



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



COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 19th, 2010 @ 6:30 PM

Meeting held at: Bedford Park Senior Center ◇ 243 East 204th Street ◇ Bronx, New York 10458

- I) Meeting commenced at 6:30pm
- II) Welcome by Chairperson, Paul Foster
 - A) Asked people to donate to a worthy cause for the Haitian people
 - B) Encouraged people to apply for CB membership
 - C) He introduced Aurelia Green, Deputy Borough President, who made a few remarks
 - D) Paul introduced John D'Adamo, 52nd Precinct's commander who brought the community up to date on crime in the precinct.
 - a) Mr. D'Adamo spoke of arrests for prostitution and the undercover operation going on throughout the community
 - b) The Commander stated that for complaints, call PO Wilson Hernandez, Community Affairs Officer at (718) 220-5824
 - c) Spoke about the arrest by the FDNY on the fire on Bainbridge Avenue
 - d) Car break-ins arrest were made at lower end of precinct, investigation is on-going
 - e) 52nd Precinct council meeting will be held on January 28th, 2010 at 7:00pm at the 52nd Pct
- III) William T. Law, FDNY Commander was introduced
 - A) He spoke about the recent fires on Bainbridge Avenue. The investigation is still on-going and some arrest were made
 - B) Mr. Law went over the statistics of recent fires throughout the community. He spoke of the causes of the fires and further fire prevention steps to be taken.
 - 1) A question and answer period followed
- IV) Chief John Sullivan from the FDNY addressed the audience and explained how trends are reported and examined. He took questions from the audience and suggested that fire prevention complaint be called in to 311 who then reports incidents to the Fire Department who does the follow up
- V) Public Session convened at 7:10pm with the following speakers:
 - A) Dave Laguer, CERT team Leader:
 - 1) Introduced 12 team members who participate in the first responders training
 - 2) A 10-week training is being planned to start on march 11th (once a week). All are encouraged to join the group
 - B) Kate Alvarez, Census counter:
 - 1) Encourages all to participate in the survey
 - 2) 1400 people are to be hired to count for the census



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- C) Mr. X, Community Resident:
 - 1) Talked about the Caucus in Albany. He wants all to participate
 - D) Sirio Guerino, Norwood against graffiti:
 - 1) Spoke against graffiti
 - 2) Expressed concerns about the monument on Mosholu Parkway and the need for upkeep
 - 3) Wants a push again at the Armory for schools
 - E) Mimoza Muriqi, Restaurant owner:
 - 1) His Restaurant is located at 2771 Webster Avenue or 400 East 198th Street. Wants a wine/beer license which was rejected by the Community Board
 - 2) She described the Restaurant as a family business and is cognizant of the need of peace and quiet in the neighborhood
 - F) Bert Schoenbach, Community Resident:
 - 1) Spoke in support of the Restaurant and showed pictures of the establishment
 - a) License applications are to be reviewed by the Public Safety Committee
 - G) John Bonizio:
 - 1) Spoke about the homeless population in the Bronx and the need for housing. He also mentioned the city's lack of seeking approval to establish a housing shelter in a particular neighborhood. He wants support that the Community Board be allowed to be notified if shelters are to be opened in a Community Board or neighborhood.
 - 2) Wants fair share hearings to be required for each new shelter program NYC wants to open, assessing the number of homeless shelters already in the area.
 - H) Jessica Alvarez:
 - 1) She wants to establish a business with a liquor license. She is introducing herself to the community at 2650 Briggs Avenue (East 194th Street.) Application is to be sent to the Public Safety Committee
 - I) Hector Velasquez, Community Resident:
 - 1) Lives near Gates Place and is requesting more police presence due to incidents that occur in the neighborhood
 - J) Abdul Johnson, Community Board 3 member:
 - 1) Talked about the Bronx B-Ball games that would involve youth to create teams
- VI) Meeting opened at 7:40pm
- A) Attendance:
 - 1) Quorum present
 - B) December Minutes:
 - 1) Unanimously approved
 - C) January Agenda:
- VII) Paul Foster opened by going over his new role as Chair of the Board



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- A) He spoke of the Monitoring Committee for the Filtration Plant
 - B) A Monitoring Committee was announced for the election of a new Chair since Greg Faulkner stepped down to assume a new position with Fernando Cabrera, the newly elected City Councilman.
 - 1) Election is to be held in March
 - C) January 30th is a training day for Board Members from 10am to 3:00pm
- VIII) District Manager's Report by Fernando P. Tirado:
- A) Spoke about the budget cuts as they affect the Community Board
 - B) DHS is asking for volunteers to count street homeless on January 25th.
 - C) The Community Board has a facebook account. All are invited to view our page and involve themselves in community activities
- IX) Committee Reports:
- A) Land Use / Zoning by Ozzie Brown:
 - 1) Talked about the volume of pedestrians throughout the community and a proposed design from DOT to alleviate some of the congestion
 - 2) Informed of a proposed 14-story building to be erected at 2788 Grand Concourse
 - 3) Provided an update on Fordham Landing proposal
 - 4) Trolley tour planned for Community Board members
 - B) Budget Committee by Hector Lopez:
 - 1) Spoke about the proposed consultant contracts
 - C) Education Committee by Yvette Page:
 - 1) Motion to have The School Construction Authority (SCA) send a letter to property owners that may be affected by the proposed construction of retaining walls and a school building for the site on Decatur Avenue
 - a) Motion approved
 - i) 5 members voted "NO"
 - ii) 1 member abstained
 - iii) 13 members voted "YES"
 - 2) After the discussion, it was decided that the motion for calling a community meeting be tabled and sent back to the Committee for further discussion.
 - D) Sanitation and Environment by Helene Hartman:
 - 1) The committee meeting next month will discuss Green Roofs and will have a guest speaker from The Sustainable South Bronx.
 - 2) Asked Deputy Borough President Aurelia Greene if CB7 could have a tour of the Bronx County Courthouse Green Roof and she agreed to the visit. The committee will schedule a spring date.
 - E) Housing by Nick Napolitano:
 - 1) Spoke of future committee plans



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- 2) Noted that the Department of Homeless Services has changed the RFP and now requires applicants to notify the Community Board in writing and that they attend a meeting.
 - F) Parks by Barbara Stronczer:
 - 1) Discussed toxic waste at Harris Field
 - 2) The next Parks Committee Meeting will be held on February 11th at the Community Board Office. Harris' field toxic waste will be discussed
 - G) Public Safety by Andrew Laiosa:
 - 1) Liquor licenses to be reviewed
 - H) Traffic and Transportation by Lowell Green:
 - 1) The Bx34 and Bx10 buses are off the elimination list
 - 2) Motion regarding the Access-A-Ride service
 - a) As CB7 has no handicapped accessible subways that service Montefiore and North Central Bronx Hospitals, the board requests that the MTA Access-A-Ride program does not change or reduce its door-to-door service for its clients.
 - b) Motion approved unanimously to send a letter to the MTA
 - I) Youth Services by Waleska Roldan:
 - 1) Waleska to step down from the Board; Joseph Lee to assume Chair of the Committee
 - 2) Bronx Library meetings are being planned around future youth projects in the community and the Bronx C-Ball project
 - 3) Youth will be attending board and committee meetings to share their needs and opinions
 - 4) Motion to send a letter of support to be sent back to committee for further explanation
 - X) Other Reports and /or Elected Official reports:
 - A) Borough President's Report by Andy Toledo:
 - 1) The Bronx Borough President urges Bronx residents to participate in their local Community Board
 - 2) The BP questions Bronx School closures
 - a) Research finds that four borough schools slated for closure did not "meet standard criteria for closure" by the Department of Education's own measurements
 - 3) The BP released a statement regarding the dispute between Cablevision and Scripps about the "Food Network" and "HGTV" being removed from Bronx resident's Cablevision systems
 - 4) The BP took part in the candlelight vigil "Cost of Delay", a nationwide effort to push Obama's agenda of health care reform



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- 5) The BP hosted "Taste of the Bronx"
 - a) Ruben Diaz, Jr. and the Bronx Tourism Council gave food enthusiasts the chance to taste different treats from of the borough's most popular restaurants during the fourth edition of the annual "Taste of The Bronx" food show
 - B) Zellnor Myrie, Councilman Fernando Cabrera's Representative:
 - 1) Informed the community that the Councilman is in Haiti helping out with support services. He has raised \$3million
 - 2) His office address is: 107 East Burnside Avenue and his phone 347-590-2873
 - C) Arlene McLaren, Councilman Oliver Koppell's Representative:
 - 1) Reported that is in support of the Haitian Relief
 - D) Sallie Caldwell, Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera's Representative:
 - 1) Working on the Columbus H.S. issue
 - 2) Supporting the Haitian Relief Fund
 - E) Paul Foster, Board Chair, encouraged all to support legitimate organizations with the Haitian Relief
 - XI) Nominations for Board Chair and 1st Vice-Chair to be announced in February
 - XII) Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm