



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, February 17, 2015 @ 6:30 PM

Meeting held at: Scott Towers ♦ 3400 Paul Avenue ♦ Community Room ♦ Bronx, NY 10468

- I) Opening and welcome:
 - A) The Chair Adaline Walker-Santiago welcomed everyone
 - B) She explained that each public session speaker would have 2 minutes to talk and could only answer 2 questions
- II) Elected Officials' / City Representatives' Reports:
 - A) Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz :
 - 1) He said that School District 10 does not have enough classroom space. He is focusing efforts on educational concerns
 - 2) Thanked the Community Board 7 Members for their volunteer work for the community
 - B) Elvin Garcia from the Mayor's Office:
 - 1) The Mayor is in favor of more affordable housing. There is a move to build new housing units
 - 2) People in housing court are in need of legal assistance
 - 3) The murder rate is down for the second year in a row
 - 4) Mayor wants to increase per-kindergarten seats. Applications are being taken at the Fordham Library Center for the new NYC ID. But due to the popularity of the ID, there is a long waiting time for a processing appointment
 - C) Inspector Hofmann, Commander of 52nd Precinct:
 - 1) A person has been arrested for the killing of a man in New Jersey but whose body was found in a car on East 211th Street and Tryon Avenue
 - 2) A shooting on East 211th and Hull Avenue is under investigation and a person is wanted in regards to a shooting at 204th Street and Villa Avenue
 - 3) Robberies are up; a daytime gang is responsible, therefore additional patrols are being sent out
 - 4) It was stressed that people keep phones safe and out of sight
 - 5) There are six new officers in the precinct and they are working with senior officers as well as meeting community people
 - 6) Asked people to notify the precinct if a "for-a-fee indoor party" is held in buildings
 - D) Assemblyman Victor M. Pichardo:
 - 1) He has been in Albany working on the new budget
 - 2) The Bronx's is now represented in the Assembly leadership, Carl E. Heastie
 - 3) His office has information on where to go for free/low cost tax assistance
 - 4) On March 5, 2015 there will be a community forum on rezoning 73 blocks on Jerome in the area called Cromwell-Jerome
 - 5) Working on an essay contest for elementary and junior high students
 - E) Councilman Andrew Cohen's Office by Daniel Johnson:
 - 1) The councilman was in Israel with a group of City Council Members



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2) The office is working to improve conditions at buildings managed by Simply Better Homes. People are urged to call 311, CB7 or the councilman's office if you are having heat/hot water problems

F) Borough President's Office by Tom Lucania:

1) February 6, 2015 was the date for all community board applications to be returned.

Individuals will be called for an interview and will be notified by end of April if accepted.

2) Ferry services from the Soundview area is being looked at to start 2017/2018. Area needs to have proper water depth for service

3) Borough President will present the "State of the Bronx" on Thursday February 19, 2015

G) Shaw Abrew from Department of Consumer Affairs:

1) Free tax center at the Fordham Library Center and the University Neighborhood Housing Program, located at 2715 Grand Concourse; Bronx, NY 10468. Income of \$53,000 or less for free service

H) Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj's Office by Nathalia Fernandez:

1) Health Fair on March 5, 2015 at Bronx House

I) Councilman Fernando Cabrera's Office by Gregory Faulkner:

1) He thanked the Community Board for its work on the buildings managed by Simply Better Homes. He stated that even though he lives in a building managed by Simply Better Homes, he, as an employee of the City Council, is not permitted to make complains against the management

2) The PS 51 Toxic Notification Law was signed into law by the Mayor. The councilman is investigating the possibility of using e-mails for voting

III) Public Session:

A) Mr. X:

1) Spoke for his allotted 2 minutes about different topics

B) Mike Liguori from "The Mission Continues" Organization:

1) Spoke about this national veterans outreach organization that is helping veterans. Carlos Gonzalez, CB7 member, is a member of this group. His number is 646-246-8250 for additional information

C) Steve Santana from the Aguila Club located at 80 West Kingsbridge Road:

1) Spoke on how his restaurant wants to be good to the neighborhood

D) Jane Addison-Amoyaw, from Mosholu Branch Library:

1) The library is offering a number of different programs for the very young to adults. She asked everyone to stop by the library and check them out

E) Vivian R. Carter from the Norwood News:

1) She is the paper's advertising sales person:

2) Asked community restaurants, services, etc. to call her at 718-324-4998 for ad information

IV) Announcement:

A) The Chair announced the five individuals selected by CB7 to win the NY Yankees Youth Leadership Award. Each awardee received a \$750 check from the Yankees and will be honored at a Yankee game this summer

B) The awardees were as follows: Brian Segura, Heather Mendez, Jennifer Landron, Maya Davila, Dipsy Bonilla



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V) Public Session closed at 8:00pm, meeting to order:

VI) Attendance:

