

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 10, 2017 AT RIVERDALE YM/YWHA, 5625 ARLINGTON AVENUE

PRESENT: S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, D. B. Jackson, M. Joyce, K. Pesce, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, G. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Yamagata, H. Young, R. Zavras

ABSENT: R. Fanuzzi, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, D. McCord, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, J. M. Reyes, J. Santiago, M. Wolpoff

STAFF: D. Bay – Community Associate

Budget Chair D. Gellman convened the Public Hearing on the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities Requests for Fiscal Year 2019 at 7:00PM.

Budget Chair D. Gellman asked for speakers.

1. Robert Press commented and offered suggestions on both the capital and expense budget items for FY 2019. D. Gellman made note of his comments.

Not hearing from any additional speakers, Budget Chair Gellman called for a vote to close the hearing.

Vote: In favor – 22 Opposed – 0 Abstentions: 0

In favor: S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, D. B. Jackson, M. Joyce, K. Pesce, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, G. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, M. Yamagata, H. Young, R. Zavras

The Budget Chair presented the draft of the FY 2019 28 Capital and 26 Expense budget priorities to the board members. The order of the priorities was reviewed. Recommendations were made for switching and moving some of the priorities. There were no revisions.

Chair Gellman called for a vote on the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities.

Vote: In favor – 21 Opposed – 1 Abstentions: 0

In favor: S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, D. B. Jackson, M. Joyce, K. Pesce, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, G. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, M. Yamagata, H. Young, R. Zavras

Opposed: I. W. Stone

Chair Ginty convened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

1. Gallery Session – No speakers
2. Report from the 50th Police Precinct – DI O’Toole
 - 28 day comp stat report – 2017 vs. 2016, murders 1 vs.1, rape 0 vs. 1, robbery 8 vs. 12, felony assaults – 12 vs. 11, burglary – 10 vs. 10, grand larceny 53 vs. 41 and grand larceny auto 2 vs. 6. Total of 86 crimes vs. 82 crimes.
 - There was a video shown of an arrest by an officer from the precinct. The police officer acted lawfully.
 - Lighting in the Marble Hill area has improved but it could be better.

- Senior safety bags are being distributed at Senior Centers.

Chair Ginty welcomed Assemblyman Dinowitz to address the board

- Met with leaders of 2 NYCHA facilities, Ft. Independence and Marble Hill. Received funding more than a year ago for lighting and is awaiting the installation of these lights in the near future.
- State Budget may be revisited in Albany.
- Reminder - Turn ballot over on Election Day and suggested voting no for the constitutional convention.
- Supports the board's request for new office space in a central location of the district.

Chair Ginty welcomed Senator Klein to address the board

- Wrote to the Mayor on behalf of Community Board 8's search for new office space.
- Secured funds to revive Mitchell-Lama housing/Mitchell-Lama 2020 to rehabilitate existing Mitchell Lama buildings and provide more affordable housing for middle income families with incomes up to 130% of the AMI. He also proposed refundable tax credits to incentivize the creation of units of affordable housing.
- Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Program and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) Program helps those eligible stay in affordable housing by freezing their rent. These programs were raised to families with an income level of up to \$50,000.00.
- Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE) program provides a property tax exemption for senior citizens who own one, two, or three family homes, condominiums, or cooperative apartments. All owners must be 65 years of age or older in the year that they apply. Raised eligibility to \$58,600.
- Doubled tax break for child care.
- Score cards will be displayed at the entrance of child care centers.
- Suggested the board send our budget priorities to him to see if he can be of assistance.

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

- Reminder Sunday, October 22 bike tour event. There will be traffic slowdowns. Check in begins at 9:00am at Yankee Stadium, 164th Street & Walton Avenue. You can register at www.ilovethebronx.com
- Chair Ginty communicated that the letter requesting new space for the community board was also sent to the Borough President.

4. Chair Report – Rosemary Ginty

- See Executive minutes.

5. Treasurer's report – Amy Joy Robateau

- A report was distributed and discussed.

6. Department of City Planning – No City Planning representative was present

7. Committee Reports

A. Housing – S. Sarao

- Minutes will be distributed shortly.
- Many concerns with NYCHA buildings will be closely monitored.
- Housing Committee meeting October 23, 2017 at Riverdale Mental Health Association.
- Councilman Cohen holding a Tenant Resource Fair, Wednesday, October 25 from 6-8PM.
- The Chair announced that the Department of Homelessness forum took place in late September. It was a useful event. The Bronx coordinator of homeless services is expected to attend an upcoming housing committee meeting to talk about why and how the 380 individuals in CB8 are homeless/became

homeless. The Chair and Vice Chair will meet with the Bronx coordinator of homeless services to discuss this further.

B. Land Use – Chairperson R. Ginty - Chair and Vice Chairs absent

Chair Ginty brought forward the following resolution on Wave Hill's capital project:

WHEREAS, representatives of Wave Hill presented their plans for a Capital Project, LPC-19-13260, 675 West 252 Street, Wave Hill House, to the Land Use Committee on September 5, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, there were concerns/questions expressed by two board members; and,

WHEREAS, Wave Hill representatives said they would respond to the concerns in writing;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the Land Use Committee approves the Capital Project for Wave Hill subject to Wave Hill responding to the concerns in writing before the Community Board vote.

Vote: In favor - 26 Opposed – 1 Abstentions – 0

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Opposed: D. Gellman

C. Law, Rules and Ethics – Chair not present

D. Libraries & Cultural Affairs – M. Goodman

- Waiting for the renovation/expansion work to begin on the new site for the Van Cortlandt Library.
- The committee is working with Councilman Cohen's Participatory Budgeting Committee to encourage the expansion of the Spuyten Duyvil Library to better serve that community.

E. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

- The September minutes have been circulated.
- Thanked DI O'Toole for answering the questions regarding the bus parking plans for Broadway during events. The Parks Commissioner will be attending along with race organizers.
- Discussion on a proposed new entrance area to the park at W. 261st St. and Broadway was briefly discussed but will be further discussed at the next committee meeting on October 25 at the Ft. Independence Community Center at 7:00PM.
- There will be a meeting on September 19, 6:30pm at Manhattan College regarding Daylighting of Tibbett's Brook. This topic will be on a future Parks & Recreation agenda.

F. Special Committee of the Hudson River Greenway – B. Bender

- There will be a meeting on October 30 at the Riverdale YM/YWHA in the board room at 7PM. Metro North will be speaking about the next phase of their feasibility study. Senator Klein, who provided the funding for that study has been notified.

G. Special Committee on Veterans Services – Chair was not present

- Chair Ginty reported that the Veterans Committee had their first meeting in September.

H. Public Safety – M. Yamagata, Chair

- There was no meeting in September.

I. Traffic & Transportation – M. Joyce – Vice Chair

- Deputy Inspector O’Toole presented the proposal to park buses on the Major Deegan service road from 233rd Street to the city line.
- T&T meeting on October 17 will be at St. Margaret’s School gym at 7:30PM. The North Riverdale Streetscape plan will be discussed.

J. Youth – No report - Chair not present

- Chair Ginty reported that a rep from the Commission on Human Rights did attend the Youth Committee meeting to converse about the hate crime that happened in Fieldston. Senator Klein is holding an Anti-Hate Panel on Monday, October 16, 2017 from 7-9pm at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, 3901 Fieldston Road.

K. Aging – L. Daub

- The September Aging minutes were distributed. The topic of the September meeting was dementia care services. Helpful information is contained in the minutes.
- The next meeting is October 17th, 3:30 at the Methodist Home. There will be a senior center roundtable with reps from the Senior Centers. There will also be a rep from Live on New York and a brief intro from the Commission on Human Rights.

L. Budget – D. Gellman

- Refer to Public Hearing in these minutes.

M. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

- The next meeting is October 24 at Barcelona Bites. They will take on the plastic bag issue, the parking meters on West 242 Street and the lighting in the Marble Hill business corridor.
- Welcome to Riverdale signs have been posted southbound of Henry Hudson Parkway and Fieldston Road heading north right before Mosholu Avenue. The signs are on city property. S. Villaverde will engage with the North Riverdale merchants regarding these signs.

N. Education – S. Alexander

- Refer to minutes.
- The Chair presented the committee with the question addressed to the committee at the last general meeting by a Board member as to the overcrowding at PS7 and the possibility of shelter children being assigned to the school. The committee felt strongly that if the children were given a choice of schools, there would be seats available in Charter Schools. Amber Charter School does have shelter children in their school, not from this neighborhood, but they are welcome if the seats are available. It was also strongly felt that if these students attended local schools before entering a shelter they should be given the choice of returning to their school.
- No October meeting.

O. Environment & Sanitation – L. Spalter

- Refer to minutes
- CB8 will host a Press Conference with CSX to celebrate the cleanup they did from Van Cortlandt Park South to West 230th Street. It will be held on Thursday, October 26th at 12:30pm with elected officials. Chair Ginty thanked L. Spalter for her efforts and success in getting this cleaned up. DI O’Toole stated that despite the efforts and cleanup there is now a graffiti problem in this location. The Deputy Inspector suggested that cameras be placed in the area. He also suggested putting cameras in the budget priorities when considering funding for the new Van Cortlandt library and the Greenway.
- The next meeting is October 18, 2017 in the board office at 7:30PM.
- There is a Bronx Community Green Fair regarding energy efficiency and recycling on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at Church of the Mediator from 1-5PM.

P. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – Chair not present

8. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2017

Vote: In favor - 27 **Opposed** – 0 **Abstentions** – 0

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9. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2017 - None

10. Miscellaneous Business - None

R. Ginty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19pm.

Vote: In favor - 27 **Opposed** – 0 **Abstentions** – 0

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Submitted by,

Diane Bay
Community Associate