



# 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, March 17, 2015 @ 6:30 PM**

**Held at ♦ Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center ♦ 3225 Reservoir Oval East ♦ Bronx, NY 10467**

- I) Opening of the Public Session:
  - A) Sebastain Valcarcel, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park:
    - 1) Invited people to a Water Conference on March 18, 2015 at Manhattan College from 3-7 pm. Topic is the Harlem River and how to improve the river and the public's use of it.
  - B) Ricardo Shank, Community Resident:
    - 1) Thanked CB7 members for their work
    - 2) He voiced his support for Amjad Mujaahid and the Veterans Committee
  - C) David Cruz , Editor of Norwood News:
    - 1) Said hello to the body
  - D) Matthews Mebre, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park:
    - 1) Spoke about the Hike-a-Thon, fund raiser, for the park on April 25, 2015. Visit [Vancortlandt.org/hike-a-thon](http://Vancortlandt.org/hike-a-thon) for more information
  - E) Shanequa Charles, CB7 member:
    - 1) Spoke about "Your Miracle Skin Care Company". Visit [YourMiracleSkin.com](http://YourMiracleSkin.com) for more information
  - F) Eva Hiniss, community resident:
    - 1) Spoke in support of Amjad Mujaahid for the Veterans Committee
  - G) Robert Harrison, community resident:
    - 1) Spoke in support of Amjad Mujaahid for the Veterans Committee
  - H) Elizabeth Quaranta from American Home Stead:
    - 1) She places international students in local homes for the September to June school year. She is now looking for places for students. Call her at 347-371-3085 for additional information.
  - I) Michael Alvarez, Bronx Library Center:
    - 1) He talked about programs the library is offering i.e.-Veterans Book Discussion Group.
    - 2) Due to children's request, the winter reading program will be going on until June
    - 3) In response to questions: the libraries are always requesting funds to improve technology
    - 4) Will look into a weekend reading program for working moms and their children.
    - 5) Mr. Alvarez mentioned that the library does offer family-time programs on weekends
  - J) Pastor Jose Zacariaz from the Seventh Day Adventist Church ( 3008 Bainbridge Avenue):
    - 1) On Saturday April 4, 2015 from 10am to 4:00 pm, the church is having a Veterans' Health Event
  - K) Kevin Miner, CB7 member:
    - 1) He talked about the Bronx's getting its fair share of taxation monies
  - L) Sirio S. Guerino from Norwood Against Graffiti:
    - 1) Complaint about hazardous conditions and graffiti that exist at PS. 56x located at 341 East 207th Street
    - 2) Complaint about water puddle condition at Bainbridge Avenue and 206th St.



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- 3) Complaint about trash condition on 207th Street near Perry Avenue
- M) Captain Korabel from 52nd Precinct:
- 1) He announced that the Shot Spotting System was now working in the precinct
  - 2) There was a shooting at 194th and Valentine Avenue between two known groups. Individuals involved were arrested
  - 3) Community Council will meet on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at the Fordham Methodist Church 7:30pm.
  - 4) In response to questions: The Clean Halls program is being reviewed by the court. Auxiliary officers should be back on the streets soon
- N) Alec Diacou from Rosalyn Yalow Charter School:
- 1) The state approved their charter. There is no location for the school yet
- O) Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Chair of CB7 Environment & Sanitation Committee & Parent:
- 1) CB7 honored the following individuals for their work in getting "The Board of Education Toxic Notification Law" notification law passed: Alan Gary, Allison Manuel, Environmental & Sanitation Committee, Kelly King-Lewis, Marisol Carrero, PS 51 Parents United an affiliate of the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition.
  - 2) These people were also honored but were not present: Ginette Sosa, Ianna Higgins, Issak Kutnowsky, Jason Higgins, Lenny Siegel, Lois Harr, Madeline Higgins, Marcela Torres, New York Lawyers for Public Interest, Nicole Forbes and Roland Brown
- P) CB7 Members:
- 1) CB7 honored Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky for her work on getting the toxic law passed. In response to questions: NY State supervised the clean-up of the site located at Van Cortlandt Avenue and Jerome Avenue and the landlord received a tax break
- II) Public Session closed at 7:30pm and meeting was called to order by Barbara Stronczer, 1st Vice-Chair, in place of excused Chair Adaline Walker-Santiago:
- A) Attendance taken and Quorum present :
- 1) Members in attendance include: Lynette Arroyo, Alora Bailey, Shanequa Charles, Gregory Clarke, Sr. Nelson Cruz, William Francis, Fidel Gomez, Carlos Gonzalez, Alfred Grant, Lowell Green, Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Jean Hill, Bruce Kaufman, Andrew Laiosa, Kevin Miner, Amjad Mujaahid, Dillea Pina, Marcos Sierra, John Snider, Barbara Stronczer
  - 2) Excused members included: Adaline Walker-Santiago, Nilsa Cintron, Edward DeJesus, Nora Feury, Paul Foster, Samelys Lopez, Eleanor Lundeen, Cynthia O'Neal-Riley, Ellen R. Ray, Charlesetta Rhett, Velvet Ross
  - 3) Members with Leave of Absence : Mohammed S. Ali
  - 4) Absent (unexcused) members include: Gloria Bent, Sandra Erickson, Jermaine Johnson (not present for attendance), Kevin Pellot, Khadijaha Saeed, Lisa Sills-Shorts, Ruben Torres
- B) Agenda approved and Minutes approved with the following changes:
- 1) Under New Business (B) add "Elected Officials will be given the same time as public speakers"
  - 2) (C) item 6 - "The District Manager will help Committee Chairs write a letter to committee members with attendance issues" will be removed
- III) Motions:
- A) MOTION 1: Community Board 7 will establish an Ad Hoc Veterans Committee



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- 1) Motion was moved, seconded and passed by voice vote
  
- B) MOTION 2: Selected individuals were appointed to the Nominating Committee for June's election. Those members include: Lynette Arroyo, Eleanor Lundeen, Gregory Clark, Sr., Kevin Pellot, Nilsa Cintron
  - 1) Motion was moved and seconded
  - 2) Lynette Arroyo asked to be removed from the committee
  - 3) It was mentioned that any member of the Nominating Committee cannot run for a position at the June's election
  - 4) The remaining four individuals were approved by a voice vote to serve on the committee
- IV) Misc. Report:
  - A) It was reported that a spring unveiling is being planned for the Margaret Mack's Triangle. The Tenants Association at Tracy Towers and the Parks' Committee are working on it
- V) District Manager's Report by Dustin Engelken:
  - A) Update on Oliver Place:
    - 1) DOT has offered a figure of \$4.5 million for construction of a step street with \$1 million slated for the reconstruction of the upper roadway
    - 2) Parks Department has projected a cost of \$4.5 million which includes \$2.3 million for engineering and \$2.2 million for remediation and landscaping. In addition to these estimates, there is a need to get an estimate from DEP to remove/reroute the water/sewer mains located at the site
  - B) Update on Simply Better Homes Buildings:
    - 1) The Community Board co-sponsored a follow-up tenants' forum
    - 2) The tenants were educated on a number of housing rights and procedures to assist their issues
    - 3) A tenants' community was formed and has met to discuss concerns
    - 4) This committee is working with the comptroller's office over tenants' concerns. They are working toward a meeting with property managers
  - C) Update on Jerome-Gun Hill Bid March Operation:
    - 1) On Tuesday February 24, 2015, there was a walkthrough of the commercial corridor
    - 2) Vendors were informed about illegal conditions; several illegal vendors were asked to pack up and leave due to the lack of proper permits. One food cart was shut down due to dangerous conditions determined by the Department of Health
    - 3) In the coming weeks a follow-up walk through with an emphasis on enforcement will happen
- VI) Committee Reports:
  - A) Budget/Personnel/ Ethics by Andrew Laiosa:
    - 1) The committee is following up on poor attendance by members at committee meetings
    - 2) The Board is working on spending down the Board allotted monies so none have to be return to the city
  - B) Community Relations & Long Term Planning by Fidel Gomez:
    - 1) The committee will now meet the last Tuesday of the month
    - 2) 7 of the 11 committees have now provided their long term project ideas



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- C) Economic Development:
  - 1) KNIC will be coming to Tuesday March 31, 2015 meeting. The meeting site has been picked and members will be notified of the new site. Committee Chair not present.
- D) Education/Libraries/Cultural Affairs & Youth Services by Bruce Kaufman:
  - 1) March meeting is Thursday, March 19, 2015
- E) Environment & Sanitation by Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky:
  - 1) NYSDEC is planning to have a meeting about uses for the former PS 51 site
  - 2) There will be a spring event to launch the Board's doggie bags and the "Pick-up After Your Dog" signs
- F) Health and Hospitals:
  - 1) Committee Chair was not present, therefore, no report was provided
- G) Land Use/Zoning & Housing by Jean Hill:
  - 1) Stagg is coming to the Land Use meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2015
- H) Parks and Recreation by Barbara Stronczer:
  - 1) At the Wednesday, March 25, 2015 meeting there will be a discussion of a Master Plan for Mosholu Parkway
- I) Public Safety & Quality of Life by John Snider:
  - 1) There will be a K2 (Synthetic Marijuana) forum on May 7, 2015 at Montefiore Hospital
- J) Senior Services:
  - 1) Committee Chair was not present and no report was provided
- K) Traffic & Transportation by Lowell Green:
  - 1) A letter from the committee was sent to the Governor requesting that he fund an express bus route from the Bronx (Fordham Road Area) to LaGuardia Airport
- VII) Elected Officials' Reports:
  - A) City Councilman Ritchie Torres represented by Luisa Benedetto:
    - 1) Free tax preparation and free domestic violence help is available. Call office at 718-842-8100 for more information
    - 2) Participatory Budgeting voting for District 15 will be in April. Sites for vote to come.
    - 3) There will be a Legal Clinic on Monday, March 26, 2015 at the Webster PAL; Call office to make an appointment
  - B) State Senator Jeff Klein represented by Jennifer Rosado:
    - 1) Easter Bunny Breakfast and Magic Show for Children on March 28, 2015. Call office at 800-718-2039 for more information
  - C) State Assemblyman Victor M. Pichardo represented by Nestor Medina:
    - 1) Call office for the location of free/low cost tax preparation locations
    - 2) Senior Trip to Albany on Friday, March 20, 2015. Call office at 718-933-6909 for more information
    - 3) The Assemblyman helped launch a new West Bronx Housing Coalition purpose to improve housing and inform tenants of their rights
  - D) Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. represented by Andy Toledo:
    - 1) The Borough President has put out his Annual Development Report on the Bronx



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- E) City Councilman Andrew Cohen represented by Allyson Oliveras:
    - 1) Apply for a Pre-Kindergarten space now
    - 2) On April 18, at the Montefiore Mosholu Community Center there will be voting for selected Participatory Budgeting items. Anyone 14 or over can vote.
  - F) State Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj represented by Nathalia Fernandez:
    - 1) Jean Hill, CB7 member, will be honored at the "Women of Distinction Breakfast in the 80th Assembly District" on Saturday, March 28, 2015.
    - 2) On Saturday, April 25, 2015 there will be a clean-up of Mosholu Parkway
    - 3) Friday, April 10, 2015, there will be a Health Fair at Bronx House 3-6pm. Call office at 718-409-0109 for additional information
- VIII) Meeting adjourned by voice vote at 8:25pm