

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 21, 2017 AT
RIVERDALE SENIOR SERVICES**

PRESENT

Lisa Daub
Anthony Creaney
Irving Ladimer
Karen Pesce
Francine Scherer
Robert Ackerson
Andria Cassidy
Marvin Goodman
Suad Hassan
Miryam Rabner
Julia Schwartz-Leeper
Deborah Wallace
(+7): Grace G, Karen G, Sarah G,
Carol Susan L, Emily R, Barbara F,
Soomintru S

AFFILIATION

CB8 Committee Chair
CB8 Committee Vice Chair
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member, CB8 Secretary
Community Committee Member, Resident
Riverdale Senior Services
Riverdale Senior Services
CB8 Member
NIDC
MJHS Hospice & Palliative Care
Riverdale Senior Services
Ad hoc Committee for Better Bx10/20 Bus Svc
Community Residents (7)

Not Present:

Amy Joy Robateau	CB8 Committee Member, CB8 Treasurer
Georgia Santiago	CB8 Committee Member
I.W. Stone	CB8 Committee Member
Sharon Asherman	Community Committee Member-Riverdale Y Senior Ctr.
Enrie Morales	Community Committee Member, Right at Home

The meeting started at 2:40 pm.

Introductions

- Welcome – Chair thanked Riverdale Senior Services for hosting the meeting and to all for attending
- Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz is unable to attend our meeting today. We will try to reschedule
- Happy Birthday to Irving Ladimer. Mr. Ladimer suggested that we send the Assemblyman a list of our questions and recommendations

Announcements

- Town Hall tonight with Mayor deBlasio and CM Andrew Cohen at InTech. Pre-registration
- CM Cohen is hosting a SCRIE/DRIE (rent freeze) sign-up event on March 1st at Kingsbridge Library
- NYC Dept of Finance sent letters to SCRIE/DRIE recipients from Dec 2011 who were unable to renew rent freeze due to disability or impairment. May still be eligible for benefits
- Renewal applications for SCHE/DHE (homeowner tax exemption) are due March 15th. *CB8 Senior Resource Guide* notes income eligibility for several programs, subject to change

Topic – Legislative Issues of Interest

- Chair discussed NYS budget that shifts Federal Title XX block grant to childcare (only) instead of giving NYC flexibility to allocate funds. Shift has potential to cause closure of 65 senior centers, including nutrition and social services. Increase to total NYS funding to NYC. Continue petitioning to State officials, which had impact in previous years when funding was at risk.

- Ms. Schwartz-Leeper noted LiveOn NYC's advocacy and highlighted senior centers' reliance on Title XX funding. Mayor increased funding for senior housing. She also announced:
 - May 3rd Advocacy Day – show power of seniors at City Hall
 - Mayor formed Non-profit Resiliency Committee to smooth funding flow from city to agencies
 - Commission for Immigrant Services: ID NYC in-home enrollment for homebound; encouraging and assisting with green card applications. Possibility of co-sponsoring information session on immigrant matters
- Chair noted concerns regarding the fiduciary rule and possible changes to Medicare and Social Security

Other Issues

- Participant raised concern about FICA withholding from outside income and refunds while receiving Social Security. RSS will investigate
- Ms. Scherer noted that mail boxes are slowly being replaced in Kingsbridge with boxes that are resistant to fishing
- Ms. Hassan announced that Senator Klein is hosting an information event regarding wide-angle peepholes at RSS on March 16th at 12:45.
- Deborah Wallace, Ad Hoc Committee for Better Bx10/20 Bus Service discussed and distributed an action letter regarding bus service. Over 1000 signatures sent to MTA. Her group is working with T&T committee and RSS Social Action Committee will invite Ms. Wallace to speak.
- Discussed continuing problems and long delays with Access-A-Ride
- Chair briefly mentioned outcome of 2018 budget responses – “no funds”
- Mr. Ladimer suggested that the Committee sponsor a meeting on adult education, possibly with Education committee. Suggestions include CUNY, Dorot, Self Help/Virtual, others
- Chair discussed Van Cortlandt Green meeting and her concern that although the senior residence had a 50% preference for CB8 residents, only 10.5% of occupants are from our district. Many CB8 applicants had income below the eligibility range but do not hold Sec 8 vouchers to bridge the rent. Other NYC section 8 voucher holders, LINK participants and some private payers reside in the lovely residence. There is a relatively short (50 person) waiting list for apartments. A meeting participant voiced concern that Bronx development of senior housing is minimal compared to Brooklyn. A participant also stated that Van Cortlandt apartments are very small. Chair noted that these units are larger than those now allowed under Zoning for Quality & Affordability (ZQA)

Minutes

- Minutes of January 17th meeting approved (5/0/0):

The Committee will move the April meeting to Thursday April 20th at 3:30pm.
If there are no urgent matters, we may cancel our March 21st meeting (TBD)

Meeting ended at 3:50pm

Prepared and submitted by
Lisa Daub, Chair, Aging Committee