

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2008, AT THE RIVERDALE TEMPLE 4545 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE

PRESENT: R. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, G. O. Koppell, J. Kreppel, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, R. Moll, K. O'Brien, K. Pesce, C. Prentice, T. M. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, B. Trebach, E. Tossas Tucker, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

ABSENT: R. Abbott, D. Bowden, Rev. N. Dixon, A. Fana, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, B. Fettman, J. Giegerich, J. Goris, J. Higgins, I. Ladimer, V. Gray Lewis, J. O'Reilly, J. M. Pilsner, J. Plaza, J.M. Reyes, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, L. Vazquez

STAFF: N. Stent – District Manager, CB 8
S. Alexander – Clerical Assistant, CB 8
D. Bay – Community Associate, CB 8
P. Manning – Community Associate, CB 8

GUESTS: N. Danyluk – Department of City Planning
J. Martin – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein Office
R. Press – rep. State Senator Efrain Gonzalez' Office
J. Sonett – rep. State Senator Eric Schneiderman Office
R. Martos – rep. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz' Office
J. Sewell – rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell's Office
D. I. D. Shea – Commanding Officer, 50th Precinct
P.O. M. Ramos – Community Affairs, 50th Precinct
Det. L. Rodriguez – Community Affairs, 50th Precinct
P. Otto - KRVCCDC
N. Judd – Riverdale Press
R. Lebowitz – Riverdale Review
G. Bartti
A. Cohen
M. Flug – Greenberg Traurig
J. Gordon
K. Green
M. Grossman
P. Moerdler

Public Hearing - Report and comments on City Agencies Responses on Capital/Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2009

K. O'Brien, Chairman, Budget Committee, convened the hearing at 7:30 PM.

K. O'Brien opened the floor for speakers. Hearing no comments, Mr. O'Brien proceeded to give an overview of the budget process. On October 9th the Community Board voted on the budget priorities as submitted by the Board Committees. These priorities were submitted on October 31st to OMB. The Board Office received the city agencies responses the end of January. By March 1st a statement on the preliminary Budget from the Community Board will be sent to the Mayor. It will include the comments from the public hearing and responses from the Board.

In summary, the Register of Community Board requests for Bronx Community Board No. 8 (CB8) have city agency responses that can be condensed into several responses. Most of the city responses were either: funds are insufficient for this project; funding for part will be recommended; partially funded; or the request should be brought to the attention of your elected officials. Some responses needed clarification which the Board office will handle. For those responses that indicate it is an ongoing project; it is recommended moving this item from future requests as the project is already funded and continuing. Several of the Parks Committee budget requests were also already funded under the Croton Mitigation funds or have been funded by the Borough President such as the Vinmont Park baseball field.

There were several positive responses for some items on the capital priorities such as the allocation of funds to repair schools was partially funded along with the continued funding of the Kingsbridge Library. The Expense priorities received several positive responses such as funding for increased canine enforcement for the Department of Sanitation; in addition for possible funding were the acquisition of three pickup trucks for snow plows and water tanks; maintenance personnel for cleaning around Jerome Park reservoir and the assignment of two additional sanitation workers for trash drop outs.

Mr. O'Brien emphasized that it is important for the Committees to take responsibility for their budget requests and become an advocate for the community by writing a letter to the elected officials covering the specific Committee budget requests and ask for funding. This letter from the Board Committee Chairs regarding specific budget priorities should be submitted to the Board office by February 22, 2008, This will ensure a timely mailing to the elected officials. The Committees should also monitor the budget items to see if the city keeps it promises.

After the public hearing on the preliminary budget, a statement on the preliminary budget will be sent to the Mayor. This statement will reflect the public comments.

Chairman Cassino added that the Committee chairs should continue to advocate throughout the year to the elected officials to assist in providing support on some of these items.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Chairman Cassino convened the Board Meeting at 7:41 PM.

Gallery Session

- A. Pamela Otto introduced herself as the new Executive Director of the Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corporation and provided a brief history of her background. She added that she looks forward to working with Community Board No. 8.

1. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2008

The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Discussion of the Executive Board Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2008

The minutes were accepted as written.

3. Chairman welcomed Nestor Danyluk, Department of City Planning; Jay Martin, representing Senator Jeffrey Klein; Judith Sonett, representing Senator Eric Schneiderman; Randi Martos, representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz; Robert Press, representing Senator Efrain Gonzalez; Jamin Sewell, representing Councilman G. Oliver Koppell; Deputy Inspector Dermot Shea, Detective Luis Rodriguez, and P.O. Mindy Ramos, 50th Pct.; Nick Judd, Riverdale Press; and Robert Lebowitz, Riverdale Review.

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

The Deputy Inspector reported that the three burglary patterns that was plaguing the community has been brought to a close with the arrest of a 14 year old male who had been caught in the act. Twenty nine burglaries were confirmed as being committed by him.

An arrest was made on the recent shooting in the 50th Pct. The shooting victim had climbed through the window of the accused shooter, who shot the victim to abort a burglary. The case will be presented to the Grand Jury, but due to related circumstances, it is possible that there may not be an indictment.

Two robberies occurred, one at West 236th Street & Blackstone Avenue, the other on Manhattan College Parkway & Broadway. Both robberies were

committed at night by two males in a car who approached victims walking on the street.

Year to date statistics on robberies, grand larceny auto, and burglaries are down.

Chairman Cassino thanked the Deputy Inspector for the recent arrest of graffiti vandals.

5. **Chairman's Report**

- Chairman Cassino reported on the 2nd meeting regarding Alternate Side Parking (ASP) reform in Community Board No. 8. The Committee plans to present its proposals to the Board at its next regular meeting. Chairman discussed the good results seen in Brooklyn Community Board 6 with their implementation of ASP reform. Community Board 8's responses have been favorable thus far.
- Chairman reported that the Community Board's internal budget which was slated for a \$5,000 reduction for FY 2008 had been withdrawn and instead, there will be a \$10,000 reduction to the budget for FY 2009 commencing July 1, 2008.

6. **Report from the Department of City Planning – N. Danyluk**

1. There are no new applications for submission to the Board at this time.
2. N. Danyluk advised that DCP is not involved with the BSA application for 626 West 254th Street.

7. **Committee Reports –**

A. Youth – C. Prentice

1. The Committee is taking steps to gather data reflective of youth needs in the community; i.e., services related to teen pregnancy, drug education, and mentoring.
2. A youth services directory for Community Board 8 will be developed.
3. Resource literature is available from Riverdale Neighborhood House.
4. The Riverdale Y will host a forum on February 13th.
5. The Committee will change its monthly meeting day to Wednesday to accommodate a Board member and increase membership on the Committee.

B. Aging – K. Pesce

1. The next Committee meeting will be held on February 26th featuring a speaker on transportation.
2. The Committee is conducting a survey relative to senior services.
3. The production of a senior services directory is in discussion.

C. Economic Development / Library & Cultural Affairs Committees -

R. Fanuzzi reported on the Committees' joint meeting held on January 24th.

1. There were presentations by representatives of the Bronx Tourism Council and Bronx Cultural Arts on the topic of trolley and/or shuttle services for both commercial and cultural within Community Board 8. The Cultural Trolley is owned by the Bronx Tourism Council and it is available for leasing to any organization for private or public use. After hearing from both entities, the consensus was favorable for shuttle services for merchant/commercial purposes, and cultural use is also desired.
2. The next Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on February 28th, Board Office, 7:30 PM. There will be a presentation from a representative of 7-Eleven regarding franchise conversions.
3. The Wildlife Conservation Society is hiring.
4. March 25th is the application deadline for the Small Business Neighborhood Awards which recognizes local community businesses for beautification projects and the like.

D. Education

B. Trebach reported the following as submitted by D. Bowden, Education Chairperson.

1. The Department of Education Budget for FY 2008 is being cut by \$180 million averaging \$70,000 per school and \$80 million from the central bureaucracy. The Education Chair notes local cuts listed in the Riverdale Press are: PS 24 - \$80,641, PS 81 - \$65,671, PS/MS 37 - \$68,107, MS/HS 141 - \$143,499, MS/HS 368 - \$100,113 and JFK HS \$255,949. Cuts will total \$773,980 for Community Board 8.
2. Throughout the City, middle schools continue to dominate the list of the worst public schools, with the number of those "under registration review"

identified by the State's Education Department at an all-time low of 32 schools (23 of which were middle schools).

3. Locally, at MS/HS 141 fewer than half of the 8th graders scored at or above grade level on the state math test, and at MS/HS 368 only one-third scored higher than a level 2 (Education chair not certain of what this means).
4. The Citywide Council of Special Education will meet February 13th, at 6:30 PM, at PS 79 in Manhattan.
5. The Community Education Council of School District 10 will meet February 14th, at 6:15 PM, at PS 340, located at 25 West 195th Street.
6. The Education Committee of Community Board No. 8 will hold its next meeting on March 25th, at 7:30 PM, Board Office. Current education issues will be on the agenda.

E. Environment & Sanitation – S. Scheinbach

1. The next meeting of the Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee will be held on February 21, at 7:00 PM. DEP's Deputy Commissioner will explain water rates.
2. Scheinbach presented the following resolution regarding implementation of Con Edison's rate reduction during construction of the M-29 Transmission Line:

WHEREAS, Consolidated Edison will construct its M29 transmission line along a 2.7-mile route through the major thoroughfares of Community Board No. 8 beginning at West 263rd Street and Riverdale Avenue, then running south along Riverdale Avenue to West 230th Street, then east along West 230th Street to Broadway, and south along Broadway to the Harlem river; and

WHEREAS, One hundred and forty-five businesses, twenty apartment buildings and sixty-five private homes in Community Board No. 8 will be directly affected by this project, in addition to thousands of other residents in the surrounding community that also will suffer adverse impacts during the to last for as long as 1.5 years; and construction period, which is expected,

WHEREAS, The construction will adversely affect the business community due to the loss of curb-side parking for customers and for the receipt/delivery of goods and services, and the likelihood of fewer walk-in customers, noise, dust and utility service interruptions; and

WHEREAS, The construction will adversely affect the residential community due to the difficulty in reaching local businesses, the loss of on-street parking, increased traffic congestion, rerouting of seven major bus lines, noise, dust and utility service interruptions; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That Community Board No. 8, Bronx, calls upon the New York State Public Service Commission to grant residential and business customers who are directly along the Bronx portion of the M29 transmission route utility rate reductions during the period of construction of the M29 transmission line in Community Board No. 8.

Vote: 24 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor –

R. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, J. Kreppel, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, R. Moll, K. O'Brien, K. Pesce, C. Prentice, T. M. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, B. Trebach, E. Tossas Tucker, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

2. S. Scheinbach presented the following resolution on a bill regarding illegal placement of signs pending in NYS Senate and Assembly. R. Moll proposed amendments which were accepted and will be incorporated into the resolution:

WHEREAS, there has been proliferation of commercial signage being placed on public property in Bronx Community District 8; and

WHEREAS, there are companion bills pending in both houses of the New York State Legislature that would close many loopholes used by commercial advertisers to avoid being fined for placing their signage on public property; and

WHEREAS, the bills are known as Senate Bill 6106-A and Assembly Bill 9414; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board No. 8, Bronx, supports Senate Bill 6106-A and Assembly Bill 9414, and urges passage of these bills by the respective houses of the Legislature.

A lengthy discussion ensued. The resolution was tabled for clarification of regulations essential to A-Frame signs.

- F. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – M. Katzenstein

M. Katzenstein presented the following resolution regarding establishment of an EMS station/facility within Bronx Community Board No. 8:

IT IS RESOLVED, that the need remains for an EMS station/facility within the Bronx Community Board No. 8, (CB8) and that the Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee of Bronx Community Board No.8 will continue to search for an appropriate site for the development of an EMS station/facility within its boundaries;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 requests that FDNY EMS maintain a dialogue with the Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee of Bronx Community Board No. 8 with respect to station/facility requirements; i.e., minimum square footage, site access, etc, and possible site recommendations identified by the Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee.

Fervent discussion ensued. P. Friedman presented statistical data in support of the EMS facility being located within the Board area. Chairman Cassino turned over the chair to Vice Chairman McShane, while he participated in the discussion. Chairman Cassino discussed the time spent on the issue of the EMS station, and reasons for discontinuing the request for its establishment at West 230th Street & Broadway. He advised of his willingness to monitor the operation of the station under construction at East 233rd Street in the Woodlawn section of the Bronx located in Community Board 12. Discussion continued amongst the Board members for and against the EMS facility. Ex-officio Board member Councilman Koppell offered comments which reiterated remarks that explained that the new EMS station would only be utilized for stocking and therefore, would have no bearing on response time. Hence, he recommended requesting an additional ambulance for operation explicitly within the borders of Community Board No. 8.

The question was called.

The motion was defeated by a vote of 10 in favor, 13 opposed, and 1 abstention.

In Favor –

T. Durham, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, C. G. Moerdler, R. Moll, T. Rubinstein, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Opposed –

R. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. Dolny, R. Fanuzzi, J. Kreppel, D. McShane, K. O'Brien, K. Pesce, C. Prentice, S. Scheinbach, B. Trebach, E. Tossas Tucker

Abstention –

A. G. Feldmeier

G. Housing – J. Kreppel

1. Refer to Committee minutes for full report.
2. With respect to a letter sent to the representing attorney for 3880-3884 Cannon Place a response was received which advised that they are no longer involved with the development since the BSA application has been withdrawn, and therefore unable to respond to questions concerning future plans for the site. In response to the question regarding the section of law in the Zoning Resolution covering regulations for community facilities, the attorney referred to Sec 12-10 (defining community facility use) and Sections 22-00,22-13, and 22-14 (as of right uses permitted in residential zoning districts). Chapter 4 of Article II controls the bulk requirements of any such community facility use.

H. Land Use – C. Moerdler

1. Moerdler advised that the Land Use Committee approved two resolutions at the meeting held on February 4th. One concerning the BSA application for construction of a home at 626 West 254th Street, and the other for construction of a tennis court at 697 West 247th Street. He advised that certain agreements were made with the applicant for 626 West 254th Street and that agreement would be submitted in writing. The letter received did not mention the agreement made to remove rocks bordering the property, nor tree planting. Therefore, C. Moerdler advised of his continued withdrawal of support.

C. Moerdler presented the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves Board of Standards & Appeals Calendar No. 169-07-BZ (formerly 169-170-07-BZ), 626 West 254th Street, Block 5942, Lot 192 – Application for a variance of the Zoning Resolution to permit a more narrow lot than is legally sanctioned for the construction of a single family home.

Vote: 0 In Favor, 24 Opposed and 0 abstentions

Opposed-

R. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, J. Kreppel, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, R. Moll, K. O'Brien, K. Pesce, C. Prentice, T. M. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, B. Trebach, E. Tossas Tucker, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

2. C. Moerdler reported that the a letter of agreement with the application for 697 West 247th Street was received regarding tree replacement and retention of consultant to determine risks of possibility of damage to the private sewer line as a result of the tennis court construction and take responsibility of any necessary repairs.

At this juncture, Chairman Cassino announced that he would recuse himself from any involvement with 697 West 247th Street's application due to a financial relationship with the applicant. Chairman Cassino turned the Chair over to Vice Chairman McShane.

3. Mr. Moerdler proceeded to present the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves Board of Standards & Appeals Calendar No. 287-07-A, 697 West 247th Street, Block 5937, Lot 300 and Block 5926, Lot 300 – Appeal pursuant to General City Law 35 to build a tennis court in the bed of a mapped street on property located on a mapped but unbuilt West 248th Street.

Vote: 21 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention

In favor:

R. Bender, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, J. Kreppel, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, R. Moll, K. O'Brien, K. Pesce, C. Prentice, T. M. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, B. Trebach, E. Tossas Tucker, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Opposed-

T. Giallorenzi

Abstention-

P. Friedman

I. Law, Rules & Ethics – R. Moll

No report.

J. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

1. Refer to the Committee minutes for full report on the meeting held on January 23rd on the project work scope for Van Cortlandt Park parade grounds. Construction will include a new bathroom that will be wheelchair accessible. The project cost is \$2.5 million and work is scheduled to start in summer 2008.
2. B. Bender thanked member E. Tossas Tucker for recording the minutes.
3. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on February 27th, Board office, at 7:00 PM.

Councilman Koppell advised that he had been approached for funding for the Veterans' Memorial Grove in Van Cortlandt Park.

K. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on February 21st, 50th Pct., at 7:30 PM. Jane Wamsley, Team Captain of CERT, is the invited speaker. She will give a status report on CERT.

L. Traffic and Transportation – B. Trebach

B. Trebach referred to the Traffic and Transportation and Environment & Sanitation joint Committee minutes which had been distributed. With regard to the reconstruction of West 252nd Street Henry Hudson Parkway bridge overpass, he advised that 330 "ccd" (continuous construction days) relates to the completion of work days beginning with the re-start date of February 25, 2008 continuing through January 2009. The completion of the service road should be done by spring 2009.

8. District Manager's Report – N. Stent

Ms. Stent announced that the Board office has an intern, Anthony Bartolomey, who works in the office two days per week for two hours a day through June. Anthony is a 10th grader at MS/HS 368. He will be working on updating the Youth Resource Directory for Community Board 8. Thereafter, he will undertake the same assignment for a senior resource directory.

Meeting adjourned 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate