



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

DUSTIN ENGELKEN, DISTRICT MANAGER

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 13, 2015 6:30 PM

I. Environmental Issues:

A. Presentation to the Committee and Health Committee on Animal Assisted therapy with information from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) workshop presented at NYU on Tuesday, December 9th. The topic was the powerful and beneficial use of animals to support the mental health needs of individuals living with mental illness

B. Highlights from presentation:

1. MFY Legal services handles legal issues around living with a support animal. They will aid individuals facing eviction and other housing complaints with this special need
2. Pet Therapy Animals are being used in various environments. They are registered to work with People other than their owner to help provide emotional soothing. For example, A social Worker uses her dog in psychotherapy treatment of patients and it has been very successful. The lives of individuals suffering from depression and other mental illnesses have been significantly improved. Individuals with physical disabilities have been helped as well
3. One presenter spoke about the impact on his own life when he trained a Mental Health Service Animal to be his companion. Medications only help 80% of individuals suffering from depression. The impact of having a Mental Health Service Animal has been life changing for him. He explained the process of training a Mental Health Service Animal. He also gave advice on how to find an appropriate animal
4. Our Montefiore Community Liaison in attendance at the meeting informed the Committee that the Montefiore Children's Hospital has their own Pet Therapy Animal named Barney. Barney is part of a team doing Animal Assisted Therapy with cancer patients at the hospital. He is the dog of one of the Physicians at the hospital. The committee was very excited to hear about this new program



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5. Community members added that St. Barnabus and the VA Hospital also have Pet Therapy Animals

C. Snow issues:

1. Nurses from Montefiore reported that Last year there were many injuries from icy conditions on Gunhill Road. Sanitation will be contacted to alert them that more salt is needed on this hilly area. The injuries were so severe that the emergency room saw an increase in patients.

D. Noise issues:

1. The Safety Committee is working on the Mosholu Parkway noise complaints

E. New business:

1. It was reported that Liberty Tax on 204th Street and Hull Avenue has music playing that is very loud. The Board office will be informed and it was recommended that 311 be called as well

II. Sanitation Issues:

A. Dog excrement Issues:

1. Two motions were presented for the purchase of signs and bags at the General Board meeting in November. Both motions passed.

B. Status of additional order of 500 doggie bags for clean-up

C. Status of sign order:

1. The Executive Committee voted to remove any names from the signs. Only the board information will be printed on the signs

D. Propose dates for spring event at the Williamsbridge Oval:

1. No dates have been selected

E. Follow-up with the DOT Bridge/Tunnel Maintenance Team:

1. Kingsbridge Road underpass cleaned

2. Status of underpass at Bedford Park –follow-up on this is needed. It was suggested by Ms. Cintron that an art project be selected for the underpass on 204th Street. The Education and Cultural Affairs Committee will be contacted on this. The Transportation Committee will also need to get approval as well.

III. New business:

1. Potential icy conditions on Gunhill road

IV. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM.