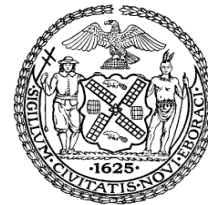




**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7**



VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT

YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON

KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT MANAGER

GENERAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Chair:	Yajaira Arias
Meeting Date:	May 28, 2024
Meeting Time:	6:30 PM
Meeting Location:	Monroe College's King Hall Mintz Auditorium 2501 Jerome Ave, Bronx, NY 10468
Minutes done by:	Yajaira Arias
Meeting Recording:	https://youtu.be/kgyFF7H6DMs

Minutes:

- I. Meeting Guidelines & Code of Conduct were read**
- II. Public Hearing/ Public Session**
 - A. 52nd Precinct: Commanding Officer Chase Maneri**
 - 1. The Commanding Officer thanked all those who attended the Community Council Meeting.
 - 2. Unfortunately, he reported there were three separate incidents of homicide over the holiday weekend, which occurred in the southern part of the district. There were three shootings and one stabbing.
 - 3. The ride by & grabbing bags from mopeds and stealing tire rims continues to be the most common crimes in our community.
 - B. Good Shepherd Services: Pamela Solon: Coordinator**
 - 1. Good Shepherd Services has a summer program. It is a career readiness program for ages 15-24, beginning on 7/1/24. The workshop will teach students to market themselves, as a brand.
 - 2. For more info, go to <https://goodshepherds.org> or call (212) 243-7070.
 - C. Armando Ramos: Constituent**
 - 1. Mr. Ramos protested that he feels he is being silenced at the Board meetings.
 - D. Monica Richardson: Constituent**

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1. She has two quality of life issues, litter in the community and the proliferation of rental scooters cluttering sidewalks and being a tripping hazard.

E. Board Member-Tobie Buford:

1. There is a new mobile car wash parked across from 2516 Webb Ave that is causing problems with traffic.
 - a) Commanding Officer Maneri advised that the Department of Consumer & Worker Protection (DCWP) be contacted, where they have the ability to charge a \$6,000 fine for businesses working without the proper licensing.
2. First, call 311 with the details and follow up with the Board's office. Be sure to give the 311 ticket number to the Board's staff members so they can follow up.

F. Mosholu Library- Jane Addison-Amoyaw:

1. The library has programs for all ages and the Summer Fun Kick Off begins on June 1st at 3pm and children ages 6-11 are invited.
2. Staff are continuing their letter writing campaign to stop further budget cuts and to roll back the cuts already made. Our Board has 3 libraries and they are safe spaces for the community

III. District Manager Karla Cabrera Carrera Updates

- A. Thanks to the board members who came out to the Annual Bronx Week Parade and Festival on Sunday, May 19th!
- B. Big shout out to our Veterans Affairs Committee for hosting 2 flagging events this month! The Flagging event at Woodlawn Cemetery on Monday, May 20th was featured on:

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1. BronxTimes: https://www.bxtimes.com/woodlawn-cemetery-flagging/?utm_source=sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=bxt-daily&utm_term=Bronx%20Times%20Daily%20Newsletter
 2. Bronx News 12: https://www.news-expressky.com/news/national/showing-respect-volunteers-prepare-woodlawn-cemetery-for-memorial-day/video_2a9e5ddc-b9bd-561a-9871-a02d37bab5b7.html
- C. The Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit has selected our community board to work closely with a Neighborhood Support Team. More details to follow
- D. Bronx Community Board 7 is participating in the Civic Engagement Commission’s Participatory Budgeting Initiative: The People’s Money. She is proud to share that we are the only community board to participate in this democratic process.
1. In November 2023 we hosted idea generation sessions.
 2. A group of Broxites reviewed all ideas, and created a ballot with 10 projects.
 3. Only the top 5 projects will receive \$174,000 each in FY25.
 4. We are now at 285 votes of our goal of 400.
 5. Vote now at on.nyc.gov/pb use code “BXCB7”
- E. The NYC DOT is accepting public comments in regards to its Truck Route Network Redesign through a public portal until June 30, 2024: <https://nycdotprojects.info/project/truck-route-network-redesign>
1. As of today at 5 pm, there was only 1 comment out of the 818 comments on the feedback map.
 2. Save the Date for Bronx CB7’s Annual Resource Fair at Poe Park on Saturday, June 29, 2024.
- F. We are open for in person constituent services, Monday to Thursday 10 am to 4 pm; and virtually on Fridays from 9 am to 5 pm.
1. Location: 229-a East 204th Street, Bronx, NY 10458
 2. Email: kcabreracarrera@cb.nyc.gov
 3. Phone: 718-933-5650. Text: 929-496-0748

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4. Instagram: @bxcb7 Facebook: @ Bronx Community Board 7
5. Sign up for our Newsletter

IV. Chairperson Yajaira Arias Remarks

A. Ms. Arias thanked the Board Members and the public who attended the Bronx Day Parade. It was a great day and a fun time was had by all!

V. Attendance (Roll Call): Quorum was met

VI. Review of Previous Months' Minutes:

- A. Lowell Green asked that the title of Gregory Hernandez, Executive Director of the Bronx Independent Cinema Center be added to Motion A.
- B. Edgar Ramos asked to correct the next meeting date for Traffic & Transportation to June 6th, not May 2nd. On page 7 under Committee reports.
- C. Michelle Avila asked that the location of the Medical Cannabis establishment be changed from Belmont to Fordham Road.
- D. Motion to approve minutes made by Chad Royer and seconded by Michelle Avila.
- E. Full Board voted in favor of previous months' minutes with 1 abstention.

VII. Motion A: Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs: <https://bit.ly/3JWkzK7>- Bronx Community Board 7 offers a letter of support for Gregory Hernandez, Executive Director/President of the Bronx Independent Cinema Center for his organization.

- A. Motion made by Barbara Stronczer and seconded by Chad Royer.
- B. Full board voted in favor of Motion A with 1 abstention. Mr. Jesus Lopez-Jensen wished to be noted.

VIII. Motion B: Education, Youth, & Libraries: <https://bit.ly/3WG9K6F>- Bronx Community Board 7 sends a letter of support for The New York Public Library to be sent to our elected officials to stop further budget cuts.

- A. Motion made by Leurys Acosta and seconded by Chad Royer.
- B. Full board voted in favor of Motion B.

IX. Committee Reports:

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A. Environment and Sanitation – Betty Arce

1. (DEP) presented information on their new program; the Lead Replacement Service Line Program. This is a free service valued at \$8,000.
2. A letter from either the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or the Department of Design & Construction (DDC) will go out to selected households, where it will explain the program is free and they will open up the sidewalk leading into the building.
3. This entire process will take between 1 to 4 weeks and there are concerns that individuals may be worried about scammers and not get involved.
4. Only homes that receive the official letter will be eligible and letters can be requested in different languages. Norwood is the target area in our community.
5. The next meeting will be Tuesday 9/3/24.

B. Education, Youth & Libraries – Leury Acosta

1. He encouraged the public to please review the minutes for meeting details.
2. A letter of support to stop the budget cuts was passed by the committee.
3. Jane Addison-Amoya of the Mosholu Library was recognized by the Committee for her work with the NYPL for over 30 years and about 20 years in our community.
4. The Committee warmly invites the public and Board members to attend meetings; they meet the second Tuesday of every month.

C. Traffic & Transportation – Edgar Ramos

1. DOT presented at the meeting where they are adding two bus stop landings; both on Jerome avenue at 192nd and 205th Street.
2. The next meeting will be at 211 E. 203rd Street on June 2.

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

1. Bronx Works presented on their housing project at 2501 Sedgwick Ave. Please see the minutes for details on this lengthy committee meeting.

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2. The City of Yes also did a presentation on the City's housing proposal. The next Public Hearing will be at CUNY on the Concourse at 5:30 PM. The housing Committee will begin at 6:30, after the Hearing.
3. The Department of City Planning (DCP) would like feedback ahead of time. All are encouraged to review the information ahead of time and send comments/questions to the (DCP).
4. This Housing Phase is the 2nd of 3 phases of the City of Yes. The City wants your feedback. We can also send comments to the Board and they will forward it to the DCP.

E. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs – Barbara Stronczer -

1. The committee met on May 8th with Joe Magneri, Parks Manager for BDs 7 & 8 to discuss summer staffing. He had no information yet, but there are currently 20 grass cutters for Boards 6-12 in the Bronx. This is not a lot of staff for all the parks that we have. Mr. Magneri is still waiting to hear about seasonal workers.

F. Public Safety & Quality of Life – Samantha Souvatzis -

1. The 52nd precinct presented stats for the area; see [52 Precinct - NYPD \(nyc.gov\)](#) for the stats.
2. Events in the district: On 5/23 at 7PM at the Bedford Park Senior Center, 5/29 12-2:30 PM Autism walk and 6/21 Open House 3-7pm with food, games & a precinct tour.
3. For any homeless encampments, please send pictures to 311, get the 311 confirmation number and send that to your elected officials and Karla at the Board office.
4. If you feel unsafe due to the mopeds at the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, call 911.
5. School Crossing guards are needed and if you are interested in applying go to [nyc.gov](#)
6. Dr. Curie, Co-Director of the Center for Trauma Informed Care at the University of Buffalo, gave a short presentation at the committee meeting.

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7. The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Veterans Affairs Committee on June 13th at Tracey Towers. A presenter from the Bronx DA's office will make a presentation on Domestic Violence.

G. Health & Human Services – Michelle Avila -

1. No meeting was held in May. The committee will meet in June.

H. Veterans Affairs – Chad Y. Royer

1. No meeting was held in May. The June meeting will be a joint meeting with the Public Safety & Quality of Life committee on June 13th.
2. Chad gave many thanks to all those who attended the Woodlawn flagging event and The Bronx Victory Memorial (WW1 dedicated in 1925) event as well.
3. A special shout out to the NY Grey Cadets for their wonderful band. The Next flagging event will be in November.

I. Budget, Personnel & Ethics – Jean Hill

1. No meeting was held in May, but in their previous meeting, they discussed members who left and why. The next meeting will be on 6/26.
2. Ms. Hill acknowledged that board membership is not an easy commitment; however all the efforts by current members are greatly appreciated, as well the efforts made by former members.

X. Elected Officials/Elected Official Representatives

A. Congressman Ritchie Torres: Not Present

B. Mayor's office- Alina Dowe: Not Present

C. NYC Public Advocate's Office: Not Present

D. NYC Comptroller's office: Not Present

E. Bronx Borough President's office: Not Present

F. Bronx District Attorney's office-Trevon Blondet:

1. The Deputy Chief of Domestic Violence (DV) will present on 6/13 at the Public Safety and Quality of Life & Veterans Affairs Committee meeting.

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2. On 10/19, the 5K DV Run will take place. More info to come soon.

G. NY State Senator Gustavo Rivera: Sari Mendoza

1. The Housing Choice Vouchers (NYCHA Section 8) applications will open from 6/3-6/9.
2. On 6/3, the NYC Rent Control Board will meet at Hostos Community College regarding potential rent increases on rent stabilized apartments. Concerned parties should attend.
3. On 5/30, there will be the second round of virtual events with the Senator and his staff. Comments about the Kingsbridge underpass are open to constituents and non-constituents.
4. Another NYC ID event will be scheduled in the future.

H. NY State Senator Robert Jackson: Not Present

I. Assembly member George Alvarez's Office: Not Present

J. Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz's Office- James Dezell:

1. Three successful shredding events were held with other elected officials. The next event will be held in the fall.
2. Bill A335- The Climate Change Superfund Act, which would require big oil companies clean-up the mess they have created. It is looking positive that it will be passed.
3. A question was raised if a new bank would be opened at Knolls Crescent? The old bank has been closed for some time.
4. A complaint was made that there is a bill requiring individuals in a protest to remove their masks.

K. Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr.'s Office: Not Present

L. Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia's Office: Not Present

M. Council Member Oswald Feliz's Office- George Cooke:

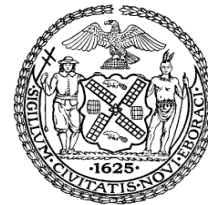
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1. The office is located at 573 E. Fordham Road (entrance on Hoffman), and is open Mon-Thurs from 10AM-5PM and remote on Fridays.
2. On, 5/30, there will be a Mother's Day Breakfast honoring PTA Moms from 10AM-12 PM with food & NYBG tickets giveaway.
3. On 6/15, there will be the Bronx Day Celebration sponsored by BP Gibson, to celebrate Juneteenth from 10AM-6PM Call (718) 842-8100 for more information.
4. A bill proposing Birth Control for Rats has been introduced. Contact Guillermo Rodriguez at (718) 842-8100 for details.

N. Council Member Pierina Sanchez's Office-Adrian Cacho:

1. Mentioned the importance of the opening for section 8 applications. This is the first time in 15 years that this has happened.
2. The Rent Guideline Board hearing will take place at Hostos on 6/3, for both Residential and Commercial rents. The Council Member will be testifying.
3. For issues that arise be sure to call or text 311 and then forward the information to your Elected officials and the Community Board.

O. Council Member Eric Dinowitz's Office: Not Present

XI. Comments from the Board & Public:

- A. Concerns about drug use were raised on Kingsbridge Road. The public was advised to call 311 or 911 regarding these issues.
- B. Chair Arias reported that an initial meeting with Senator Gustavo Rivera was held on the Kingsbridge Underpass and that the meetings would continue.
- C. It was reported that 7 rats were seen on a property. Call 311 to report where the rats are seen and the rat holes.

XII. Meeting is adjourned:

- A. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. Motion by Yajaira Arias and seconded by Bernard Wright.

XIII. Next Meeting Date:

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A. June 25, 2024 6:30PM at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), 2950 Southern Blvd.

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