



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

DUSTIN ENGELKEN, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014 @ 6:30 PM

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

- I) Public Session began with the following speakers:
- A) Sophia Welbeck and Ed Hill, Mayor's Office:
 - 1) Spoke about domestic violence and the Mayor's Office initiative to combat violence the home
 - B) Dilletta Pina, Board Member:
 - 1) Talked about the Walkathon, which is scheduled for May 31st at the Williamsbridge Oval. Prizes will be given out
 - C) John Raughudell, Consumer Affairs:
 - 1) He spoke on the Paid Sick Leave for employees who are not covered by law. The Department of Consumer Affairs is sponsoring trainings for the public, so that they may become more intelligent on the issue
 - D) Andrew Cohen, NYC Councilman:
 - 1) Talked about a visit from PS 94 to his office at City Hall
 - 2) Members of the council are still working on the Budget
 - E) Victor Pichardo, Assemblyman:
 - 1) Reported on the highlights of the budget
 - 2) Mentioned the approval of UPK
 - 3) Dream Act will be on the Agenda again in the Assembly
 - 4) SCRIE was increased to \$50,000 from \$26,000 for seniors
 - 5) FREE citizenship application assistance will be provided on May 31st from 11am – 2pm at 1861 Anthony Avenue
 - 6) The Assemblyman's office is located at 2175 Jerome Avenue. Constituents can call 718-933-6909
 - F) Bridget Bartolini, 5-Borough Story Project:
 - 1) There will be an event about story-telling and music at St. James Park on June 21st
 - G) Jane Addison-Amoyaw, Mosholu Branch Library:
 - 1) Spoke about the free programs offered by the library; i.e. belly dancing, science workshop and Doo-Wop concert
 - H) Captain Rock Wright, 52nd Precinct:
 - 1) Spoke about carelessness regarding the use of credit cards
 - 2) Mentioned speed zones throughout the precinct. Grand Concourse speed signs to be posted
 - 3) Officer Cortez spoke about recent shootings in the community
 - 4) Flyers for rewards for recovery of firearms proved successful
 - 5) The Bronx Week Parade and its success was mentioned
 - 6) There will be a Health Event on Saturday at 11am – 4pm
 - 7) A rodeo event at the Armory is scheduled for Saturday between 7pm – 3am
 - 8) The precinct council meeting will be on Thursday, May 22, 2014 at POTS



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

DUSTIN ENGELKEN, DISTRICT MANAGER

- 9) The question about picking up after your dog was raised and the police are taking action on this condition
- 10) The question of traffic accidents stats was raised and the Captain claims that the precinct is aware of the issue and has the stats which will be shared
- 11) Canine violations signs are being requested
- I) David Cruz, Norwood News:
 - 1) Introduced himself as the new editor. He can be reached at 718-324-4998 or 914-698-6216
 - 2) A story in the Norwood news about Westchester Square was questioned because it was not located in Norwood
- J) Shanequa Charles, Community Resident:
 - 1) Will be testifying about rent freeze before the Rent Guidelines Board on June 12 at Hostos Community College
- K) Lilyanna Pekic, Mark Gjonaj's Office:
 - 1) There will be a job fair on June 27 at 3pm – 7pm. Further details to follow
 - 2) Spoke about the situation in Bosnia and the organizations who are seeking assistance for the refugees in Bosnia who are fleeing the flooded countryside
- L) Jake Sporn, Jeffrey Dinowitz' Office:
 - 1) Passed a bill about utilities and utility companies and their responsibilities
- M) Michael Walrond:
 - 1) Spoke about the upcoming primary and himself as a candidate for Congress in 13th Congressional District. He can be reached at 917-605-0488
- N) Michael Roeder, Community Resident:
 - 1) Spoke about graffiti in the area and some ideas to obliterate the situation
- O) Bruce Kaufman, Board Member:
 - 1) Issue about the lack of parking in the community and the dangers that occur when parking in scarce. He suggested zones to help clear up the number of cars who come into the community instead of using public transportation
- P) Joshua Cortez, Councilman Cabrera's Office:
 - 1) Bike Helmet distribution event to be held on June 9th at 2100 Walton Avenue
 - 2) There will be a Fair on May 24, at 11am – 4pm at St. James Park
- Q) Genesis Aquino, Councilman Ritchie Torres Office:
 - 1) No updates were provided
- R) Rachel Ferrari, Gustavo Rivera's Office:
 - 1) Reported on the Senator's activities and sponsored projects
 - 2) Constituents can call the office at 718-933-2034
- S) Andy Toledo, Borough President's Office:
 - 1) Spoke about the events of Bronx Week and Congratulated all who attended
 - 2) Letter for re-appointments to go out this week
 - 3) Vision Zero Town Hall Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 22 at Lehman 6pm – 8pm
- T) Timothy Tapia, Public Advocate's Office:
 - 1) Can be reached at 212-669-4102
 - 2) The Public Advocate will be visiting Tracey Towers on May 27
 - 3) Requesting 1000 more police officers



