



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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 15, 2018 @ 6:30 PM

I) Opening Remarks

A) Barbara Stronczer opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m., with greetings to all.

- 1) To maintain order, she reminded members to raise their hands if they wished to speak.
- 2) She then reviewed the procedures for the upcoming election for 2nd Vice Chair.

II) Chairperson's Report

A) Adaline Walker Santiago reported on the various meetings she attended in January and February.

- 1) This included the inauguration of City Councilman Mark Gjonaj.
- 2) Adaline also paid her respects at several wakes.

B) Adaline announced the news regarding Sam's Carpeting not becoming a homeless shelter.

- 1) The men's shelter will be administered by Bronx Works.
- 2) The Department of Homeless Services called her directly to inform her of the good news that the outcry of the community was heard not to place an all men's shelter in front of PS/MS 20.
- 3) The new location will be at the FECS building on Jerome Avenue that is not in front of a school, nor in a residential area.
- 4) The men's shelter will be administered by a reputable company called Bronx Works that will be giving a presentation to the Housing Committee.

C) Adaline discussed the Universal Pre-K Program with the NYC DOE and the GED Program at Lehman College and encouraged all to spread the news of the programs.

D) A resource was noted of a service offered by Access-a-Ride for same day service called E-Hail Pilot Program.

III) District Manager's Report

A) Ischia has met with board members to discuss needs, wants and expectations for the board and its progress.

B) She is currently working on the office structure, i.e.: lease, phone system etc.



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- C) Ischia discussed her participation with the committees and gave a synopsis of the Housing Committee meeting for the Chair.
- D) Discussion – 3600 Jerome Avenue
 - 1) 200 Bed-Men Shelter, 70 staffers, Physician and social workers on site, 3 daily meals will be served.
 - 2) Shelter Population: Mental Illness, Handicap, Substance Abusers, all of which have to be 50 years and older.
 - 3) NO Sex Offenders.
 - 4) Bronxworks along with DHS will put together an Advisory Committee.
 - E) Met with the North West Clergy Coalition to discuss the small businesses on Kingsbridge Road.
 - F) Met with the Stagg Group to discuss 150 Van Cortland Ave.
 - G) Ischia attended Borough Board meeting to adopt the Borough President's Budget Priorities for Fiscal 2019.
 - H) Ischia held her first District Service Cabinet Meeting (Bullets to follow).
 - I) Ischia created informational packets for board chairs that included: data (on the age, gender, demographics etc. of CB 7.)
 - J) Discuss the need for detailed mission statement for the committees (handed out examples).
 - K) Distributed Parliamentary procedures hand out.
 - 1) Ischia expressed that her goals are to ensure all committee chairs are well informed on the issues and data of the Community Board.

IV) Treasurer's Report – No report.

V) Committee Reports & Motions

A) Budget/Personnel

1) **Motion(s):**

(a) WAM Committee: To purchase 250 tote bags for the Women's Empowerment Event at the cost of \$ 732.50.

i. The motion was approved.

2) Andrew Laiosa requested that the group go into Executive Session to discuss a grievance from one member about another member.

(a) After all had read the grievance, there was a discussion about how the issue would be handled.

(b) It was decided that the committee would send the grievance to the member by Certified Mail and request a response in writing after



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which the Committee would make a determination on any action to be taken.

B) Community Relations & Long Term Planning

- 1) Lorita Watson discussed the Community Cleanup Day planned with the Department of Sanitation.
- 2) The Committee will also work with the Environment Committee to reach out to schools and community organizations to discuss participation in the clean-up and ongoing maintenance.
 - (a) One of the most annoying concerns is the number of residents who do not pick up after their dogs.
 - (b) The Committee is working on a plan to notify the public of this nuisance and ways of correcting.
 - (c) The Sanitation Dept. is fully supportive of the event and will be providing brooms and other necessities needed by the participants.
- 3) Lorita is also planning a Community Health Fair on May 19th from 10 – 4 at Frisch Field on Webster Ave.
 - (a) An exhibition ball game will take place on the field with a team from CB 7 pitted against anyone with the courage to oppose us.
 - i. For further information call CB 7.

C) Economic Development

- 1) The Committee will provide information at their meeting on Feb. 27th, on tax preparation and some precautions to be taken to avoid scams.
 - (a) All are invited.
- 2) Tiffany also reported on a series of workshops for Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises at MWBE University.
 - (a) This is a series of workshops designed to increase access to the Comptroller's office and citywide opportunities for MWBES.
 - (b) To RSVP visit email diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov.

3) Education – No report

D) Health & Hospitals

- 1) Gloria Bent reported a Nutrition Event to be held on March 14th at NCBH.
- 2) The question of a proposed change in food distribution was raised.
 - (a) It is to give boxes of food to recipients in lieu of food stamps.
 - (b) This change is causing great concern to the community in that 50 percent of Bronxites are on food stamps and how this change will affect them.
 - i. More information is forthcoming.



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E) Housing, Land Use & Zoning

- 1) In the absence of Jean Hill, Ischia will be working with Jean and the Housing committee in updating a housing map identifying new projects and on-going development in the community.
- 2) Zoning information will also be available.

F) Parks & Recreation

- 1) Barbara Stronczer reported on the Tibbets Brook Wetland Restoration Project and the Van Cortlandt Pedestrian Bridge Project.
 - (a) \$ 250,000 was assigned for the preliminary study of the project.
 - i. Further information will be provided at Manhattan College on Feb. 26th at 6:30 pm.
 - (b) The Pedestrian Bridge which is located north of Chandler Field will cost 20 million dollars.
 - (c) The Parks is requesting a letter of support from CB 7.
 - i. Since there was not a quorum at the Committee no motion was forthcoming.
 - ii. The request was sent back to the Committee for further deliberation because of questions with the design.
- 2) The question of Devoe Park being removed from CB 7's district arose.
- 3) CB 7 wishes to have the park restored to CB 7's jurisdiction in order to address excessive complaints about park maintenance.
- 4) **Motion(s):**
 - (a) To send a letter to Parks Commissioner Iris Baez, to have Devoe Park placed back in CB 7.
 - i. The Motion was approved unanimously.
- 5) The Annual Bronx Parks Speak Up to protect parkland will take place on Feb. 24th from 11 am – 5 pm at Lehman College.
 - (a) All are invited.
- 6) A Vice Chair was selected for the Parks Committee and was voted in unanimously.

G) Public Safety & Quality of Life

- 1) The Committee is interested in a more concerted effort on law enforcement to address quality of life issues.
- 2) The Committee would like to contact organizations and merchants who seem to be overlooked or underserved to inform them of the resources of law enforcement.



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- 3) They are proposing a series of meetings and contacts to deliver the message that their quality of life issues will be addressed.
 - 4) The Committee will address fire safety issues with a presentation from the Fire Department.
- H) Senior Services
- 1) A Vice Chair was selected and voted in unanimously
 - 2) Lowell distributed a NY State Senior Action Council 2018 Calendar.
 - 3) The Committee then addressed the question of whether a Senior Services Committee was needed or should it be combined with a new Committee to be called Human Services Committee.
 - 4) After much discussion, a motion was made.
 - 5) **Motion(s):**
 - (b) That a standalone Senior Services Committee be dissolved and the duties to be included with the newly named Human Services Committee.
 - i. The motion was approved and will be sent to the By-Laws Committee.
- I) Traffic & Transportation
- 1) **Motion(s):**
 - (a) Send a letter for Complete the Concourse for the Department of Transportation to extend the Grand Concourse Capital Project Plan from Fordham Road to Mosholu Parkway and study a redesign of the Grand Concourse.
 - i. The motion was approved.
- J) Veterans
- 1) Carmen Miranda reported on the Veterans Brunch to be held at Lehman College.
 - (a) The awards will be the same as last year with 5 awards to veterans from CB 7.
 - (b) If there are any recommendations send to the Committee with a bio of the veteran.
 - 2) There will be an Education table from Mercy College to assist veterans in pursuing further education.
 - 3) The Committee plans a tour of the Veterans Hospital in the near future.
- L) Ad Hoc Committees
- 1) WAM Committee



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(a) Cole Hawkins reported that the Women's Empowerment event would take place at Lehman College on March 24th with a projected attendance of 250 people.

i. More information to follow.

2) By Laws Committee

(a) Andrew Laiosa discussed the process.

VI) Old Business/New Business

A) Lowell Green announced a visit to the Holocaust Museum at Bronx H. S. of Science for CB 7 members to be planned for April 23 – 27th.

1) If anyone is interested, call Lowell so that a date can be confirmed.

B) Ischia Bravo announced that she will be updating the Website with NYC support at no cost to the Board.

1) It will be user friendly.

2) The present contract for this served will be reviewed.

VII) Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.