

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Chair:	Barbara Stronczer
Meeting Date:	September 13, 2023
Meeting Time:	6:30 pm
Meeting Location:	<u>Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center</u> 3225 Reservoir Oval E, Bronx, NY 10467
Members In Attendance:	✓ Barbara Stronczer ✓ Gwen Thomas Steed ✓ Daisy Perry ✓ Jesús López-Jensen ✓ Kazi Noor ✓ Ruth Caraballo ✓ Tobie Buford _Tasha Andrews
Minutes done by:	Barbara Stronczer

Minutes:

I. Meeting Guidelines

II. Introductions

III. Review of Previous Minutes: The minutes from the June 14th meeting were approved by the committee.

IV. Follow-up from Previous Month:

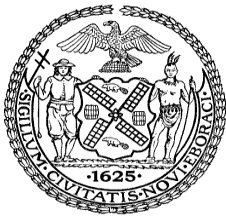
- A. Repair of the Pillars on Mosholu Parkway: Joe Magneri ,the Parks’ Manager stated the repairs would be done once the insurance money was received. Both areas in question were subjected to automobile accidents.
- B. St. James Park: Work on the construction is slated to be completed in March 2024.

V. New Business: Several Representatives from the New York Botanical Garden were at the meeting. Aaron Bouska, introduced his colleagues and Ursula began the presentation by describing the current work center. The old stable building is currently the administration building. It is located close to the Bronx River Parkway. The project consists of the creation of two new buildings. One site is for the garden’s union staff (

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lockers & rest rooms) and the other will become a garage and repair shop. The goal of the project is carbon neutrality. Public funding is needed to initiate this project.

The architect for the project pointed out the addition of public space in the area once the old building is removed and the two new structures

are built. The project will take approximately 3 years to obtain approvals and funding. Actual construction will take about 18 months.

Motion: The Parks' Committee recommends the sending of a letter to the Public Design Commission stating our approval for the proposed "Site Operation Proposal." The motion was made by Ruth Caraballo and seconded by Gwendolyn Thomas Steed. All committee members present voted in favor of the motion.

VI. Updates:

1. Williamsbridge Oval Funding: Funding will be used to study the drainage system at the park. Flooding often occurs after heavy rainfalls.

2. Aqueduct Walk Landmarking: The site will be studied by the Landmarks' Commission. Once a date for the hearing is established comments will be taken from the public.

Webster House: The new boiler is in place. Roof work is still needed to be completed.

3. Maintenance Issues: The lights at the World War I Monument on Mosholu Parkway need repairs. It was asked if stronger bulbs could be used at this site. A request for more trash receptacles was made for the area in and around Poe Park. Mowing along Van Cortlandt Park South was also requested.

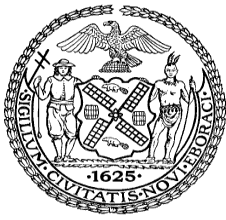
Garbage pickup has improved. The summer saw better overall maintenance of the parks in District 7. Grass cutting was also done in a timely manner.

4. Capital Outlay/Expense Items: Requests were made for the following new items: A. Renovations for Harris Field B. Funding for the Repair of the Pillars on

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Mosholu Parkway. Rehabilitation of PS 8 Playground. Everyone was asked to submit additional projects and needs.

5. Park Recreation Centers: Mr. Williams was in attendance. He will be representing Poe Park at our future meetings.

6. Friends' Groups: Tobie Buford discussed plans for Devoe Park. She is working to obtain two more dates with the Playmobile. The Friends have also received a grant for an art project. The pollination area is also thriving.

VII. The next meeting is scheduled for **October 11th**. Discussion on items for both the capital and expense budgets will be on the agenda.