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

DUSTIN ENGELKEN, DISTRICT MANAGER

II) Public Session ended at 8:00pm and the meeting began

- A) Attendance taken
 - 1) Quorum present
- B) Approval of Agenda and Minutes
 - 1) Approved unanimously

III) Committee Reports:

- A) Economic Development by Eleanor Lundeen:
 - 1) Eleanor spoke about the letter to be sent to the MTA regarding retail space at the Fordham "D/B" station. The Committee proposed adding retail stores for those who use the train station specifically local residents
 - 2) **MOTION** to send a letter to waive action on the Fordham BID expansion
 - (a) Motion was approved with 1 Abstention by Nelson Cruz who wishes to be noted
 - 3) **MOTION** to send a letter of inquiry to the MTA regarding retail space at the Fordham "D/B" station
 - (a) Motion was approved unanimously
- B) Health & Hospitals:
 - 1) A Committee Member, Cynthia O'Neal Riley requested that a motion from their committee be recognized
 - 2) **MOTION** to host a "Back to School Health Fair" on Saturday, September 6, 2014 from 11am-4pm on E. 204th Street, between Mosholu Parkway and the Grand Concourse. The Committee further requests that Saturday, September 13, 2014 be held as a possible rain date
 - (a) Motion approved unanimously
- C) Budget / Personnel & Ethics by Andrew Laiosa:
 - 1) There will be a meeting on May 29th
- D) Education & Youth Services by Bruce Kaufman:
 - 1) No reports were provided at this time
- E) Environment & Sanitation by Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky:
 - 1) PS 51 United will continue the fight to obliterate contamination in our school buildings
 - 2) Speaker from POTS talked about littering and loitering
- F) Housing / Land Use & Zoning by Jean Hill:
 - 1) The Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21
 - 2) Reported on issues at 3226 Grand Concourse & 3160 Webster Avenue
- G) Parks & Recreation by Barbara Stronczer:
 - 1) Talked about the presentation about the Van Cortlandt expansion and updates
- H) Public Safety / Quality of Life by John Snider:
 - 1) Spoke about issues in the community and especially at 2922 Grand Concourse
 - 2) Webster Avenue noise complaints will be addressed at the next meeting

IV) Chairperson's Report by Adaline Walker-Santiago:

- A) Yankee awards were presented at Yankee Stadium
- B) Remarks on the parade were made
- C) Councilman Ritchie Torres was introduced
 - 1) Spoke about the budget and the need for 1000 more police personnel



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

DUSTIN ENGELKEN, DISTRICT MANAGER

- 2) Talked about the Universal Pre-K
 - 3) Affordable housing was talked about
 - 4) After school program was discussed
 - 5) Mention Senior Services
 - 6) The Councilman is proposing the following:
 - (a) Quality Housing Act to be introduced for affordable housing and fines against landlords who do not correct violations
 - (b) Properties that are abandoned, and/or are in disrepair and have been left by the landlord to be developed
 - 7) Entertained questions from the Board Members on housing issues
- V) Executive Committee Report:
- A) Spoke about letters to absentee CB Members
- VI) District Manager's Report by Dustin Engelken:
- A) Introduced himself and thanked the members who attended the parade
 - B) Bedford Park ConEdison construction is complete
 - C) Kingsbridge Road elevator to open June or July
 - D) Barbequing in Mosholu Parkway will be monitored
- VII) Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm