

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2015  
AT AMALGAMATED HOUSES, 74 VAN CORTLANDT PARK SOUTH**

**PRESENT:** S. Alexander, R. Bender, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, D. Fuchs, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, A. Guzman, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, D. McCord, O. Murray, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, Amy Joy Robateau, G. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

**ABSENT:** L. Baez, Lenora Croft, M. Felix, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, N. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, D. Lennon, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, J. M. Pilsner, I. W. Stone, D. Toledo, S. Villaverde

**STAFF:** P. Manning – District Manager  
D. Bay – Community Associate  
L. Hernandez – Community Associate

**GUESTS:** J. Dinowitz, Assemblyman  
C. Lang – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein  
A. Castano – Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz  
D. Ojeda-Tiru – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel  
Andrew Cohen, Councilman  
A. Sandler – rep. Councilman Andrew Cohen  
A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
Ed Sullivan – rep. Public Advocate Leticia James  
Captain T. O'Toole, NYPD, 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct  
P.O. Ramos, NYPD, 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct  
P. Pamphile, Van Cortlandt Library  
A. Miraflor – Libraries Network Branch Manager  
P. Brink  
K. Geneva  
R. Spalter  
K. Argenti  
L. Michel  
M. Gary  
S. Jeselsohn  
P. L. Caplan  
A. Shahmoon  
S. Paulsen  
D. Orenstein  
K. Armstrong  
J. Klein  
L. Degidon  
J. Marth  
N. Minichello  
P. Ray  
M. Allina  
S. Boynton  
V. Scelzo

Chairman Padernacht convened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

1. Gallery Session -

- A. N. Minichello announced a Walk for our Water on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00AM to celebrate a ban on Fracking and the cleanliness of our waters. It is a 3K Walk and a 5K Run. The Walk starts at Bronx Park by the Allerton Ballfields. Register at [walkfourwater.org](http://walkfourwater.org). She thanked Councilman Cohen and the Bronx Borough President for their support.
- B. S. Paulsen, Chair of the Riverdale Nature Preservancy and representing different groups in Riverdale endorsed increasing the affordable housing opportunity but stressed that one size does not fit all and it requires a more in depth analysis. Such changes would not preserve the neighborhoods the 197A plan was meant to protect. She urged our leaders to act and vote against the Mayor's Zoning for Quality and Affordability.
- C. P. Pamphile of the Van Cortlandt Library thanked Councilman Cohen for having a Participatory Budget Process because through this process the Van Cortlandt Branch received 300,000.00 for a new roof. Angela Miraflor, the new Network Branch Manager was introduced and she thanked the public for advocating for their libraries. They will be getting 43 million dollars in funding this year. Because of this funding the libraries are able to provide services for all. The libraries will be asking for more monies next year and welcome the public's voice to help them receive the necessary funding to continue their services.
- D. K. Argenti spoke of behalf of the Van Cortlandt Village and Kingsbridge Heights organizations on the Mayor's zoning text proposal for Quality and Affordability and Mandatory Inclusion Housing. They welcome true affordable housing but do not favor larger buildings that obstruct air and light or that destroy the aesthetic cohesion and space between buildings. She urged the public not to vote on this plan.
- E. Karen Armstrong recommended making curb cuts more visible to seniors and the visually impaired residents in the community. This could prevent accidents from occurring. Chair Padernacht suggested she work with the Community Board's Traffic & Transportation and Aging Committee's and the offices of Councilman Cohen and Assemblyman Dinowitz.

2. Introduction of Special Guests

Chairman announced Assemblyman Dinowitz, Councilman Cohen, Peter Pamphile of the Van Cortlandt Library, Angie Miraflor of the NY Public Library, Andrew Sandler of Councilman Cohen's office, Andrea Castano of Assemblyman Dinowitz office, Andy Toledo of the Bronx Borough President's office, Doris Ojeda-Tiru of Congressman Engel's office, Captain Terence O'Toole and Community Affairs officer Mindy Ramos of the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Christina Lang of Senator Klein's office and Ed Sullivan of Public Advocate Leticia James office.

3. Chairman welcomed and invited Captain Terence O'Toole to address the Board
- Captain O'Toole thanked the public for their kind words. He reported that Commissioner Bratton implemented the following strategic changes in the NYPD and encouraged everyone to go on the NYPD website:
- Tackling crime
  - Technology training
  - Better training for police officers
  - Trust in the community
  - Keep terrorism down

Crime stats/year to date: 2 murders vs. 6, 16 rapes, 101 robberies, felony assaults are down, 84 burglaries and grand larcenies is a problem.

- The Captain reported that there is a problem with credit card scams and alerted the public to protect their identity. In October, the credit card companies will have a new chip inserted in their cards to protect the consumer's identity.
- Captain O'Toole said when you see something, say something – report it to 311 or 911. Do not report anything anonymous.
- A board member suspects there are homeless people coming up the 231<sup>st</sup> Street and Riverdale Avenue hill. The Captain will investigate.
- There have been some robberies in Seton Park. An arrest has been made and the robberies ceased.
- There is a K2 problem (synthetic marijuana) in the tristate area and the laws need to be changed to address this problem. Senator Klein is working on changing the laws.

#### 4. Report from the Office of the Bronx Borough President – A. Toledo

- The Borough President's office is providing more than \$34 million in capital funds to organizations all over the borough. He will allocate \$34,450,000 to 108 projects. The Marble Hill Community Center, Wave Hill and Cannon Heights were some of the institutions that received monies from the capital funds. The list is on the Borough President's website.
- Senator Gillibrand and the Borough President are holding a Service Academy Night where you can meet representatives from the Service Academies. This is for High School students considering applying to a service academy, their parents and school officials on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM at Hostos Community College, Savoy Multipurpose Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 120 East 149<sup>th</sup> Street (corner of Walton Avenue) in the Bronx. R.S.V.P. at [nominations@gillibrand.senate.gov](mailto:nominations@gillibrand.senate.gov) (212) 688-6262.
- Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Council Member Andrew Cohen, Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, Bronx Community Board #8 and the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation issued a joint report examining the Kingsbridge/Broadway retail corridor, running along Broadway between West 230<sup>th</sup> Street and West 238<sup>th</sup> Street, including connecting side streets, in the northwest Bronx.

#### 5. Chairman's Report – Daniel Padernacht

- Chairman Padernacht introduced and welcomed Lydia Hernandez, the new Community Associate working in the board office. She thanked the Chairman and is looking forward to working with everyone.
- Chairman welcomed new board member, David Gellman. He lives in Spuyten Duyvil and has been involved with the Parks and Recreation and the Housing Committees.
- The Chair and Officers met with all but 2 Committee Chairs over the summer and look forward to all their work in the upcoming year.
- The board purchased a data router and there is now free internet access in the board office.
- The Chair has initiated to process to move the board office to a more centralized location.
- Chair Padernacht thanked D. McCord for suggesting the meet and greet with the board members over the summer. He would like to make this an annual event.
- The Chair is glad the board office is fully staffed and asked the Committee Chairs and board members help out as much as possible. The staff is there to support the Chairs but not to do all of the work for the Chairs.
- Discretionary funds of \$5,000 was received by Councilman Cabrera. The Chair will send him a thank you letter.

#### 6. Treasurer's Report – P. Friedman

- A Treasurer's report was distributed and discussed with board members. The Treasurer reported the enormous difference in this year's budget from last year's. We have \$65,000.00 in the operating budget this year and last year it was only \$15,000.00. The board office is fully staffed and there is approximately \$23,000.00 more in the Personal Services budget.
- The Treasurer emphasized that for the first time since he has been on the board there are now monies that can be allocated for community projects and other functions of the board.
- Chair Padernacht said that if Chairs have programs they need funding for bring them to the Executive Committee.
- Technology equipment was purchased with the funds we received from Councilman Rodriguez. We purchased a data router to secure our network. The goal is to provide free internet access from the boards system.

#### 7. District Managers Report – P. Manning

- The District Manager will be attending borough budget consultations tomorrow. The agenda includes DFTA, HPD, Parks and NYCHA.
- Committee Chairs were reminded to submit minutes in a timely manner.
- The full District Manager's report is contained in the Executive Committee minutes.

#### 8. Chairman welcomed and invited Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz to address the Board.

He announced Assemblyman Dinowitz announced the following:

- Free Shred Day is on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 11AM to 3PM in the parking lot outside of Assemblyman Dinowitz office, 3107 Kingsbridge Avenue.
- Annual flu shots will be scheduled in October.
- There was an explosion at JFK School and the School Construction Authority and the Mayor's office worked hard to have all 7 schools opened by tomorrow.
- The community will have access outside the Jerome Park Reservoir the weekend of October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.
- One way to guarantee Affordable Housing is strong rent protection laws. In June they voted for the renewal of these laws.
- The Assemblyman has capital monies available and would like to offer some of these monies to obtain air conditioning for Vladeck Hall in Amalgamated Houses.

#### 9. Chairman welcomed and invited Councilman Cohen to address the Board

- Councilman Cohen congratulated and welcomed Community Associate Lydia Hernandez and board member David Gellman.
- The Councilman and elected officials have a partnership to improve the Kingsbridge/Broadway corridor.
- He thanked the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct for their diligence in cleaning up the Broadway corridor with illegal vending.
- The Participatory Budget process has begun again. It was a great success last year and this process will begin shortly. He urged all to attend.
- The City Council allocated more money for paving this year.
- The Councilman encouraged the community to attend the Parks & Recreation meeting this month to hear about a capital project that will occur at Seton Park.
- The Councilman has been diligent in meeting with City Planning communicating the public's concern about the Mayor's proposed Housing plan. He stated that the amount of work that went into the 197A plan needs to be respected.

10. Committee Reports

A. Youth – L. Parker

1. The C-Ball event was held on September 5<sup>th</sup>.
2. There is no September meeting.
3. The Committee will meet on October 28<sup>th</sup>, location to be determined.

B. Aging – L. Daub

1. Their meetings will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, however, due to the holiday the committee will be meeting on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at Park Gardens Rehab and Nursing Center, 6585 Broadway (261<sup>st</sup> Street) at 3:30PM.
2. L. Daub thanked K. Pesce for staying on the Aging committee and for helping her with the Aging Budget. She will be attending the borough consultations.

C. Budget – R. Press

1. R. Press will be attending the borough consultations with the District Manager.

D. Economic Development

1. The Chair is on military duty and D. Kornbluh announced that there is no meeting in September.

E. Education – S. Alexander

1. Due to the holiday there is no Committee meeting in September.
2. S. Alexander attended a meeting with K. Argenti and L. Spalter regarding a pilot program to access the Jerome Park Reservoir.
3. S. Alexander attended a Town Hall meeting to get an updated report on the JFK explosion.
4. S. Alexander will work with Councilman Cohen on a small athletic league. The City announced funding to create 49 teams.
5. The Education Committee will meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in October.

F. Environment & Sanitation – D. McCord

1. The Committee is meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM in the board office.

G. Health, Hospitals & Social Services – K. Pesce

1. The Committee will hold a meeting and a Public Hearing on September 21<sup>st</sup> at the American Legion, 3035-37 Corlear Avenue at 7:30PM. Sinergia Inc. plans to establish a 24-hour supervised residence for three developmentally disabled adults at 3016 Corlear Avenue. Speakers are invited to speak at this public hearing.

H. Housing – P. Ellis

1. The Housing Committee met in June and the minutes have been distributed.
2. This year the committee will focus their meetings on affordable housing and NYCHA.

3. The Committee has a planning meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> at the Riverdale Mental Health Association, 5676 Riverdale Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, conference room.
4. The Committee will meet twice in October. The October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting is on Mitchell Lama Housing and the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting is a forum on Housing Court issues.

I. Land Use – M. Wolpoff, Vice Chair

1. The Department of City Planning met with the Land Use Committee in August to discuss the wording of the new legislation of the Zoning on Quality and Affordability. The wording has not come out yet and therefore not discussed. Once the report is released the Land Use Committee will have a meeting. The Committee will not take a position until the document is released. R. Ginty would like to hear from City Planning at a Land Use meeting in October so they can give us their best judgement on when they think the report will come out on Affordable Housing and talk about the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing. The Inclusionary Housing Program requires a percentage of the dwelling units within a building to be set aside.

J. Law, Rules and Ethics – M. Wolpoff

1. The Committee will meet on September 24<sup>th</sup>, at Riverdale Mental Health, at 7:00 PM.

K. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – M. Goodman

1. The Committee meeting will be held on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Angie Miraflor, the Network Branch Manager is a guest speaker. M. Goodman would like to hear more details on the libraries budget needs.

L. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

1. The LG building along the Palisades has been reduced by over 50%.
2. The new Bronx Parks Commissioner, Iris Rodriguez Rosa, will be attending the September Parks & Recreation meeting at Schervier Apartments, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.
3. A proposed project at Seton Park will be discussed at the September meeting.
4. The Parks Committee is going to assess the neighborhood parks and playgrounds. This will help the committee prepare their budget priorities for FY 2018.
5. B. Bender stated that his committee is smaller this year and encouraged members to come to his meeting and observe what they do.

M. Public Safety – J. O'Brien, Vice Chair

1. The committee discussed writing a letter relevant city and local officials asking that a campaign to raise awareness of the Vision Zero program on pedestrian safety be used to include school areas.
2. Webb Avenue residents asked for an enhanced police presence to deal with unruly persons.
3. Manhattan College Parkway residents asked for more vigorously patrolled and Lt. Foder said that he had recently met with Manhattan College officials and new programs were to be implemented this fall.
4. The following resolution was passed contingent that Keenan's Bar signs the letter of agreement to close at 2AM:

WHEREAS: Aoyu Sushi, 3532A Johnson Avenue, Bronx, New York appeared at the August 20, 2015 meeting of Bronx Community Board 8's Public Safety Committee in support of renewal of their beer/wine license, and Police at the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct report no problems with this establishment AND

WHEREAS the committee voted unanimously to renew this license, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Bronx Community Board 8 recommends renewal of this license.

WHEREAS: City North Grill, 5693 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx, New York appeared at the August 20, 2015 meeting of Bronx Community Board 8's Public Safety Committee in support of a new beer/wine license, and Police at the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct report no issues with the applicants AND

WHEREAS the committee voted unanimously to approve this license, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Bronx Community Board 8 recommends approval of this license.

WHEREAS: Grange Tavern, 5588 Broadway, Bronx, New York (the former Keenan's Bar) appeared at the August 20, 2015 meeting of Bronx Community Board 8's Public Safety Committee in support of a new full liquor license, and Police at the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct report no issues with the applicants AND

WHEREAS the committee voted unanimously to approve this license, with the condition of a 2:00 a.m. closing time for the first year with option to petition the committee for 4:00 a.m. closing one year later, to which the applicant agreed, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Bronx Community Board 8 recommends approval of this license.

**Vote:** 33 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

**In Favor** – S. Alexander, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, P. Friedman, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, D. McCord, O. Murray, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, Amy Joy Robateau, G. Santiago, Steven Sarao, L. Spalter, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

#### N. Traffic & Transportation – M. Heller

1. The first committee meeting is on September 15<sup>th</sup> at Manhattan College in the Fischbach room. They will discuss resurfacing and speed bump requests.
2. Andrew Sandler and M. Heller will be looking into rebuilding a sidewalk on West 254<sup>th</sup> Street from Riverdale Avenue down to the Metro North Station.
3. MTA's Metro North is planning to build new stations in The East Bronx.
4. L. Spalter asked to have the crosswalks repainted in the area of Riverdale Avenue and West 254<sup>th</sup>, 256<sup>th</sup> and 259<sup>th</sup> Streets. M. Heller will inquire.

#### O. Miscellaneous Business

1. R. Press questioned the contents of the Economic Development minutes that were recently submitted with no attendance. He also recalled voting on a street activity permit application (SAPO) which was also missing from the minutes. This will be raised at the next Executive meeting. P. Friedman stated that they should not be put on the website because they are insufficient.

P. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of June 9th, 2015

In favor – 29    Opposed – 0    Abstentions: 4

**In favor:** S. Alexander, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, P. Friedman, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, D. McCord, O. Murray, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, Amy Joy Robateau, G. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

**Abstentions:** R. Bender, R. Fanuzzi, D. Gellman, A. Guzman,

Q. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

1. No comments

Submitted by,

Diane Bay  
Community Associate