



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



PAUL FOSTER, CHAIRMAN

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 17th, 2012 @ 6:30 PM

Meeting held at: St. Phillip Neri School ♦ 3031 Grand Concourse ♦ Bronx, NY 10468

- I. Public Session opened at 6:35pm with the following speakers
 - A. Robert Press, Community Activist:
 1. Spoke about the proposed skating rink at Van Cortlandt Park
 2. Mentioned that the triangle near the Kingsbridge Armory is in Community Board 8 and they should be included in the planning process
 - B. Erin Rickey, Columbia University student:
 1. Talked about the low conviction rates in Bronx County Court system. She would like to hear from people who may be involved in the system
 - C. Milton Battle, Briggs Avenue Tenants Association:
 1. Spoke about keeping the block safe and encouraged youth to get involved in the community to stay off the streets
 2. Needs a Street Activity Permit for a block party at 194th Street and Kingsbridge Road
 - D. Cliff Stanton, Bronx High School of Science Parent's Association Safety Chair:
 1. Suggested a traffic study around the school area
 - E. Juton Horstman, NYC Department of City Planning:
 1. Announced that on January 28th, between the hours of 2pm and 4pm there will be a tour of the University Heights Station
 - F. Captain McGowan, 52nd Precinct:
 1. Reported that overall crime is down
 2. Last year's stats were reviewed
 3. The Captain expressed hope with arrests up in the first few weeks
 4. Recommended that people call 911 for any problems
 - G. Madaha Kinsey, Mind Builders Creative Arts Center:
 1. Described the services offered. They offer classes in tap, modern jazz, salsa, ballet as well as all musical instruments taught by professionals for ages (3yrs old to adults)
 2. Free sample classes available at 269 East 207th Street (Next to St. Brendan's School)
 3. There are FREE sample classes for interested parties
 - H. Ricky Martinez, State Committeeman:
 1. Greeted all, and wished everyone a Happy New Year
 2. Reported on a successful coat drive sponsored by his organization
 3. Reminded everyone about the block party to be held on July 21, 2012. All are invited
 - I. T.K Singleton, Bronx Community Solutions:
 1. Spoke about Quality of Life issues in the community and about partnering with PD and DA's office to help deal with the problems. She will meet with the Public Safety Committee for further discussion of a contract. Her contact info is: 917-758-3379
- II. Public Session ended at 7:17pm, and the Board Meeting opened
 - A. Attendance was taken, quorum was present



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- B. Motion to approve Agenda and Minutes was unanimously approved
- III. Chairperson's Report by Paul Foster:
 - A. Filtration Committee Report:
 - 1. Community Board 7 will be Chair for 1 year
 - 2. Paul encouraged everyone to attend the meetings
 - 3. Minutes from Filtration meetings are available
- IV. Executive Committee Report by Adaline Walker:
 - A. Report on the Science preparation Program
 - 1. Ms. Walker provided an update on the P.S.51 contamination situation. Although the school is no longer located at 3200 Jerome Avenue, the current and former parents have serious concerns about long term effects that TCE exposure may have on their children.
 - 2. A group called "P.S.51 Parents United" is deeply involved in the situation and are in the process of deciding further action to be taken
- V. District Manager's Report by Fernando P. Tirado:
 - A. There are 2 scheduled public hearings:
 - 1. E. Gun Hill Road Study to be held on Monday, January 30th, 2012
 - 2. Public Safety to be held on Friday, January 27th, 2012
- VI. Committee Reports:
 - A. Health & Hospitals by Dilletta Pina:
 - 1. Ms. Pina gave a report on the Health Committee meeting where the members spelled out their vision for the development of Webster Avenue
 - 2. Report on the settlement of the impending nurses strike at Montefiore
 - 3. The need for home delivery of pharmaceuticals to seniors was discussed (Ms. Dilletta Pina visited neighborhood pharmacies to discuss home deliveries)
 - 4. A full report is included in the Committee minutes for January 12th, 2012
 - B. Public Safety Committee by Walter Bell:
 - 1. Spoke about pursuing the contract with Bronx Community Solutions
 - 2. Encouraged everyone to attend the Public Safety Public Hearing to be held on January 27th, 2012 at Monroe College
 - 3. Mr. Bell is distributing flyers throughout the neighborhood
 - C. Traffic & Transportation by Lowell Green:
 - 1. Discussed the public hearing to be held on January 30th at the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center. The public hearing is regarding the traffic changes proposed for East Gun Hill Road
 - D. Land Use / Zoning by Lisa Sills-Short:
 - 1. Discussed the City Planning presentation for Zone Green
 - 2. Motion to send letter to City Planning was unanimously approved (copy in office file)
 - 3. Invited all to the MTA Tour of University Heights Station
 - E. Parks & Recreation by Bill Francis:
 - 1. Noted the Botanical Gardens plans for a Native Garden Pavilion and the need for a letter of support. A discussion ensued about the issue with New York Botanical Garden that, without any warning/input from the community, they cut the free entry on Saturdays, 10 am - 12 m, to 10 am - 11 am. This cut of 1 hour of free entry affects the many Bronx



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- community/visitors to the Garden; while, economically speaking, 1 hour of free entry to the public, on Saturdays, doesn't affect in any way an organization of the size of the Garden. Another important issue with New York Botanical Garden is that, apparently, they also eliminated, again without any warning/input from the community, the Early Morning Yearly Pass, for everyday from 6 am to 10 am, that, at a cost of \$12/year, they issued for many years. Walkers/joggers/runners are affected by the elimination of this important benefit for the community. At this point, it was agreed that the District Manager, Fernando Tirado, will call/talk to Community Affairs managers of the Botanical Garden (Joshua Rivera/Elizabeth Figueroa) about the elimination of these important community benefits, with the goal that they (the Garden) reconsider and put back in place the cited benefits.
2. Motion to send letter of support to Public Design Commission of NYC was unanimously approved. (Copy of the letter in the office files)
- F. Education / Libraries by Bree Brown Rosa:
1. Reported on new Charter School to open in CB7. No location has been identified to date
- G. Sanitation & Environment by Helene Hartman:
1. Report on the P.S.51 situation regarding contamination
 2. Strategy meeting at Concourse House on January 25th
- H. Economic Development by Eleanor Lundeen:
1. Discussion of the Webster Avenue vision meeting
 2. Previous efforts to develop were reviewed and available resources were identified
 3. A full report is included in the Committee minutes for January 10th
 4. The vision for the area by City Planning is available along with maps of Webster Avenue
 5. CB8 will be invited to share their experience in similar projects of planned development
- I. Youth Services by Joe Lee:
1. Discussed need for better attendance at Youth Committee Meetings
- J. Budget Committee:
1. The Committee will meet on January 24th, 2012
- VII. Other Reports:
- A. Borough President's Office by Andy Toledo:
1. Community Board Applications available. February is the deadline
 2. State of the Borough Address to be held at Truman High School on February 23rd, 2012 at 11:30am
- B. Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera's Office by Sallie Caldwell:
1. Introduced Michelle as a representative for Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera
 2. Noted tax cuts in Albany
- C. Councilman Fernando Cabrera's Office by Greg Faulkner:
1. Ozzie Brown's triangle is in its planning stage
 2. Living wage legislature discussion
 3. Noted the Interest in the Old Fordham Library by other entities
 4. Reported on the arrest of the Councilman for supporting the denial of renting space in schools by religious groups



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5. The Councilman is interested in the on-going Armory plans and wishes to play a major role in the development of the Armory
 6. Reported on the location of cameras funded by Councilman Cabrera
- D. Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office by MaryAnn Rosa:
1. Reported on the food stamp recipients and the fingerprinting of the recipients
 2. Provided a report on the 4% increase of education and health funds
- VIII. Motion to adjourn at 8:45pm