

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 10, 2015 AT MANHATTAN COLLEGE
3825 CORLEAR AVENUE**

- PRESENT:** S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McCord, C. G. Moerdler, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, R. Press, J. Rather, G. Santiago, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young
- ABSENT:** L. Baez, A. P. Creaney, R. Fanuzzi, A. Fella, M. Felix, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, M. Galvin, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, A. Moore, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, J. M. Reyes, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, D. Toledo, M. Zegarra-Soja
- STAFF:** D. Bay – Community Associate
P. Manning – Community Associate
- GUESTS:** J. Dinowitz, Assemblyman
A. Cohen, Councilman
M. Blaustein – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein
J. Demko – Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
D. Greenblatt – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel
T. Edwards – rep. Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez
A. Sandler – Office of Councilman Andrew Sandler
A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.
D. I. Rasa – NYPD, 50th Precinct
P.O. Cordero – NYPD, 50th Precinct
P.O. Ramos – NYPD, 50th Precinct
A. Diacou – Rosalyn Yarlow Charter School
M. Dreisinger
D. Gellman
J. Gomez
M. Buitrago-Gonzalez – Kingsbridge Library
L. Kroun – Amalgamated Nursery School
M. Medina – Relay for Life
P. Moerdler
T. Mullen – RNH at In-Tech
J. Rosa
R. Segura – Sustainable South Bronx
B. Spierman – Bronx Opera Company
C. Taylor – Friends of Van Cortlandt Park
W. Uribe – Dubai Lounge

Chairman Padernacht opened the Public Hearing on Report and Comments on Responses from City Agencies on the Capital/Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Chairman Padernacht reported in the absence of the Budget Chair.

Chairman referred to the budget requests Preliminary responses that had been sent to the Board members.

Chairman advised that Community Board 8's Budget requests consisted of 20 Capital requests and 25 Expense requests. He gave an overview of the requests recommended for funding and requests that were not recommended for funding. Of the Capital Budget Requests, six received support for funding: Nos. 2, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 20 which is funded. Under the Expense Budget, No. 1 and 11 funded, Nos. 2, 4, 13, 18, 22 funding recommended.

Chairman opened the floor for discussion. It was pointed out that a great number of the responses were ambiguous and channeled to the community board, elected officials, etc.

Chairman advised that a letter from the Board would be drafted to the Mayor.

Hearing from no other speakers, Chairman closed the public Hearing.

Chairman convened the regular Board meeting at 7:30 PM.

1. Gallery Session

- A. Laurie Kroun advised about parking tickets being issued to parents who double park just to pick-up their children from the Amalgamated Nursery School. The area is difficult for parking. The tickets are \$115.00 and some parents have been ticketed multiple times. She asked for leniency and a solution to the problem.

Chairman Padernacht referred the issue to the Traffic & Transportation Committee.

- B. Rene Segura, Sustainable South Bronx Energy Efficiency Program, advised that it is a non-profit organization and its job is to make homeowners energy more economical and more comfortable. They will provide a free home energy assessment to achieve greater efficiency. Brochures were left on the table.
- C. Ben Spierman, Bronx Opera Company, informed that the company was founded in the Bronx in 1967 and it is the oldest opera company in New York. Discussed work in schools and programs. Offering discounted tickets to "*The Marriage of Figaro*" performance on May 2nd, 3rd, 8th, and 9th at the Lovinger Theater, Lehman College. For more information – 718-365-4209, Twitter @bronxopera, email: BenSpierman@gmail.com. Facebook BxO:The Opera, Flyers were left on the table.
- D. Marlene Medina, Relay for Life, presented on behalf of the American Cancer Society. She invited all to take part with the May 30th Relay for Life event. They are looking for volunteers. All funds go back to Bronx community for those fighting cancer. Flyers were left on table.
- E. Warner Uribe introduced himself as new owner of the former Dubai Lounge. It will be a Tapas Bar. By way of introducing himself to the community he attended the meetings of Public Safety and Economic Development to discuss the plans and operation of the business. It will no longer be a night club. It will be a comfortable place to stop-off after work, have brunch on Sundays, enjoy jazz music and more. Mr. Uribe has a teaching background.

2. Chairman welcomed Councilman Andrew Cohen; Deputy Inspector Paul Rasa, NYPD 50th Precinct; P.O. Mindy Ramos, NYPD 50th Precinct; P.O. Steve Cordero, NYPD 50th Precinct; David Greenblatt, representing Congressman Eliot Engel; Michael Blaustein, representing State Senator Jeffrey Klein; Justin Demko, representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz; Andrew Sandler, Office of Councilman Cohen, Tony Edwards, representing Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez; Andy Toledo, representing Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.; and Martha Buitrago-Gonzalez, Manager, Kingsbridge Library.

3. Chairman invited Councilman Cohen to address the Board.

Councilman Cohen mentioned his e-newsletter. He advised that budget meetings are underway and had a Land Use budget meeting earlier during the day, and will have a budget meeting on Mental Health March 13th.

4. Chairman invited Deputy Inspector Rasa to address the Board.

Deputy Inspector Rasa reported on the crime stats. The 50th is even on major indexes: 148 vs 148 year to date. Burglaries and Grand Larceny are slightly up. Commercial burglary with break-ins through store's skylights, and A/C ducts. An arrest was made January 29th. A con game is around with a recent victim of 80 years old approached by a female, black, and a male, black with a promise of \$50,000 and ended up giving the con artists \$9,000. Car break-ins on rise with Honda Accords targeted. Invited all to the 50th Precinct Council meeting on March 12th, at 7:30 PM. Follow him on twitter for reports and crime tips.

5. Report from the Bronx Borough President's Office – A. Toledo

- Bronx Borough President Diaz, Jr.'s Annual Development Report was recently released. The report covers three categories with residential, commercial and institutional development. It is available on the Borough President's website.
- Borough President Diaz, Jr. will hold celebrations for Irish Heritage Month at the Rambling House on March 12th, and for Women's History Month on March 19th at Pelham Split Rock.

6. Chairman's Report

- The honorees of the New York Yankees Youth Leadership Awards are invited to the game at Yankee Stadium on April 9th and will be recognized on the field during the pre-game ceremony. The Yankees are giving 200 tickets for the community and they will be dispersed to 20 organizations of 10 tickets each.
- Thanked Pat and Diane for the good job they are doing in the office in the absence of a District Manager. Chairman reminded the Board to try to fill-in at the Board office when possible.
- The Search Committee for the District Manager had its first meeting March 9th.
- Received report from Borough President's office earlier advising that the following five (5) Board members did not submit applications to renew their Board membership: Steve Balicer, Anthony Fella, Gary Singleton, Anthony Piscitelli, and Mercedes Zegarra-Soja. Chairman extended special thanks to Steve Balicer as well as the other members for their service on the board. In particular he noted S. Balicer's work on the committees which he served and his work as chair of the Housing Committee.

- Chairman reminded the Board that the election of the Nominating Committee will be held at the April 14th Board meeting. M. Wolpoff pointed out that the meetings of the Nominating Committee will operate under the guidelines of the Open Meetings Law as public open meetings.

7. Treasurer's Report – P. Friedman

- The Budget report has been submitted.
- Explained that the budget is shifting because it was based on three staff members and now there are only two. The Personal Service budget number is being determined depending on certain payouts to former staff. This will be tracked. Once determination is made there will be revisions to the numbers for Personal Service and Other than Personal Service.
- With regard to the union staff raises that were being tracked. The Borough President office advised that the raises were funded; and therefore no further need for concern.
- The \$5,000 allocation from Councilman Fernando Cabrera is uncommitted as it is expected to be removed.

8. Committee Reports

A. Libraries & Cultural Affairs – M. Goodman

1. The next meeting will deal with “libraries” and will be held at Jerome Park Branch Library on March 11th, at 6:30 PM. All are welcome. He announced that library material brought in by Kingsbridge Library Manager had been left on the back table.

B. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

1. February minutes were circulated.
2. The annual Bronx Parks Speak-up was held March 7th, at Lehman College. Attendees included Councilman Andrew Cohen who discussed participatory budgeting; and City Parks Commissioner Mitchel Silver who spoke about his plans going forward. Additionally, there was the usual networking with parks advocates and it was a great event.
3. Commissioner Silver held a Bronx Parks meeting on March 2nd for all 12 Bronx Community Boards and B. Bender and Chair Padernacht attended. The Commissioner presented on his plans for parks and spent an hour taking questions.
4. Commissioner Silver indicated that an announcement of the new Bronx Parks commissioner to replace Hector Aponte who retired in January is expected by the end of March.
5. The next Committee meeting on March 25th will be focused on Van Cortlandt's Park Bioblitz event being held on May 3rd. There has been good response from local colleges, Botanical Gardens, and Wave Hill. Volunteers are needed. He asked that everyone help to get the word out about the event.

C. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

1. A. G. Feldmeier presented the following resolutions approved by the Public Safety Committee held on February 19, 2015:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Public Safety Committee approves the following Renewal and New applications for New York State liquor licenses:

Renewal Applications -

- Jake's Steakhouse, 6031 Broadway
- Great Performances/Artists as Waitresses Inc. and Wave Hill Inc., 675 West 252nd Street
- Blue Bay Restaurant, 35-33 Johnson Avenue

Vote: 29 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McCord, C. G. Moerdler, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, R. Press, J. Rather, G. Santiago, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

New Applications:

- Smashburger #1485, 193 West 237th Street
- Zonea Food and Beverage Two, Inc., 3524 Johnson Avenue
- Q Kachapa Restaurant LLC, 5625-6 Broadway

Vote: 29 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McCord, C. G. Moerdler, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, R. Press, J. Rather, G. Santiago, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

2. The Committee is discussing businesses postings of notice for liquor license.
3. Committee will have an information session with the 50th Precinct Community Council on March 12th at 6:30 PM. All are invited.

D. Traffic & Transportation – M. Heller

1. The Committee will hold its next meeting on March 17th at Manhattan College School of Engineering, at 7:30 PM. R. Press, Vice Committee Chair will chair meeting in his absence. It will be an open meeting to discuss issues of importance, and he asked Board members to email him their specific concerns in advance of the meeting.
2. Discussed poor condition of streets in district. Letter will be sent to DOT Commissioner to request increase of mileage resurfacing allotment for this year.
3. Henry Hudson Parkway is supposedly being resurfaced this year.

4. R. Press advised of his involvement with the Mayor's Zero Vision program and will be asking for areas for recommendation of streets for Vision Zero at the meeting.
- E. Youth – L. Parker
1. The winners of the New York Yankees Youth Leadership Award were featured on Bronxnet.
 2. Working on location for the C-Ball (Community Board Athletic Leadership League) event.
 3. L. Parker made contact with the new manager at Marble Hill Community Center and discussed the possibility of having a Comeback Kid candidate from the center.
 4. The next Committee meeting will be held on March 25th at In-Tech Academy, at 5:00 PM. Students will be in attendance.
- F. Aging – K. Pesce
1. The next meeting will be held on March 17th, at the Hudson House, at 2:30 PM.
- G. Budget
- No report.
- H. Economic Development – S. Villaverde
1. Committee did not have a quorum at its meeting on March 5th due to a snow storm. However representatives from the new Dubai Lounge attended the meeting to make an introduction. They want to be good neighbors.
 2. Had conversation with Land Use Chair regarding parking in business areas.
- I. Education – S. Alexander
1. S. Alexander presented the following resolution passed by the Committee on February 19th:

Whereas, the Amalgamated Nursery School has applied for a street activity permit, and

Whereas, the Amalgamated Nursery School will celebrate their Spring Bazaar on May 17, 2015, and

Whereas, this event will be held from 11:00 and 4:00 PM at Gale Place between Orloff Avenue and Van Cortland Park South, and

Whereas, the Amalgamated Nursery School will publish the event in the local newspapers to inform the public, and

Whereas, the Amalgamated Nursery School has held this event before with no difficulties reported,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Education Committee approves the street activity permit for the Amalgamated Nursery School.

Vote: 29 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McCord, C. G. Moerdler, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, R. Press, J. Rather, G. Santiago, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

2. Minutes were submitted.
3. Announced that applications for the new Rosalyn Yarlow Charter School are being accepted. The School has been approved by the Board of Regents and is ready to go. Application deadline is April 15th. The school is very progressive school. Activities will include fencing and chess. The school day will run from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. There will be 118 kindergarten seats, and 84 seats for first graders. Seats are chosen by lottery. The School is due to open September 2015. Applications were left on table.
4. S. Alexander attended a forum earlier during the day at MS/HS 368 which featured students from the After School program asking Borough President Diaz Jr. and Mr. Baptista of Big Brothers/Big Sisters questions on the topic of "*The importance of Community Service and how they got interested in their present positions.*" It was very exciting and a wonderful exchange.
5. The next Committee meeting will be held on March 24th, at the Board Office, at 7:30 PM.

J. Environment & Sanitation

No report.

K. Health, Hospitals & Social Services – L. Daub, Vice Chair

1. The next meeting will be held on March 16th, at Riverdale Mental Health Association. The meeting time is 6:00PM to accommodate the Administrator of Riverdale Manor Adult Home who will be presenting. L. Daub pointed out a report in the Riverdale Press concerning Riverdale Mental Health bid proposal to house individuals such as those who reside at the Riverdale Manor.

Chairman Padernacht urged attendance at meeting.

L. Housing – P. Ellis

1. The Committee met on February 23rd and had representatives from NYC Clean Heat concerning status of oil conversion, and from West Bronx Housing & Neighborhood Resource Center who discussed illegal and abusive landlord practices particularly in Community Board 8. Michael Blaustein from Senator Klein's Office, Andrew Sandler from Councilman Cohen's Office, and Terri Colon from Assemblyman Dinowitz Office all contributed to the latter discussion.
2. Refer to minutes for report.

3. The next meeting will be held on March 23rd, at Riverdale Mental Health Association, at 7:30 PM.

M. Land Use – C. Moerdler

1. City Planning voted favorably on SAR's Application No. N 150210 ZAX.
2. The Borough President has come forward with some concepts to create additional housing both market rate and affordable. Looking at three locations for decking.
3. City Planning has advised that they will take a hard look at re-doing SNAD. C. Moerdler referred to R. Ginty previous suggestion for setting up committee to look at SNAD. He asked that she proceed with finding counterparts as the members previously selected have withdrawn.
4. L. Daub asked if SAR had submitted the promised Master Plan. C. Moerdler advised that he had received call from SAR that a draft would be submitted for both locations. He expects to have plans before May 2015 deadline. L. Daub said she will continue to ask until received.
5. M. Heller reported that SAR have no prohibition against sidewalk construction. This will be brought up at the Traffic & Transportation meeting.

N. Special Committee on Greenway – B. Bender

1. The March 5th meeting was cancelled due to snow.
2. In January there was a meeting with Metro-North along with Senator Klein, Assemblyman Dinowitz, and Councilman Cohen. Metro-North is no longer talking about fortification of the riverfront. They are now using the term "resiliency," and no major changes to the riverfront. The conversation with Metro-North is ongoing. Will continue to reach out to elected officials to find funding sources for engineering studies.
3. The next meeting will be held on April 2nd at the Riverdale YM/YWHA, at 7:30 PM.

O. Law, Rules & Ethics – M. Wolpoff

1. Presented recommendations for Bylaw changes to the Executive Committee. Changes were made. Recommendations will be sent to Board for review for Board meeting.
2. Chairman Padernacht reminded the Board that Bylaw changes need to be voted on at two consecutive meetings.

9. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2015

- M. Wolpoff made a correction to the Law, Rules & Ethics Committee minutes, Page 11, Letter B, item 2, second sentence..."that a simple majority is required not a super majority to pass anything"....
- B. Bender made a correction on page 5, item 6, 3rd line to "1,000."
- P. Ellis referred to page 9, item 3, 3rd sentence....advised that he was mistakenly listed with regard to group for site visit to check for different or new locations for tree plantings on Riverdale Country School property.

- P. Ellis corrected page 14, Housing report, item 2...as follows: The agenda will include abusive landlord practices and fuel conversion.

Chairman made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The vote was 28 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention: D. Lennon

10. Discussion of Executive Committee minutes of March 9, 2015

No discussion.

Chairman advised that Jane Folloro, Kingsbridge Heights Community Center appeared before the Executive Committee to speak about the SAPO application that was filed late due to her illness. Because there was no time to assign to another Committee, The Executive Committee reviewed the application and approved it at the March 9, 2015 meeting.

Chairman moved the resolution the following resolution:

Be It Resolved, that the following street activity permit application be approved:

Kingsbridge Heights Community Festival SAPO Application. The event is scheduled for April 11th, 2015 to be held on Kingsbridge Terrace between Perot Street & Summit Place from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. There will be a full street closure. The event has been previously held.

Vote: 28 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, M. Goodman, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McCord, C. G. Moerdler, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, R. Press, J. Rather, G. Santiago, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Abstention –

R. Ginty

Meeting adjourned 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate