

## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2008, AT AMALGAMATED HOUSES 74 VAN CORTLANDT PARK SOUTH, VLADEK HALL

**PRESENT:** R. Abbott, B. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, A. Goldman, J. Goris, L. Grossman, M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, B. C. Maybury, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, R. Moll, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, J. Plaza, J. M. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

**ABSENT:** D. Bowden, T. Durham, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, G. O. Koppell, I. Ladimer, V. Gray Lewis, K. O'Brien, J. O'Reilly, C. Prentice, E. Tossas-Tucker

**STAFF:** N. Stent – District Manager, CB 8  
D. Bay – Community Associate, CB 8  
P. Manning- Community Associate, CB 8

**GUESTS:** J. Dinowitz, Assemblyman  
R. Fedderman – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel  
J. Martin – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein  
R. Press – rep. State Senator Efrain Gonzalez  
J. Smith – rep. State Senator Eric Schneiderman  
R. Martos – rep. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz  
J. Sewell – rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell  
A. Toledo – rep. Borough President Adolfo Carrión  
M. Aiken  
S. Alexander  
S. Barker - Kingsbridge Library  
H. Barret – Memorial Grove  
M. Borak  
J. C. Carol  
K. Clark  
E. Connolly – Department of Parks  
N. Danyluk – Bronx Department of City Planning  
A. DiLucca – Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association  
C. Gaefara  
A. Garti - Jerome Park Conservancy  
M. Gary  
E. Glaser  
J. Gordon  
A. Hunter

N. Judd – Riverdale Press  
J. Linn - Health Corps  
P. Moerdler  
H. Morik  
M. Perron – Van Cortlandt Park  
P. O. M. Ramos – Community Affairs, 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
I. Rigand  
L. Schwarz - Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association  
M. Schwartz  
J. Sonett  
D. Tannen – Memorial Grove  
C. Taylor – Friends of Van Cortlandt Park

Chairman McShane convened the meeting at 7:45 PM.

#### Gallery Session

- A. Christina Taylor, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, announced a meeting scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup>, Vladek Hall, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. In addition, the yearly environmental internship program will begin shortly.
  - B. Jack Linn, Health Corps, provided information on a program that operates a proactive health movement to help stem the crisis of child obesity through school-based health education and mentoring, as well as community events and outreach to underserved populations. In addition to New York, the program is running in nine other states. For additional information contact Mr. Linn by email at [Jeff.lin@healthcorps.org](mailto:Jeff.lin@healthcorps.org), or telephone, 212-742-2875.
  - C. Lynn Schwarz, Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association, thanked the Community Board for assisting with the DEP Jerome Park blasting issue, and the follow-up with the proposed development of “supportive housing” at 3880/82/84 Cannon Place.
  - D. Michael Schwartz discussed the problems encountered at the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct when he tried on several occasions to have security etching done on his son’s laptop.
  - E. Ann Marie Hunter discussed the Chancellor’s revamped Gifted and Talented program (G&T) and how it is failing Riverdale students. She asked for support in communicating to the Department of Education a request to re-examine the 2008 test results and related demographic data. Furthermore, DOE should recognize Riverdale as a viable, long-term setting for additional district and citywide programs.
- I. W. Stone, Vice Chairperson, Education Committee, responded on behalf of the Committee’s Chairperson. He advised that the G&T program would be addressed at the next Education Committee meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Board office, 7:30 PM and Ms. Hunter was invited to attend.

- F. Ezra Glaser discussed DEP's proposal to conduct blasting at Jerome Park Reservoir, and Community Board 8's resolution opposing the blasting. While there is a Court injunction preventing DEP from blasting, DEP's position is that no blasting would occur during phase 1 of the work and alternative drilling methods would be applied. There is still the question of how DEP will proceed into phase 2. The primary concern is DEP honoring the original plan to do "raised bore" drilling.
- G. Robert Press discussed the poor condition of the roadways resulting from Con Edison's M-29 project.
- H. Steve Barker, Kingsbridge Library, informed the Board of the Kingsbridge Library groundbreaking ceremony held on July 25<sup>th</sup> and that construction was due to begin following a 2 month mobilization period.
- I. Anne Marie Garti, Jerome Park Conservancy, advised about New York State's approval of "hydrofracking," a drilling technique used to drill for natural gas in shale formations, which uses high-pressure streams of water and chemicals to fracture the shale and release gas. She believes the chemicals will run off into the watershed for the City's reservoirs and contaminate groundwater. She asked for support for opposition of this measure.
- J. Kevin Clark, spoke on behalf of building shareholders in close proximity to Schervier Nursing Care Center's proposed parking lot. He raised concerns with the construction of the parking lot, not viewing the plans, and exacerbating the drainage problem because trees were cut down.
- K. Julia Smith, representing State Senator Eric Schneiderman, announced a live presentation of the slide show "an inconvenient truth" about global warming on September 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Riverdale YM/YWHA, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. This event is co-sponsored by the Community Board.
- L. Herb Baret, Advocate for restoration of Veterans' Memorial Grove in Van Cortlandt Park, thanked Community Board 8 for awarding him and Donald Tannen the Community Service Award. He has been working closely with Van Cortlandt Park's Administrator Margot Perron on upgrading the Memorial Grove. Additionally, Councilman Koppell has allocated \$250,000 in start-up funding. Further funding support is needed.

Bob Bender advised that a scope meeting was pending.

1. Approval of regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2008

The minutes were approved unanimously.

R. Moll delivered a statement and apology to L. Spalter regarding the June 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

2. Discussion of Executive Committee Board Minutes of September 3, 2008

- a) J. Reyes corrected the Education Committee report, page 5, item 3, to reflect that Assemblyman Dinowitz had agreed to speak at a future meeting on Mayoral Control in Education.
- b) J. Reyes corrected the budget report, page 5, to include that the proposed budget cuts to community boards for Fiscal Years 2010 through 2013 were not restored.

3. Chairman welcomed Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Andy Toledo, representing Borough President Adolfo Carrión; Richard Fedderman, representing Congressman Eliot Engel; J. Martin representing State Senator Jeffrey Klein; Robert Press, representing State Senator Efrain Gonzalez; Julia Smith, representing State Senator Eric Schneiderman; Randi Martos, Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz; Jamin Sewell, representing G. Oliver Koppell; Nestor Danyluk, Bronx Department of City Planning; P. O. Mindy Ramos, 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct, Steve Barker, Kingsbridge Library; Nick Judd, Riverdale Press; and Margot Perron, Van Cortlandt Park.

4. Chairman invited P.O. Ramos to address the Board.

P. O. Ramos reported that the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct had received 17 new Police Officers and a new Lieutenant who would be handling quality of life issues.

5. Chairman's Report

- Chairman thanked the Committee Chairs for attending the various committee meetings over the summer.
- Chairman reviewed summer issues that the Board was involved in: Community Boards 7, 8 and 12 joint public hearing on the blasting at Jerome Park Reservoir; the Land Use Committee resolution opposing the Jerome Park Reservoir blasting; Community Board 7's public hearing on the Kingsbridge Armory; and the Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee's public hearing regarding a group home on 154 Shradly Place.
- Chairman announced that the Fiscal year (FY) 2009 Mayoral budget cuts to the Community Boards of \$10,000 were restored.

6. Treasurer's Report

J. Reyes presented the attached report on the Board's budget for FY 2009. She reiterated that the proposed budget cuts to the 59 Community Boards for fiscal years 2010 through 2013 had not been restored.

7. District Manager's Report

N. Stent reported that she had been in the office for one year as of September 4, 2008. She thanked the office staff for their hard work, expertise and professionalism and highlighted the past year's achievements:

1. The office was rearranged to promote efficiency & effectiveness.
2. A work room was established.
3. For the first time, the office had an intern paid for by a community based organization, Riverdale Neighborhood House.
4. The office files were alphabetized from 2008 back to 1999 and the supply cabinet catalogued.
5. Office Lists were updated, most importantly; complete lists were placed on the email system for easy access by staff for emailing, labels, printing, calling, etc.
6. The 1993 Youth directory has begun to be updated.
7. The office benefitted from improved technology and equipment and is now completely supported by an antivirus package. There are two new computers, one for the District Manager and the other solely used as a network allowing staff to share information and resources, such as resolutions, minutes, letters, forms, reports and research documents.
8. A new program, Microsoft excel was added to all computers allowing for a complaint log accessible by staff, updated regularly and will be reported on at a future date.
9. A Charter Revision group has been formed by the Borough Presidents and the 59 community boards to prepare proposals for submission to the Mayor's Charter Revision Commission. The mayoral Commission was created in January 2008. Several committees were established: land use, budget, administration and service delivery. These committees will seek out suggestions and ideas from the 59 community boards. District Manager Stent was asked to co-chair along with district manager of Manhattan CB10, the service delivery committee to prepare a proposal that will improve the role of community boards in service delivery.
10. One notable success this year was accomplished with the help of the Parks Department. Parks has play vans available to communities throughout the summer. These vans go into communities for a day and provide opportunities for youth to have a place to play board games, play arts & crafts, or to skate. For the first time in the history of Community Board No. 8, a skate play van was available at the Marble Hill Houses playground. Both the Marble Hill houses director and the Marble Hill Community Center were informed in advance and able to notify their community about this opportunity.

Next year, there are plans to expand this opportunity to have both play and skate vans available in several areas that are in need in Community Board No. 8.

The District Manager concluded the report with a few future plans for the office including a new web site supported by DoITT and provided for free. The office will also focus on working with city agencies and linking city to provide a full service, one-stop shopping list accessible to the community. Additionally, the office will work on creating several brief Board basic trainings on resolution writing, budget request preparations and land use protocols.

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

- Borough President Carrion announced the allocation of \$50.7 million in capital funds for fiscal year 2008/09. He has committed funding for 27 housing initiatives, including new home ownership, senior citizen projects, school funding, hospitals, library improvements and renovation of parks. Other funding includes \$9 million towards 39 initiatives at Bronx schools for new computers, new science labs, and partnership with the Out2Play Program. Additionally, \$1.2 million has been allocated for capital improvement at Bronx libraries, of which Kingsbridge Library will receive \$300,000 for new construction; and an allocation of \$3.9 million to Bronx parks will include Vinmont Park (Sid Augarten field) renovations.
- The Borough President has partnered with Best Buy, Bronx Overall Development Corporation, Bronx Business Solutions, and Gateway Fast Track to host one of borough's largest job fairs involving one employer, Best Buy. Beginning September 4<sup>th</sup> through October 18<sup>th</sup>, Best Buy will conduct job interviews at 359 East 149<sup>th</sup> Street for hiring up to 200 residents in two new Bronx stores at new locations on Fordham Road, and The Gateway. Interested individuals are encouraged to fill out their initial application on-line at [www.best.com/careers](http://www.best.com/careers). For more information call Dionne Binns at the Bronx Business Solutions Center, 718-960-7988 or Jeffrey Garcia at Fast Track Unit, 718-993-3282.
- NYC Metropolitan Transportation Council's annual event, Tour De Bronx will be held on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.

9. Report from the Department of City Planning – N. Danyluk

City Planning submitted a 60 day authorization referral for an application for the Patel residence, 4911 Arlington Avenue. This property had submitted a different application before the Board several years before that had been approved, but never built. The new application has been altered substantially, necessitating new approvals.

## 10. Committee Reports

## A. Environment &amp; Sanitation – S. Scheinbach

1. DEP held a public hearing regarding blasting at Jerome Park Reservoir on July 28<sup>th</sup>. The Board passed a resolution at a Land Use Committee meeting in July 2008 opposing the blasting. On July 29<sup>th</sup> the Bronx County Supreme Court granted a restraining order. DEP relented and there will be no blasting. Non blasting methods will be applied.
2. Croton Filtration Plant Monitoring Committee held its regular monthly meeting regarding public access to Jerome Park Reservoir. A resolution was passed in favor of public access and requesting that members of the public be appointed to the Committee.
3. The next meeting of the Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, at 3660 Jerome Avenue, at 7:00 PM. Members of the Environment & Sanitation Committee are asked to attend in lieu of the standard monthly Committee meeting. General membership of the Board is also urged to attend.

## B. Education

I. W. Stone reported on behalf of D. Bowden.

1. The Committee will address issues related to the Gifted and Talented classes at its next meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
2. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz will attend the October 28<sup>th</sup> Education Committee meeting to discuss "Mayoral Control of Schools."

## C. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – M. Katzenstein

The Committee met over the summer to hold a public hearing on the proposal for a group home at 154 Shradly Place. This issue will be on the agenda at the Committee meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

## D. Land Use – C. Moerdler

The Committee met on September 4<sup>th</sup> and discussed:

1. Schervier parking lot proposal: 18 parking spaces will be created. There were no plans presented. Another meeting will be held in

order to view the plans and have further discussion. Additionally, an overall Master Plan for the facility was requested.

2. Fieldston's Historic District Rules/Master Plan. The Board's comments were postponed pending Fieldston's Property Owners response to the Plan.
3. The Land Use Committee will reconvene in early November.

E. Housing

In the absence of T. Durham, Chairman referred the Board to the report in the Executive minutes.

F. Libraries & Cultural Affairs – R. Abbott

1. A film festival on disabilities will be held at the Riverdale YM/YWHA.
2. Bronx Council on the Arts grant application deadline is September 19<sup>th</sup>. The amount of the grant is \$5,000. Applications are available at the Board office, or can be downloaded from the website at [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org)

G. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

1. Phase I work is underway at Vinmont Park - Sid Augarten Field. This phase work is on the drainage issues in the park and will be completed by October 2008.
2. Four trees will be taken down in the Kappock Street retaining wall project. New trees will be planted.
3. Work has commenced at the northern end of Van Cortlandt Park parade grounds.

H. Traffic & Transportation – A. P. Cassino

1. Referred to the report on traffic issues attached to the Executive Board minutes. He discussed item No. 2, regarding the reduction of Alternate Side Parking; and item No. 11 regarding abandoned cars on streets left over long periods. A list of the cars will be submitted to the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct.
2. Warren Dolny will act as Vice Chair of the Committee.

I. Aging – K. Pesce

1. The next meeting will be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Classic Residence by Hyatt, at 3:30 PM. "Volunteering" will be addressed. A representative from the Department for the Aging will be guest speaker.
  2. The Committee's Vice Chair is Anthony Creaney.
- J. Economic Development – R. Fanuzzi
1. Referred to the report in the minutes of the Executive Board.
  2. Thanked Ibiza Lounge for hosting the June Committee meeting.
  3. Stop & Shop on Broadway will close for renovation September 11<sup>th</sup> and will re-open the day before Thanksgiving on November 26<sup>th</sup>. In an effort to assist the displaced shoppers during the renovation and maintain business in the community, R. Fanuzzi will contact Stop & Shop to discuss temporary transportation for its shoppers to other food vendors.
  4. A Youth Green Market is in operation at Riverdale Neighborhood House every Thursday through October from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning  
Community Associate

PM/  
Attachment