



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, September 16, 2014 @ 6:30 PM

Held at: Bronx Library Center ♦ 310 East Kingsbridge ♦ Bronx, New York 10458

- I. Public Session began at 6:30pm with the following speakers:
- A. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz:
 - 1. Spoke about the changes in SCRIE program for Seniors who are 62 and over who live in rent control, rent stabilized and Mitchell-Lama apartments. Seniors can now have an income up to \$50,000 to qualify for a rent freeze. Changes were also made in the DRCIE program so that more individuals may qualify for rent freezes
 - 2. Universal Pre-K for all is up and running
 - B. Councilman Andrew Cohen:
 - 1. Announced he was providing funding for a skateboard park to be built in Willismbridge Oval Park
 - 2. He is working with the 52nd Pct. to get "Shot Spotter" for the Precinct. This system is antenna system that can locate where a gunshot comes from
 - 3. Mentioned many area programs that he has provided funds to
 - C. Michael Alvarez, Chief Librarian, Bronx Library Center:
 - 1. The library is having a Job Fair with 22 organizations participating. The fair will be held on September 17, 2014
 - 2. Consitution day individuals will be reading the Constitution of the United States of America from 6:00-8:00pm
 - 3. For 2016 Budget Capital Requests, he is requesting the following:
 - a. Mosholu Library needs funding so it can run 6-days-a-week program
 - b. Bronx Library Center is in need of a new phone system
 - D. Chairperson Adaline Walker:
 - 1. Introduced District Manager, Dustin Engelken as well as the office staff, Maria Baez and Lony Ramirez
 - E. Charlotte Walker, Community Resident:
 - 1. Thanked the Community Board for its efforts in helping to reduce a noise problem she was having
 - F. William Francis, Board Member:
 - 1. Talked about the Participatory Budgetting Process that Council Member Cohen and Torres were involved with. This process is where local residents get a say in what capital projects should be funded in the community . The Council Members have 1 Million dollars each for community selected projects. Community Residents need to voice their project requests
 - G. Senator Gustavo Rivera:
 - 1. Thanked the Community who voted for him during the Primary Election. His office is located at 2432 Grand Concourse; 5th Floor



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2. Announced a new program from the NYS Department of Labor where a department specialist will help individuals with job placement as well as resume writing
3. A Department of Labor specialist is at the Senator's Office on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 6pm. In addition, there is a specialist at the Community Board Office on Fridays from 10am to 4pm
- H. Ralph Beck, Community Resident:
 1. Spoke on public safety concerns
- I. P.O. Sanchez, 52nd Precinct (Auxiliary Police Coordinator) on behalf of Inspector Hoffman:
 1. Talked about the Auxiliary Police Program which is an extra set of eyes and ears for the Precinct. Anyone over 18 can apply for the program. Contact 718-220-5824 for more information
- J. Shanequa Charles, Board Member:
 1. Thanked all who participated in the Decatur Avenue Rally last week
 2. Announced the 2nd Annual Miss Abbie's Halloween Extravaganza Health Fair for October 31, 2014 from 11am to 5pm on Decatur Avenue (between Fordham and 193rd Street)
- K. Andrew Laiosa, Board Member:
 1. Asked about the status of the Coles Lane Project. The Traffic & Transportation Chairperson will ask DOT about the project
- L. A.J. Ribustello, Board of Elections:
 1. Spoke on the need for people to register to vote by October 10, 2014 if they wish to vote on the upcoming general election. The Board of Elections Office is located at 1780 Grand Concourse (between 174th Street and 175th Street). Their phone number is (718) 299-9017
 2. In response to a question: A nursing home has to have 25 voters for an on-site vote. Less than 25 voters, then absentee ballots can be used
- M. Rubin Valdez, Community Resident:
 1. Talked about the lack of parks in his neighborhood. There is a vacant lot a Decatur Avenue and Oliver Place which he would like to become a park. This matter was referred to Parks Committee
- N. Izetta Hargett, Community Resident:
 1. Would like assistance in forming a tenants association for her apartment building. Board Member Jean Hill said she would talk with her after the meeting
- II. Public Session ended at 7:35pm and the meeting began:
 - A. Attendance taken
 1. Members present include: Mohammed Ali, Lynette Arroyo, Alora Bailey, Nilsa Cintron, Shanequa Charles, Gregory Clarke, Sr., Sandra Erickson, Nora Feury, William Francis, Fidel Gomez, Carlos Gonzalez, Lowell Green, Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Jean Hill, Bruce Kaufman, Andrew Laiosa, Samelys Lopez, Eleanor Lundeen, Kevin Miner, Cynthia O'Neal-Riley, Kevin Pellet, Ellen R. Ray,



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Charlesetta Rhett, Velvet Ross, Khadijaha Saeed, Marcos Sierra, John Snider, Barbara Stronczer, Adaline Walker-Santiago, Jermaine Johnson

2. Excused Members include: Nelson Cruz, Edward DeJesus, Dilletta Pina

3. Absent (Unexcused) Members include: Walter Bell, Gloria Bent, Paul Foster, Alfred Grant, Luis Miguel Guzman, Amjad Mujaahid, Ruben Torres

4. Members with leave of absence include: Lisa Sills-Short

B. Quorum present

III. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

A. Unanimously approved

IV. MOTION (Presented and Seconded):

A. "Community Board 7 of the Bronx hereby votes in favor of the removal of Mr. Walter Bell from the Board in accordance with CB7 By-Laws, Article 4, due to three consecutive absences from the General Board Meetings and absences for more than half of the Committee Meetings. Mr. Bell was notified by Certified Mail as well as called about this matter but never responded to the Board's numerous attempts to contact him."

1. 26 Members voted for the motion

2. 0 "No" votes

3. 3 Abstentions

4. Motion carried

a. The Budget / Personnel & Ethics Committee will write a letter to Mr. Bell as well as the Borough President

V. Chairperson's Report by Adaline Walker-Santiago:

A. Welcomed all new Members

B. Announced that new gates, new awning, and a closed circuit security system has been installed at the Community Board Office

C. The Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Priorities and Request Form is available to be filled out and returned to the Office by Friday, October 3, 2014

VI. District Manager's Report by Dustin Engelken:

A. Reported that CB7's website has been updated and that the Board has an Active Facebook account, www.facebook.com/bronxcommunityboard7

B. Mr. Engelken is available to help Members fill out the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Priorities and Requests form

VII. Committee Reports:

A. Budget / Personnel & Ethics by Andrew Laiosa:

1. The Community Board will be taking attendance at the General Board Meeting as well as Committee Meetings very seriously this year

B. Community Relations / Long Term Planning by Fidel Gomez:

1. The Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month

2. The Committee will be planning for future (10-years from now)

3. Some projects are the Old Fordham Library Site and the development of Webster Avenue at Gun Hill Road

C. Economic Development by Eleanor Lundeen:

1. The Committee will meet with Community Relations and Long Term Planning



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2. The Committee is looking at Economic Development of Webster Avenue and Gun Hill Road by the Bronx River Parkway as well as the B/D Subway Station at Fordham Road
- D. Education / Libraries & Youth Services by Bruce Kaufman:
 1. The Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of the month
- E. Environment & Sanitation by Helene Hartman – Kutnowsky:
 1. The Committee is working on Dog Waste concerns
 2. The Committee is involved with creating new signs for picking-up after your dog as well as creating bags for dog waste
 3. An event for dog owners is being worked on
- F. Housing / Land Use & Zoning by Jean Hill:
 1. The Committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month
 2. The Board would like to see market as well as affordable housing in the Community
- G. Health & Hospitals by Khadijaha Saeed:
 1. The Committee is supporting a motion that CB7 Members volunteer time to help out at a soup kitchen during the holiday season
 2. Also, the Committee is working on a coat drive for the Community
- H. Parks & Recreation by Barbara Stronczer:
 1. CB7 has 11 parks
 2. A number of concerns were raised about conditions in local parks. These conditions will be addressed at the next committee meeting
 3. The Committee meets the last Wednesday of the month
- I. Public Safety and Quality of Life by John Snider:
 1. The Committee meets on the 1st Thursday of the month
 2. The Chair talked about several NYC Police Department programs:
 - a. Child Safety Program that provides parents with a photo and DNA material of their child. The information stays in the system until the child turns 18 years old
 - b. Senior Safety Program that helps seniors stay safe
 - c. Anti-Bullying Program that is aimed for schools
- J. Senior Services by Nora Feury:
 1. The Committee meets on the last Wednesday of the month
- K. Traffic & Transportation by Lowell Green:
 1. The Chair asked members to check their neighborhoods for space that can be returned to parking
 2. All traffic and transportation concerns should be put in writing with exact location noted
 3. The elevators at the B/D Kingsbridge Subway Station should be operational by the end of October
 4. The Bronx High School of Science is requesting Councilman Cohen support the re-naming of the block between Goulden Avenue and Paul Avenue on 205th



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Street to read "Bronx Science Boulevard". The school is the only building on the block

5. The Committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month

VIII. Elected Official Reports:

A. Borough President's Office by Andy Toledo:

1. Announced a program for Senior and Bronxites with disabilities on "Help freezing your rent or reduce your homeowners costs" on Wednesday, September 24, 2014 from 11am to 2pm at the Bronx Library Center, located at 310 East Kingsbridge Road
2. Spoke about the "Gun Buy Back" program to be held at 3 area churches on September 20, 2014 from 10am to 4pm

B. Congressman Charles Rangel's Office by Wenbo Wong:

1. The Congressman is in support of the Presidents executive action to cap the interest rate at 10% of people's income for student loan pay back. This program would make it easier to pay off the debt

C. Councilman Fernando Cabrera's Office by Joshua Cortes:

1. The Councilman is working on getting a Tenants Bill of Rights through the City Council

D. Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj's Office by Nathalia Fernandez:

1. Invited all to the October 12th Columbus Day Parade

IX. New Business:

- A. The Jerome / Gun Hill BID is having a Street Fair on September 20th from 11am to 6pm at Gun Hill Road and Jerome Avenue

X. Meeting adjourned by voice vote at 8:45pm