



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

PAUL FOSTER, CHAIRMAN

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 16th, 2012 @ 6:30 PM

Held at: Bedford Park Senior Center ♦ 243 East 204th Street ♦ Bronx, NY 10458

- I) Paul Foster opened the meeting at 6:40pm by welcoming all in attendance
- II) Public Session began with the following speakers:
 - A) Borough President, Ruben Diaz, Jr.
 - 1) He thanked the Board for their welcome, and went on to discuss the Armory and the proposals that were being entertained for the use of the Armory
 - 2) He reviewed the past proposals for use of the Armory and requested assistance from the Mayor. The RFP was again proposed by the Mayor
 - 3) 6 proposals came forth but only 2 were considered viable; Young Woo and Ice Center were considered be best
 - 4) The Borough President is supporting the Ice Center over the Young Woo group, and reported that both groups are putting up their own money
 - 5) Mr. Diaz went on to describe all the uses the Ice Center would provide for the community; Jobs with living wage was cited as viable and good for the development of more jobs for the community. Also, the neighboring businesses would not be harmed by the Ice Center occupying the Armory and would probably increase business by visitors to the site.
 - 6) Reported that the Ice Center would bring in at least 2 ½ million visitors who would visit the local businesses and increase revenue
 - 7) Discussed other developments that are being developed throughout the Bronx, i.e. Golf Course, Tennis Courts, etc. and the cultural assets to the Bronx
 - 8) The Borough President responded to questions from the floor:
 - a) Jobs were a concern
 - b) The question of water sources and recycling of water
 - c) The inclusion of the community in decisions about the Armory
 - d) Concern about surrounding businesses and the impact on them when Armory is developed
 - e) The cost of gasoline with the charge increased with use of Credit Cards
 - f) Sale or Lease of the Armory
 - g) Plan for schools in Armory
 - h) Question of tax rebates and financial backing
 - i) Living wage
 - j) Environment concerns
 - k) Inclusion of veterans in the project
 - 9) The Borough President concluded by thanking all for their questions and interes
 - B) Jeffrey Dinowitz, Assemblyman:
 - 1) Expressed his delight that the Armory was finally being developed
 - 2) He went on to discuss the gasoline prices and the difference between cash payments and Credit Card payments



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- 3) Discussed the bill he was responsible for in Albany about tickets being issued when driver was purchasing tickets at a Muni-Meter
 - 4) Reported about a law about no smoking 100ft. from a school
 - 5) Social Security issues were discussed
 - 6) Williamsbridge Oval problem with safety issues to be handled by his office
 - 7) He cited all the new construction in his district and the positive changes that are taking place
 - 8) Question about M.S.80 was raised. The grading system for schools was discussed and the harm caused by the closing of schools by the Board of Education could be damaging to the community
- C) Joseph Dowling, 52nd Pct. Inspector:
- 1) Reported on the Comp-Stats
 - 2) Discussed recent arrests and the inside work that his anti-crime team were working on
 - 3) Most of the shootings in the precinct being investigated and quick results are expected
 - 4) Reported on cell phone thefts, and stated that they are an on-going issue. Tracking devices on phones and computers are recommended
 - 5) Crime prevention team will attend next meeting and will mark any phone that anyone wishes to have done
 - 6) Question from the attendees were taken
- D) Mark Gjonaj, Newly elected Assemblyman:
- 1) Spoke about his office and his presence in the neighborhood
 - 2) He plans to work with the community on his vision to improve the quality of life in his district
- E) Amanda Altman, North West Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition:
- 1) Invite to a rally on 10/17/12 at 6:30 PM
- F) Mark Brescia, NYC Mayor's Office Long Term Planning; Clean Heat Program:
- 1) Discussed air quality issues regarding heating oil that is being used throughout the city and the effects it has on the health of the community residents
 - 2) There will be an in-depth information session about Clean Heat on Wednesday, November 7th, 2012 from 6:00-7:00pm at the Kingsbridge Library, located at 291 West 231st Street (at Corlear Avenue)
- G) Carlos Cariño, NYC Districting Commission:
- 1) Discussed redistricting process and provided the members with maps with possible changes
 - 2) Input on changes is welcomed and may be sent to the Commission
- H) Lowell Green, CB7 Member:
- 1) Spoke about East Gun Hill Road traffic problems. On 10/17/12 at 6:30pm, there will be a Public Input Session about the Congestion and Safety on East Gun Hill Road (between Jerome Avenue and White Plains Road). The session will be held at Monefiore Medical Center – Mosholu Montefiore Community Room, located at 3450 Dekalb Avenue (Southeast corner of East Gun Hill Road)
- I) Jane Addison, Mosholu Branch Library:
- 1) Discussed the needs of the library. Presented Both Capital and Expense requests
 - 2) Reported on the FREE English classes



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- J) Dr. Elajia Bell, 2nd Chance Solutions:
- 1) Represents persons with drug and alcohol issues and wants a letter of support to provide services and housing
- III) Public Session ended at 8:25pm, and Board meeting opened
- A) Attendance taken, quorum present
 - B) Correction to the 9/18 minutes were made, and motion to accept minutes with changes was approved unanimously
 - C) MOTIONS:
 - 1) To require all non-elected board members be assigned to two committees, effective immediately, and that good attendance is to be maintained in both committees. (Motion to change to the By-Laws).
 - a) Discussion about wording of amendments. Motion for accepting the change that Mr. Andrew Laiosa made to eliminate the wording after "immediately" was approved unanimously
 - b) Discussion regarding this motion, there were some pro and some con remarks:
 - i) Votes – 14 NO's & 6 YES's (Motion voted down)
 - 2) Regarding the letter dated October 4, 2012 from the District Manager to The Board Chairperson of Bronx Community Board 7, the Committee members voted unanimously to accept the option offered by the departing District Manager in his letter dated October 4th - "My effective date of resignation as the District Manager of Bronx Community Board 7 will be at close of business on Friday, October 19, 2012."
 - a) Motion approved
 - a. Votes – 19 YES's & 1 Abstention (Approved)
 - 3) The Housing Committee voted unanimously in favor of sending a letter of support to Azimuth Development Group for their new mixed-use development, "The Bedford", located at 3160-66 Webster Avenue, between 204th Street and 205th Street
 - a) Motion approved with 1 Abstention (Nelson Cruz, who wished to be noted)
- IV) Borough President's Office Report by Andy Toledo:
- A) Invite to the Official Celebration of Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month on 10/17/12 at 6:00pm at the Bronx Zoo
- V) Budget Priorities:
- A) Capital and Expense Priorities and requests were distributed for review and discussion
 - 1) Votes to accept – 13 YES's, 3 NO's and 1 Abstention
 - B) Expense Budget:
 - 1) Approved Unanimously
- VI) Elected Officials Reports:
- A) Timothy Tapia, Councilman Cabrera's Office:
 - 1) Complimented the Board about the Public Forum regarding the Armory held on 10/11/12
 - 2) Reported that the Councilman met with the Parks Commissioner last week to discuss Capital projects in the district. One of the topics discussed was the refurbishing of St. James Park's basketball court
 - 3) Stated that the Councilman supports the idea of creating a soccer field at St. James Park, and is interested in making it happen



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- 4) The Councilman visited Poe Park greenmarket on October 2nd, and handed out 300 dollars in "Health Bucks" to the community to encourage healthy eating habits. He plans on partnering with the Health Department to give out more "Health Bucks" in the coming months
 - 5) Informed that the office has a FREE immigration lawyer in the office every Wednesday
 - B) Maryann Rosa, NYS Senator's Office:
 - 1) Announced Community Civic Classes at Belmont Library, located at 610 E. 186th Street (At Hughes Avenue) from 6:30-7:30pm on 10/11/12, 10/18/12, 10/25/12, 11/1/12
 - C) George Diaz, Councilman Koppell's Office:
 - 1) The Councilman passes a Koppell-Sponsored Bill tightening commercial cycling rules
 - 2) Koppell sponsored a community shred event
 - 3) Reported on the access to public accommodations facilitated for disabled
 - 4) Speed hump installed at Reservoir Oval, near Holt's Place (entrance of the Williamsbridge Oval)
 - 5) DFTA Selects all senior centers in Koppell's district for continued funding
 - D) Rosa Luna, Assemblyman Nelson Castro's Office:
 - 1) There will be a community conversation on housing, safety, education, healthcare, immigration and senior citizen issues. It will be held on Tuesday, October 30th, 2012 at Davidson Community Center, located at 2038 Davidson Avenue, in the Bronx
- VII) Meeting adjourned at 9:41pm