



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

BARBARA STRONCZER, CHAIRPERSON

ISCHIA BRAVO, DISTRICT MANAGER

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 14, 2018 @ 6:30 PM | No Quorum Present

- I) Barbara Stronczer opened the meeting at 6:50 pm by welcoming all to the last Executive Committee meeting until September.
- II) Jackie from MAS needs the Chairs to send her accomplishments and pictures of activities in their committees for the Newsletter.
- III) The General Board meeting is on Tuesday at the NY Botanical Gardens where we will have announcements from 2 NYC Councilmen. Elections will be held at the meeting according to protocol. Budget requests are still being reviewed. Reminder that food will be served at the meeting at 6 pm.
- IV) District Managers Report
 - A) We are currently working on the Fiscal 2020 Budget Priorities and Expenses. Please see link for our submission for FY 2019:
 - 1) https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https://github.com/NYCPlanning/labs-cd-needsstatements/raw/master//BX%20DNS%20FY%202019/FY2019_Stateement_BX07.pdf
 - 2) City Planning has been instrumental in the process of making the budget request process more efficient and transparent for all of our members.
 - B) Collaborating with a group of Board members for summer initiative: Bronx CB7's Summer Resource Fair; Devoe Park – Saturday, June 23, 2018, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm.
 - C) Ongoing Discussion with Council member Cohen regarding the zoning plan conducted last year. We are scheduled to further discuss the zoning plan with city planning.
 - D) Fordham Landing's grand opening was on May 22, 2018.
 - E) As the District Manager, cultivating relationships with all the stake-holders in our district is a priority. I have been in contact with some of our local schools to open a line of communication to ensure they know our function and participate in our meetings.
 - 1) BIDS and Merchant Associations.
 - F) Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Williamsbridge Oval Skate Park - June, 5th, 2018.



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- 1) <https://www.nycgovparks.org/planning-and-building/capital-project-tracker/project/7106>
- G) Borough Cabinet Meeting – June 6th, 2018
 - 1) **Notes by the Deputy Borough President:** Smart Truck Management Plan: The Citywide Smart Truck Management Plan will improve our understanding of truck route usage and compliance, movement of goods, needs of shoppers and receivers, and community concerns. We would like to hear from residents and business operators as we develop a citywide strategy to meet our needs for truck deliveries while also achieving our sustainability goals. <https://nycdotprojects.info/project/26/overview>
 - 2) **Project Overview:** In New York City, 90% of all goods are delivered by truck. Freight is a critical part of the everyday experience for New York’s residents and businesses, bringing the products we consume and produce on a daily basis. In addition to supplying the goods that keep daily life in the city moving, the freight industry is a major source of jobs for the region, keeping New York’s economy moving. The City is taking steps to enhance street efficiency through the safe, reliable and environmentally responsible movements of goods. To remain a livable city, it’s vital for New York to improve its freight systems. Demand for the City’s streets has grown dramatically and that impairs freight efficiency. Freight trips are rising steadily as online shopping grows. The number of deliveries to residences is up 30 percent in just five years. Trucks frequently double park because curbside loading zones are filled. Accommodating freight in New York today means finding creative means to tackle multiple challenges. This includes developing strategies that prioritize safety, improve air quality, and reduce inefficiency, congestion, and impacts on neighborhoods, all while still meeting industry needs. Improved efficiency is essential to enable better mobility by people and freight while improving livability and environmental quality. The New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) is developing a comprehensive citywide Smart Truck Management plan to better manage freight in New York City. The data being collected and the public and private sector outreach efforts that are underway will provide a better understanding of truck route usage, the needs of shippers and receivers and community concerns.



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With the input from the public and private sector stakeholders the Department will recommend a series of strategies and actions to improve operations and enhance the economic vitality and quality of life for all New Yorkers. The plan support goals of [OneNYC](#), the [NYCDOT Strategic Plan 2016: Safe*Green*Smart*Equitable](#) as well as [NYC's Roadmap to 80x50](#). The strategies and actions developed through the Smart Truck Management Plan will be based on the following guiding principles:

- (a) **Safety:** Improve safety for all road users
- (b) **Congestion Reduction:** Reduce truck related congestion
- (c) **Partnerships:** Expand partnerships with shoppers, receivers, haulers and communities
- (d) **Environmental Sustainability:** Improve the trucking industry environmental performance
- (e) **Infrastructure and Assets:** Identify, evaluate, and invest in essential freight corridors
- (f) **Freight Efficiency:** support NYC's economy through more efficient goods movement and deliveries
- (g) **Compliance Monitoring:** Create a culture of compliance with truck-related regulations
- (h) **Outreach Workshops:** In 2017, DOT has solicited input from the communities most directly impacted by truck traffic through a series of 11 community open houses. In late spring of 2018, we're coming to you for our last round of public workshops/engagement as develop a vision for freight movement in the five boroughs. The full schedule of workshops will be available on NYC DOT's website as well as on this feedback portal once confirmed; visit <http://www.nyc.gov/trucks>. The workshops are part of DOT's Smart Truck Management plan effort, to deliver a safer, cleaner and more efficient freight system that meets the demanding needs of its residents and businesses. To learn more, the Freight Team can be contacted at (212) 839-6670 or freightplan@dot.nyc.gov

3) **Campaign for Postal Banking:**

- a) <http://www.campaignforpostalbanking.org/>
- b) <http://www.campaignforpostalbanking.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/05/KnowtheFacts.pdf>



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- c) <http://www.campaignforpostalbanking.org/news/gillibrands-post-office-banking-bill-bypasses-years-of-careful-quiet-work-to-kill-payday-lending/>
 - d) I recommended the post office union advocate to resolve the underlying issues; the long lines the post office currently has before bringing additional services into the Bronx.
- H) June 7th, 2018-Ischia Bravo, District Manager, graduated the Citizens Police Academy.
- I) Council Member Salamanca has been in communication with me about the Land Use concerns we have relating to Shelters. The City of New York has a homeless crisis that needs to be addressed. However the answer is not putting shelters only in certain areas of the Borough. We are unaware of where the existing shelters and clusters are in our district. The council members is now introducing legislation (bill#0915) would require the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and the Human Resources Administration (HRA) to submit quarterly reports to Council Members and local community boards the number of shelters, supportive housing, - both single-site supportive and scattered-site, - and cluster sites in each district and community board. Furthermore, quarterly reports would be posted on the respective agencies' websites with the aforementioned data.
- J) District Service Cabinet Meeting: June 14, 2018
- 1) CITY AGENCY REPORTS & UPDATES
 - a) NYPD – Precinct Open House – June 15th, 2018 4pm-7pm
 - b) FDNY – Fire Houses Open House - June 16 11am-1pm
 - c) DOT – Cleaning Schedule will be made available monthly
 - d) DOB – Status of Parkside is still in “disapprove”
 - e) DOHMH – Informed us that complaints made to 311 and as a result the agency is sent to address the problem and it reoccurs; the complainant then would need to call and make a new complaint.
 - f) DDC – GENERAL INFORMATION (all pending projects)
 - i. Replacement of Water Main Appurtenances – Project ID: HED563.
 - ii. Reconstruction of Jerome Ave Retaining Wall – Project ID: RWX020.
 - iii. DDC Project #HED569, Replacement of Trunk and Distribution Water Mains and Sewers in Bainbridge.
 - iv. Project ID: HEDA 002 Accelerated Water Main Replacement



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v. Reconstruction of Webster Avenue SBS – Various Locations.

V) Committee Reports

A) Budget, Personnel & Ethics

- 1) Andrew reviewed the amount of funds remaining in the budget and recommended minor expenditures before closure.

B) Community Relations/Economic Development

- 2) The committee met to finalize the plans for the Outreach Event in Devoe Park on Saturday.
- 3) The sanitation issue at Bailey Houses was discussed with no solution at present.

C) Environment & Sanitation

- 1) Ms. Effie Ardizzone presented on Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Issues:
 - a) Owners Water bill rebates for Home: All 1-3 family homes in NYC will receive a one-time rebate of \$183 through the NYC Department of Finance. This will likely show up in the next water bill, although some home owners have already received their rebate.
 - b) Fire hydrant usage and related concerns: We are in a lockdown area but sprinkler caps can be installed by the local fire department. Anyone 18 or older can request a sprinkler cap from the local firehouse. Unfortunately, individuals have learned how to turn on the hydrants; this should only be done by the FDNY. Call 311 and DEP will come out and shut down the hydrant. If a sprinkler cap is on the hydrant, it is not as high a priority as an uncapped hydrant because of the danger of the force running water. Sprinkler caps cannot be installed on 2 way streets. Community Boards 4 & 5 have the highest issues with open hydrants. Through Hydrant Education Actions Teams (HEAT) paid for through DYCD's SYEP, youth educate the community about the importance of water conservation.
 - c) Home owner's Insurance: Applications are available for additional coverage from the sewer to your house. They are available at the Board Office.
 - d) Complaints can be addressed below: The Bureau of Customer Services (BCS) located at 1932 Arthur Avenue.



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- e) DEP participates in National Night Out Against Crime: This is held the first Tuesday in August. The board can request information for our table.
 - 2) Ms. Betty Arce presented on feral cat Colonies: The presentation was dedicated to Mr. Martin Brenna, a resident of our community who recently died. The presentation was informative and it highlighted the tremendous and urgent need for an animal shelter in the Bronx. Copies of the presentation are available at the board office
 - 3) The Committee reviewed and discussed the Budget priorities (Capital & Expense): It was agreed by all that the Animal shelter should remain as a top priority. The final response will be sent later but each person left with their own survey and will be responsible for sending it back to the Board office.
- D) Health & Hospitals
- 1) There was a presentation on chronic diseases by Dr. Goswami, from NCBH. She also shared a brochure of all services provided in Primary Care.
 - 2) The Committee shared some of the common themes as the most pressing issues facing our district i.e.: diabetes, heart disease. Mental health, substance abuse treatment and prevention program, public safety, and affordable housing.
 - 3) The budget priorities were reviewed with proposals to include the issues that were discussed. The committee discussed the Safe Staffing concern and will continue to address the issue with hospital officials and legislators. Lowell Green shared a pertinent flyer with the Executive Committee.
- E) Housing, Land Use & Zoning
- 1) There were 2 presentations by developers with proposed sites in the community. One site is at 213 East 203rd Street, where a 14 story building is proposed; the other is at Webster Avenue and 204th Street. The builders would like some input from the community as to their vision of possible use of space in the building.
- F) Parks & Recreation
- 1) There was a presentation of the planned dog run at St. James Park at a cost of \$650,000. The committee voted to send a letter to support the project. The Executive Committee was unable to vote on this issue as there was no quorum present. The motion will be presented at the full board on Tuesday with the proviso about who will be responsible for the maintenance of the site.



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2) Quality of life issues in the parks continue to be a concern for residents with a request for more PEP personnel.

3) The Committee reviewed and upgraded the Budget priorities.

G) Senior Services

1) The Committee is requesting more information for seniors on mental health issues. They are requesting that developers ensure that seniors receive priorities in housing by stating it in their proposals for building in the community.

H) Traffic & Transportation

1) Edgar Ramos discussed the various traffic issues throughout the community.

2) The elevator at the Mosholu Station is projected for June of 2020.

3) There will be a walk through on July 11th. Car Share Space and Bike Share was discussed with Car Share space to be piloted in Parkchester.

4) The Committee continued the conversation with DOT about bus and train service, train station rehab and maintenance, signage on streets and parkways.

5) The traffic situation at Webster and Bainbridge continues to be a nightmare for motorists and pedestrians alike.

6) Edgar also announced the Fair Shares Metro cards at 1/2 price was approved by the NYC Council.

VI) New Business

A) Ischia noted the proposed opening of a Postal Union which will offer services similar to what the P.O. and banks offer presently to customers. This service should relieve long lines at P.O.'s and banks. A pilot program is proposed for the Bronx. Further information is forthcoming.

B) Concerns for the high rate of suicides among teenagers were expressed with a plea for the Board to address the issue as a priority to provide resources and support.

VII) Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.