



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



PAUL FOSTER, CHAIRMAN

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011 @ 6:30 PM

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

- I) Public Session opened at 6:35 PM
- II) Paul Foster spoke before the public session to talk about Ozzie Brown and his contributions to the Board and the community. A minute of silence was held
- III) Public Session began with the following speakers:
 - A) Jose Quintana, Department of Health:
 - 1) Spoke about Health Bucks, a program dealing with obesity and obesity related illnesses. They provide free coupons to buy farm-fresh fruits and vegetables. They have been holding meetings throughout the Bronx
 - B) Aurelia Greene, Deputy Borough President:
 - 1) Talked about the Borough President's Education Summit to be held at the Borough President's Office to discuss issues around education and health of Bronx school children
 - 2) The Summit is to be held on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at Lehman College between the hours of 8:30am and 4:00pm
 - C) Joseph Dowling, 52nd Pct. Deputy Inspector:
 - 1) Discussed the Stats and recent arrests
 - 2) He advised that apartments be secured to avoid burglaries. A police officer is available to advise people without charge. He is asking people to take advantage of this benefit
 - 3) Quality of Life issues were discussed
 - 4) Auto theft and recovery of stolen cars were discussed
 - 5) The Inspector took questions from the audience and promised to look into the issues presented
 - D) Jeffrey Dinowitz, Assemblyman:
 - 1) Mentioned the Town Hall Meeting to be held at Mosholu Montefiore Community Center On Wednesday at 7:30pm
 - 2) The Town Hall Meeting is to discuss issues that affect the Quality of Life of community residents
 - 3) Spoke about the Oval, trees, Jerome Avenue BID Festival on Saturday, September 24, between the hours of 10:00am and 6:00pm
 - 4) He discussed protection of the rent laws to keep apartments reasonably priced. He will address those not needed apartment repairs that cause rent increases
 - 5) Car thefts could be prevented if VIN numbers were placed on the vehicle's rims/wheels. Legislation is pending
 - 6) Filtration Plant costs have risen to \$3Billion as of now, causing increases in water rates
 - E) Louis Burns, Jericho Project:
 - 1) Talked about housing for the homeless and especially veteran housing on East 194th Street; A 56-unit costing \$53 Million. He is requesting recommendations from the community for placement in the housing
 - F) Sharon Jarvis, Bronx Library Center:
 - 1) Spoke about "Financial Management workshop and information center"
 - 2) "Connect now" is for youth at risk who are preparing for their GED
 - 3) Civic workshops to be presented
 - G) Guillermo Flores, American Cancer Society:



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- 1) There will be a walk on October 16th, to raise ½ Million for cancer research. People can call 1-800-ACS-2345 for assistance if they have been diagnosed with Cancer
- H) Mr. X, Community Resident:
 - 1) Spoke about Ozzie Brown
 - 2) Discussed some meetings information
 - 3) Robert Johnson, DA issues
- I) Jasmeet Sidny, Columbia University students/reporters
 - 1) Interested in writing stories about the CB7 residents and the CB7 members and wants recommendations
- J) Madaha Kinsey-Lamb, Mind-Builders:
 - 1) Located in St. Brendan's Convent and is involved in music for youngsters and senior citizens. All instruments are available
 - 2) Voice and dance lessons available
- K) Michael Green, National Cycling Association:
 - 1) Spoke about plans for the Kingsbridge Armory as a cycling center. He is asking for support from CB7 to review the plans
- L) Chrystal Calero, 3322 Decatur Terrace Tenants Association:
 - 1) New 13-story building... She has a concern about the building and management; lack of security in the building and lack of cleanliness throughout. There is often lack of hot water
 - 2) Other quality of life issues are a problem as well. She is seeking assistance from CB7 to help solve the problems around these issues
- IV) Public Session ended at 8:00pm
- V) Attendance was taken, quorum was present
- VI) Approval of agenda and the minutes with changes was unanimously approved
- VII) Reports:
 - A) Chairperson's report by Paul Foster:
 - 1) Paul spoke about Ozzie Brown's passing
 - 2) Nominations for 1st Vice-Chair position to be made tonight for election in October
 - 3) Changes in Committees and chairmanship to be made due to loss of members and changing schedules
 - B) Executive Committee Report by Hector Lopez, Acting 1st Vice-Chair:
 - 1) Hector welcomed all back from a hot hectic summer
 - 2) He reviewed some of the points from the Executive Meeting
 - 3) A motion approved at the Executive Committee meeting was read
 - a) The motion is in regards to changes to the "Unsung Hero Award"
 - b) The motion was approved unanimously
 - C) District Manager's report by Fernando Tirado:
 - 1) DOHMH - Health Bucks distribution and summary of program. Promotion of healthy eating by shopping at Farmers Market. Jose Quintana to present.
 - 2) Discussion on Service Program Priorities (Form 3). Due Monday, October 3rd. Reviewed at the next general board meeting on October 18th.
 - 3) FY'13 Capital & Expense budget priorities. Hearings throughout the month of September. Committees are required to determine what the district's needs are and submit to the Budget Committee for final review. Budget Committee determines the final priority for submission to the preliminary budget. Due before end of October.



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- 4) District Needs Statement due at end of October. Statement that appears in the Dept. of City Planning publication by borough that highlights concerns and issues district-wide. Any issues that you would like to submit to be included in the statement are due by Oct 3rd. Samples from previous years are available on our website under the Budget Committee
 - 5) Website revamp as per recommendations from committee. Need volunteers to submit content. Submitting a complaint and major complaint issues (parking, dog waste, etc.)
 - 6) Economic Development GIS project. In partnership with Lehman College, created maps based on the district economic census conducted in May 2010.
 - 7) Economic development interns for September 2011. Two interns from Lehman College, Flor Cabrera and Albert Abreu, who will conduct a reassessment of the areas surveyed and update our master list of businesses in the district and surrounding areas. Will also evaluate business and consumer needs.
 - 8) Yankee Youth Award nominations being accepted for 2011. Need to be submitted to the Yankees Community Council no later than November 14th (submit nominees to the office).
 - 9) Letter from Montefiore to be part of the hospital's new Asthma Initiative. Was due in August, but would like to know if the Board is still interested in participating.
 - 10) CB8 will have a Public Hearing regarding the Van Cortlandt Park Ice Skating Rink Proposal to be held on Tuesday, October 4th at 7:30 PM at 5676 Riverdale Avenue, Suite 100.
 - 11) Borough President's Quality of Life Survey distribution and request for participation.
 - 12) Summary of Summer Street event on East 204th Street this past summer.
 - 13) Service day for Mt. St. Ursula academy on 11/22/11. Wants assistance from the CB to help come up with a volunteer project that can benefit the district.
 - 14) Jerome Gun Hill BID festival this Saturday, Sept. 24th. Come out to enjoy the event.
 - 15) Repaving of sections of the Grand Concourse to begin soon, between Kingsbridge Rd and Bedford Park Blvd. Also repaving Risse Street, Van Courtland Ave East (GC to Jerome), and East 204th St (West of Mosholu Pkwy to Jerome Ave)
 - 16) Issues with the discontinuation of the DHS Advantage program and impact it may have on our district and homelessness citywide (WSJ, Sept. 14th)
- D) Youth Services Committee by Joe Lee:
- 1) Planning for up-coming year
 - 2) Requesting more youth to attend meetings
- E) Traffic & Transportation Committee:
- 1) Reported on Summer Walk program for summer 2011
- F) Sanitation Committee by Helene Hartman:
- 1) Reported on P.S. 51 school closing because of environmental issues
 - 2) Concerns on Children and staff's health problems
- G) Parks Committee by William Francis:
- 1) Working on naming of a small park for Ozzie. Small Hill off the Deegan is being looked at
 - 2) Gasoline alley Park is another site
 - 3) Parks report card is being planned
- H) Economic Development by Jay Shuffield:
- 1) Issues to be discussed
 - a) Supermarkets compliance (weights and measures)
 - b) Cabaret licenses approval



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- c) Leave of absence of Jay Shuffield; Eleanor Lundeen to Chair the Committee
- I) Long Term Planning by Adaline Walker:
 - 1) Minutes were discussed
- VIII) Additional remarks:
 - A) Paul reminded the members and community at large to review the motions
- IX) Nominations for 1st Vice-Chair are as follows:
 - A) William Francis
 - B) Hector Lopez (Refused)
 - C) Barbara Stronczer
 - D) Sandra Erickson
 - E) Adaline Walker
 - 1) Nominations closed; Election to be held next month (October's Meeting)
- X) Elected Officials Reports:
 - A) Borough President's Report by Andy Toledo:
 - 1) BP is interested in the building of a 5-star hotel. A parking lot located on East 153rd Street is being looked at as a possible site
 - 2) Education summit sponsored by the BP; invitation is available to all
 - 3) Quality of Life surveys are available on the Website
 - B) Councilman Fernando Cabrera's Report by Greg Faulkner:
 - 1) Animal shelter ruling is to be reviewed to allow the Fordham Library to be used as other than a shelter
 - 2) Health bucks were distributed by Councilman Cabrera's office
 - 3) \$1M for cameras is being supported by the Councilman
 - 4) Councilman to sit on a Gun Violence Committee that is being formed to deal with gang violence
 - C) Councilman Oliver Koppell's Report by George Diaz:
 - 1) Camera issues was talked about
 - 2) Expressed concerned about Park Department's issues with garbage
 - D) Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera's:
 - 1) Reported on summer events (movies)
 - 2) Spoke about the Rent increases at Tracey Towers
 - 3) Discussed Mosholu Parkway's flooding issue
 - 4) Future events:
 - a) Webcast on NY1 regarding obesity is on Tuesday at 12:00pm; Health issues in the community
 - E) Gustavo Rivera's Report by MaryAnn Rosa:
 - 1) On Sunday, there will be a Health Event at St. James Park. (Sponsored by Gustavo Rivera)
 - 2) Zumba Classes
 - F) Public Advocate's Report:
 - 1) The Public Advocate's Office can be reached by dialing 212-669-7018
- XI) Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm