



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



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GREGORY FAULKNER, CHAIRPERSON

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

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**COMMUNITY BOARD GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, October 22, 2008**

**Meeting held at: Scott Towers \* 3400 Paul Avenue \* Bronx, New York 10468**

- I) Attendance sheet on file
- II) Public Session:
  - A) Leslie Harrison – Bronx Library Center:
    - 1) Talked about various Saturday programs held at the library, as well as citizenship classes being offered
  - B) Don Bluestone – Board Member:
    - 1) Resigned from the CB#7 as a Member citing his job and personal reasons for his resignation. Greg Faulkner announced that Don would be the first recipient of the “Everyday Heroes Award” and thanked him for his service
  - C) Phyllis Reed – Board Member:
    - 1) Explained the development of a garden around the Kingsbridge Armory and her work to help make it happen
  - D) Hon. Jeffrey Dinowitz – Assemblyman:
    - 1) Spoke about his Aging Committee and some of his issues:
      - a) Meals on Wheels program
      - b) Closing of some Senior Centers. He objects to the consolidation of centers proposed by the City
      - c) He cited the important work done by the Senior Centers in his District and his continued support
    - 2) Jerome Park Reservoir:
      - a) Expressed concerns about the chlorine leak at the Reservoir and the need for an evacuation plan
    - 3) Talked about budget cuts and the impact on the community
  - E) Hon. Joel Rivera – Councilman:
    - 1) Thanked the community for attending and giving input to the members.
    - 2) Budget Cuts in the Community Board budget:
      - a) He promised continued support
    - 3) He discussed the Pelham Parkway / Fordham Road express bus service and his concerns about the impact it causes on the community. There will be a Town-hall meeting regarding this issue on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 6:30pm at the Bronx Library Center
  - F) Hon. Naomi Rivera – Assemblywoman:



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- 1) Thanked the community for attending the meeting. She wishes to connect with the residents of Scott Towers to continue the activities that were prominent in the community before her term of office.
  - 2) She cited her efforts to address the gang activity in the area. She also expressed concerns about the Senior Citizen proposed cuts and her efforts to fight them. She promised future concerts for the Spring of 2009.
- G) Jerry Reiner – Scott Towers resident:
- 1) Construction on West Mosholu and West Gun Hill that has been halted
- H) Kenneth Agosto – Democratic District Leader:
- 1) Spoke about the vote on term limits and his testimony. He opposes the vote by the City Council and feels it should be left up to the people to vote one way or the other
  - 2) Bee Line: He supports the relocation of the bus service on Paul Avenue. He wants a letter from the Community Board to support this.
- I) Hal Engel – Scott Towers Resident:
- 1) He spoke on the need for a bus stop on Paul Avenue due to the large senior population who would use it
- J) Rev. Brenda Berry – University Heights Presbyterian Church:
- 1) Thanked the Community Board for their support in their street event
  - 2) Cedar Avenue issues:
    - a) Spoke about the narrow street and the speeding of cars causing accidents. She wishes to have Cedar Avenue changed from a two-way street into a one-way.
  - 3) Expressed concerns about excessive ticketing in the area
- K) Noel Taylor – Broadview Networks:
- 1) Talked about their communication services. He wishes to introduce his company to the community. For more information, you may be reached at (212) 400-4017
- III) Meeting opened at 7:35PM
- A) Attendance was taken and quorum was present
  - B) Motion for approval of excused members
- IV) Chairperson's Report by Gregory Faulkner, Chairperson:
- A) Discussed the recent leak of chlorine into the Jerome Park Reservoir and processes to be proposed in the event of a tragedy
  - B) Provided a Kingsbridge Armory update
  - C) Bus service on Pelham / Fordham
  - D) Motion for approval of agenda and September's minutes was unanimously approved
- V) District Manager's Report by Fernando Tirado, District Manager:



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- A) Liquor license approvals
  - B) Williamsbridge Oval report
  - C) Quality of life issues at Saint James Park
  - D) Borough Board report
  - E) Process to register complaints reported
  - F) Job openings
- VI) Committee Reports:
- A) Budget / Personnel / Ethics Committee by Hector Lopez:
    - 1) Presented the Capital and Expense priorities to the Board and asked for their approval
  - B) Youth Services Committee by Waleska Roldan:
    - 1) Announced the MAS Citi Youth program where 2 students from the community will project images on a screen for the community's use in maps, pictures, streets, parks, etc. during future board meetings
  - C) Land Use / Zoning Committee by Ozzie Brown:
    - 1) Recognized Desiree Fisher, a student at Columbia whose interest is in the Kingsbridge Armory. She will join his Committee as a community resident
    - 2) Tour of Webster Avenue:
      - a) Reported that there will be tours of Webster Ave for interested people
  - D) Made a report on the 10-story structure proposed for the site at Bedford Park Boulevard and the Grand Concourse
  - E) Spoke about the Kingsbridge Armory and a proposed "World Place Atrium" to be installed there. It would be a state of the art graphic design center for use by the community, especially the youngsters to develop their skills
- VII) Budget Committee Motion:
- A) The Committee approved that monies be spent for 1 staff person to be sent to extensive computer training and that the part-time employee's hours be increased from November 2008 to March 2009.
- VIII) Parks Committee by Barbara Stronczer:
- A) Motion:
    - 1) To send a letter by unanimous consent to the Community Board to the Design Commission requesting that changes be made in the existing proposal to conform to the Environmental Impact Study. These changes are as follows:
      - a) Eliminate any additional alienation of parkland
      - b) Improve access to the park for the public who will be exiting from the Woodlawn #4 subway station
      - c) Provide additional recreational opportunities for families



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- IX) Traffic and Transportation Committee by Lowell Green:
  - A) Talked about the removal of graffiti
  - B) Reported on the express bus service on Pelham / Fordham Road
- X) Borough President's Report by Andy Toledo:
  - A) The Borough President's Office surveyed nearly 200 principals and found that problems are not just in individual schools, but are widespread throughout the Bronx. Many of the principals surveyed found yellow school buses unreliable and difficult to deal with, causing students to be late for school and stuck on buses for hour. A large percentage of principals believe that poorly planned registration and enrollment policies are causing widespread confusion causing children not being enrolled. In addition too many students are not showing up during the first day of class or registering almost a month after school starts causing them to miss valuable time in school. Another main problem, according to the report, is that strict and complicated transfer processes are forcing too many students to stay in schools that do not have the services or programs that they need.
  - B) There was a motion raised from the Community Board regarding a property off Fordham Road. Motion made by John Harris.
    - 1) Motion:
      - a) To support the proposal and send letter to the Borough President to designate our approval
- XI) City Planning Report:
  - A) Webster Avenue report and future plans were discussed
- XII) 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Report by Wilson Hernandez:
  - A) Comp Stats were reviewed
  - B) Reported on various crimes throughout the precinct. There were concerns about a rape in the area and the need for vigilance
  - C) It was reported that crime is going down
  - D) Concerns about identity theft were expressed
  - E) November meeting will focus on cautions and awareness of crime during the holidays
- XIII) Elected Officials / Guests in attendance:
  - A) Monica Taveras – CAU, Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Office
  - B) Andy Toledo – representative from Borough President Adolfo Carrion's Office
  - C) Carlos Ramos, Jr. – representative from Comptroller William Thompson's Office
  - D) Doris Ojeda – representative from Congressman Eliot Engel's Office
  - E) Hon. Jeffrey Dinowitz – Assemblyman
  - F) Hon. Naomi Rivera – Assemblywoman
  - G) Hon. Joel Rivera – Councilman
- XIV) Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm