



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

### COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

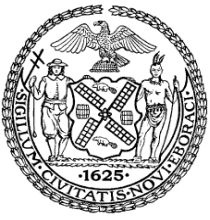
BARBARA STRONCZER, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

## GENERAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 @ 6:30 PM | Mosholu Montefiore Community Center

- I) The meeting opened at 6:40 pm with greetings from Barbara Stronczer who is the acting Chairperson.
- II) Public Session
  - A) Councilman Fernando Cabrera spoke about a bill he is presenting to the City Council to increase the CB budget, which has not had an increase since 2012.
    - 1) The funds would enable the CB to hire much needed staff and/or consultants to carry on the work of the Boards in serving over 200,000 residents.
    - 2) The Councilman distributed surveys to support the request and is asking the CB for a letter to be sent to the Mayor about the appeal. It was noted that the CB would be voting on this issue tonight.
  - B) Councilman Andy Cohen spoke in support of Councilman Cabrera's bill.
  - C) Casey Monroe, representing Congressman Espaillat introduced herself as a new member of his staff. She will be attending meetings and will listen to concerns.
  - D) Angel Gerana, from NYC Parks Dept. reported on the upcoming activities at St James Recreation Center.
  - E) Frederick Klein, representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz reported on the efforts by the Assemblyman to secure ADA funding for an elevator at the Mosholu train station that will serve the large number of handicapped people who live in the area or who visit the various Medical Centers, Hospitals, Nursing Homes and where two of the tallest buildings in the Bronx are located. Call the Assemblyman's office in support of this request.
    - 1) He also invited all to the Memorial Day concert supported by the Assemblyman at Van Cortlandt Park on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.
  - F) Ariana Collado, from Councilman Andy Cohen's office thanked the members who attended the street naming for Andrew Sandler.
    - 1) She invited all to the Williamsbridge Oval on June 5<sup>th</sup> for an event.
    - 2) On June 10<sup>th</sup>, the Councilman is sponsoring a bike helmet giveaway at the Annual River Fest at Mt. St. Vincent, from 10 pm to 3:30 pm.
    - 3) The Councilman has an office at MMCC for any concerns or questions.
  - G) Jane Addison-Amoyan, from the Mosholu Library reported on the upcoming activities at the library. Every Tuesday in the summer is called STEM Tuesdays, where there will be activities around music, electricity/electronics, and water play. No registration required; open to children 5 years and up.



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- 1) There will be a dance party on Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, at 3 pm, Storytime every Friday during the summer, and a Children's Book Club in June, July and August.
  - 2) On Friday's, there are English Conversation Classes open to all who wish to converse in English.
  - 3) A calendar of Teen events was distributed.
- K) Romina Erea, from Councilman Richie Torres office reported on legislation proposed by the Councilman to penalize landlords who are in violation of the heating laws in NYC.
- 1) As a result of Participatory Budgeting, the Councilman is funding a PB Youth Fellowship Group for 10 months to learn leadership skills and join a network of powerful change makers with a June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to register.
  - 2) The Councilman will be presenting a Mobile Puppet Show on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, at Poe Park from 3 pm to 5 pm.
- L) Jean Happersaud, from the Bronx Library Center announced the Library's summer programs, such as story time for babies, toddlers and older children every day of the week; there will be Bilingual Storytime and Family Storytime.
- 1) The Library also provides career services available 7 days a week by appointment and by walking in. Call (718) 579-4260.
- M) Dilletta Pina announced a Family Event on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at the Williamsbridge Oval.
- 1) Ms. Pina also reported that there was a federal election to be held on June 26<sup>th</sup>. She encourages all to get out and vote if the election is to be held in their district.
- N) Elizabeth Quaranta, from the Friends of Mosholu Park Land, whose commitment is to keep the parks green and clean, meet monthly at the Williamsbridge Oval.
- 1) On May 26<sup>th</sup>, there will be a weeding and planting at Jerome Ave. and E. Mosholu. Volunteers are needed.
- O) P.O. Echevarria, from the 52 Pct. reviewed the stats; we are up in murders, felony assaults and burglaries.
- 1) There will be an event with free food on June 10<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9 pm.
  - 2) There is a Summer Youth Police Academy for 6 weeks in the summer from July 2 to Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> for youth aged 10-15 years of age. Call (646) 246-5288.
  - 3) All are invited to an Open House on June 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - 4) The question of the Police who are involved with the homeless population was raised as to their specific duties. A request was made to have someone from the Unit come to the Public Safety Committee for further information.



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- 5) All are invited to the Precinct Council meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> at RAIN on Bailey Avenue.
- P) Chad Royer announced the free services available for children with special needs. Call (646) 677-4660.
- 1) Chad is still pursuing the ADA inaccessibility at the Jerome Avenue P.O. in 10468. The staff representative from Congressman Espaillat's office offered to assist.
- Q) Heidi Salazar, from Assemblyman Victor Pichardo's office announced housing assistance and tenant support services available at his office. Call (718) 933-6909.
- R) Claudio Reyes, from BRITA College Prep regarding opening Charter Schools in the Bronx. They are presently seeking students to attend BRITA College.
- S) Gloria Bent announced that there will be a day of testing for diabetes on May 31<sup>st</sup>, July 19 and September 20<sup>th</sup> at NCBH in the vestibule at 3424 Kossuth Avenue from 11 am to 2 pm.
- T) Otis Guerrero announced Assemblywomen Natalia Fernandez's office is located at 1126 Pelham Pkwy W. Call (718) 409 0109.
- U) Andy Toledo, from the Borough Presidents office thanked all on behalf of BP Ruben Diaz for attending the Community Board's Celebration and for participating in the Bronx parade.
- 1) Reappointment letters will go out next week; new appointees will hear as soon as clearances are in place.
- 2) The Annual Bronx Development Report was discussed with a copy for the office.
- III) Closing of Public Session / Opening of Board Meeting at 7:45 pm
- A) Attendance taken; quorum present
- 1) The Agenda and Minutes were approved with corrections.
- 2) There were 5 motions to be approved.
- B) Motions
- 1) To write a letter to the Mayor to increase the Funding for Community Boards.
- a) Motion Approved unanimously.
- 2) Education, Youth and Libraries: To send a letter of Support for the Mosholu Library's new heating ventilation air conditioning (HVAC) system, roof replacement and related work to the NYC Public Design Commission (NYC PDC).
- a) Motion approved unanimously.



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- 3) Housing Land Use & Zoning: The Housing Committee recommends that CB#7 approve the proposed M1 Hotel Zoning Text Amendment to establish a City Planning Commission special permit for new hotels, motels, tourist cabins, and boatels in M1 districts. A specific review process will ensure that in the future hotels are built on appropriate sites in order to attain a balanced mix of uses in a given area.
  - a) Motion approved unanimously.
- 4) Public Safety & Quality of Life: To have a CB7 Community Resource Fair and a Back to School Event.
  - a) Motion approved with one abstention (Lowell Green).
- 5) Traffic & Transportation: To provide a letter of support to the Bedford Mosholu Community Association's letter to DOT requesting a study to be performed by the Department of Transportation along Marion Avenue between the eastbound lanes of Mosholu Parkway and the south service road of Mosholu. They propose that the one short block become a one-way street going south without the loss of parking.
  - a) Motion approved unanimously.

#### C) Nominations

- 1) Barbara Stronczer announced the vacancy of 2 positions on the CB, which were Chairperson and Treasurer and asked for nominations from the floor.
  - (a) Lowell Green nominated Edgar Ramos for Treasurer; there were no more nominations.
  - (b) Sandra Erickson nominated Jean Hill for Chair; there were no other nominations. The election will take place at the June meeting.

#### D) Acknowledgment of the NY Yankees Awards Recipients

- 1) There were 5 recipients who received the Yankee Awards of \$ 750. Two came to the CB to speak about themselves and thank the CB for the recognition. They were Denisse Sanchez and Janiah Villanueva; both will be attending college after graduation.

- E) There was a motion on the floor to approve the revised By Laws which were previously sent to all members. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### IV) Chairperson's Report

- A) Barbara Stronczer thanked Leonora Sealey and MMCC for the use of the space for tonight's meeting.
- B) She also reminded all about the Bus Tour to take place on June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:30 to 12:30 pm. We will board outside the CB office.



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#### V) District Manager's Report

- A) Attended training at the Human Rights Commission Housing Voucher Discrimination.
  - 1) <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/cchr/media/source-of-income.page>
- B) Met with Con Edison to discuss their community partnerships and services they provide.
- C) April 23, 2018 – attended the Yankee game with the 5 CB 7 scholarship recipients, sponsored through the NY Yankees.
- D) Attended 2 borough board meetings which included the following presentations:
  - 1) NYC Department of Environmental Protection- Storm water Management Plan to Further Reduce Pollution and Improve Health of Local Waterways:
    - a) [http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/water\\_sewer/NYCSWMP\\_Executive\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/water_sewer/NYCSWMP_Executive_Summary.pdf)
    - b) [http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/press\\_releases/18-026pr.shtml#.WvxRd6QvxhE](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/press_releases/18-026pr.shtml#.WvxRd6QvxhE)
- E) SAPO - Permitting process:
  - 1) <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/cecm/permitting/permit-types.page>
- F) NYC Parks - Enforcement for the summer of 2018
  - 1) <https://www.nycgovparks.org/about/urban-park-service/park-enforcement-patrol>
- G) Bronx Tourism Council - Bronx Week 2018
  - 1) <https://www.bxtimes.com/stories/2018/19/19-bronxweeklist-2018-05-11-bx.html>
  - 2) <http://www.ilovethebronx.com/index.php/happenings/bronx-week>
- H) Attended a Land Use and Zoning Training provided by NYC Planning – the following link will help you navigate data within Bronx Community Board 7.
  - 1) This data can help understand many things ranging from demographics, green spaces, schools etc.
  - 2) <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/index.page>
- I) Attended CB committee meetings – reference committee reports.
- J) Housing and Land Use Committee – NYC Planning presented on the proposed permit process for M-1 zones.
  - 1) CB 7, at this time, will not be affected as M-1 is an industrial and we have very limited areas.
  - 2) The permit will be similar to the ULURP process; requiring developers to obtain approval from the community board etc.
  - 3) <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/m1-hotel-text/m1-hotel-text.page>



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K) Shelter Discussion update:

- 1) Commissioner Bank's presentation of our homeless crisis was email to all board members (borough presentation).
- 2) Attended meeting at Council Members Ritchie Torres office with the Chair of Housing/Land Use to discuss our concerns with the saturation of shelters in our district with Commissioner Banks.
- 3) Discussion included:
  - a) A request for a list of clusters and shelters in our area.
  - b) Inquired about us getting more men shelters than any other CB (they claim to have met the needs of family shelters).
  - c) The Community Board needs to be notified once the RFP's have been submitted to DHS. Right now, we are given a 30 day courtesy of notification prior to opening.
  - d) Prior knowledge of the RFP will help us identify the non-profit applying and potentially the community can make a recommendation.
    - i. Unfortunately, we are waiting for responses.

L) The Bronx Borough Presidents office sent out a sexual harassment memo to our office for distribution to all board members.

- 1) All board members were emailed this document and will be given a hard copy the day of the general board meeting.
  - i. Sexual harassment in the work place is taken seriously by the City of New York.

M) District Service Cabinet

- 1) New York Police Department
  - a) UPDATE: Shooting Incident (May 1, 2018) – Perry Avenue and East 209th Street.
  - b) Homeless Encampment – 42 West Fordham Road.
  - c) Assault (May 9, 2018) – East Mosholu Parkway South & East 203<sup>rd</sup> Street.
- 2) Department of Buildings
  - a) 3254-3258 Parkside Place: At this time, the filed NB (New Building) Job applications are still in Disapproved Status as of 5/07/2018.
    - i. Job application 220635490 (proposed subdivision of tax lot...) is currently under review under review.
    - ii. The only permitted work to occur on the property is for Job Application 220634393 – Proposed Earthwork. Parkside Place has been permitted to conduct Alteration Type2 – Earthwork (Excavation work) under Job Application Number 220634393.



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- iii. Feel free to take a look at this provided link for my information in regards to this specific application:  
<http://a810bisweb.nyc.gov/bisweb/JobsQueryByNumberServlet?requestid=3&passjobnumber=220634393&passdocnumber=01>
  - iv. The permit was issued on 4/16/2018. Please take a look at the attached copy of the permit which states the description of the work and the business contractor's information.
  - v. The Department will conduct random on-site excavation audits to inspection depth, operations, underpinning and work as per plan, amongst a variety of other specifics regarding construction.
- b) 33 Bedford Park Boulevard: There is a NB Application (220642115) that was filed on 4/06/2018 for proposing an 11 story mixed-use building with 19 residential units. The application is in disapproved status as of 4/12/2018. According to the application, this proposed building will be house a retail store as well as the Residential Units. Please feel free to contact me if you should have any additional questions or concerns.
- 3) Department of Education
- a) Rezoning Proposal In District 10
- 4) Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
- a) Rats & Mice Concern – 232 East 201st (1-1-1557697031)
    - i. DOHMH – This specific area is currently being indexed. Rat Indexing is an inspection process that is part of the overall DOHMH Rat Initiative, currently operating in the Bronx and Manhattan. This program is based on the concept that rats rarely inhabit a single property - rather, they occupy entire blocks or larger areas. In Rat Indexing we inspect all the properties in a targeted area. This process allows us to identify all of the properties in a neighborhood with active rat signs and conditions conducive to rats. Once identified, we can address these properties simultaneously and the effectiveness of the efforts is enhanced. The DOHMH inspectors visited the location for an initial inspection on 1/19/18. The location failed the inspection for harborage, although harborage can be conducive to rats in this specific case the location showed no active sign of rat activity. Our inspectors revisited the location for a compliance inspection on 3/28/18; the location passed the inspection with no active signs of rat activity. If Mr. McCabe believes that the issue has not been addressed he may file a 311 complaint.



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Lastly, raccoons are protected wildlife. Like many other animals if there is an active food source in the area it is not uncommon to see raccoons. Although raccoons are nocturnal it is not uncommon to see them during the day, especially if they have a litter nearby. If the raccoon is being aggressive or acting erratically I advise to not try to engage with the animal. Instead a 311 complaint should be filed and our animal control unit will be sent out to observe the animal. If the animal is observed behaving erratically by our AC unit the animal will be trapped. If the animal is behaving normally the animal will not be captured. If raccoons inhabit a private property, the property owner can seek and pay for a private trapper. Please advise if you have any additional questions.

5) Metropolitan Transit Authority

- a) UPDATE: Flood Lights on during Daytime Hours – 3119 Jerome Avenue (Concourse Maintenance Shop) superintendent is aware of the faulty timer and he will have it repaired.

V) Committee Reports

A) Budget, Personnel & Ethics

- 1) Expenditures are being made to spend down the excess funds in the budget. There are no specifics except for office supplies, CB tote bags, dog signs and doggie bags. To date there were no requests from the Committee Chairs.

B) Economic Development/ Community Relations & Long Term Planning

- 1) Tiffany Wheatland – Disu reported on the presentation by NBCCC at the last meeting. There was an overview of all the projects that the Coalition was involved in over the last 40 years. Some of the initiatives discussed were the weatherization Program and the Commercial Lease Assistance Program.
- 2) Another speaker, Gabrielle Engh spoke on the Sane Energy Project. The initiative is to clean up dirty buildings to help reduce pollution. Signatures to our legislators are necessary to support the bill. One of the outcomes to the bill is a cleaner environment and jobs for community residents.

C) Environment & Sanitation

- 1) A report was made on the Weatherization project where heating, roof repairs, replacement of boilers and installation of AC's when medically needed. In order to participate, the building must have at least 50% of the tenants' income eligible.

D) Health & Hospitals

- 1) Gloria Bent reported that free ID's would be available at NCBH.





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- 2) It was also noted that the nurses needed support from the community for their Safe Staffing Campaign.
  - 3) There is a meeting on Wed. at Lincoln Hospital at 6pm to discuss issues in NYC Hospitals. All are encouraged to attend.
- E) Housing, Land Use & Zoning
- 1) The motion from the Committee on the M1 Hotel Zoning was voted on earlier in the meeting.
- F) Parks & Recreation
- 1) Barbara reported on the presentation on coyotes made by the Wildlife section of the Parks Dept.
  - 2) There was a discussion on the needs in the Parks now that the warm weather was here with more people using the parks.
  - 3) Devoe Park was discussed. There was conversation about the proposed dog runs at Devoe and St. James Park, which will be addressed at next meeting.
- G) Public Safety & Quality of Life
- 1) The Committee reported on the plans for a Community Resource Fair to be held in Devoe Park.
- H) Senior Services
- 1) Lowell Green noted that the room where the meeting was being held was used during the day as the Senior Center for MMCC.
  - 2) She also said that MMCC had started a food pantry for needy people as did Tolentine Senior Center. With so many people in need of food, Lowell wondered if the community knew of the SNAP program which is available to seniors but not used. Her goal is to urge support and enroll those in need of these services.
- I) Traffic & Transportation
- 1) Edgar Ramos reported that the MTA would be discussing the Bedford Park Subway Station and elevators at the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- J) Veterans
- City Planning and the VA Hospital will be presenting at the next meeting.

VI) The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.