



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



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

PAUL FOSTER, CHAIRMAN

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/ LONG TERM PLANNING
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 19, 2012 @ 6:30 pm

- I) Discussion of plans for 'old' Fordham Library:
 - A) It stated by Chairman Foster that the community board has already decided by vote to dedicate the space as a place for seniors and children ages 0-18 to congregate. The possible activities discussed were:
 - 1) A Senior recreation hall with meals and activities
 - 2) After-school programs including computers, high-tech learning, basketball, arts & crafts, etc.
 - B) District Manager Tirado introduced Resident Mr. Frank Forti, Jr., who spoke about writing a RFP in the near future in petition to use some of the space in the old library as a site for a possible T.V. station run by local teenagers and young adults trained by qualified personnel. Mr. Forti also proposed installing 2 bilingual, open access radio stations with jazz and classical Spanish music on one and a "WBAI"-type contemporary political talk-show on the other, again administered by trained teenagers and young adults of the neighborhood.
 - C) Comments were made that efforts to reach out to the EDC, Office of the Borough President, and Councilman Joel Rivera for their respective input and opinions will be undertaken by committee members.
- II) The Kingsbridge Armory:
 - A) Short discussion ensued involving current proposal in works
 - B) Rehash of community wants and needs as stated in C.B #7 archives:
 - 1) Affordable Family Recreation Center with skating rink, bowling alley, space for skateboarders, and a gym.
 - 2) School(s) of technology
 - 3) Museum / Exhibits of "Peace"
 - 4) Movie Theaters with at least 1 of them dedicated to "IMAX"
 - 5) Film schools and acting studios for local residents to attend
 - 6) Catering/Banquet Halls
 - 7) First class restaurants & franchises
 - 8) Top quality food shopping centers, i.e. Whole Foods, Stew Leonard's, Trader Joe's or Fairways
 - C) Discussion about revisiting the possible Community Benefits Agreement outlined years ago in the hopes of both improving and strengthening it.



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- D.M. Tirado pointed out that the CBA proposal on record was carefully and deliberately crafted to include specific safeguards to benefit the merchants of the community, who expressed concerns that the development of the armory might damage their respective businesses.
- D) A Community Resident, Anthony Perez, suggested that there should be overlapping links between the "old" Fordham Library and the Kingsbridge Armory projects, where deliberate and planned coordination should be made for each to compliment the other
- E) Mr. Perez also suggested the publication of a "Community Jewels" booklet to highlight the best the district has to offer in terms of attractions, restaurants and cultural facilities
- III) Possible sites for future construction of new schools to ease overcrowding
- A) It was stated by Committee Chairman N. Cruz that our school district is the most overcrowded in the Bronx and the third most overcrowded in the city and that future plans must be made to address the problem before it gets worse. Chairman discussed plans for collaboration with the Education committee and public officials.
- 1) Possible meeting with SCA (School Construction Authority), DOE (Department of Education), and the Mayor's office
 - 2) Possible solution is to "map" out the vacant lots and spaces throughout the district that are not privately-owned (with help of officials from agencies listed above).
- IV) Discussion of environmental impact of both Kingsbridge Armory/Webster Avenue Rezoning Projects
- A) District Manager Tirado pointed out that questions and details regarding potential increases in asthma rates, increases in pedestrian traffic on streets and sidewalks, possible scarcity of parking spaces and increases of daily traffic jams were all covered by environmental impact studies conducted four years ago and that these studies are available for review.
- V) Call to adjournment of meeting at approximately 6:45 P.M