

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 8, 2013 AT THE RIVERDALE YM/YWHA 5625 ARLINGTON AVENUE

PRESENT: R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, R. Bender, A. Cohen, B. Contant, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, D. Kirksey-Floyd, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon R. Pochter-Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, J. M. Pilsner, R. Press, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, A. A. Spett, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

ABSENT: S. Catechis, A. P. Creaney, M. Ginzburg, M. Goodman, N. Graham, T. Lim, A. Moore, G. O. Koppell, K. Pesce, S. A. Piscitelli, J. Reyes, P. Reyes, X. Sanchez, H. Young

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

GUESTS: M. Blaustein – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein
J. DeSio – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz
T. Edwards – rep. Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez
R. Fedderman – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel
N. Lopez – Mayor's Office / CAU
R. Martos – rep. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
M. Rosa – rep. State Senator Rivera
A. Sandler – rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell
D.I. K. Burke – 50th Precinct, NYPD
P.O. B. Miranda – 50th Precinct, NYPD
P.O. M. Ramos – 50th Precinct, NYPD
D. Bent
L. Davis
M. Butraigo-Gonzalez – Kingsbridge Library
J. Li – NYC Districting Commission
P. Moerdler
J. Owens
C. Pena – Friends of the Woodlawn Cemetery
G. Slade
J. Suazo
E. Thompson
T. Tureski – Spuyten Duyvil Library

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

1. Public Gallery Session

- A. Jane Li, NYC Districting Commission, discussed the redistricting of Councilmanic Districts (CD). Every ten years following the US Census, the city use census data to determine how many voters should be in each CD. She presented a broad overview of the CD map for Community Board 8 and referred to the areas slated for redistricting due to population changes that have fallen below 160,000. The map did not show many changes. The redistricting process has been ongoing throughout the city since summer 2012. Public hearings are occurring throughout the boroughs. The Bronx hearing will be hosted at Hostos Community College, 500 Grand Concourse, on January 9th, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Persons who are unable to attend may submit comments in writing

to: Districting Commission, Testimony Submission, 253 Broadway, 7th Floor, NY, NY 10007. The website may also be used for comments: www.nyc.gov/districting. Additional support with mapping is available at the Commission Resource room.

- B. Christina Pena, Friends of Woodlawn Cemetery. The Cemetery is a national landmark and it is the 150th year Anniversary. She provided information on upcoming special, free events and more: February 10th - "Woodlawn is for Lovers" tour and concert. There will be an afternoon walk through the cemetery followed by hot cocoa and a musical performance by the Bond Street Euterpean Singing Society in the Woolworth Chapel. February 23rd - Cemetery John offers a fresh take on what may be considered the coldest of cold cases: the kidnapping of world-famous aviator Charles Lindbergh's baby. February 24th - In celebration of Black History Month, Andrea Ramsey, Chair of the Caribbean research group of the Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, will conduct a workshop on researching African American and Afro-Caribbean heritage using cemetery records.

2. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2012

S. Alexander corrected her vote on the resolution presented from the Public Safety Committee regarding The Lounge liquor license to reflect that she had abstained.

D. Padernacht asked that the minutes reflect his questions and responses of Gallery session speakers Cliff Stanton and Linda Manning on the topic of Street Activity Permits process.

The minutes were approved unanimously as corrected.

3. Discussion of Executive Board Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2013.

The minutes were accepted as written.

4. Chairman welcomed and congratulated D.I. Burke on his new promotion to Deputy Inspector. Chairman invited the D.I. to address the Board.

D.I. Burke reported a spike in grand larceny related to identity theft. Crime overall is down 2%. Grenade explosives were found at 3660 Waldo Avenue on January 4th. The bomb squad was called in for safe removal. Critical information related to this case is still being uncovered. Arrests of two brothers were made for a car break-in on Cannon Place and West 238th Street on January 5th. The infamous graffiti vandal Kevin Maloney was arrested for car theft on Manhattan College Parkway. Police conducted a second Nuisance Abatement at the Garden of Eden, 5189 Broadway. The business has received violations for underage alcohol sales and drug sales.

5. Report from the Bronx Borough President's Office – J. DeSio

- Community Board membership applications are being accepted through February 8th. The Office of the Bronx Borough President will be accepting applications for all 12 Bronx Community Boards from city residents who reside, work or have professional or other significant interests in the Bronx. Applications are available at the Bronx Borough President's office, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 207, your local community board office, or online at <http://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/communityboards/cb2012application.pdf>
- On Thursday, December 27, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. signed the Daily News' gun petition, a campaign which calls for a ban on assault weapons in the wake of the Newtown, Connecticut massacre. The Borough President put his pen to the petition while being visited by some of his staff members' children.
- Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. today announced that Robert Powell has been appointed as the borough's representative to the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), which holds approval

power over the actions of the New York City Department of Education. He is a resident of Wakefield and a product of public schools himself. Mr. Powell joins the Panel for Educational Policy having raised six children in the New York City public school system, and is currently the father of a student at Herbert H. Lehman High School, where he is a former parent association president.

- Upcoming Events:

- **Martin Luther King Tribute**

- Trinity Baptist Church

- Monday, January 21, 2013, 10:00am

- 808 East 224th Street

- RSVP: 718-590-3989 or smalave@bronxbp.nyc.gov

- **Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. State of the Borough**

- Tuesday, February 19, 2013, 11:00am

- James Monroe High School

- 1300 Boynton Avenue

- The Borough President had continued the tradition of donating Christmas trees throughout the borough which included the tree at the Bell Tower monument at West 238th and Riverdale Avenue. Due to extenuating circumstances with Hurricane Sandy, the Parks Department was unable to light the trees as they normally would. However, Board members A. Cohen, R. Pochter-Lowe, and Councilman Koppell took on the responsibility and furnished the tree lights. Special thanks were conveyed for this good measure. A thank you was also extended to R. Press for speaking very highly of the tree
- on NY 1.

6. Chairman's Report

- Chairman expressed gratitude to Riverdale Y for their graciousness in hosting the Board meeting.
- Chairman extended the Board's deepest condolences to Vice Chair M. Khury on the passing of her beloved brother George.
- He asked that the Board refer to the Executive minutes for details related to the Croton Filtration Plant Monitoring Committee of which he now holds the position of chair.
- The Board has been asked to assist Equity One and the Borough President's office with creating a job fair for the Broadway Plaza development. Chairman has asked S. Villaverde, Economic Development Chair, and M. Khury, Vice Chair to organize.
- The Chair announced a retirement party for Nestor Danyluk, the Board's longtime City Planning liaison, has been scheduled for the end of January. His retirement marks 30 years of dedicated service. Full information will be sent out to the Board.

7. Treasurer's Report

There has been a budget cut of \$11,172 in the Board's budget, which creates a budget deficit. P. Friedman has requested clarification regarding the use of general funds received from Councilmembers Fernando Cabrera and Ydanis Rodriguez. In answer to board members' questions about the budget timeline, Chairman Fanuzzi advised that he along with the Bronx community board chairs and district managers had been actively advocating that community boards be exempt from the Mayor's November Budget plan budget cuts. He noted that Councilwoman Gail Brewer along with the Bronx delegation had been working intensely on budget negotiations and promised to communicate results of negotiations to the Board when completed.

8. District Manager's Report

No report.

9. Committee Reports

A. Budget – B. Contant

No report.

B. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

1. Will be working on the Job Fair.
2. There was no December meeting due to New Year's.
3. The next meeting will be held on January 14th, at Riverdale Mental Health, at 7:30 PM.
4. Equity One's traffic issue with West 230th Street and Broadway development was referred to the Traffic and Transportation Committee.

