



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

Monday, December 15, 2014 @ 6:30 PM

Meeting held at ◇ Mosholu Montefiore Community Center ◇ 3450 Dekalb Avenue ◇ Bronx, NY 10468

- I) Public Session began at 6:30 pm with the following speakers:
- A) Sasha Rivers, area resident:
 - 1) Spoke about Oliver Place and the need to improve the location
 - B) Sallie Young, area resident:
 - 1) Spoke about Oliver Place and the need of a safe place for kids to play
 - C) Kwami Avity of Keyowner Engineering:
 - 1) Spoke about his company located at 18 East 199 St. 3B. Phone 646-737-5484
 - D) William Francis, CB7 member:
 - 1) Invited all to a Gospel Christmas Celebration given by his church on December 19, 2014 at 7:30 pm at Baruch College
 - 2) He is taking photos for free at Senior Citizen Centers for the Holidays courtesy of City Councilman Cabrera's office. Call the Community Board office at 718- 933-5650 if interested.
 - E) Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz:
 - 1) Spoke about scams that are going on. He informed the body that the IRS and Con Edison do not call people and require immediate payment of outstanding bills. Green dot cards should be treated as cash so do not give out ID number
 - 2) Reminded the body to buy safe and appropriately aged toys for children especially at this time of the year
 - F) Ronald Martinez from the STAGG Group:
 - 1) Spoke about apartments that will be available for rent on Webster Avenue starting in January 2015. There will be studios (starting at \$1,300) as well as one bedrooms (starting at \$1,400) for rent. Renters will be responsible for paying for heat and electricity. 25 apartments will be picked by HDP lottery. There is a laundry room in the building but no parking. Commercial space on street level is available for rent
 - G) Inspector Hoffman from 52nd Precinct:
 - 1) With the cold weather individuals are starting their cars to warm up and leaving them with engines running and going back up stairs. Cars are being stolen-thieves are on the lookout for empty running cars. In response to last month's request for information/arrests under the Vision Zero traffic enforcement program, the following summonses were issued:
 - (a) Bus Stop - 82
 - (b) Crosswalks - 31
 - (c) Double Parking - 116
 - (d) Cell Phone - 21
 - (e) Disobey Sign - 58
 - (f) Fail to Yield to Pedestrians - 14
 - (g) Improper Turn - 41
 - (h) Red Light - 46
 - (i) Speeding - 92
 - (j) Texting - 0



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- 2) Question was asked if there were any arrest/summons for animal cruelty. The inspector said she would look into it
- 3) The precinct will receive 12 new officers from this year's graduating class. These new officers will partner up with an experience officer who will act as a mentor
- H) Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj:
 - 1) Spoke on the need for jobs for community residents and said his office will accept resumes to hold
- II) Public Session ended at 7:20pm and Barbara Stronczer, 1st Vice Chair opened and chaired the meeting for excused Chair Adaline Walker-Santiago
 - A) Attendance taken, quorum present
 - 1) Members in attendance include: Lynette Arroyo, Alora Bailey, Nilsa Cintron, Shanequa Charles, Gregory Clarke, Sr., Nelson Cruz, Edward DeJesus, Sandra Erickson, Paul Foster, William Francis, Lowell Green, Helen Hartman-Kutnowsky, Jean Hill, Jermaine Johnson, Andrew Laiosa, Samelys Lopez, Eleanor Lundeen, Kevin Miner, Dilletta Pina, Ellen R. Ray, Velvet Ross, Khadijaha Saeed, Marcos Sierra, John Snider, Barbara Stronczer
 - 2) Excused members include: Gloria Bent, Nora Feury, Carlos Gonzalez, Amjad Mujaahid, Cynthia O'Neal-Riley, Charlesetta Rhett, , Adaline Walker-Santiago
 - 3) Absent (Unexcused) members include: Mohammed S. Ali, Alfred Grant, Luis Miguel Guzman, Bruce Kaufman, Kevin Pellot, Lisa Sills-Short, Ruben Torres
 - B) Minutes and Agenda approved
- III) Chairperson's Report by Barbara Stronczer:
 - A) She thanked the District Manager and the office staff, in particular Londy Ramirez for a wonderful Tree Lighting Event that was well received by the community
 - B) **MOTIONS:**
 - 1) Presented by the Parks Committee:
 - (a) The Parks' Committee recommends that the Board approve the design work for the conversion of three tennis courts at St. James Park to a soccer field
 - i) **MOTION** passed
 - (b) The Parks' Committee recommends that the Board approve the design work for Whalen Park with the following additions:
 - Install several games tables on the passive recreation side of the park
 - Increase to 3 feet the fencing along the back side of the park. The higher fence would grant better protection to the shrubs and plantings
 - To create a "setting"
 - i) **MOTION** passed
 - 2) Presented by Housing/Land Use & Zoning Committee:
 - (a) The Housing Committee recommends that the Board send a letter to the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) requesting a timeline for the closure of the scatter site shelter at 15-19 W. Mosholu Parkway North. The letter should also request that DHS place peace officers at the site until the facility has been closed
 - i) **MOTION** passed
- IV) Executive Committee Report by Barbara Stronczer:
 - A) CB7 submitted 5 names for the NY Yankee's Leadership Award
 - B) Approved ordering metal "Pick-Up After Your Dog" signs. These signs can only be posted on private property



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V) District Manager Report by Dustin Engelken:

- A) A NY State Department of Labor representative will be in the CB7 office one day a week to help individuals find jobs. Call CB7's office for more information 718-933-5650

VI) Committee Reports:

- A) Budget/Personnel/Ethics by Andrew Laiosa:
 - 1) The Committee sent out 2 letters about poor attendance. As of this date there has been no reply. Committee will meet in January
- B) Community Relations & Long Term Planning by Fidel Gomez:
 - 1) No report was provided at this time
- C) Economic Development by Eleanor Lundeen:
 - 1) The merchants on East 198th St. are looking into forming a business association. They will be coming to the January 14th committee meeting
- D) Education/Libraries/Cultural Affairs & Youth Services by Edward De Jesus:
 - 1) The charter school "School in the Middle" made a presentation at the November meeting
- E) Environment & Sanitation by Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky:
 - 1) In January, new regulations about the dispose of electronic items go into effect. Information flyer was available
 - 2) The Committee Chair attended a workshop on how animals can become service animals for the mentally ill
- F) Health & Hospitals by Khadijaha Saeed:
 - 1) The Labor and Delivery Unit is fully operational at North Central Bronx Hospital
- G) Housing / Land Use & Zoning by Jean Hill:
 - 1) The Bowery Residents Committee (BRC) wants to build a 135 unit on Landing Place. The building would have two floors of temporary housing with a separate entrance and the other permanent studio units would have another entrance
- H) Parks & Recreations by Barbara Stronczer:
 - 1) Parks Department wants to finish project sooner. They will try to finish the St. James Park Project 450 days after BID is received. At the January 28th committee meeting, Oliver Place will be discussed
- I) Public Safety & Quality of Life by John Snider:
 - 1) The next Committee Meeting will be held on December 4
 - 2) Administration for Children Services (ACS) is working on a new program for youthful offenders that will use the building at East 210th Street and Bainbridge Avenue
- J) Senior Services by William Francis:
 - 1) Mr. Francis has a free DVD program available regarding Senior Abuse. If anyone suspects abuse, you can call 311 and file a complaint (anonymous if you want) with Adult Protective Services
- K) Traffic & Transportation by Lowell Green:
 - 1) A hand out on Speed Bump requirements is available

VII) New Business:

- A) City Councilman Fernando Cabrera's Office by Anthony Springer:
 - 1) Wished the body Happy Holidays. Informed everyone that there will be a Prayer Walk for Justice at City Hall on Tuesday December 16, 2014 at 6:30-7:30 pm
 - 2) Veterans' job fair on January 28, 2015 at Jerome Public Library and a job fair on January 30, 2015 at Francis Martin Library
 - 3) Application for city council funds will be on line the end of January



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- B) State Senator's Jeffrey D. Klein's Office by Jennifer Rosado:
 - 1) The Senator is working to make sure that NYCHA accepts applications from domestic abuse victims. Reminded the body to purchase safe toys
 - C) City Councilman Richie Torres' Office by Ronn Jordan:
 - 1) There will be a press conference at Oliver Place on Friday December 19, 2014 at 10:00 am
 - 2) The office has help available for immigration and domestic abuse issues. Office number is 718-842-8570 for more information
 - D) Borough President's Office by Andy Toledo:
 - 1) Applications for Community Boards members are now available. Anyone 16 years or older who lives in NYC can apply for the Board
 - E) Public Advocate's Office by Timothy Tapia:
 - 1) There is a trial project of police wearing body cameras starting soon. The photo material would be controlled by an outside organization; not police regulated
 - 2) A list of the worst landlords in the city is online, listed by zip code
 - 3) There is a need to have nail salons inspected
 - F) State Senator Gustavo Rivera's office by Rachel Ferrari:
 - 1) Thanked everyone who contributed to the Senator's medical supplies event
 - 2) Please contact the office at 718-933-2034 for help on housing concerns
- VIII) Meeting adjourned by voice vote at 8:30 pm