



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 @ 6:30 PM | North Central Bronx Hospital

I) Public Session / Elected Officials

- A) Frederick Klein, representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, reported on the work being conducted in Albany.
- 1) The Assemblyman is working on the budget, which is due by April 1st.
 - 2) Some of the issues are tightening gun laws, banning bump stock devices, NYC transit problems and taxes.
- B) Ariano Collado, from Councilman Andy Cohen's office, reported on the February 24th Tracey Towers Event.
- 1) She also announced that there will be a Bike Helmet Giveaway on Saturday March 31st from 11 am – 2:39 pm at Williamsbridge Oval, sponsored by the Councilman.
 - 2) He offers free immigration services at 3450 DeKalb Avenue by appointment. Call (718) 882-4000 ext. 0.
 - 3) The Participatory Budgeting process is coming up.
 - (a) Any requests from the public will be considered.
 - (b) More information on a date is forthcoming.
- C) P.O. Samuel Baez Veras and P.O. Ricardo Roman from the 52nd precinct, reported on the Stats.
- 1) They introduced the NCO's who reported on activities in their sectors.
 - 2) Reminders were given on locking doors and windows to prevent unwanted entrances to one's homes.
 - 3) People were advised to stay home due to the impending snow storm.
 - 4) The 52nd precinct meeting is cancelled.
 - 5) Next meeting April 26th.
 - 6) Residents were asked to be tolerant and patient with noise from community groups who would be celebrating the upcoming holidays.
- D) Timothy Tapia, from Public Advocate Letitia James office, gave a progress report on issues of concern to the public.
- 1) In addition to the issues on a flyer, Ms. James is working on securing equal pay for women in the workplace.
 - 2) She will be publishing a salary history citing differences with NYC agencies being the worst offenders.
 - (a) For further information call (212) 669-7200.



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- E) Antirson R. Ortiz, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, reported on the number of homeless children in the school system (32,000) that is not receiving services due to lack of funds.
- 1) He will be conducting an audit to alleviate this condition.
 - 2) At this point, Adaline thanked Gloria and Christina for the space and the refreshments allotted for the Community Board meeting.
- F) Hidekee Salazar, representing Assemblyman Victor Pichardo, reported on services offered through the Assemblyman's office.
- 1) There is assistance available in housing concerns, evictions, immigration Problems and most emergencies that concern city services.
- G) Ron Jordan, representing Councilman Richie Torres, reported on the Councilman's charges against landlords who treat tenants unfairly, especially one Jared Kushner, who is particularly harsh in oversight of his buildings.
- 1) Mr. Torres will continue his fight to bring money to correct inhumane conditions in city housing.
 - 2) Participatory Budgeting will be on April 7-15 and ACD issues at Poe Park on April 3-4 from 10 am to 2 pm.
- H) Andy Toledo, from the Borough President's office, thanked the participants who attended the Parliamentary Procedures Workshop.
- 1) On May 1st there will be another workshop on Land Use issues.
- I) Rachel Ferrari, from State Senator Gustavo Rivera's office, reported on the recent Kingsbridge Armory meeting.
- 1) The Community Benefits Agreement continues to be a focal point for residents and participants alike.
 - 2) At this time, Senator Rivera gave an award to Latisha Jones for her overall involvement in the Armory.
 - (a) A round of applause greeted Ms. Jones upon her receipt of the award.
- J) Nathalia Fernandez reminded all about the Women's Empowerment Event on March 24th.
- K) Aldo Perez announced the upcoming opening of a Community Center between East 198th Street and Fordham Road.
- L) David Cruz, from the Norwood News, announced a job opening for an advertising person at the paper with a salary of \$ 42,000.
- 1) He also noted a recent story in the paper for which he is seeking further information.



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- M) Chad Royer, a CB 7 member, spoke on a place where parents can go to receive assistance if a child has special needs or a disability.
- 1) Call "Include NYC" at (212) 677-4660.
- N) Beverly Slater and Francis Conde, from Five Borough Home Care Inc., spoke about home care services which allow your loved ones the ability to stay safely at home and receive services when they need it.
- 1) A presentation will be made at a future Health Committee Meeting.
- O) Lisa Hall introduced herself as the Director of the Post Graduate Center for Mental Health at 2950 Grand Concourse.
- P) Jennifer Tausig, Executive Director of the Jerome/Gun Hill BID, reported on 2 weekend walks for July 14th and July 28th.
- 1) She will be sending out flyers with more information.
 - 2) She also mentioned that the public will prepare posters to be posted on temporary columns which are about 8 ft. tall at Mosholu and the Grand Concourse to take place by the end of June.
- Q) Jason Caraballo, from Montefiore Hospital, announced a 5K run on April 28th at the Bronx Zoo.
- 1) After the run, there will be activities and lots of giveaways.
 - (a) There is a fee for the activity.
 - 2) On Saturday, May 12th, Montefiore and MMCC will sponsor a B-in-Fit run.
 - (a) Call M.M.C.C. for further information at (718)882-4000.
 - 2) Richard Montenegro, from PS/MS 280, spoke of the fund raiser for victims of the recent fire which left 18 families homeless and without funds for the burial of those who perished in the fire.
- R) Claire McVeighn reported on Councilman Fernando Cabrera's activities, where he presided over the Preliminary Budget Hearings at the Council.
- 1) One issue is funding for Community Boards.
 - 2) The Councilman wants to ensure that funding for Community Boards will not be decreased and wants to further increase the resources allocated in the Mayor's final budget.
 - 3) The Council will be voting on a resolution introduced by Councilman Cabrera on the Jerome Avenue Rezoning project, which will preserve 2,500 units of affordable housing and provide funding for the creation of new affordable housing.
 - (a) The plan invests heavily in parks, public safety and education.
 - (b) District 10 will receive a new state of the art primary school that includes a youth center to house after school programs.



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- 4) Another issue is the serving of processed foods in school lunch programs.
 - 5) A resolution will be introduced to eliminate processed foods from school lunches.
 - S) Charisa Suarez, from Assemblyman Jose Rivera's office, announced extended hours at the Assemblyman's office to serve working people.
 - 1) He will be meeting on the first Wednesday at 7 pm at 1 Fordham Plaza, Suite 1008.
 - (a) Call (718) 933-2204.
 - T) Jean Happersaud, from the Bronx Library Center, announced following:
 - 1) Free English Classes.
 - 2) "The Circle" by Dave Eggers – Evening Book Discussion on March 29th.
 - 3) A visit on March 24th by Ken Brown discussing his book "U-Boat Assault on America".
 - 4) A movie screening on March 31st, at 2:30 pm of "The Shack".
 - U) Elizabeth Carson discussed community gardens and the need for residents to develop and involve themselves in gardening to create beauty and peace in the community.
- II) Closing Public Session / Opening of Board Meeting 7:55 pm
- A) Attendance taken with a quorum present
 - B) Agenda and minutes approved
- III) Chairperson's Report
- A) February 16
 - 1) Chair toured Lehman College Music Faculty and Lovinger Theatre with WAM Chair, MAS Consultants and Lehman to review logistics and space for upcoming Women's Empowerment Summit on March 24th.
 - B) February 22
 - 1) Chair attended the Bronx Borough President's State of Address at Bronx High School of Science.
 - (a) Numerous Board members attended.
 - C) March 5
 - 1) Chair toured one of Serviam Garden's newly completed senior developments (Prior convent).
 - (a) Once both sites are done, the plan is to set up a tour for the Board.
 - D) March 8
 - 1) DSCAB meeting and the Executive meetings were cancelled due to inclement weather.



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E) March 9

- 1) Chair shared the upcoming Women's Empowerment Summit on Bronx Net with Rhina Valentin who is one of the panelists.

F) March 13

- 1) Attended Housing Committee Meeting with DHS about the incoming 110 bed Women's Shelter at 360 E. 193rd Street location.
- 2) Chair shared that we need to continue to advocate for advanced notification from DHS on incoming shelters.
 - (a) Presently, we're given 30 days notification which is not sufficient.

G) March 15

- 1) Chair contacted Norwood News editor David Cruz concerning the following items in the recent edition
 - (a) The announcement of our General Board meeting on March 20th had the wrong location listed.
 - (b) The advertisement in the community events section about the Women's Empowerment Summit did not indicate it was sponsored by CB 7 (However, photo was shown).
 - (c) The article about banning anyone from the board is not factual.

H) Chair shared the following at the Executive meeting:

- 1) Chair mentioned and acknowledged board member Myrna Calderon for advocating that the Housing Committee and members visit the Fordham Landing Shelter site as soon as possible.
 - (a) It was scheduled by the DM for April 3rd at 9:30 AM and all members are welcome.
- 2) Chair mentioned and acknowledged Board member Lorita Watson for bringing flyers to the Honorary Women's Brunch sponsored by Councilwoman Gibson as a means to disseminate the information about the distinguished panelists we have coming and the mentors they will meet.
- 3) Chair shared we need to advocate with our elected officials for DHS to notify the community prior to 30 days.
 - (a) Chair requested a 90 day notification versus 30 days at a meeting with DHS and other board chairs this past summer and no response was given to this date.
 - (b) To assure we had some say in the matter, the Chair moved both the Housing and the Executive Committee dates with Board approval.



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- (c) Now we can share our feedback and ask that they present the plans to the community prior to the opening date.
 - (d) Still, we need the minimum of 90 days' notice for summer projects.
 - (e) In addition, no letter of support from the board is requested in regard to the placement of shelters.
 - (f) Thus, the system has to be revamped as we need more transparency in this process.
- 4) Chair acknowledged the Education Committee for coming up with the idea to have the NYC DOE Universal Pre-K registration at the office.
 - (a) As follow-up, the DM set up the date and time with the representative from DOE.
 - (b) The flyer was posted and disseminated by Board members.
 - 5) We hope all members will disseminate the information to the community as we want all of our preschoolers to have this opportunity before it's too late.
 - 6) M.A.S. consultants advocated for and received numerous donations for the WE Summit.
 - (a) In addition, the liability insurance documents for the event were submitted by the Chair with the policy from MAS Consultants, to clear our utilization of the space at Lehman College.

I) March 19

- 1) Bronx Net Open Talk Show with Bobby Lee: WAM Chair Cole Hawkins, Veteran Doug Condit and Board Chair shared the information about both the WE Summit and the Veterans Brunch on April 20th.
 - (a) Board Chair met with Lehman College Presidents' Office with WAM committee Chair to review details of the upcoming WE Summit.
- 2) Chair attended the funeral of 14 year old teen Jordan Conde who attended MS 80.
 - (a) He was in the 7th grade.
 - (b) He tragically died in a fire on Hoffman Street on March 5th.
 - (c) The mother and daughter, who is also a student of MS 80 are both hospitalized and in critical condition.
 - (d) The website to assist the family for the funeral was forwarded to the office last week to post on Facebook.

IV) Executive Committee Report

- A) Barbara Stronczer introduced the motions to be voted on.



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1) **Motion(s):**

- (a) The Parks Committee is in favor of a walkway crossing the Major Deegan Expressway for the purpose of uniting the East and West sections of Van Cortlandt Park.
- (b) The Committee is not in favor of the proposed bridge which apart from being extremely costly does not enhance the natural area of the park.
- (c) The Committee favors Option 1 for the ramp leading to the walkway.
 - i. The motion was approved with one opposed Lowell Green
- (a) The Parks committee is in favor of the preliminary drawings for the rehabilitation of Kossuth Playground.
 - i. The motion was approved unanimously.

2) After the motions were voted on, Barbara reported on the Devoe Park request to the Parks Department to return Devoe Park to CB 7's jurisdiction.

- (a) Due to administrative need, Devoe Park will remain in CB 5 with a promise to address any concerns from the surrounding community.
- (b) They will also be attending Parks Committee meetings.

V) District Manager's Report

- A) Ms. Bravo reported to the committee that she has been working with the webmaster to reset credentials to regain access to the website for updates.
- B) She updated us that a revised letter of support of 150 Van Cortlandt Avenue has been sent from the Housing Committee.
- C) Ms. Bravo is working on the Pre-k pop for March 29, 2018 (the Department of Education is partnering up with Bronx Community Board 7 to host a day of Pre-k registration for the families interested in Board 7.)
 - 1) Outreach is scheduled from 3/19-3/28 throughout the community; small businesses, train stations and residential buildings.
- D) She reminded the Executive Committee that the FY19 budget response was sent via email.
 - 1) If anyone has any comments to make to reply ASAP.
- E) A Fordham Landing tour is scheduled for the District Manager, Board and Housing and Land Use Chair.
- F) There was an incident involving a resident during the Veterans Committee meeting.
 - 1) Ischia and the Chair of the Veterans Committee reported on the disturbance.
 - (a) A discussion ensued.



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- (b) It was decided to develop a protocol for future incidents and the possibility of banning people who might endanger staff, members and the public at large.
 - (c) There was a story on the incident in the Norwood News that was inaccurately reported.
 - (d) A motion was made by Andrew Laiosa to send a letter of complaint to the editor of the Norwood News and MPC regarding the story.
 - (e) The Committee requested that CB 7 send a letter to the editor of the Norwood News and MPC complaining about the inaccurate story written about an incident at a CB 7 meeting.
 - i. The motion was approved unanimously.
 - 6) It was also recommended to send a letter about the incident to the Ethics Committee and Tom Lucania for further advice and direction.
 - G) Ms. Bravo generated the Veterans Brunch Flyer for review.
 - H) She is working closely with committee chairs to plan out the year of interactive events / meetings, specifically Public Safety.
 - I) Discussed: The Women's Shelter coming to 360 East 193rd Street.
 - 1) The Shelter will have 110 beds.
 - 2) Black Veterans for Social Justice-is the non-profit based in Brooklyn administrating the facility.
 - 3) This is the first time this non-profit operates a Bronx based shelter.
 - 4) Under the Callahan Consent Decree, will serve 3 meals, will partner with local CBO's and educational facilities to help their residents.
 - 5) Ms. Bravo stressed to DHS that the community deserves input prior to the approval of said non-profits acquiring appropriation of the site to administer the shelters.
 - 6) The procurement and RFP process needs to be changed to include Community Board input.
- VI) Committee Reports
- A) Budget, Personnel & Ethics
 - 1) Andrew Laiosa reported that there was likely to be an excess of approximately \$42,000 left in the CB budget.
 - 2) He is asking Chairs for suggestions on how to use the money for projects useful for the community before June 30th.
 - B) Community Relations & Long Term Planning – No Report
 - C) Economic Development
 - 1) Tiffany reported on her Committee meeting with a representative from the NYC Department of Community Affairs where they discussed free tax prep, financial



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counseling, and advice on banking, student loans and legal assistance to fight fraud.

- 2) There was also a discussion on Scott Stringer's "Making the Grade" report card on Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise.

D) Education, Youth & Libraries

- 1) In the Chair's absence, Adaline announced a Charter school presentation on April 4th.

E) Environment & Sanitation – No report

F) Health & Hospitals – No report

G) Housing, Land Use & Zoning

- 1) Jean reported on the request by Galaxy Construction to do work on a Sunday for a DOE Fund building at 3100 Webster Avenue.
 - (a) The request was approved.
- 2) She announced the opening of a women's homeless shelter at 360 East 193rd Street with services being provided by the Black Veterans Organization.
 - (a) Preference for space will be given to CB 7 residents.
 - (b) There will be a curfew with security and cameras.
 - (c) The 52 precinct will be working with the facility due to the heavy drug use in the area.

H) Parks & Recreation

- 1) Barbara announced the next meeting to be on April 11th.

I) Public Safety & Quality of Life

- 1) Monique announced a Public Safety Forum, to be held on April 3rd at Our Lady of refuge Church.
 - (a) All are invited.
- 2) Monique also emphasized the need for everyone to have a "Go" bag in case of emergency and the need to leave your premises immediately.
 - (a) One should take medication, important papers, bank numbers, account numbers, emergency contacts, water etc., and Place bag in an accessible place ready at a moment's notice to leave your home.

J) Senior Services

- 1) Lowell announced an upcoming meeting with the Health Committee for a presentation on health issues pertinent to seniors.
 - (a) There will also be an invitation to Senior Center Directors to do a presentation on the services their centers provide.



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K) Traffic & Transportation

- 1) In the absence of Edgar Ramos who is ill, Lowell Green reported on the planned improvements to be made by DOT around De Witt Clinton H.S. to improve safety at the crossings.

L) Veterans

- 1) Carmen Miranda gave an update on the Veterans Brunch at Lehman College on April 20th from 11am to 2 pm. So far 3 veterans have accepted the invitation. The committee is screening the remainder.

M) Ad Hoc Committees

1) Website, Acknowledgement & Media

- (a) Cole Hawkins reported on the Women's Empowerment Event on Saturday 3/24.
- (b) The bus trip is in the planning stages.
 - i. Suggestions of places to visit are welcome

2) By-Laws

- (a) Meeting on Monday March 26th.

VII) Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm