2018. Motion approved.
- c) Jean reminded members to attend Committee meetings
- d) A motion was made to return to the General Board Meeting

#### **XI. Results of the Election of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair**

- a) 32 ballots were cast.
  1. Lowell Green received 30 votes
  2. Emmanuel Martinez received 2 write ins.



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## **XII. Meeting adjourned at 8:35**