



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

ANDREW SANDLER, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 @ 6:30 PM

Meeting held at: Bedford Park Senior Center ♦ 243 E. 204th Street ♦ Bronx, NY 10458

I. Meeting Opened at 6:00pm.

A. Adaline Walker, Chairperson, presided and welcomed all for coming out to the meeting and opened the review of the Register of Community Board Budget Requests for The Preliminary Budget: FY2017.

Andrew Sandler, District Manager, created a compilation of the Budget Requests of the Board as well as the Borough President's Budget Priorities and circled the ones that overlapped (approximately 5 or 6) with our budget priorities, that he would like to include in a letter to the Mayor, City Council, and to the Borough President outlining our concerns and want to push forward in the budget, list as follows:

i. Tracking Code: 107201721C: Full Service · Full Time Animal Shelter in The Bronx

This is a big priority, not only of our Board; but of the Borough President and the Bronx overall, this is one of the few boroughs that lacks an animal shelter. Especially, beneficial to have in our District.

ii. Tracking Code: 107201709C: Provide Flash Cam Security Cameras

Purchase and install Flash Cam Security Cameras, due to increases in crimes, incidents, arson, and robberies has occurred in parts around CB7, Bridge Oval Park; should be a priority of the board and believes the Borough President put this on his budget priority list, as well.

iii. Tracking Code: 107201710C: Provide Shot Spotters

Expand the number of Shot Spotters, a new NYPD Technology for use in our district, and areas of Bedford Park, Fordham Road, and throughout the area, crime, robberies, homicides and shootings has increased over the past year; however, the Borough President did not have this on his budget list; therefore, we must work together with the administration to make this happen.

(Lowell Green) The project needs fine-tuning due to technical errors; **(Andrew Sandler)** Pilot Project is worthy of expanding, and will follow-up with NYPD to identify what kind of errors or glitches in the equipment can be addressed; this project will be very helpful for law enforcement to identify the directions that shots are being fired.

iv. Overnight Parking Garage: Still under City jurisdiction; however, a request for DOT to expand their capital budget, rather than build new municipal parking garages; scheduled to meet with Councilmember Cohen and DOT about this; received lots of complaints from people who lack parking;



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(Adaline Walker) North Central Hospital is also trying to get parking spaces for their doctors; **(Community Member)** issues with zoning and/or limited parking due to out of state cars.

(Andrew Sandler) At this point, we cannot tell people where they can park; would like to write a letter to the Administration; clearly there are a lot of competing interests regarding this issue.

v. **Tracking Code: 107201732C: Creation of Waterfront Park · Regatta Park**

Andrew Sandler reviewed the Geographic Report of FY2017 Capital Budget; did notice monies have been put forward on the project; currently in design phase; unsure of total cost for implementation; and would like to get this put on their list for continued funding for implantation and not just designed.

Hope to work with Councilmember Cabrera and other stakeholders, in an effort to make this happen; it is encouraging to see it included in the capital budget. want to make sure there is enough capital funding to see this through. It is also on the Borough President's list,

vi. **Tracking Code: 107201722C: Build New · Expand or Repair Storm Sewers**

(Barbara Stronczer, Parks Committee) very vocal on this; also on the Borough President's priority list; given the fact, there's a lot of overlap between our Board and the Borough President, believe we should contact the administration with this list of concerns and responses to the Capital Budget.

(Adaline Walker) with regards to the Animal Shelter, Item #6, on page 3; a statement of recommendation was made at the end of the Borough President's Meeting, many people were impressed, in favor of and support is coming from all angles.

B. Adaline Walker moved for Review · Discussion of Expense Budget

i. **Tracking Code: 107201726E: Provide · Expand · Enhance After-School Programs for Elementary School Students**

(Jean Hill) This is absolutely necessary; **(Andrew Sandler)** have sights in mind; **(Nora Fuery)** there needs to be a High School open at night; **(Marcos Sierra)** has identified a space for young people such as RAIN for possible consideration, space is currently under-utilized; **(Andrew Sandler)** scheduled to meet with Assemblyman Cabrera and Assemblyman Ritchie Torres for further discussion.

ii. **Tracking Code: 107201707E: Assign Additional Uniformed Officers**

(Adaline Walker) Invited community members to participate in the 52nd Street Precinct Community Meetings, a wealth of information is shared; **(Lowell Green)** Crossing Guards are needed and some schools don't have one.



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(Community Member) Vision Zero Implementation inquiry, challenges with Drag Racing on the Concourse; **(Lowell Green)** responded stating cameras have been installed along the Concourse and has been very effective in catching people.

C. Adaline Walker suggested for all members in attendance to review their packets, in an effort to address any suggestions, concerns and/or questions

i. Tracking Code: 107201707C: Provide A New · Expand Existing Elementary School

(Nora) They may say we have one near completion, which is School 56; it may take a while for them to see that there is a need and the new housing going up in Community Board 7 this is going to be a discussion;

(Andrew Sandler) The reason why I did not put on the list is because this is a conversation we must have with the DOE and the Superintendent, to identify what their needs are and how over capacitated they are. **(Nora)** Keep this on list, some shape or form.

(Adaline Walker) I believe that we should still push or advocate to get the Old Fordham Library developed as a Community Center to create incubators for new businesses and entrepreneurs.

(Andrew Sandler) This is a project that should be pushed; moreover, we should leave this off the list to see if we can get it funded through our local elected officials.

(Community Member) concern about overcrowding in the schools, don't understand why Charter Schools get funding and don't have to share; however, when Public Schools are funded they must share it with everyone.

ii. Tracking Code: 107201746C: Improve Accessibility of Transit Infrastructure by providing escalators, etc.

(Jean Hill) Concerned there are too many stairs; **(Andrew Sandler)** this conversation is strictly for the MTA; there are a lot of steps to the process.

Nora called for Motion to close Budget Meeting; Jean second the Motion.

II. Session Began with the following Speakers:

A. NYS Assemblyman Victor Pichardo:

- i. Welcomed and congratulated Andrew Sandler, new role as CB7 District Manager; commented a hard-worker, reliable servant;
- ii. Assemblyman has a new "Door Knocking Campaign" every Thursday from 11am-3pm; Citizens can get assistance with a) Housing Repairs; b) Landlord Harassment; and last c) currently preparing to celebrate Black History Month.



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B. NYS Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz:

- i. Congratulated and welcomed Andrew Sandler, as new CB7 District Manager; discussed building schools over rail yards; currently the Borough President is building housing;
- ii. The area has tremendous potential; site could be utilized for multi-usage; High School for American Studies and Bronx High School of Science can use it to expand, since they are severely overcrowded;
- iii. The parkland adjacent to Lehman, can be utilized for Affordable housing; and hopes Community Board 7 can lead the way; MTA is showing willingness; however, needs to be persuaded by the Board;

Question posed by (Community Member) to Assemblyman Dinowitz, "If half of the land is designated for the expansion of Lehman College; then how much of the site will be used for parkland? The community don't necessary need retail, it may not best in that area and stakeholders should be included in the discussion.

C. Ronn Jordan · Deputy Chief of Staff · Councilman Ritchie Torres Office

- i. Recently appointment Deputy Chief of Staff;
- ii. Offered Congratulatory sentiments to Andrew Sandler, as New CB7 District Manager;
- iii. Office now scheduling appointments to assist community members with a) Tax Preparation; b) Immigration Assistance held on Mondays, and c) Housing Lawyer available for community members residing in 10457 and 10458 zip codes.

D. Andy Toledo · Bronx Borough President's Office

- i. Reminder applications are due and must be submitted for re-appointment to the Board;
- ii. Borough President will be streaming live online from BronxNet at 9pm & 10pm; seating is available for Board Members; however, must log into the website to RSVP.

E. Ms. Alvarez · CCRB Outreach Coordinator

- i. Currently mediating complaints; explained the CCRB is an unbiased agency and concerned citizens can complain about Precinct misconduct;
- ii. Community members with a complaint must have information readily available such as date, time and where misconduct occurred.

III. Adaline Walker · Chairperson Move To Public Session.

A. Ms. Pina · Employee of NYC Board of Elections

- i. **Announcements · Notification:** There is a "Special Election" being held on Tuesday, February 23rd, 2016; just informing the public.

B. Ms. Audrey · Luke Doherty · Cardinal McCloskey Community Service:

- i. Opening a Charter School in September, 2017; a priority for children in foster care, preventive services and the community; serving non-typically developing students;



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- ii. Goal is to provide as many on-site, wraparound services to meet each student's academic, physical, social, emotional, behavioral, medical, clinical, dental and nutritional needs; community outreach is critical to developing the school;
- iii. Proposed location is School District 10, Community Board 7; sites are being reviewed/evaluated; proposed grades in Year One; Kindergarten & 1st grade; 3 classes per grade;
- iv. Expected class size; 20-25; 3 adults per class (regular education teacher, special education teacher and assistant teacher); and a new grade will be added each year until we are a complete K-8th Grade (2024).

C. 52nd Street Precinct Report: Capt. Mira Smith:

- i. Reported on stats and activities;
- ii. Vision Zero: Increase in Vehicular Accidents
- iii. Announcement of DV Unit; Training Officers to Dealing with Domestic Violence; Mailbox Fishing an issue;
- iv. Recently received (8) eight newly assigned officers;
- v. 40th and 47th Precincts implemented newly established Neighborhood Community Officers Program; 52nd Street Precinct will be a part of the program.
- vi. Disseminated Flyers.

D. NYS Assemblyman Jose Rivera:

- i. Congratulated Andrew Sandler, on new role as CB7 District Manager;
- ii. Met with Hillary Clinton to discuss jobs, housing, and focused on the need for increased collaborations with Local Law Enforcement, if she becomes President; yet, did not endorse.

E. Representative from the Comptroller's Office:

- i. **Announcement:** Community members are welcomed to attend Town Hall Open Discussion Meeting with the Comptroller on Thursday, location at 990 Pelham Parkway; for more information, call (212) 669-8775.

F. Allison Oliver · Representative of Councilman Cohen's Office Announcements · Events

- i. March 5th, 2016 Health & Wellness Fair;
- ii. March 12th, 2016 Free Citizenship: CUNY Citizenship Now

G. Daniel · CB8 · Chairperson Activist Committee

- i. Transportation Alternatives
- ii. Support Transportation Trail
- iii. Approve Park Plan



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H. Jane Addison-Amoyaw · Library Manager at Mosholu Library

- i. Staff members facilitates technology trainings at the Senior Center
- ii. Recently increased its Hours

I. Neil · Cycle Club

- i. Reports increase in cyclist incidents, injuries and deaths;
- ii. Putnam Trail must be completed;
- iii. DOT Committed 5 Miles only.

J. Robert Pratt · Cycle Club

- i. Congratulations to Andrew Sandler, CB7 District Manager position
- ii. Support the Putnam Trail;
- iii. DOT Committed 5 Miles Only

K. Eric Henry · New York Botanical Gardens

- i. East gate will be closed for 1 year; working to accommodate the needs of those with disabilities;
- ii. RFP's are still coming in for the development of a mixed used project to be located on the southeast corner of Bedford Park Boulevard and Webster Avenue; RFP selection by March 31st, 2016.
- iii. Supermarket is not renewing lease; seeking quality retail; currently have ongoing discussions with the Mayor and Borough President

(Community Member) responds to presentation "Community needs a quality retail entity and affordable housing"

L. David Gelman · Community Board 8

- i. Support Putnam Trails
- ii. Multi-user parks plan needed
- iii. Support the park plan

M. Timothy Tapia · Representative from Speaker Letitia James Office

Announcement: Nuisance Abatement Bill (No Eviction by Construction)

- i. Success Academy Lawsuit;
- ii. Mayor's Housing Plan;
- iii. Lower Housing Plan.

N. Nathalia Fernandez · Chief of Staff · Senator Mark Gjonaj

Announcement: February, 20, 2016

- i. Free Fire Alarms Giveaway
- ii. Women of Distinction: Nora Feury Honoree
- iii. Health Fair · Metro Card Van



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O. Tonya · University Health Home Representative
Announcement: Art Exhibit: Paintings created by the residents

- i. Citibank agreed to feature the Art Exhibit
- ii. Bronx Library Center will display the art
- iii. Flyers Distributed.

P. Rich Conroy · Community Member

- i. Support for the Putnam Trail Advocate
- ii. Potential for Summer Camp · After School
- iii. Support The Plan

Q. Naomi Rivera · Former Assembly Member
Announcement: Seeking New Candidacy

- i. Congratulated Andrew Sandler, on new role as CB7 District Manager

R. Tiffany Wheatland · John Jay College Representative
Announcements · New Initiatives · Events

- i. February 29, 2016: African Immigrant Underserved Group
- ii. Discussion · Forum: Gender & Diversity Issues Initiative
- iii. March 1, 2016: Bridging The Divide Panel Discussion · Improving Community and Law Enforcement Relations
- iv. Flyers Distributed.

S. Gloria Bent
Announcements · Upcoming Events

- i. February 26, 2016: Fashion Show
- ii. Announced National Nutrition Month.

IV. The Public Session Ended at 7:45pm.

- A. Attendance was taken with a quorum present
- B. Elections for 3rd Vice-Chairperson
- C. Sandra second the Minutes

V. Chairperson's Report by Adaline Walker-Santiago

- A. Attended the State of the Borough Address - Bronx Borough President
- B. Chair voted in support of the New York City and State Plan "Stop AIDS Campaign"
- C. Encouraged members to take advantage of the NYC ID Card; Mayor's Office has extended the service; explained the process, features, discounts for local events; members can visit the Bronx Library Center located 310 East Kingsbridge Road-5th Floor; and they take Daily Walk-ins.

VI. District Manager's Report by Andrew Sandler:

- A. Attended 1st Cabinet Meeting



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- B. CB7 has several events in the future and would like to diversity locations equitably;
- C. Changes: Internal Office Policies
- D. **Reminded Committee Chairs:** Please submit Committee Meeting Minutes · Agendas in a timely fashion.
- E. Construction Notification: Water Service Interruption · Check Your Emails
- F. Goal to increase social media presence and member turnout · engagement
- G. NYS Thomas P. DiNapoli wants noise complaint survey

VII. Elections For 3rd Vice-Chairperson:

- A. Adaline Walker-Santiago, Chairperson reviewed job description
- B. Nominee John Snider, excused absence
- C. Members completed ballots and voted on Nominees: John Snider · Andrew Laiosa
- D. 3RD Vice-Chair Selected: Andrew Laiosa

VIII. Executive Committee Report:

- A. Barbara Stronczer explained each of the Motions presented
- B. Motion Presented · Approved: In Favor of the Putnam Trail
- C. Motion Presented · Approved: ULURRP C16004 ZMX for property at 3276 Jerome Avenue
- D. 3RD Vice-Chair Elected: **Andrew Laiosa**

IX. Committee Reports:

- A. **Community Relations · Intergovernmental · Long Term Planning Committee Report presented by Samelys Lopez · Committee Chair**
 - i. Urban Planning and Neighborhood Economic Development Strategies Workshop Series are scheduled for: Saturday, March 26th, 2016 and Saturday, April 23RD, 2016
 - ii. Continue to work on on-going projects
- B. **Economic Development**
Excused Absence: Eleanor Lundeen · Committee Chair
 - i. Plans are on-going regarding development throughout the community
- C. **Education · Libraries · Cultural Affairs · Youth Services Report presented by Marcos Sierra · Committee Chair**
 - i. Presentation was made Natalie Leary on Summer Youth Employment Program
 - ii. Continue Planning with Committee Member Robyn L. Saunders on dates and location for upcoming Youth College and Career Fair, identified June as the ideal month to have it.
 - iii. Committee passed a motion to provide a letter of support to Ms. Tiesha Jones, President of Bailey Houses to have access to the community room currently being used by R.A.I.N.
 - iv. Committee Member Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky identified available programs and opportunities for obtaining discounted tickets to Broadway Shows.
- D. **Environment · Sanitation**
Report presented by Helen Hartman-Kutnowsky · Committee Chair



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- i. Animal Shelter update; raccoon sightings have continued, public informed to call 311 and the Board, be sure to note the complaint number, in an effort to resolve the issue.
- ii. Graffiti Removal: More Information at www.nycedc.com/program/graffiti-free-nyc
- iii. Continue to work on on-going projects

E. Health · Hospitals

Report presented by Helen Gregory Clarke, Sr. · Committee Chair

- i. Members signed a pledge to increase awareness using social media about “#Not62 Campaign”, a campaign committed to promoting a healthier living style.
- ii. Presentation by Ruth Santana “Good Health Is Contagious”, an effort to increase Health Awareness
- iii. Graffiti Removal: More Information at www.nycedc.com/program/graffiti-free-nyc

F. Land Use · Zoning · Housing

Report presented by Helen Hartman-Kutnowsky · Committee Chair

- i. Zoning Amendment for: ULURRP C10064 ZMX for 3276 Jerome Avenue, changing from an R8 District to a CB-2 property; this is the site of the BP Gas Station which includes Dunkin Donuts.
- ii. Discussion of new housing project located at 2700 Jerome Avenue: 137 Mix Unit Building 13 Stories high with Solar Panels on the roof; all units handicap accessible; 30% or (40) apartments available to homeless families, with on-site case management; 55% or (76) apartments available to individuals and families; 15% or (20) apartments available to middle income households
- iii. Continue to work on on-going projects

G. Parks · Recreation

Report presented by Barbara Stronczer · Committee Chair

- i. Motion to approve Putnam Trails / Wetlands; Federal Grant \$2.5 million received and issued by The Federal Highway Association to improve the 1.25-mile trail.
- ii. **Reminder:** Bronx Parks Speak-Up Conference scheduled for Saturday, February 20th, 2016 at Lehman College
- iii. Continue to work on on-going projects

H. Public Safety · Quality of Life

Excused Absence: John Snider · Committee Chair

- i. Continue to work on on-going projects
- ii. Committee working on a possible Anti-Gun Violence Forum, effort to create more community awareness and involvement



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- iii. Addressed ATV/Dirt Bikes late night noise concerns from community members residing between Kingsbridge and Aqueduct Avenues
- iv. A focus on Mental Health Awareness: Addressing the causes and stigmas that affect individuals and families suffering from a mental illness.

I. Senior Services

Excused Absence: Nora Feury - Committee Chair

- i. Committee review the "Guide To Senior Citizens Programs" distributed by Assemblyman Dinowitz's office.
- ii. Committee discussed the recent changes in Social Security and how it affects the coverage for Seniors; many are unaware of the taxes paid on Social Security Income.
- iii. Continue to work on on-going projects

J. Traffic - Transportation

Report presented by Lowell Green - Committee Chair

- i. DOT made presentation on the new traffic pattern for the Bronx Community College area;
- ii. Committee working on a possible Anti-Gun Violence Forum, effort to create more community awareness and involvement
- iii. In March, Chair will present a list of ongoing DOT/MTA projects within CB7
- iv. Continue to work on on-going projects

K. Veteran's

Report presented by Robyn L. Saunders - Committee Chair

Announcement: CB7 -

- i. Committee goals are to seek and establish opportunities for networking, resource sharing, referrals and advocacy for local Veterans and their families.;
- ii. Conduct an inventory of available services, in an effort to identify the gaps for meeting the needs of underserved Veteran's and their families
- iii. Identify ways to increase Veteran participation using social media, television and print platforms
- iv. Committee Member expressed concern about the current intake process for homeless Veterans. Many are referred to Bellevue Hospital, The Bedford/Atlantic Men's Shelter or Ward's Island for processing, which does more harm than good for Veterans.
- v. Explore new methods for processing Homeless Veteran's including the formation of a new Reception Facility, independent from the NYC Department of Homeless Services.
- vi. Invite a representative from the Bronx VA come and make a presentation to community and committee members about services, referrals and other opportunities for Veteran's and their families.



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vii. Upcoming CB7 · Bronx Library Center's Veteran's and Community Career Fair is scheduled for Friday, June 3rd, 2016 from 11am – 4pm.

X. Meeting Adjourned