



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, APRIL 21, 2015 @ 6:30 PM

Held at: R.A.I.N. Bailey Senior Center ♦ 2660 Bailey Avenue ♦ Bronx, NY 10463

Welcome by Chair Adaline Walker to the meeting. Anderson Torres, CEO of R.A.I.N. welcomed all to the Center and its described services.

I) Opening of the Public Session

- A. Mohammed N. Mujumder, Member Bronx Community Board 9 described services provided especially to new immigrants who do not understand how to access public services.
- B. Jane Addison, Librarian at the Mosholu Library described the libraries free English Conversation Program
- C. David Cruz, Editor of the Norwood News invited all to read the newspaper and contact him with information about neighborhood news/events.
- D. Sharon Pope, Outreach Coordinator for Bike New York, announced free classes.
- E. J.R. Castiner introduced himself as a neighborhood homeowner, a home located at the south end of CD 7
- F. Tiesha James, President of the Bailey Houses Tenant Board, described the current problems of residents and how difficult it has been to get attention from NYCHA for solutions: elevators, lack of recreational activities for youth, and space for the Tenant Board are current problems.
- G. Sheila Sanchez, community board resident expressed concern about the rehabilitation of the Mosholu Parkway. It has been ongoing for 9 years with nothing done. She encourages attendance at the April 29th meeting of the CB7 Parks Committee where plans for the Parkway will be discussed.

II) Report from the Police Precinct: Inspector Hilda Hoffman, 52nd Precinct provided information about police efforts.

- H. Training of new police recruits is now community based with officers attending community activities and interacting with community residents. This is a citywide change from previous new-recruit assignment to areas of known criminal activity.
- I. Crime in the 52nd Precinct is up almost 8% in the first quarter compared to last year. This is of great concern. Auto-theft and theft of possessions from autos are the greatest cause of this increase.
- J. We were asked to report on the outcomes of the City's new efforts to reduce pedestrian traffic accidents. The precincts are now responsible for the related traffic enforcement. Collisions and injuries are both down, [less than 10% compared to last year].
- K. Inspector Hoffman described how the precinct monitors community concerns:
 - a. She personally routinely reviews 311 calls for patterns and follows-up. For example, multiple complaints alert her to a problem needing a solution.
 - b. Every month the precinct meets with residents at a Precinct Community Council. The next meeting is Thursday.
 - c. The precinct maintains a twitter account to keep residents updated on current issues



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II. Opening of the Board Meeting

- A) Attendance was taken and a quorum was met: 20 members needed and present; two more arrived late.
- B) Chair's Report:
 - a. Ms. Walker thanked all who maintained the efforts of the Board during her recent recovery from an injury, especially Barbara Stronczer, Vice-Chair and Dustin Engelken, District Manager and the Board staff.
 - b. The nominating committee will be Ellen Ray, Sandra Erickson, Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky, Gregory Clarke and Eleanor Lundeen
 - c. The next Board meeting will be at the Montefiore Medical Center Auditorium. The last meeting of the year will be at the Botanical Gardens.
 - d. Three teens received a \$750 scholarship from the Yankees. The awards were given at Yankee Stadium with teens and parents present and viewed on the Jumbotron screen.
 - e. An ad hoc committee Veterans Committee will be meeting. A petition from Board members has been received.
 - f. At the Croton Reservoir Meeting last evening it was announced that water rates are increasing. A public hearing is scheduled.
- C) Executive Committee
 - a. The triangle renaming for Margaret Mack will take place on May 2nd across from Tracey Towers.
 - b. The treasurers report is going to be streamlined to make it more transparent
- D) General Manager's Report:
 - a. Councilman Gjonaj sponsored cleanup of the Mosholu Parkway.
 - b. There will be a town hall meeting about refurbishing the parkway.
 - c. Simply Better Homes with 1000 units had many heat and other complaints. A meeting was successfully held with Related company to resolve the problems. The meeting was sponsored West Bronx Housing, Councilman Cabrera's and Cohen's offices; CB 7 members participated in the meeting: Laiosa, Hill, Frances, Stronczer. Follow-up meetings are planned.
- E) Parks Committee
 - a. There is an 8-year-old rehabilitation plan for the Mosholu Parkway, but no funding and the services areas were not included. B. Stronczer made a motion to approve a letter to Councilman Torres and Cohen requesting a process of planning utilizing a community development to create anew plan. Seconded by Jean Hill. Passed unanimously.
- F) Budget and Ethics
 - a. Removal of one board member for non-attendance will be presented in the closed session of the meeting.
 - b. A request for a L.O.A was denied.
- G) Long Term Planning
 - a. Meeting time deferred to the Economic Committee meeting.
- H) Economic Development



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- a. A large meeting was held at Tracey Towers in which KNIC and NWBCCC described current progress on development of the Armory and the agreed to Community Benefits Agreement. Follow-up information will be presented by KNIC during Bronx Week.
- I) Environment and Sanitation
 - a. In response to our district's status as #1 in dog "poop" we have purchased "dog-waste bag" and signs for landlords to post. They will be give away free on May 30 at St. James Park. Councilman Cabrera supports these efforts.
 - b. Illegal dumping on Mosholu Parkway will be raised at the Thursday Community Precinct meeting on Thursday.
- J) Health
 - a. An informational meeting about K2-synthetic marijuana will take place on May 26 at 6:30 at NCB Hospital. This easily purchased product is available in neighborhood groceries and has let to the death of many unsuspecting users.
- K) Land Use and Zoning
 - a. CB 7 buildings develop by Stagg Group are currently committed to mixed income housing and including parking.
 - b. The Dollar Bank building on Webster Avenue will be developed with residential and retail areas.
- L) Safety
 - a. Met April 2 with the precinct. Topics were K2 (synthetic marijuana), QOL issues that are anticipated with the better weather.
 - b. The precinct meeting is Thursday.
- M) Seniors
 - a. The next meeting will take place at the RAIN Senior Center on May 13. The agenda is Crime and Seniors.
- N) The nominating committee will meet briefly at the end of the meeting to establish a meeting time.
- O) Ad Hoc Veterans Committee-A petition is circulating to request a Veterans Committee; members are asked to sign the petition. The petition will go the Executive Committee and then the Full Board.
- P) Education
 - a. Yankee Awards were presents to CB 7 youth.
 - b. The committee will consider the interactions between youth, education, police and institutional culture

III. Elected Officials Report:

- A) Jennifer Lozado, Senator Jeff Klein's Office:
 - a. Addressed Montefiore quality of care
 - b. Senator's Office contact number is 718-822-2049
- B) Gregory Faulkner, Councilman Fernando Cabrera's Office
 - a. Addressing NYCHA complaint responses
 - b. Sponsoring a street clean-up
 - c. Snow removal allocated funds



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- C) Nestor Medina, Assemblyman Victor Pichardo's Office:
 - a. Focus on Citizen Preparedness Program
 - b. Housing advocacy will be on April 20
 - c. "Mommy and Me" will be held on May 7 at 11am
 - d. Affordable housing event to be held on May 21st
- D) Nathalia Fernandez, Assemblyman Gjonaj's Office:
 - a. Parkway clean-up
 - b. Senior Mother's Day Tea Party
 - c. Rain barrel give-away
 - d. Bronx Day in Albany
- E) Andy Toledo, Bronx Borough President's Office:
 - a. New Board Members
 - b. Bronx Week
- F) Timothy Tapia, Public Advocate's Office:
 - a. Landlord's list
 - b. ACS – will sue due to
- G) Rachel Ferrari, Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office:
 - a. Available by calling 718-933-2034

IV. Discussion:

- A) Present petition for AD-Hoc Committee for Veteran's Committee to make it a full committee will be presented at the next Executive Committee then at the Full Board meeting in May

V. Executive Session:

- A) To remove Member, Lisa Sills-Short due to lack of participation
- B) Return Receipt letter regarding attendance sent at the request of the Committee was not accepted, therefore returned back to the office
- C) Ms. Sills-Short missed more than 50% of meetings

VI. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm