



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

### COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

PAUL FOSTER, CHAIRMAN

## GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### Tuesday, February 19, 2013 @ 6:30 P.M.

Meeting held at: Tracey Towers ♦ 40 W. Mosholu Pkway. South ♦ Bronx, NY 10468

- I. Paul Foster opened the meeting at 6:40 P.M. The Public Session began with the following speakers:
  - A. Colleen Jackson, West End Services and True Colors:
    1. Her organization is planning to build a 30 unit apt. building for LGBT youth at 2808 Park View Terrace. (Jerome Ave.) She requested a letter of support from the board
  - B. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz:
    1. In support of increasing the maximum wage to \$8.75.
    2. Governor Cuomo will be at Lehman for a mini State of the State address on 2/20/13.
    3. He is working to obtain public access to paths around the Jerome Park Reservoir.
    4. A slow zone is being proposed on the streets around the Oval Park.
  - C. Michael Lambert, Executive Director, Jerome Avenue BID:
    1. Described events taking place along the shopping strip.
    2. Announced that Montefiore was hosting a "Chef's Touch Event" on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00PM. The event would feature healthy cooking demonstrations.
  - D. Kevin Woodhouse, New York Yankees Community Council:
    1. Presented awards of \$750 to two students who excelled in leadership and volunteer work (Marcos Feliciano and Chanel Whittington)
  - E. Andrew Cohen, Community Board #8 Member:
    1. Informed the Tracy Towers' tenants that Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj is aware of their problems with heat and hot water and is addressing these issues.
  - F. Councilman Oliver Koppell:
    1. Provided information on the NYC budget process.
    2. Discussed the need to move power lines underground.
    3. He has arranged for a meeting with HPD regarding the problems at Tracy Towers.
  - G. Inspector Dowling, 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct:
    1. Violence is down in the precinct.
    2. Robberies have increased; a rape took place at the Laundromat on Webster Ave. and 205<sup>th</sup> St. A suspect has been identified.
    3. He introduced Sergeant Cavanaugh, the new 4-12 Conditions Unit Sergeant.



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- H. Mr. Marlin Molina, Bronx Volunteer Coalition:
1. Announced a May exhibit at the Bronx Museum of the Arts to highlight projects completed by Bronx volunteer groups. Groups interested can receive more information at [www.bxvc.org](http://www.bxvc.org)
- I. David Cruz, Bronx Times Reporter:
1. Requested stories and news items be sent to him.
- J. Judy Sheridan Gonzalez, representing the nurses at Montefiore Hospital:
1. Thanked Paul Foster and the board for their help in improving some of the conditions at the emergency room.
  2. Discussed patients' rights in the emergency room.
  3. She is working for legislation to provide a safe ratio of nurses to patients.
- K. Cliff Stanton, Community Activist:
1. Has extended his free transportation program for seniors to Bedford Park, Norwood and Mosholu.
  2. He is working for legislation to install security cameras in all NYC public schools.
- L. Bruce Kaufman, Community Board #7 member and Community Resident:
1. Complained about the increase cost of parking (40 percent) at the municipal garage on Jerome Avenue and Gun Hill Rd. Councilman Koppell requested that he call his office since new letters would be sent out to parkers at this site. The original increase stated has been reduced. Refunds will be given to those who have already paid the new amount.
- II. The public session ended at 7:40 P.M.
- A. Attendance was taken and a quorum was present.
- III. Budget Hearing:
- A. Andrew Laiosa, Chair of the Budget Committee, opened the hearing on the Preliminary Budget Requests for FY'14.
- B. Aaron Bouska, VP for Government and Community Relations at the NY Botanical Garden spoke about the need to restore government cutbacks to cultural institutions.
- C. Mr. Laiosa announced that the next Budget/Personnel Committee meeting was scheduled for Thurs. 2/21 at 6:30 P.M.
- IV. MOTIONS:
- A. Mr. Foster moved the meeting to address the four pending motions.
1. **Motion #1** was presented by Hector Lopez: The sum of \$4,000 is to be set aside in a special events category of our budget for fiscal year 2014. This amount will cover any expenses incurred for the holiday tree lighting. **Motion was unanimously approved**



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2. **Motion #2** was presented by Walter Bell: To send a letter of support on behalf of the Women's Empowerment Self Defense Academy's (WESDA) application for a Byrnes Grant. **Motion was approved**
  3. **Motion #3** was addressed by Jean Hill: To send a letter of support to HPD stating that Community Board #7 is in favor of the proposed housing to be built for LGBT young people at 198th St. and Jerome Avenue. **The motion was approved with one abstention (William Francis)**
  4. **Motion #4** was presented by Lowell Green: To send a letter to support the honorary co-naming of Villa Ave. between Bedford Park Blvd and East 204th Street to "St. Philip Neri Way." **The motion was approved**
  5. **Motion #5** was presented by Chris Singh: To send a letter of support to the NYC Public Design Commission, on behalf of the New York Botanical Garden, in support of their Green Zone application. **The motion was approved with one abstention (Nilsa Cintron Hernandez)**
- V. District Manager's Report by Tom Lucania:
- A. A District Service Cabinet Meeting was recently held. The minutes will be forwarded to all board members.
  - B. Flu Shots will be administered at the Board office on Thursday 2/21 from 10:00A.M.-1:00 P.M.
  - C. The last day of service for board members who are not re-appointed or did not re-apply is 3/31/13.
  - D. A new district manager will be hired soon.
- VI. Agenda and January's minutes were approved.
- VII. Committee Reports:
- A. Budget/Personnel by Andrew Laiosa:
    1. Announced that the next meeting is scheduled for 2/21 at 6:30 PM.
  - B. Parks' and Recreation by William Francis:
    1. Announced that the letter of support for transforming the tennis courts at St. James Park to a soccer area would be sent to the Parks' Dept.
  - C. Traffic & Transportation by Lowell Green:
    1. Stated that her next meeting on 3/14 will consist of a presentation on the SBS #41 bus route with emphasis on the area from Fordham Rd. to Gun Hill Rd. She also announced that funding was being sought for a bus route to La Guardia airport.
  - D. Housing by Jean Hill:
    1. Reaffirmed her committees support for the True Colors housing project on Jerome Avenue.



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- E. Environment and Sanitation by Helene Hartman:
  - 1. Stated that the testing at the former site of P.S. 51 was complete. The apartment house next door did not contain any toxic materials. Remediation of the school site will begin soon. Legislation is being proposed to make sure that testing on school leased sites is done before the space is used.
- F. Economic Development by Andrew Laiosa:
  - 1. Has scheduled the next meeting for Wed. 2/27 at 10:30 A.M. The Kingsbridge Road Merchants' Association and The Fordham Road BID are on the agenda.
- G. Youth / Public Safety & Quality of Life by Walter Bell:
  - 1. Discussed the dangers of the hookah bars which seem to be increasing in the area. He is also following up with the proposal to establish youth sports leagues in each community board.

#### VIII. Elected Officials' Reports:

- A. George Diaz, Representing Councilman Oliver Koppell, announced the meeting on Obama Care which is slated for Sat. 2/23 at Hostos College. He also announced the web resource site for information on NYC colleges. It is available at NYCCollegeLine.org
- B. Tom Lucania representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.:
  - 1. He would be sending board members a synopsis of the BP's State of the Borough speech.
  - 2. He also announced the Dominican Heritage Celebration on 2/20 at Grand Slam located at 478 E. Tremont Ave.
  - 3. A Health Summit would take place at Fordham University on 4/6/13.
  - 4. Anyone opposing the sale of the Post Office building on the Grand Concourse and 149<sup>th</sup> St. should contact the Postmaster General. Andrew Laiosa proposed the following Motion:
    - a. **MOTION:** Send a letter to the Postmaster General stating that CB#7 is opposed to the sale of the Bronx General Post Office building on the Grand Concourse and East 149<sup>th</sup> St. The Bronx will be the only borough without a 24/7 facility. **The motion was approved with 10 in favor, 5 opposed, and one abstention.**
- C. Timothy Tapia representing Councilman Cabrera:
  - 1. Thanked Helene Hartman for bringing the situation at PS 51 to his attention. He is working on legislation to prevent this situation from happening again.
  - 2. Free tax preparation will be available on 3/2 from 9:00-5:00PM.
  - 3. The Councilman will be honoring Keith Beauchamp for his investigation of the murder of Emmett Till.
  - 4. Groups interested in funding for projects should contact the councilman's office for an application.
  - 5. Councilman Cabrera thanks Paul Foster for his work on the CBA for the armory.



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D. Maryann Rosa representing Senator Gustavo Rivera:

1. Free tax preparation is available on 2/28, and 3/26.
2. The Senator reached out to the State Dept. of Health regarding the review of sites for leases.

E. Christine Capetillo representing Councilman Joel Rivera:

1. Funding is available for not-for-profit groups. Interested parties should contact Albert Alvarez at the Councilman's office.

IX. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.