

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

HELD ON DECEMBER 13, 2016

AT RIVERDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 4765 HENRY HUDSON PARKWAY

- PRESENT:** S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, S. Gozland, M. Heller, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young
- ABSENT:** A. P. Creaney, L. Croft, D. Escano, N. Friedman, D. Gellman, A. Guzman, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, S. Marquez, D. McCord, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, J. Santiago, I. W. Stone, M. Yamagata,
- STAFF:** D. Bay – Community Associate
- GUESTS:** Councilman Fernando Cabrera, J. DeLacruz, rep. Councilman Fernando Cabrera, J. Stephenson – rep. Councilman Andrew Cohen, T. Miller, rep. State Senator Gustavo Rivera, K. Diaz, rep. Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez, A. Castano – Staff, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, C. Lang – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein, A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., D. Ojeda-Tiru, rep. Congressman E. Engel, F. Klein, rep. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, K. Boateng, H. Stein, W. Stein, D. Wolff, G. Bowler, D. Bowler, R. Zavras, M Smith, K. Valyi, R. Press, M. Gonzalez, J. Klein, E. Thompson, S. Nuruzzama

Chairman Padernacht convened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

1. Gallery Session – No speakers
2. Introduction of Special Guests

Councilman Fernando Cabrera, J. DeLacruz, rep. Councilman Fernando Cabrera, J. Stephenson – rep. Councilman Andrew Cohen, T. Miller, rep. State Senator Gustavo Rivera, K. Diaz, rep. Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez, A. Castano – Staff, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, C. Lang – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein, A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., D. Ojeda-Tiru, rep. Congressman E. Engel, F. Klein, rep. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz,

Chairman Padernacht welcomed Councilman Fernando Cabrera to address the board

- Councilman Cabrera wished everyone Happy Holidays
- There is a Legislative hearing on two bills regarding elections.
- He thanked the Board for bringing to light the placement of a shelter at 2810 Webb Avenue. The Councilman's office worked diligently to have this location investigated. FDNY inspected the location and found several violations.
- His office is receiving numerous calls regarding immigration rights. He is forming a task force to help train volunteers to help residents in the communities with their immigration concerns. The training will be on December 15, 2016.
- His office has free legal consultation for immigration, housing and family justice.

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

- The Borough President encouraged residents to join the community board.
- Reappointment letters have been sent out.

- There will be a Parliamentary course for the board members on January 23, 2017 at Kingsbridge Library from 6:30 to 8:30PM.
- Annual Chanukah Celebration, Thursday, December 22nd at the Riverdale YM/YWCA at 12:30PM.

4. Chairman's Report – Daniel Padernacht

- District Manager, Patricia Manager will be retiring at the end of December. A celebration of her years of service will be planned by the officers.

5. Treasurer's Report – Amy Joy Robateau

- A report was distributed. The Treasurer thanked P. Friedman for creating the Treasurer's worksheet which made it easy for her to work on. She also thanked S. Alexander for helping her with the report.
- A.J. Robateau completed the FMS training in order to become an approver of Board bills.

6. District Manager's Report – District Manager was not present.

7. City Planning – No City Planning representative present

8. Committee Reports

A. Traffic & Transportation – M. Heller

- The next committee meeting is on December 20, 7:30PM, at the American Legion on Corlear Avenue between West 230 and 231 Street. There will be two presentations on the 225th Street bridge renovation that will start in 2018. The NYC Transit Authority and the NYC Department of Transportation will report on this sizeable project.
- In the spring of 2017 there will be subway schedule revisions on the 1 and 7 lines. Additional weekday trips are proposed.
- The Traffic and Transportation Committee have no position on the North Riverdale Traffic plan at this time as the plan has not been presented to the committee.

B. Youth – L. Parker

- Refer to minutes.
- L. Parker is waiting for approval on the Youth Directory before sending it out.
- The NY Yankee Youth Leadership award winners were selected.
- The next meeting is on December 28 in the board office.

C. Aging – L. Daub

- The NYC Commissioner and the NYS Commissioner for the Department of Aging attended the October meeting. Refer to minutes.
- The Aging Committee meeting is on December 20, 2016 at the Ft. Independence Senior Center. There will be a speaker from R.A.I.N.

D. Education – S. Alexander

The board passed the following resolutions:

- i. Whereas, PS 307, the Luisa Pineiro Fuentes School of Science and Discovery in Kingsbridge Heights is due for a lease renewal in June 2017, and

Whereas, PS 307 is located in a building converted into an inadequate school site lacking a gym, lunchroom, and auditorium for the use of the students, and

Whereas, it is imperative to address the overcrowding with a student body of approximately 400 (while the capacity is 189 students) and therefore presents substandard conditions as a challenge to the students in their daily educational experience,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Education Committee of Bronx Community Board No. 8 calls upon the Department of Education and School Construction Authority to negotiate the lease renewal in a timely fashion to avoid any hardship to the students of PS 307 and also calls upon the Department of Education (Real Estate Division) to address the overcrowded conditions by locating appropriate space as a priority in the near future.

- ii. Whereas, the overcrowding issue in the northwest portion of School District 10 involving PS7, PS24, PS81, PS95 and PS 307 should be immediately addressed, and

Whereas, creating a new school zone of choice would alleviate the overcrowding at all the aforementioned schools by giving parents another school option (K-5) for which their children would be eligible, and

Whereas, the property currently housing the closed Church of the Visitation which merged with another church not long ago, at 160 Van Cortlandt Park South, in School District 10, could be an excellent place to address a longstanding and increasingly urgent problem facing multiple schools in the area, and

Whereas, the site has ample space for a new school and also has significant amount of outdoor space and is located virtually at the crossroads of all four zones,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Education Committee of Bronx Community Board No. 8 supports the proposal to call upon the Department of Education (Real Estate Division) to consider purchasing the property to build the 450 seat school which appears in the Department of Education Capitol Budget - 5 year plan, already funded and only needs a site to be designated.

The following vote is for the above amended resolutions:

Vote: 26 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions

In Favor - S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, S. Gozland, M. Heller, R. Pochter Lowe, T. Moran, O. Murray, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

- Refer to minutes.
- There will be no Education meeting in December.

E. Environment & Sanitation – L. Spalter

- DEP gave a presentation on the Jerome Park Reservoir at the November meeting. The DEP plans to repair the gatehouses and repair the eastern retaining wall. Work will begin in the fall of 2017. The heavily trafficked site is situated near a number of schools. Concerns were expressed about traffic, staging, parking, construction noise, etc. DEP was going to install bird deterrent wire 16-feet above the reservoir but after opposition from the public removed this from the project. This topic will be discussed further at the December Environment & Sanitation committee meeting on December 21, 2016 at the board office.

F. Health, Hospitals & Social Services – no report

G. Housing – P. Ellis

- The Housing meeting in November was on green housing and sustainable housing in the Bronx.
- The December 22nd meeting will be at Riverdale Mental Health Association. The committee will prepare for the third Housing forum in January which will be on Financing Affordable Housing – Preservation.
- P. Ellis will hold a Housing Resource Day on a Saturday in the spring on eviction prevention, rent free programs, finding affordable housing, etc.

H. Law, Rules and Ethics – M. Wolpoff

The following amendments were made to the Ethical Guidance Manual:

Page 4 Article II/1

*Primarily, the New York City Charter includes a chapter on Ethics (Ch. 68) creating the current Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB) to promulgate rules, provide education and issue advisory opinions. The Charter contains specific provisions relating to official conduct of Community Board members, many subject to COIB interpretation. These apply to Board staff and to appointed Board members but not to “public members” who volunteer on committees, as they are not deemed “public servants” under the Charter. However, the Community Board expects these “community members” to disclose any relationships that might involve a conflict and that they not vote on **ANY RESOLUTION FOR WHICH THEY HAVE A CONFLICT.***

Page 5 Article V/3

3. Bylaws of Bronx Community Board No. 8. This is the governing instrument of the Board. It governs the internal management and outlines the responsibilities and powers of the Board. It defines rules for officers, meetings, voting, standing committees and the authorization for special committees, public hearings, gallery sessions, **PUBLIC** relations, district manager and the board office and amendments. The bylaws are available on the Board’s website at: www.nyc.gov/bronxcb8 under the category About CB8. The Ethical Guidance Manual does not change or amend CB8’s Bylaws.

The following vote is for the Ethical Guidance manual with above amendments:

Vote: 27 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions

In Favor - S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, S. Gozland, M. Heller, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, J. O’Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

- M. Wolpoff reported on Compensation and Gratuities from non-city sources and Honoraria Guidelines released by the NYC Conflicts of Interest Board.
- There will be no January meeting.

I. Land Use – C. Moerdler

The following items are included on the Land Use agenda for December 14, 2016 meeting:

- A copy of the Hebrew Home elevations is available for inspection.

- 4680 Fieldston Road – Bloomfield Residence – plans that were presented in the past were defective. The owner and the architect have been invited to the Land Use meeting tomorrow and they have declined. C. Moerdler will introduce a resolution to disapprove the Bloomfield residence on the grounds that we have not received any new plans for the board to consider.

A motion was made to have the board give the authority for the Land Use Committee to act on behalf of the full Board at the December 14 Land Use meeting regarding a resolution that may come before them regarding 4680 Fieldston Road/Bloomfield.

Vote: 28 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions

In Favor - S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, S. Gozland, M. Heller, R. Pochter-Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

- Fieldston Property Owner's Association will report at the Land Use meeting that they are not in favor of Fieldston being removed from the domain of SNAD.
- 3061 Scenic Place - R. Ginty and the office staff wrote up a chronology of the correspondence between the board office, the Department of Buildings and the Department of City Planning and sent this along with a letter the Land Use Chair wrote to the Department of Investigation (DOI) seeking a formal investigation into the construction work in the Special Natural Area District without permits since September of 2016. Pictures accompanied this correspondence. Chair Padernacht and R. Ginty confirmed that work continued this weekend and today.

J. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – M. Goodman

- M. Goodman reported on a presentation by Jacki Fisher of the Outer Seed Shadow program in the Marble Hill Houses. Their mission is to create and support public green spaces and capture resident stories in order to create a garden for and by the community. For more information about the program and the artist go to <http://outerseedshadow.org>.
- M. Goodman pointed out that the Libraries have many program for people of all ages.
- Recordings of stories told by residents in Riverdale of how the community evolved is available at the Riverdale Library.
- The next meeting is on December 15, 6PM at the Board office.

K. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

- Refer to minutes.
- There is no Parks Committee meeting in December.
- On January 25, 2017 the Parks Department will present a preliminary design on the Parks Without Borders project.

L. Public Safety – J. O'Brien

The Board passed the following Public Safety Committee resolutions:

- Whereas, El Gallito Pizza and Deli, 219 West 230 Street, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on November 17, 2016, to apply for a new beer, wine, and cider license; and whereas no adverse information was presented; and whereas the Public Safety Committee approved the application by a unanimous vote; be it resolved that Bronx Community Board 8 approve the application.

- Whereas, Santa Fe Grill, 6025 Broadway, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on November 17, 2016, to apply for a renewal of a full liquor license; and whereas no adverse information was presented; and whereas the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the application; be it resolved that Bronx Community Board 8 approve the application.

The following vote is for the above resolutions:

Vote: 28 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions

In Favor - S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, S. Gozland, M. Heller, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

- Minutes from the November meeting have been distributed.
P. Ellis changed the following sentence in the Housing report to read P. Ellis found it troublesome that residents need to attend these meetings because of a lack of resolution and problems raised by residents with NYCHA management.

9. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2016 was unanimously approved after the following amendment.

Housing report change - P. Ellis:

- P. Ellis found it troublesome that residents need to attend these meetings because of a lack of resolution and problems raised by residents with NYCHA management.

Vote: 28 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions

In Favor - S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, S. Gozland, M. Heller, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

10. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes was held over. Minutes are forthcoming.

Submitted by,

Diane Bay
Community Associate