

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2009 AT THE RIVERDALE YM/YWHA, 5625 ARLINGTON AVENUE

PRESENT: B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, B. Feinberg, A. Garbett Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, A. Goldman, M. Khury, G. O. Koppell, I. Ladimer, V. Gray-Lewis, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, K. O'Brien, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, J. Plaza, C. Prentice, J. M. Reyes, S. Scheinbach, B. Trebach, E. Tossas Tucker, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

ABSENT: R. Abbott, A. Fana, T. Feerick, J. Goris, M. Katzenstein, B. Maybury, R. Moll, J. O'Reilly, T. Rubinstein, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone

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

GUESTS: R. Fedderman – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel
S. Solono – rep. Congressman Charles Rangel
J. Martin – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein
J. Sonett – rep. State Senator Malcolm Smith
R. Martos – rep. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
A. Keefe – rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell's Office
N. Danyluk – Department of City Planning
Capt. J. D'Adamo – 50th Precinct
I. Aggeo
S. Alexander
D. Alicia – NY Yankees Youth Leadership Recipient
H. Barret
S. Berfas – NY Yankees Youth Leadership Recipient
A. M. Garti
K. Gilson
C. Giove – Riverdale Review
S. Goodson – Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corp.
M. Hernandez
N. Judd – Riverdale Press
A. Kaminski
J. Kaminski – NY Yankee Youth Leadership Recipient
R. Liriano – NY Yankees Youth Leadership Recipient
S. Mahoney – Kingsbridge Heights Community Center
M. Mercedes – NY Yankees Youth Leadership Recipient
Lt. J. McGowan – 50th Precinct
P. Moerdler
N. Nunez – Riverdale Neighborhood House
M. Perron – Van Cortlandt Park
Det. L. Rodriguez – 50th Precinct
T. Tureski
J. Quiles
C. Stanton – Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corp.

W. Zorrilla – Marble Hill, Children Arts & Science Workshops

Chairman McShane convened the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Chairman called upon K. O'Brien, Budget Chairman to conduct the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 Responses and Comments from City Agencies.

K. O'Brien summarized the city agency responses to the FY 2010 Budget Priorities:

Capital City Agency Responses Summarized:

- **Not Recommended for Funding** - Whitehall School Annex and EMS Station
- **Insufficient Funding Refer to Elected Officials** - Various Park projects: Fort Four Park facilities; Spuyten Duyvil Park runoff; Henry Hudson and Ewen Park basketball courts; Bailey Avenue Playground; Riverdale Park Hudson Valley Greenway; Van Cortlandt Mansion; Caryl Field; and Van Cortlandt Stadium facilities
- **Supported Funding Needed** – Construction for new Kingsbridge Library, renovation projects for Van Cortlandt and Spuyten Duyvil Branch Libraries
- **Partial Funding** – Repair infrastructure of public schools, portions of renovation project of Van Cortlandt Park Parade grounds
- **Not Recommended** – EMS Ambulance station in Board No. 8
- **Funding Allocated Work in Progress** – ADA compliance for schools, and Seton Park pathway
- **Funding Allocated**– Fort Four Park Phase II work, and Veterans Memorial Grove in Van Cortlandt Park

Expense City Agency Responses Summarized:

- **No Increases, Reduction in FY 2010** – Increase budgetary allocation for Bronx Community Board No. 8
- **Insufficient Funding Refer to Elected Officials** – Improved lighting in parks, and repairs of Greenstreet walkways
- **Agency Discretion Allocation** – CB8 designated Ambulance
- **Funding Allocated** – Schools class size reduction; After school educational/recreational programs; Inspection of school repairs and PCB contamination; School staffing of nurse, librarian, guidance counselor, computer instructor

K. O'Brien announced good news that the ADA compliance for schools funding had been allocated and work already begun; the Veterans Memorial Grove in Van Cortlandt park was funded and the Seton pathways were funded along with Ft. Four Park Phase II and the Van Cortlandt Parade Grounds which were partially funded.

K. O'Brien recommended that the committee chairs work closely with their respective city agencies in reviewing and writing budget priorities. K. O'Brien will prepare a preliminary budget statement in response to the city agency budget responses reflecting the Board's position for the Mayor.

K. O'Brien opened the floor to public speakers. None came forward and the public hearing was closed.

Chairman McShane convened the regular Board meeting.

1. **Presentation of NY Yankees Youth Leadership Awards**

Chairman welcomed and invited Dr. Roscoe Brown representing the NY Yankees. Dr. Brown stated that The New York Yankees were committed to promoting and sustaining cordial and cooperative relationships with their neighbors and working with them to enhance the quality of life throughout the surrounding communities. In an effort to acknowledge young people who are providing a positive service to their community, the New York Yankees work in conjunction with the 12 community boards of the Bronx on an annual basis to identify five area youth in each district that are making a difference. These children make up The New York Yankees Community Council Leadership Corp. and are provided with a \$500 stipend to assist them in continuing their work in the community. These awardees perform 50 hours of leadership/volunteer work as a tutor, mentor, community unity developer, and/or a youth leader against violence and substance abuse in the community.

