



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



GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2010 @ 6:30 PM

Meeting held at: St. Samuel Cathedral ♦ 2930 Valentine Ave ♦ Bronx 10468

- I. **The Public Session** opened at 6:40 PM:
 - A. Mr. X announced a meeting on the condition of the Metro North railroad stations. The meeting will be held on 4/7/10 at 347 Madison Ave at 5:00 PM.
 - B. Richard Guether from City Planning announced a waterfront plan for New York City. A public meeting on this issue will be held on 4/8/10 at 411 Pearl St. from 6:00-8:30pm. Borough workshops will also be held at a later date.
 - C. Danielle Egic and Maryann Rosa spoke on the services provided by LIFT. College students are being recruited to help with legal and financial counseling services provided by this agency. LIFT is located at 196th Street and Bainbridge Avenue.
 - D. David Betesh from Energy Smart Energy Solutions helps landlords go green. His agency concentrates on changing the lighting in buildings at no cost to interested property owners.
 - E. Jen Rothman from the New York Botanical Garden spoke on the children and family programs at the Garden.
 - F. Pastor Amos Kemper from St Samuel's Cathedral welcomed everyone to the meeting and described the programs which his church offers.
 - G. Nick Napolitano representing the Norwood Food Co-op provided information on joining the group for the upcoming season.
 - H. Yvette Paige spoke about the recent article describing the poor ranking the Bronx received in the areas of health, poverty, and unemployment.
- II. The general board meeting began at 7:00 PM. Attendance was taken and a quorum was present. A motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Dr. Lorraine Stuart.
- III. **Executive Committee Report:** Paul Foster announced that a proposed amendment to our by-laws would be e-mailed to all members. The amendment refers to medical leave by board members.
- IV. **District Manager's Report:**
 - A. Con Edison would be installing new mains on Gun Hill Rd. and Bainbridge Ave. The work would be performed from mid-March to mid-April.
 - B. A new program at CB#7 is looking for volunteers to work in the community. Community members are urged to come to the board office to sign-up for the program.
 - C. Residents were reminded to complete their 2010 census forms. Complaints regarding service issues can be made on-line to the community board office.
 - D. The next Croton Filtration Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 18 at 3660 Jerome Ave.



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V. Committee Chairs' Reports:

- A. **Land Use:** Ozzie Brown announced that his committee would meet at 6:30 on 3/18/10. The committee is working on plans for the Harlem River waterfront.
- B. **Parks & Recreation:** Barbara Stronczer stated that the next Parks Committee meeting is scheduled for 3/25/10. A follow-up regarding Harris Field is on the agenda. She also announced that Bronx Parks Speak-up is rescheduled for Sat. 4/10 at Lehman College.
- C. **Public Safety and Quality of Life:** Andrew Laiosa spoke about the agreement between Bronx County Solutions and CB#7. He also mentioned that his committee was waiting for a response from the police regarding the approval of a liquor license at 400 E. 198th St. Problems with illegal gambling at Devoe Park were also being addressed.
- D. **Education/Libraries/Cultural Affairs:** Yvette Page reported that Leonie Haimson, a guest speaker, spoke on class size at the Education meeting. She also mentioned that there would be no cuts in hours at the Bronx Central Library. The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for 4/13/10 at 7:30PM.
- E. **Traffic and Transportation:** Lowell Green presented the following motion:
 1. Motion #1: Community Board 7 supports the honorary naming of West Kingsbridge Road between Davidson and Reservoir Avenues to honor Phyllis Yvonne Reed. The area should be called Phyllis Yvonne Reed Plaza in honor of all her community work.
 2. The motion was unanimously approved.
 3. It was also suggested that the northbound Bx34 and Bx16 bus stop on Bainbridge Ave be aligned with 213th Street.
- F. **Environment and Sanitation:** Helene Hartman reported on Miquela Crator's presentation on green roofs. Ms. Crator is the executive director of Sustainable South Bronx.
- G. **Health and Hospitals:**
 1. Dr. Lorraine Stuart reported that representatives from Montefiore, North Central Bronx, and the American Cancer Society were in attendance at their meeting on 2/22/10.
 2. It was also announced that Socrates Caba had resigned as the committee's chair. Joyce Hernandez will be the new chairperson.
- H. **Housing:** Nick Napolitano invited everyone to attend his committee meeting on 3/23/10.
 1. Transitional housing at 2323 Davidson Ave. and 2524 Creston Ave. will be discussed.
 2. Applications are also being accepted for the next section of senior housing at Serviam Gardens.
- I. **Senior Services:** Joseph Lee presented the following motion:
 1. Motion #2: A letter to be sent to the MTA requesting no cuts in city bus lines or Access-A-Ride.
 2. The motion was approved.
- J. **Youth Services:** Joseph Lee reported on Alexandra Smith's presentation regarding Start Strong Bronx. He also discussed summer youth programs. He submitted a motion in support of the C-Ball Program:
 1. Motion #3: A letter of support to be sent to the Parks' Chair of Bronx Community Board #3 expressing our board's support of the C-Ball Program. The motion was approved.



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- K. **Budget/Personnel Committee:** Hector Lopez reported on the public hearing for the 2011 Budget. He asked all committees to set priorities for the 2012 budget process.
 - L. **Ad Hoc Committee for the Website:** Joyce Hernandez reported that she will be sending an e-mail to all board members requesting ideas for our website.

VI. **Borough President's Report**

- A. Andy Toledo reported on Borough President Ruben Diaz's State of the Borough Address.
- B. The Borough President will be forming a committee to study the Kingsbridge Armory.
- C. Plans for an anchor hotel for the Bronx were also announced.
- D. This month the Borough President will be celebrating Women's History, Greek Heritage and Irish Heritage.

- VII. **City Planning:** Richard Guether reminded everyone about the need to complete the census. Funding for projects is tied to the census.

VIII. **52 Precinct Report**

- A. Police Officer Wilson Hernandez gave the statistics for the month.
- B. A request for a meeting with Parks, Police, and several community board committees was made. The meeting will address illegal activities in the parks.
- C. Problems with drugs on E.197th St. and Valentine Ave. and on Devoe Terrace were reported.
- D. P.O. Hernandez announced that the next 52nd Council Meeting will take place on 3/25/10 at the Fordham Methodist Church.

IX. **Elected Officials' Reports**

- A. Zellnor Myrie from Councilman Cabrera's office spoke about the availability of discretionary funding. A park tour by the Councilman is also being planned.
- B. Sallie Caldwell from Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera's office reported that the Assemblywoman was in Albany working on the budget.

- X. **Monitoring Committee for the Election:** Hector Lopez asked for a hand vote on the following two positions:

- A. Paul Foster was the only candidate running for the position of Chairperson.
- B. Ozzie Brown was the only candidate running for the position of 1st Vice Chairperson.
- C. Both candidates were unanimously elected without any abstentions.
- D. A concern was raised regarding the lack of a written ballot.

- XI. The meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.