

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



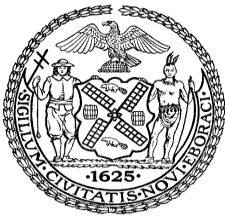
HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON., BOROUGH PRESIDENT YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair:	Barbara Stronczer
Meeting Date:	May 16, 2024
Meeting Time:	6:30pm
Meeting Location:	<u>The Bedford's Community Room</u> 211 East 203rd Street, Bronx, NY 10458
Members In Attendance:	✓ Barbara Stronczer ✓ Yajaira Arias ✓ Chad Y. Royer _ Jean Hill ✓ Betty Arce ✓ Edgar Ramos ✓ Leury Acosta ✓ Michelle Avila ✓ Samantha Souvatzis
Minutes done by:	Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky

Minutes:

- I. Guidelines and Code of Conduct were read By Chair Barbara Stronczer**
- II. Attendance was taken and quorum was met**
- III. Review of Previous Months Minutes**
 - A. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Yajaira Arias and seconded by Michelle Avila with one correction. The spelling of Scott Towers will be changed to Scott Tower.
- IV. Follow-up from previous month**
 - A. In response to last month's violation of the code of conduct at the General Board meeting, Chair Arias reported that the Bronx Borough President's Office and the Law Department informed the District Manager that we are all in compliance with our code of conduct. Therefore, we now have the power to remove individuals from meetings, not adhering to the Board's code of conduct.
- V. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera Updates**
 - A. The DM reported that she collected 88 ballots for the Civic Engagement Commission's Participatory Budget process. The goal is to collect 400 ballots.



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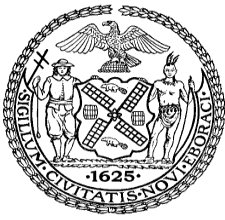
- B. CB7 was selected to work with a Neighborhood Support Team to help issues in quality of life at Fordham, Kingsbridge Road, Briggs Ave and Bainbridge Ave. This team was created out of the Mayor's Initiative, and developed by the Community Affairs Unit. CB7 will help to identify issues of need and work with the team to address those complaints.
- C. On May 17th, the District Manager & the Chair will attend a Roundtable discussion sponsored by Senator Gustavo Rivera about the Kingsbridge underpass; the invite is for the local elected officials.

VI. Chair Yajaira Arias Remarks

- A. On May 13th, Edgar Ramos attended a Bronx Borough Board meeting where they voted to pass the Tibbetts Brook Daylighting Project.
- B. The Parks department reported in their budget that they hired more staff and there may be more money for tree care. However, the City has had a massive number of retirements, so the ability to train new employees in tree care may take longer than usual. Mr. Ramos took the opportunity to request more PEP Officers.
- C. Ms. Arias will be reaching out to old & new board members during the summer via zoom.

VII. New Business

- A. Chad Royer reported the grass in Devoe Park is too high and it needs to be cut. Ms. Stronczer also said that the area near the new trees had to be done carefully, as to not harm the newly planted trees. A call to 311 was advised.
- B. Betty Arce reported that a super is blocking the hydrant whenever he puts out his garbage. It is covered so completely that drivers are parking their cars and being ticketed for parking by a hydrant they don't see. Ms. Arce was advised to contact the Department of Buildings.
- C. Michelle Avila asked about the status of Hybrid meetings where if approved, the hybrid meetings would only be approved for the public.



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Some Community Boards do not want hybrid meetings, but our Board is exploring this option. We noted that attendance was high during the covid pandemic when we were online. It was then suggested that this item be added to the monthly agenda to keep track of this issue.

1. The DM reported that if we do have Hybrid meetings, the cost of the equipment and additional help with technology will have to be considered. The Tech that we would purchase, is called Owls, which is a camera and a microphone that follows the speaker.
- D. A question then came up about having a retreat or bonding experience for the Board. It could be a “Meet & Greet,” to meet the new Board members. It will be taken into consideration but it was noted that the budget will be tighter in fiscal year 2025.

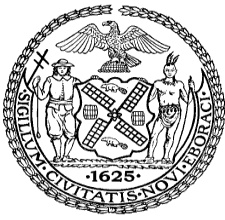
VIII. Motions:

A. The Bronx Independent Cinema Center - Parks Committee

1. Mr. Gregory Hernandez met with the Parks committee to request a letter of support for his organization. His organization serves two goals: To advance Bronx talent in cinema creation and film related careers such as casting and producing films. The letter of support will aid their quest for funding and grant opportunities.
2. The committee recommends a letter of support for the Bronx Independent Cinema Center be sent to the organization, <https://bit.ly/3JWkzK7>:
 - a) The Committee voted unanimously: 9 yeses, 0 nos, 0 abstentions, 1 absent.

B. New York Public Library - Education, Youth and Libraries Committee

1. CB7 is home to three libraries: The Bronx Library Center, the Mosholu Library and the Jerome Park Library. The letter of support will request restoration of Sunday hours and keep the libraries open on Saturday.



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2. The committee recommends a letter of support on behalf of the NYPL to be sent to our city council members to stop further budget cuts, <https://bit.ly/3WG9K6F>:
 - a) The motion passed unanimously with 9 yeases, 0 nos, 0 abstentions, 1 absent
 - b) The motion passed with amendments to add the entire City Council Library Committee, Mayor Eric Adams, The Speaker Adrienne Adams, Finance Chair Justin Brennan and Council Majority Leader Amanda Farias

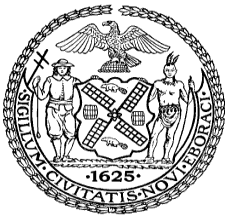
IX. Committee Reports

A. Environment & Sanitation – Betty Arce

1. Tara Deighan, from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), presented the new DEP Lead Service Line Replacement Program. This \$24 million grant program would be free of charge to homeowners and landlords of 2 or 3 family homes. The communities were selected from Census data, with a median income of \$47,000 per family. CB7 is in Area B which includes Fordham Heights, Belmont & Bedford Park. The selected homeowners will receive a letter, asking the owner to call DEP. The goal is to get homeowners to be part of the program. The committee also learned that Orthophosphate is a food-grade additive, added to our water to coat the inside of lead service lines, which creates a barrier between the lead pipes and the water. No date has been set for June. For next year: Joint committee meetings will be scheduled.

B. Education, Youth & Libraries – Leurys Acosta

1. The Mosholu Library asked for a letter of support, which is included here.



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2. The date for the Yankee Scholarship Award Recognition Ceremony at Yankee Stadium is not known yet. The Yankees will send the information to the Board and the five awardees, once a date is set. The District Manager will be receiving the checks so it was suggested that we give the checks out at a meeting, if the ceremony happens before the summer. This reasoning would help to publicize the scholarship and celebrate the students. The Norwood news could also be invited to help get the word out about the scholarship.

C. Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos

1. Minutes can be found on the website. Next meeting is on June 7th, where the MTA will present on OMNI and the community will take an opportunity to ask questions around Congestion Pricing.

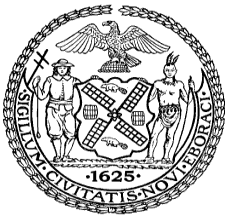
D. Housing, Land Use & Economic Development – Yajaira Arias

1. Two presentations:
 - a) The NYC Dept of Social Services did a presentation on 2501 Sedgwick Ave. This is a new building housing 34 affordable apartments and 79 shelter apartments for families with children. Each floor is designated for permanent housing (HPD) or shelter housing. The 79 apartments for families in a shelter setting are receiving services from Bronx Works. They are being moved from an old shelter on Andrews Ave. The goal is to move the shelter families into permanent housing.
 - b) NYC planning spoke about the City of Yes, where under the proposal, commercial corridors that have low density and are mixed use and have stores without a second or third floor, may be allowed additional floors added to the building for housing.
2. Concerns were raised towards small Landlords and their issues with rent not being paid and unable to evict their tenants. The

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chair will see what type of assistance is available. The City of Yes will be present at the General Board meeting in June. The next committee meeting is June 11.

E. Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer

1. Joe Magneri, the Parks Manager, reported there is still no word on summer staffing. The Bronx Independent Cinema Center visited the committee and requested a letter of support for their organization. The Motion is included. The next meeting is in June and Robert Madeira, from The Partnership for Parks will be speaking.

F. Public Safety & Quality of Life – Samantha Souvatzis

1. The committee met on May 9 where Officer Capo reported the statistics for the 52nd Precinct. The theft of catalytic converters is down but the phone thefts from individuals on mopeds are up.
2. Dr. Curie, Co-Director of the Center for Trauma Informed Care at the University of Buffalo, gave a short presentation on their program.
3. The committee met at Tracey Towers and will meet again in June. However, the committee will rotate to different areas of the community to learn about new concerns.

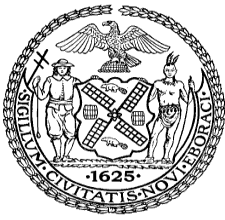
G. Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila

1. The committee did not meet last month nor this month due to unforeseen circumstances. The next meeting is June 18 where a representative from the Center for Human Development & Human Services will speak.
2. Cannabis Management changes were discussed where stores are being closed through the Sheriff's office with the city assisting. West Fordham Road has a legal medical cannabis establishment and legal establishments will have a Barcode on their window, where it will not advertise signs of cannabis. Landlords may be held responsible for renting to the Cannabis establishments.

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H. Veterans Affairs – Chad Y. Royer

1. The committee was unable to meet this month.
2. The flagging event at The Veterans WW1 Monument was a huge success. Council Member Pierina Sanchez and Assembly Member George Alvarez attended along with the Cadets, Board Members and the Public. Mr. Royer thanked Parks Chair Barbara Stronczer for all her help to make the event a success. A question was asked about the board obtaining a microphone for this type of event. The Chair said this sounds doable.
3. On May 21st, the third annual Woodlawn flagging event will be held. Participants can meet at the Jerome Avenue entrance around 9:30AM to 9:45AM
4. The Veterans Committee is discussing whether to meet jointly with Public Safety and Quality of Life on June 13th for a discussion on Domestic Violence.

I. Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Jean Hill

1. The chair was absent and they did not meet this month.

X. Next meeting date

- A. Executive meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2024
- B. The General Board Meeting will be held at The Botanical Garden on June 25th

XI. Discussion on next agenda

A. Hybrid Meetings

XII. Adjournment

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 8PM with a motion to close the meeting made by Michelle Avila and seconded by Yajaira Arias

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