



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



PAUL FOSTER, CHAIRMAN

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 16th, 2010 @ 6:30PM

Kittay House Fox Auditorium, 2550 Webb Avenue, Bronx, NY 10468

I. Public Session

- A. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz thanked everyone for re-electing him to office. This year he will be concentrating on housing issues, senior centers, and budget issues resulting from the State's \$9 billion budget deficit.
- B. Lt. Meyer from the 52nd Precinct discussed the crime report. Felony assaults, (domestic violence) and grand larceny are the major problems in the precinct. He warned everyone about using cell phones on the street. (See CompStat Report.)
- C. Ricky Martinez asked for a community center for young people to be placed on or near Webster Avenue.
- D. Anthony Riveccio thanked the Board for following-up on a spotlight for the World War I Monument on Mosholu Parkway. He also spoke in favor of continuing the re-zoning process to include all of Bedford Park and Norwood.
- E. Verna Simpson from Primerica Financial Services discussed the services offered by the firm to help educate people to manage their money and avoid debt.
- F. Elizabeth Thompson from the Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood Assn. spoke about the proposed re-zoning for PS 86, and the need for schools at the Armory.
- G. Gloria Hughes from the Bronx Library Center introduced the new person in charge of the Bronx libraries. She is June Fisher.
- H. Randy Grant, a personal trainer and dancer, needs help in starting an exercise and nutrition program for youngsters. He is hoping to work in schools and local churches.
- I. Alexandra Salazar, a staff member at PS 86, discussed the proposed re-zoning of the school. There are also plans to re-organize the school as a K-8 facility.

II. The meeting opened at 7:10 PM

- A. Attendance was taken. A quorum was present.
- B. Carlos Cortez moved to accept the minutes from the October meeting. Khadijaha Saeed seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

III. Chairperson's Report: Paul Foster announced that Nick Napolitano now has a new daughter. He also stated that Socrates Caba and Carmen Plaja-Cordero were no longer members of the Board since they had moved outside of New York City.

IV. District Manager's Report

- A. Review
 1. Updated contacts list of Board members. Please ensure that it is accurate, as the office has received many requests for corrections/changes.
 2. Always refer to website or calling the office for the most up to date calendar. Please let us know if you are not receiving mailings.
- B. Public Hearings: BP Public Hearing for Webster Avenue Rezoning – December 2nd at 851 Grand Concourse (TBD)
- C. Other meetings and announcements
 1. Need schedule of set days from committees that have not submitted dates
 2. No DSC meeting in November due to holidays and other time constraints.

V. Executive Committee Report: No Report



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VI. Committee Reports

- A. **Housing:** Ischia Bravo spoke about the illegal construction site at 271 E. 201st Street. DOB has cited the owners. She also proposed a motion regarding the inclusion of E. 202nd and 203rd Streets between Valentine and Briggs Avenues into the re-zoning plan for Bedford Park. The Land Use Committee will address this issue later in the meeting.
- B. **Education, Libraries, and Cultural Affairs:** Yvette Page reported on the proposed rezoning of PS 86, 340, and 360. Parents were urged to attend the Community Education Council Meeting on Thurs. Nov. 18th.
- C. **Economic Development:** Jay Shuffield reported on his meeting with EDC regarding the interim use of the Kingsbridge Armory. Currently, it is being used as a filming studio. He also stated that he is still trying to get DCA to attend a meeting to discuss the over-charging which is taking place in some supermarkets.
- D. **Sanitation and Environmental Issues:** Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky announced that the Sanitation Dept. would pay \$30 for old refrigerators and window air-conditioners. Flooding issues along Kazimiroff Blvd. will be addressed at a future meeting. Her committee will be meeting on Thur. Nov. 18th.
- E. **Traffic and Transportation:** Lowell Green spoke about the recent walking tour along Gun Hill Road. The tour was for the purpose of improving traffic and safety conditions along this road. She also advised Board member to read the back page of her minutes for information relating to speed bumps. The next meeting of this committee is set for Thursday November 18th.
- F. **Parks and Recreation:** A motion to send a letter of support to DDC relating to the rehabilitation of the Van Cortlandt Golf House was proposed. After some discussion, the motion was tabled by Paul Foster. The date for the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony was announced. This year it is scheduled for Thurs. Dec. 9th at 6:30PM. The tree lighting will take place on Mosholu Parkway and Bainbridge Avenue. Councilperson Koppell was thanked for his funding for the spotlight at the WWI Monument.
- G. **Public Safety:** The last meeting covered youth crime. The committee met with Bronx Community Solutions.
- H. **Senior Services:** The committee plans to continue to support its senior centers in order to avoid any future funding cuts.
- I. **Youth Services:** Joseph Lee announced that the Dec. meeting will address the issue of youth violence. He also announced a DYCD forum to be held next Tuesday, Nov. 23rd at the Borough President's Office. The forum will address homeless youth with emphasis on the LGBTQ community.
- J. **Land Use Committee:** Paul Foster gave special thanks to Sandra Erickson and Greg Faulkner who discussed and initiated a process for rezoning. Rich Guether, formerly with City Planning, was also thanked. Ozzie Brown presented the history of his committee's involvement with the rezoning of Webster Avenue. Next steps in the process were outlined. They include The Borough President's public hearing on Thurs. Dec. 2nd and the Borough Board presentation and vote on Thurs. Dec 16th. Submission to the City Planning Commission would follow with a vote expected in March. Andrew Laiosa requested the inclusion of the words "sections of" in front of the terms Bedford Park and Norwood in the original motion. This inclusion would result in a more accurate motion. The amended motion reads as follows:
 1. **Motion #1:** The Community Board 7 Land Use and Zoning Committee voted to accept the Draft Environmental Impact Statement: to up zone Webster Avenue from East Gun Hill Road to East Fordham Road and down zone sections of Bedford Park and Norwood. The proposed actions are intended to achieve two primary objectives:
 - i. To shape Webster Avenue into a vibrant, inviting, and walk-able mixed use residential and commercial corridor with inclusionary housing program to incentivize the development of permanent affordable housing



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- ii. To preserve the existing low density character in the residential areas of Bedford Park and Norwood , and encourage new development to concentrate on Webster Avenue
 - iii. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.
 2. The second motion would be sent to City Planning in the form of a letter. Hector Lopez requested the inclusion of the term "Harlem River Waterfront" into the original motion. Jay Shuffield requested the term "mandate the transfer" be changed to "map city owned land." Both friendly amendments were accepted. The motion reads as follows:
 3. **Motion #2:** To immediately begin the development of a 197C plan with City Planning to include areas of Norwood and Bedford Park, not included in the Webster Avenue, Bedford Park, and Norwood rezoning study, that the down-zoning, which currently ends at Valentine and 201st Street, be amended to include 202nd Street and 203rd Streets between Briggs and Valentine Avenues, including the remaining district from the Grand Concourse to the Harlem River Waterfront, in a way that meets the needs of residents of this community. Furthermore, to integrate the CB#7 Columbia University Waterfront Study objectives as a key component of the 197C plan. The proposed actions are intended to achieve these primary objectives:
 - i. Create pedestrian access to the Fordham Landing Waterfront
 - ii. Map city owned land to create "Regatta Park" as a component of public recreational and open space use as designated in the Mayor's 2020 Plan.
 - iii. Preserve the character and architectural richness along the Grand Concourse
 - iv. Bring into alignment areas in Bedford Park and Norwood omitted in the Webster Corridor Plan.
 - v. The motion was unanimously approved.
 4. **Motion #3:** Request a letter be sent to the Board of Standards and Appeals stating no objection on the extension of a variance for a bookstore located at 3030 Jerome Avenue, in a partial residential zone for an additional 10 years.
 - i. The motion was unanimously approved.
 5. **Motion #4:** A letter of support be sent to City Planning for the "Key Terms Clarification Text Amendment," a city-wide amendment to clarify and preserve the intent of zoning regulations in relation to the terms "development" and "building" as they are defined in the Zoning Resolution. The motion was approved with one abstention by Jay Shuffield.
- VII. **Elected Officials' Reports**
- A. Andy Toledo representing the **Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr** spoke about the upcoming conference on youth homelessness. He also invited the public to attend a meeting to discuss the Bronx Children's Museum. The meeting is scheduled for Sat. Nov. 20th at Bronx Works, 1130 Grand Concourse from 11:00AM - 1:00PM.
 - B. Zellnor Myrie representing **Councilperson Fernando Cabrera** reported that the Councilman would be hosting a meeting with DOT and the Parks' Dept. to discuss the transfer of land for the creation of Regatta Park. He is also working on the rezoning of West 195th Street alongside of the Armory for schools. The re-naming of a street in honor of Phyllis Reed is progressing. Internships at the Councilperson's Office are currently being offered.
 - C. Christine Capetillo representing **Councilperson Joel Rivera** announced free mammograms and HIV testing at St. Barnabas Hospital on Nov. 30th. She also stated that the Fordham Bid would be sponsoring a tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 3rd at Bryan Park.
- VIII. Lastly, Sandra Erickson expressed thanks to Fernando Tirado for his help with a bias problem which she reported to the Board office.
- IX. **Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM**