

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 11, 2018 AT THE WILLIAM E. IRWIN, JR. AMERICAN LEGION POST 774 3035-37 CORLEAR AVENUE

- PRESENT:** S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, M. Frishman, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, D. B. Jackson, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, P. Mullen, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, S. Paige, T. Pardo, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young
- ABSENT:** E. Bell, D. Fuchs, R. Pochter Lowe, C. Genao-Mejia, S. Sarao, C. Wilcox, M. Yamagata, R. Zavras
- STAFF:** C. Gannon, District Manager
D. Bay – Community Associate
M. Ortiz – Community Associate
- GUESTS:** Assemblyman Dinowitz, Councilman Cabrera, D. Ojeda-Tiru – rep. Congressman Engel, Captain Emilio Melendez – D.I. Terence O’Toole, P.O. Ramos - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, P.O. Labianca - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, Brendan Fitzpatrick – office of Assemblyman Dinowitz, A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., R. Press, K. Bueno, D. Lindsey, C. Tepelus, N. Nunez, N. Sylvester, D. Reyes, A. Olivares, A. Mutnick – rep. Senator Elect Biaggi, C. Amato – rep. Senator Elect Biaggi, N. Fazio, G. Diaz

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

1. Gallery Session –

- There being no speaker Chair Ginty invited D.I. O’Toole to say a few words since he has moved on to Chief of Department’s office to serve as Commanding Officer of the Investigation Review Section. His service and importance to the community board was recognized.

Chair Ginty welcomed Assemblyman Dinowitz to address the board

- Thanked residents for coming to the recent Town Hall meetings. In the last year he sees an uptick in participation and involvement from the community.
- There’s a huge increase in the number of buildings being built in CB8 area.

Chair Ginty welcomed Councilman Cabrera to address the board

- Noted that D.I. O’Toole is a kind man and thanked him for his service in the community.
- He welcomed the new Captain, Emilio Melendez.
- Councilman Cabrera provided funding to complete the playground at Ft. Independence Houses.
- Monies were provided to Bronx Community College to research the number of Dominicans who fought in World War II. Three hundred and forty one were found to have served and a memorial is being built to remember those heroes.
- There was a City Council hearing on the recent snowstorm. A follow up report will be forthcoming.
- There were many broken machines on Election Day.
- There will be an upcoming City Council hearing on E-Scooters.
- In January 2019, non-profits will be able to apply for discretionary and capital funding.
- \$42,000 has been secured for each community board.
- In February there will be a hearing on a series of bills that will empower community boards.
- C. Moerdler asked for the Councilman’s support in containing the Special Natural Area District (SNAD) in CB8. The Councilman is looking forward to working on a strategic plan to get this accomplished.

- Chair Ginty thanked the Councilman for helping the community board in its efforts to relocate their office.
2. Report from the Office of the Bronx Borough President – A. Toledo
 - December 14 is the deadline for board members to complete the Sexual Harassment Training.
 - New community board applications are available on the Borough President's website. The 2018 applications will not be accepted.
 - Thanked board members and staff for their work throughout the year and wished all Happy Holidays.
 3. Report from the 50th Police Precinct – Captain Emilio Melendez
 - Chair Ginty welcomed the new Captain.
 - He wished all Happy Holidays.
 - He noted he is up for the challenge and he has big shoes to fill. The Captain has worked in the 42, 44 and 46 precincts.
 - It is believed the shooting in France today was a terrorist attack.
 - He assured the community NYPD is giving full protection to our religious institutions.
 - There has been a decrease in crime in the past 7 day period. For the 28 day period there was an increase in crime, 69 vs.62. Up in robberies and down in burglaries this year.
 - There was an attempted burglary in Assemblyman Dinowitz's office. The perpetrator was apprehended.
 - Don't leave vehicles unattended.
 - The NYPD's rights and wrongs for the year will be reviewed and the results will be used moving forward for the New Year.
 - Captain Melendez thanked his Neighborhood Community Officers for their hard work.
 - The 50th Precinct Community Council meeting is on Wednesday, December 12th.
 - Thursday is the 50th precinct's Christmas party. Police presence in the community is assured.
 - MS141 had an incident where an unloaded gun was brought to the school by a child who said he found it. The family will now will have to go to family court. The school also had a social media threat which has been mollified and put to rest. He suggested teenagers get involved in the NYPD Explorer's program. It gives them a sense of civic responsibility.
 - There is an annual coat drive at the 50th precinct.
 4. Chair Report – R. Ginty
 - See Executive Committee minutes.
 - Maritza Ortiz, the new Community Associate was introduced.
 - W (previously known as Riverdale Manor) will host small committee meetings.
 5. Treasurer's Report – R. Zavras
 - A Treasurer's and Special Funding Reports were distributed. If you have any questions, please email R. Zavras.
 6. District Manager Report – C. Gannon
 - See Executive Report.
 - A hiring search and selection summary for the new community associate was distributed to board members.
 - Board members must take the Sexual Harassment Training by December 14th.
 - The possibility of board members having a nyc.gov email address is being looked into. All emails regarding board business are FOIL-able. Having a nyc.gov email would be easier to access in a FOIL situation. The Chair recommended board members consider setting up an email address for board issues only.

- Mayor's Holiday Meet and Greet is Thursday. Details will be forwarded to all board members.
- The new community board application is on the board's website.
- DM appreciates feedback from the monthly newsletter. Please share any upcoming events that can be added to the newsletter.
- Planning fellow continues to map our 311 complaints. She will share her report at a future meeting. If a Chair would like her to map 311 complaints for their committee please inform the office.
- S. Villaverde suggested having evening hours to accommodate board members who need to complete the Sexual Harassment Training. The District Manager has and will continue to stay to accommodate board members.

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

Chair Ginty announced she would take nominations for Housing Committee Chair. Daris B. Jackson was nominated by Bob Bender and seconded by many members. Being no more nominations the following vote was taken:

Vote: In favor: 38 Opposed: 0 Abstention: 0

In favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, M. Frishman, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, D. B. Jackson, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, P. Mullen, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, S. Paige, T. Pardo, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

8. Committee Reports

A. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

- Refer to minutes. The next meeting will be in January, 2019.

B. Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs – S. Alexander

- Refer to minutes.
- P. Mullen partnered with a Library Branch Manager and they have signed up 800 students with library cards. Additional future programs are being scheduled.
- No December meeting. Next meeting is January 29th. The debate team from HS 368 will be invited to the meeting. They've won many awards.
- Check with Charter Schools to have committee meetings.

C. Environment & Sanitation – R. Fanuzzi

- Thanked L. Spalter for her long service to the E&S Committee.
- The next meeting is on December 19th and he's looking forward to responses from DSNY and OEM on the last snowstorm
- DEP Long Term Control Plan to clean waterways has been extended to 2020. The DEP Commissioner received the board resolution addressing this issue.
- Weekly notices from DDC on the watermain replacement on Waldo Avenue is distributed by the board office.

D. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – O. Murray

- The November minutes were distributed. There is no meeting in December.
- O. Murray contacted the Department of Homeless Services for a list of donations for food, clothes or toys

they may need but was told there was no need. They did ask for volunteers at an ornament making event at the Broadway family center. The details for this event was distributed to board members.

- The Hebrew Institute-The Bayit is having an informational session on December 13th regarding a proposed night-time sleep over, 5 bed homeless shelter, one day a week, 7:30pm at 3700 Henry Hudson Parkway.

E. Housing – Daris B. Jackson

- There was a meeting in November. Refer to minutes.
- There is no December meeting. The next meeting is in January.

F. Land Use – C. Moerdler

❖ **A resolution for 695 West 246th Street was presented**

Whereas, the applicant seeks authorization for a modification of topographic features on Tier I sites, enlargement or site alteration on a Tier II site or portion of a zoning of having a steep slope or steep slope buffer, and for modification of botanic environment and tree preservation and planting requirements to facilitate the enlargement of a detached single-family home and pursuant to 105-45 of the Zoning Resolution, for the grant of a certification of restoration plan to facilitate the removal of Department of Buildings violation no. 102518Z08SC01, for removal of trees and landscape for relocation of driveway in a Special Natural Area District without authorization/permit at 695 West 246th Street (Block 5925, Lot 586) within the Special Natural Area District (NA-2).

Therefore, Be it resolved, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves and supports the application

Vote: In favor: 34 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 4

In favor: S. Alexander, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, M. Frishman, S. Froot, D. Gellman, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, D. B. Jackson, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, P. Mullen, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, S. Paige, T. Pardo, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, , M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Abstentions: B. Bender, R. Ginty, J. Townes, S. Villaverde

- C. Moerdler asked Landmarks Preservation to consider designating 2395 Palisade Avenue a historic site and the outer walls of the building a landmark.
- C. Wilcox will serve as Chair of a Landmarks Examination group. He will put together a team of people who will identify buildings to be preserved. Anyone who knows of any buildings that need to be preserved please contact the board office or C. Wilcox.
- A Special Natural Area District scoping meeting will be held Thursday, December 13th at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, Student Commons Room at 4pm.
- The owners of Villa Charlotte Bronte are not interested in landmarking their property.

G. Law, Rules and Ethics – M. Wolpoff

The following resolution was presented:

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 has discussed whether the Board should consider requests for the co-naming of a street for a profit or non-profit within the Community District; and,

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 is concerned that there may be a perception that the Board, a city agency, may be promoting or advertising a particular business in the Community District by issuing a Resolution in support of a street co-naming for that particular business; Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Bronx Community Board 8 shall not consider the co-naming of a street for a profit or non-profit business in the Community District.

Vote: In favor: 35 Opposed: 0 Abstention: 1

In favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, M. Frishman, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, D. B. Jackson, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, P. Mullen, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, S. Paige, T. Pardo, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Abstention: S. Villaverde

- City Council members vote on street name changes for businesses.
- M. Wolpoff may cancel the December meeting. This will be announced shortly.

H. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

The following resolution was presented (2nd vote):

Whereas Seton Park is located between West 235th and West 232nd Streets, and between Independence and Palisade Avenues; and

Whereas Seton Park contains baseball, softball, and soccer fields and is heavily used for youth sports; and

Whereas Bruce Silverman was a coach and official with the South Riverdale Little League (SRL) and Riverdale Soccer Club who was known for his dedication to the children and his warm and welcoming relationship with their parents; and

Whereas Mr. Silverman passed away in 2015; and

Whereas SRL and the soccer club asked the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to name the soccer field in Seton Park for Mr. Silverman after he passed away; and

Whereas Councilman Andrew Cohen supports the request for the naming of the soccer field; and

Whereas DPR permits athletic fields within parks to be named after outstanding individuals who have made an important contribution to their community; and

Whereas representatives of the soccer club appeared before the Parks & Recreation Committee at its October 24, 2018 meeting to confirm their support for naming the soccer field the Bruce Silverman Soccer Field in Seton Park;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Parks & Recreation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 requests that DPR officially name the soccer field in Seton Park the Bruce Silverman Soccer Field.

In Favor: Vote: In favor: 35 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 2

In favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, M. Frishman, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, D. B. Jackson, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, T. Moran, P. Mullen, O. Murray, S. Paige, T. Pardo, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Abstentions: M. Donato, C. Moerdler

- The November minutes have been circulated.
- There has been extensive flooding around Van Cortlandt Lake due to heavy rains and leaves and debris blocking the screen in front of the weir. DEP has been asked to clean the screen periodically in order to avoid flooding and sewer back up.
- No December meeting.
- S. Villaverde requested a follow up on the closed 311 calls. The District Manager will give this information to S. Villaverde.

I. Special Committee on the Greenway – B. Bender

- A meeting was held December 10th. The committee met with the State Greenway officials. They're seeking a sponsoring agency for the project and funding authorizing the engineering study. The State Greenway officials also recommended that City Parks & Recreation should be involved.

J. Public Safety – M. Donato

The following resolution was presented:

- ❖ WHEREAS, Bar 57, located at 5757 Broadway, appeared before the committee on November 20, 2018 seeking approval for a NEW LIQUOR LICENSE. The applicant signed the Community Board Agreement to close at 2AM for the first year of operation.

WHEREAS, the committee voted unanimously to approve the application.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Public Safety Committee Approves the application.

- ❖ WHEREAS, Hola Restaurant, 5586 Broadway, appeared before the committee on November 20, 2018 seeking approval for the RENEWAL OF THEIR LIQUOR LICENSE.

WHEREAS, the committee voted unanimously to approve the application.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Public Safety Committee Approves the application.

- ❖ WHEREAS, EI Economico Restaurant, 5589 Broadway, appeared before the committee on November 20, 2018 seeking approval for the RENEWAL OF THEIR LIQUOR LICENSE.

WHEREAS, the committee voted unanimously to approve the application.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Public Safety Committee Approves the application.

The following vote is for the 3 Public Safety resolutions above:

Vote: In favor: 35 Opposed: 0 Abstention: 0

In favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, M. Frishman, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, D. B. Jackson, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, T. Moran, P. Mullen, O. Murray, S. Paige, T. Pardo, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

- ❖ WHEREAS, neither management nor owners of Barcelona Bites, 220 West 242nd Street, appeared before the committee, even though several requests and a phone call were made.

Whereas, 125 complaints were made to 311 regarding quality of life issues;

Whereas, Barcelona Bites received summonses for disorderly conduct;

Whereas, NYPD is aware of the crime and noise issues there;

Whereas, the neighborhood residents were advised to complain to the State Liquor Authority;

Whereas, these quality of life issues have been ongoing for 3 to 4 years;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Public Safety Committee disapproves the application.

Vote: In favor: 33 Opposed: 0 Abstention: 3

In favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, M. Frishman, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, D. B. Jackson, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, P. Mullen, O. Murray, S. Paige, T. Pardo, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Abstention: D. B. Jackson, J. Reyes, S. Villaverde

- The next meeting is Tuesday, December 18th at 7PM.
- The Red Cross will provide and install fire alarms. Please call 1 877 Red Cros.
- A State Liquor Authority rep will be invited to speak at a future meeting.

K. Traffic & Transportation – M. Joyce

- There was no November meeting due to the snow storm.
- There will be a report at the December meeting on the MTA fast forward: the plan to modernize New York City Transit.
- Request for a street renaming for William Scribner will be on the December agenda.

L. Youth – Chair not present

M. Aging – E. Dinowitz

- Representatives spoke about Medicare at the November meeting. New Medicare cards were issued to all Medicare recipients. Medicare.gov is very informative. There will also be Medicare Information on the board's website and facebook. Medicare now works funding Diabetes programs at community centers like Weight Watchers and Churches.
- The Riverdale Senior Center received the Ready New York Senior Center of the Year Award from the Office of Emergency Management for their commitment preparing seniors for emergencies.

N. Budget – D. Gellman

- Responses from Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on the 2020 budget requests is forthcoming.
- Committees should start working on the FY 2021 budget in the upcoming months.

9. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2018

Vote: 36 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstention

Vote: In favor: 36 Opposed: 0 Abstention: 0

In favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, M. Frishman, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, D. B. Jackson, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, P. Mullen, O. Murray, S. Paige, T. Pardo, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

10. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2018 – None

11. Miscellaneous

- Chair Ginty addressed the Board about a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request received from the Riverdale Press. All board members received a copy of the FOIL. Direct any questions to the board office. All the answers to those questions, when available, will be given to board members who request them.
- There was an editorial in The Riverdale Press following the Executive Committee meeting. Chair Ginty stated that the Riverdale Press has a first amendment right to write what they want, including falsehoods, but thinks they should do their job fairly and ethically. In an email sent to her at 3:44 a.m. by editor M. Hinman, Chair Ginty was told that 3 board members told him Chair Ginty is not appropriately following the rules of the board. Chair Ginty is disturbed by this and would like anyone who has a problem to come to her, the District Manager or the Officers directly.
- Also, after the December Executive Committee meeting Chair Ginty received at 3:21 a.m. a 10 page email from M. Hinman of the Riverdale Press. The Chair later found out selected board members were blind copied on this email. Chair Ginty feels he lost his journalistic integrity after this action. This was not publicly reporting a story or editorial. It was a private effort to swing opinion.
- Her enthusiasm for this job has not diminished and she looks forward to a productive year.
- L. Spalter, as Vice Chair of the board, now sees the volume of work the board receives.

A Happy 2019 was wished for all and a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Vote: 36 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstention

In favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, M. Frishman, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, D. B. Jackson, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, P. Mullen, O. Murray, S. Paige, T. Pardo, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Diane Bay
Community Associate

Reviewed by Lisa Daub, Secretary