C. Education – S. Alexander

1. S. Alexander commented on the report of J. DeSio on the Borough President's newly appointed representative to the Panel for Education Policy, whose son attends Lehman High School which is slated to be closed because of its students' poor performance and low graduation rate. S. Alexander hopes that due to the new member's involvement, new steps would be taken to rehabilitate the school as students and parents have requested from DOE, instead of turning this last comprehensive high school into mini schools as all other high schools have become victims. The opinion is still out on whether all mini schools bring about better results.
2. The Committee's next meeting will be held on January 29th, at the Board Office, at 7:30 PM. Alec Diacou will be guest speaker and will provide an update on his application for the Roselyn Yarlow Academy Charter School which will be submitted in February.

D. Environment and Sanitation – S. Marquez

1. The Committee's next meeting will be held on January 16th, at Riverdale Mental Health Association, at 7:00 PM. There will be a guest speaker from the Department of Sanitation to present on the Adopt-A-Basket program.

E. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – S. Froot

1. The Committee was prevented from meeting in December because the meeting location at St. Stephen's Church was locked upon arrival.
2. The next meeting will be held on January 9th, at the Board office, at 7:30 PM.
3. The February meeting will be held on February 7th, at Schervier Apartments, at 7:30 PM.

F. Housing – S. Balicer

1. The Committee will meet on January 28th, at Riverdale Mental Health, at 7:30 PM. There will be a guest speaker from NYC Clean Energy on the topic of fuel conversion.

G. Land Use – C. Moerdler

1. The Committee met on January 7th. A new process for notification of meetings for SNAD and Landmark/Historical Districts applications to nearby residents was discussed. The Board will continue some noticing, however, the official responsibility will lie with the applicant. To that end,

the Committee took no final action with the application for 430 West 250th Street until the applicant has contacted nearby neighbors.

2. The following resolution was presented for approval of the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) proposal for 5255 Sycamore Avenue:

RESOLVED, Community Board No. 8 Bronx approves Landmarks Preservation Commission Docket No. 12-7982 - 5255 Sycamore Avenue, Riverdale Historic District: Proposal for the addition of dormers in the roof of house.

I.W. Stone raised objection to the resolution circumventing the Executive Committee. C. Moerdler discussed the application process and explained that this was being moved forward in order to meet Landmarks Preservation Commission's hearing date coming about on January 22nd.

Chairman asked for a vote on the resolution.

Vote: 34 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, R. Bender, A. Cohen, B. Contant, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, D. Kirksey-Floyd, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon R. Pochter-Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, J. M. Pilsner, R. Press, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, A. A. Spett, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstention –

I.W. Stone

3. There was a presentation by the Hebrew Home on their plans for the former Passionist Retreat House property at 5801 Palisade Avenue. The proposed development is for a "Continuing Care Retirement Community", the first in New York City. This would provide apartments for purchase for independent living that could progress to assisted living and nursing care. There will be 4 and 8 story apartment buildings with underground parking. Zoning change will be sought to allow construction of this type of facility. Concerns of traffic environmental impact and other quality of life issues came from surrounding residents. More will be heard from the Hebrew Home as they proceed with filings.
4. The Committee will meet on February 4th for final assessment of the Landmarks Preservation Commission application for 430 West 250th Street.
5. C. Moerdler discussed LPC's failure to respond to the request for the rules for the Fieldston Historic District. Councilman Koppell is in touch with the chair of Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding this matter.

H. Law, Rules and Ethics – R. Ginty

1. R. Ginty proudly announced that Irving Ladimer is one of the featured biographies in Extraordinary Centenarians In America: Their Secrets For Living A Long Vibrant Life by Gwen Weiss-Numeroff. Irving's biography is in a chapter entitled "A Bronx Tale." She passed the book around to the Board members.
2. The Committee will not re-introduce the resolution which was tabled at the November 2012 Board meeting regarding Nominating Committee guidelines as it is with the unanimous opinion of the committee that the by-laws are sufficient; therefore, when a chair or officer position becomes vacant due to non-reappointment, the board in accordance with existing by-laws may nominate candidate(s) for the vacant office(s) from the floor at the election meeting.

I. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – R. Abbott

1. Library Network Manager Jane Fisher resigned from the NYPL effective December 7th.
2. The Branch Manager from Jerome Park Library discussed budget issues at the December meeting. The Mayor has called for significant cuts in the current 2013 NYPL budget to offset the loss of revenue anticipated from selling taxi medallions.
3. The deadline for nominations for BRIO Awards is January 25th.
4. The Committee's next meeting will be held on January 10th, at the Board office, at 7:00 PM.

J. Parks and Recreation – B. Bender

1. There was no December meeting, due to the holiday.
2. The Committee will meet on January 23rd, at the Board office, at 7:00 PM. Discussion will include block planting of street trees. Assistance is needed to identify entire blocks with the absence of trees. These trees will be part of the fall planting. B. Bender noted that the One Million Trees program was Mayor Bloomberg's initiative, and there are no assurances for completion following the end of his tenure.
3. A "Mulchfest" will be held in Van Cortlandt Park Golf Course parking lot on January 5th and 6th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

K. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

1. The Committee will meet on January 17th, at the 50th Precinct, at 7:00 PM. There will be a speaker from the Department of Consumer Affairs who will present on cabaret licensing.
2. A.G. Feldmeier requested Board support for sending letters of recommendation for detective promotion endeavors of Police Officers Ramos and Miranda of the 50th Precinct. Board support was received.
3. A letter was received from a local resident referring to the shooting of Ramarley Graham, a Bronx teen and the relations between Bronx youths and Bronx police. A. G. Feldmeier has referred this to D.I. Burke and has advised that he will contact the writer.
4. The following resolutions were presented:

RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the following **RENEWAL APPLICATION** for liquor license:

- Jake's Steakhouse, 6031 Broadway

Vote: 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

In Favor –

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, R. Bender, A. Cohen, B. Contant, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, D. Kirksey-Floyd, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon R. Pochter-Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, J. M. Pilsner, R. Press, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, A. A. Spett, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the following **ALTERATION APPLICATION** for liquor license:

- I & A Restaurant, D/B/A El Economico, 5589 Broadway

Vote: 35 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor –

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, R. Bender, A. Cohen, B. Contant, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, D. Kirksey-Floyd, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon R. Pochter-Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, J. M. Pilsner, R. Press, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, A. A. Spett, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

L. Traffic and Transportation – D. Padernacht

1. Refer to minutes for report.
2. The Committee will hold its next meeting on January 15th, at Manhattan College, at 7:30 PM. Discussions will include: final plans for Cannon Place retaining wall and a letter of support will be considered; a request for No Parking on Sigma Place; and Putnam Avenue truck traffic concerns with respect to the Riverdale Crossing and BJ's development.
3. C. Moerdler advised about a MTA public hearing on service expansion on January 23rd, at the Riverdale YM/YWHA, at 5:00 PM.

M. Youth – L. Parker

1. The Committee met in December. A presentation was made by an officer of the School Safety Division, who expressed interest in working with the Youth and Education Committees.
2. L. Parker has acquired the interest of the Ice Skating Rink, and Uptown Sports for sponsoring a Youth Day.
3. The district's first "Spoken Word" youth event is planned for May 23rd. L. Parker thanked Kingsbridge Library for hosting.
4. The annual Yankees Youth Leadership awards will be issued to the selected five youths at the February Board meeting.

N. Aging – A. Cohen

1. There was no December meeting due to the holiday.
2. A sub-committee was formed at the November meeting to create an agenda to raise awareness regarding a safety issue that directly impact senior citizens, i.e. elder abuse scams, etc. Irving Ladimer, Andrew Cohen and Robert Press agreed to serve on the sub-committee.
3. The next Committee meeting will be held on January 22nd, at the Riverdale YM/YWHA, at 1:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate

Reviewed by,

Joyce M. Pilsner
Secretary