- A) Attendance taken
- B) Quorum present:
 - 1) Members in attendance include: Lynetta Arroyo, Gloria Bent, Nilsa Cintron, Shanequa Charles, Gregory Clark, Sr., Sandra Erickson, William Francis, Carlos Gonzalez, Lowell Green, Jean Hill, Jermaine Johnson, Bruce Kaufman, Andrew Laiosa, Samelys Lopez, Kevin Miner, Amjad Mujaahid, Dilletta Pina, Ellen R. Ray, Marcos Sierra, Barbara Stronczer, Adaline Walker-Santiago
 - 2) Excused members include: Mohammed A. Ali, Edward DeJesus, Nora Feury, Fidel Gomez, Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Eleanor Lundeen, Cynthia O'Neal-Riley, Velvet Ross
 - 3) Absent (unexcused) members include: Alora Bailey, Nelson Cruz, Paul Foster, Alfred Grant, Luis Miguel Guzman, Kevin Pellot, Charlesetta Rhett, Khadijaha Saeed, Lisa Sills-Short, John Snider, Ruben Torres

VII) Approval of Minutes and Agenda:

- A) Minutes and Agenda approved

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

- A) She attended the Mayor's "State of the City" address
- B) On February 5, 2015, she attended a City Hall event where the Mayor signed into law the Margaret Mack Triangle naming and the Board of Education Toxic Notification law
- C) Ted Weinstein from the City's Housing Preservation Department and the STAGG Group will be coming to the February Housing Committee Meeting
- D) KNIC will be coming to the March Economic Development Committee Meeting
- E) The Environment & Sanitation Committee is working on doggie bags and Pick-Up-After-Your-Dog" signs for the community

IX) **MOTION:**

- A) Health & Hospital Committee (Presented by Gloria Bent, Committee Chairperson):
 - 1) The Health & Hospital Committee recommends that a letter be sent to Montefiore's Senior VP, Susan Green, regarding the community and staff concerns providing proper care for patients and nurses. Letter was in members meeting packet. Copy of letter will be in file copy of minutes. **Motion passed**
 - 2) Dilletta Pina- abstained from the vote

X) Executive Committee Report by Barbara Stronczer:

- A) There was a discussion on how to shorten the public session of the General Board Meeting. It was decided to order a new timer; each speaker would have 2 minutes to talk and would be able to answer only 2 questions from the body

XI) District Manager's Report by Dustin Engelken:

- A) Working on snow and ice concerns at the District Service Cabinet Meeting
- B) The Community Board helped West Bronx Housing host 2 meetings for residents of buildings managed by Simply Better Homes over heat and hot water concerns
- C) Dustin and the Jerome Avenue/Gun Hill Road BID with help from city agencies are working on the vendor problem on Jerome Avenue



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XII) Committee Reports:

- A) Community Relations & Long Term Planning by Vice-Chair Samelys Lopez:
 - 1) Asking for topics from committees. Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month
- B) Economic Development by committee member Amjad Mujaahid:
 - 1) Committee would like to work on waterfront concerns
- C) Education/Libraries/Cultural Affairs & Youth Services by Bruce Kaufman:
 - 1) Working on having a forum about how the police, youth and the legal system work together
- D) Environment & Sanitation by Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky:
 - 1) Not present and no report was given
- E) Health & Hospital by Gloria Bent:
 - 1) North Central Bronx hospital will be hosting a number of events for March Nutrition Month
- F) Land Use/Zoning & Housing by Jean Hill:
 - 1) STAGG Group has bought new properties on Webster Avenue. For the February Meeting, Tom Weinstein from NYC Housing Preservation Department will be coming
- G) Parks & Recreation by Barbara Stronczer:
 - 1) The Parks Department is working on removing ice and snow from sidewalks in the parks. It was stated that the fence at Oliver Place has not been fixed. The DM said that the DOT repair crew had been busy with snow removal. Once the snow is gone, the repair crew will work on the fence
- H) Public Safety & Quality of Life by committee member Lynette Arroyo :
 - 1) The committee is working on having a forum on synthetic marijuana; What it is and how it can affect individuals.
 - 2) The Committee would like to have a workshop on how to use the 311 system
- I) Senior Services by Nora Feury:
 - 1) Not present and no report was provided
- J) Traffic and Transportation by Lowell Green:
 - 1) Reported that Bronx Science High School had the 205th Street block between Paul and Goulden Avenues named Bronx Science Boulevard by a law signed by the Mayor
 - 2) Left-hand turning signals have been approved for Webster Avenue at Bedford Park Boulevard
 - 3) The elevators at the Kingsbridge "D" Station are now working

XIII) New Business:

- A) Lowell Green announced that she had arranged a tour of the Holocaust Center at the Bronx High School of Science for Board Members. Tour is going to be held on Friday, May 1, 2015 at 10:30pm. Individuals must RSVP by April 23, 2015 to attend
- B) Question was asked if there was a way to limit the time elected official speak
- C) The Board went into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. A quorum of Board Members was present. The Board came out of executive session and voted and approved on the following items that were presented by Andrew Laiosa of the Budget/Personnel/Ethics Committee:
 - 1) Motion 1: To change the title of our current Community Assistant position to Community Associate



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- 2) Motion 2: To increase the yearly salary of our District Manager from \$68,000 to \$72,500.
The effective date of the increase will be November 12, 2014
 - 3) Mohammed S. Ali was granted a 6 month leave of absence
 - 4) Sending a letter to Lisa Sills-Short about attendance
 - 5) Remove Luis Miguel Guzman from Board membership list
 - 6) The District Manager will help Committee Chairs write a letter to committee members with attendance issues
- XIV) Meeting adjourned by voice vote at 8:45pm