

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 15, 2015 AT
METHODIST HOME FOR NURSING & REHABILITATION**

PRESENT

Lisa Daub
Anthony Creaney
Marvin Goodman
Irving Ladimer
Georgia Santiago
I.W. Stone
Diego Quintuna
David Gellman
Alesha Higgins
Eric Leopold
Lourdes Santacruz
Francine Scherer

AFFILIATION

CB8 Committee Chair
CB8 Committee Vice Chair
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member
Office of Assemblyman Guillermo Linares
CB8
NYFSC
Atria Riverdale
Methodist Home for Nursing & Rehab
Community Resident

Not Present

Karen Pesce
Sharon Asherman
Enrie Morales

CB8 Committee Member, CB8 Secretary
Community Committee Member, Riverdale Y
Community Committee Member, Right at Home

The meeting commenced at 2:45 PM. Delayed start but will end meeting at 4pm

Introductions

- Welcome - Participants introduced themselves
- Thanks to Methodist Home for hosting. Lourdes Santacruz informed us that Methodist was started in 1850 by four Church women. It is an interfaith non-profit facility located in its current location since 1929, consisting of 120 private rooms/bathrooms.
- Chair asked committee members to volunteer to draft minutes. Also noted that all committees need to record each member absence in minutes

Minutes of the November 17th, 2015 meeting were accepted (6-0)

Speaker – Alesha Higgins, Social Worker, New York Foundation for Senior Citizens (NYFSC) – Home Sharing Program

NYFSC provides case management, home care, respite care, and operates senior housing and senior centers. The organization's home sharing program is one of their original services that match persons for shared living arrangements. It provides an affordable housing option within the community for host and guest, and may relieve isolation. The host and/or guest must be at least age 60. Hosts who own or lease the home, and guests who can live independently and who seek accommodations, are screened and submit references. A social worker interviews potential participants and matches people with assistance from an online system, arranges a meeting in host's home, and helps with signing a license agreement to confirm financial and other terms. Duration terms are at least one year but average 3-5 years. Average rent is over \$600/mo, and over \$1000 in Manhattan. NYFSC will mediate if there's a problem and will assist in finding new housing or a new share if the relationship dissolves. Guests are often younger - college students or professionals. Five percent of guests have a developmental disability and work with a Medicaid social worker. There are 300 registered potential guests but currently only

20 hosts. A Riverdale hosting just ended. Only legal lease arrangements are permitted. Management must sign off in rent stabilized buildings with a rent cap for guest of 50% of apt. rent. No rent cap in rent controlled apts. No succession rights. Coops are generally not open to home sharing – which is a potential discussion topic for ARC meeting. If program awareness grows and coop/landlord home sharing hurdles are overcome, the program presents an interesting housing option with potential to help people to stay in the community.

Old Business

- Chair noted that Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. opposed ZQA and MIH but the response to city planning did not mention tiny senior apartments. Also, AARP NY is backing the Mayor's plan.
- Resource Guide – getting quotes for printing.
- Mr. Ladimer gave an update on newspaper column and discussion with Bob Press. He wants us to emphasize the contributions of older adults to the community and to society. Discussed need to educate on civics and government, which may be timely in an election year. Discussed possibility of hosting a forum on this topic

New Business & Chair Report

- Housing committee may host SCRIE/DRIE forum to raise awareness and sign-up. Aging may co-host. Mr. Geller suggested adding homeowner benefits such as SCHE
- Schervier is up for sale
- Neighborhood SHOPP is designated Bronx hub for NY Connects: Choices for Long Term Care. Chair read overview from their letter to CB8
- Alzheimer's Association's NYC chapter broke off from national association
- Vice Chair Tony Creaney is looking into organizing speaker(s) for a meeting on veteran's affairs
- Depending on committee feedback, consider breaking tradition and skip May meeting and instead hold June committee meeting this year with a party.

The Committee will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, January 19th 2015 at 2:30PM – location to be announced.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm. A few participants toured the Methodist Home with Ms. Santacruz following the meeting.

Prepared and submitted by
Lisa Daub, Chair, Aging Committee