The awardees are:

- David Alicea, nominated by Kingsbridge Heights Community Center for his all around involvement and leadership roles with the youth programs at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center.
- Rosemarie Liriano, nominated by Riverdale Neighborhood House for assisting at the Francis Schervier Nursing Care Center in the feeding program and for other services at the care center.
- Julie Kaminski, nominated by Riverdale Community Center for assisting students and staff in all phases of the Teen Theater productions at the Riverdale Community Center.
- Sabrina Berfas, nominated by Riverdale YM-YWHA for her leadership skills and for going above and beyond to assist with the Riverdale Rising Stars productions at the Riverdale YM/YWHA.
- Malik Mercedes, nominated by Marble Hill Community Center for exceptional leadership skills at the center.

2. **Gallery Session**

- A. Anne Marie Garti, Jerome Park Conservancy, discussed the portion of the 197-a Plan relative to Jerome Park Reservoir, and the non mention of a running track around its perimeter. Bob Bender, Chairperson, Parks & Recreation responded that there would be a 2nd hearing on the topic of the track.
- B. Herb Barrett, Advocate for the Restoration of the Veterans Memorial Grove in Van Cortlandt Park, requested support in urging the Parks Department to accelerate the Grove's restoration. Bob Bender, Chairperson, Parks & Recreation advised that the project is in the Design stage.
- C. Tim Turesky, site supervisor at Spuyten Duyvil Library, announced a Valentine program featuring Barbara Rice, Vocalist, at the branch Saturday, February 14th. Flyers were provided.

D. Maximo Hernandez announced the creation of the Kingsbridge/Riverdale Association that was formed for the purpose of bonding two neighborhoods to work closely together on such issues as housing, education, and other community concerns. The first full meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24th, at Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy. Flyers were distributed. He invited all to join.

3. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2009

The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Discussion of Executive Board Committee Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2009

The minutes were adopted as written.

5. Chairman welcomed Councilman G. Oliver Koppell; Richard Fedderman representing Congressman Eliot Engel; Socrates Solono, representing Congressman Charles Rangel; Judith Sonnet, representing State Senator Malcom Smith; Jay Martin, representing State Senator Jeffrey Klein; Randi Martos, representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz; Aya Keefe, Office of Councilman G. Oliver Koppell; Nestor Danyluk, Department of City Planning; Capt. John D'Adamo, Lt. Jim McGowan and Det. Luis Rodriguez, 50th Precinct; Margot Perron, Van Cortlandt Park; Nick Judd, Riverdale Press; and Candice Giove, Riverdale Review.

6. Chairman invited Captain D'Adamo to address the Board.

- The Captain responded to a prior inquiry concerning the EMS stocking station at the 50th Precinct. He advised that any decisions regarding the retention of the station is solely at the discretion of the Mayor.
- The Captain reported that overall crime is down 33%, which includes burglaries down 56%, felony assault down 39%, car theft down 11%, overall arrests up 40% and quality of life summonses are up 23%. He gave credit to Lt. McGowan for the impressive numbers in crime reduction and arrests. With respect to the "FLO" graffiti markings, progress is being made with the vandal's identification and whereabouts.
- Det. Rodriguez advised of recruitment efforts for volunteers willing to do graffiti clean-up. Those interested should contact him at 718-543-5978, or his email address: luis.rodriguez@nypd.org.
- Complaints from Councilman Martinez' Town Hall meeting with residents of the Promenade about dog litter around the Marble Hill Metro Station are being addressed.

7. Chairman invited Councilman G. O. Koppell to address the Board.

Councilman Koppell discussed the City's Budget. He does not envision further property tax increases; Council will oppose proposed cuts to community boards; and police classes were restored but reduced. The School Construction Five-Year Plan is under review and Councilman requested comments from the Board on the Plan; one new school is proposed in Community Board No. 8; the return of the Whitehall Annex looks positive. A study shows P.S. 7 is slightly underutilized. In response to a question on the law dealing with A-Frame signs, he advised of an ambiguity in the law, and requested another letter from the Board on the subject.

8. Report from the Borough President's Office

In the absence of a representative, Chairman reported that the Borough President would deliver the State of the Borough Address at Lehman College, on February 20th, at 9:30 AM. Those planning to attend should contact the Board Office to RSVP.

9. Chairman's Report

Chairman advised of the establishment of a sub-committee with Land Use and Housing Committees to address the issue of abandoned properties and vacant lots throughout the community. Appointed members are: C. Moerdler, T. Durham, P. Friedman, A. Goldman, and Chairman McShane. P. Friedman will develop the goals of the Committee for discussion at the Housing Committee meeting on February 23rd.

10. District Manager's Report

N. Stent referred the Board to the quarterly budget report handed out.

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

City Planning will review the Ittleson Center application February 11th, and deliver its vote in early March. C. Moerdler asked that City Planning be made aware and act accordingly to the "conditions" attached to the Board's recommendation of the application.

12. Committee Reports

A. Traffic and Transportation – A. P. Cassino

1. Testified at the MTA hearing.
2. Con Ed is currently installing cables on the M-29 route and the equipment takes up a large area on the street. There was no prior discussion on this phase of the project.
3. Con Ed is installing a high pressure gas line for 2500 Johnson Avenue. The project will take up to six weeks.
4. Reconstruction of Step Street at West 230th Street between Kingsbridge Terrace and Heath Avenue will be commencing.
5. No February Committee meeting.

B. Aging – K. Pesce

1. The joint meeting in January with the Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee was very successful.
2. The Committee's next meeting will be held on February 24th, at the Atria, at 3:30 PM.
3. I. Ladimer added favorable comments on the January meeting. He discussed his participation with the budget rally at Schervier Nursing Care. Thanked all for funding support of Riverdale Senior Center ADAP. Absent City funding, the program is being sustained through the Center, and private donations.

C. Economic Development – R. Fanuzzi

1. Announced that the Citizens Committee for NYC grants deadline is March 14th; HHH Homecare is recruiting workers and trainees for homecare aides, contact Stacy Burns, 718-239-6644; Legends Hospitality is holding job fairs for employment at the new Yankee Stadium, contact Dionne Binns, 718-590-7159. Census jobs are still available.
2. A fire destroyed the Tibbett Diner. The owner intends to rebuild and return to business.
3. Thanked J. Goris for checking into the parking accommodations at Manhattan College garage.
4. A meeting/site visit was held on the Committee's Farmer's Market proposal. See report in minutes of the Executive Board. He thanked the site search team that accompanied him – Pamela Otto, Kingsbridge/Riverdale/Van Cortlandt Development Corp.; Reverend Dixon, United Methodist Church, Hilary Baum, Green Markets; Sarah Shaikh, Schervier, and N. Stent, District Manager, Community Board No. 8. The proposed site is at West 230th & Reverend Tieck Way. Future meetings will be held in Marble Hill to showcase the plan.
5. The next meeting will be held on February 26th. The Committee will address the Riverdale Avenue shop closures.

At this juncture Chairman McShane recognized the arrival of Socrates Solano, representative of Congressman Charles Rangel. Mr. Solano greeted the Board and stated his intention to attend full Board meetings.

D. Education – D. Bowden

1. Discussed the impact of the City/State and Federal budgets on education.
2. A MS 141 honor class was discontinued due to 27 of 34 students failing to keep the required honors average.
3. The Committee is seeking firm answers on the question of regaining the White Hall Annex.
4. The next meeting will be held on March 24th, Board Office, at 7:30 PM with the Principal of PS 7 as guest speaker.

E. Environment & Sanitation – S. Scheinbach

1. Discussed enforcement tactics with proliferation of illegal A-Frame and advertisement signs throughout the community.
2. The Committee's next meeting will be held on February 18th, Board Office, at 7:30 PM.
3. The Filtration Plant Monitoring Committee will hold its next meeting on February 19th at the Department of Environmental Protection Office on Jerome Avenue.

F. Housing – T. C. Durham

1. The new Acting Commissioner of the Department of Buildings was guest speaker at the January meeting. The meeting drew a large crowd. The Commissioner discussed problem development sites such as 3882 Cannon Place, 3820 Oxford, 3190 Cambridge Avenue. A Stop Work Order was issued for 3882 Cannon.
2. T. C. Durham joined with Operation Hope for Homeless Services count of the homeless January 23rd undertaken between 10PM – 4AM. He was assigned to the Southeast corridor of the Bronx. Community Board 8 has the lowest number of homeless in the Bronx.
3. T. C. Durham represented the Board at Councilman Martinez' Town Hall meeting with residents of the Promenade to discuss issues of housing, sanitation and public safety. He described the living conditions at the Promenade Apartments as disturbing and alarming. A full report of the meeting will be submitted. Tenants from the Promenade will be invited to the next Committee meeting.

G. Land Use – C. Moerdler

The Committee met on February 3rd and discussed comments from Fieldston's Property Owners Association on the proposed rules of Fieldston Historic District Master Plan. It was agreed that the rules were poorly drafted. The next meeting will be held on March 3rd to consider the rules. All comments on the master Plan are due by February 19th. The Committee also followed-up on 6015 Palisade Avenue, and requested a proposal for the replanting of trees.

H. Library and Cultural Affairs

M. Wolpoff reported in the absence of R. Abbott that the joint meeting with Aging was well attended with over 45 persons in attendance.

I. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

1. Van Cortlandt Stadium repair costs are estimated at \$12 to \$15 million.
2. Outlined problems associated with a request before the committee for pedestrian path at West 232nd between Palisade & Independence Avenues.
3. No February meeting.
4. The Committee will meet jointly with Public Safety on March 5th at the 50th Precinct to discuss safety in the park over the summer.

J. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

1. The Committee will meet on February 19th, 50th Precinct, at 7:30 PM. Liquor licenses will be reviewed.
2. The March meeting will be held jointly with the Parks Committee.

Meeting adjourned 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate