

## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

### MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2008 BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE

**Present:**

Robert Fanuzzi, Chair  
Julie Reyes, CB8  
Diane Sargent,  
Beverly Fettman, CB8  
Katherine Broihier, Kingsbridge BID  
Juan Goris, CB8  
Herb Young, CB8  
Nick Judd, Riverdale Press

R. Fanuzzi called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

The minutes of the meeting of June 28, 2008 were read and accepted.  
The election of a vice-chair of the committee was tabled to the next meeting.

Chair's Report, R. Fanuzzi

Stop and Shop, according to store management, will be re-opening in time for the Thanksgiving shopping season. No new floor space is said to be added or alterations in the footprint of the building made. The committee suggested contacting the management to make sure that improvements, such as more organic food, were made.

Center for Urban Future, as reported in the Riverdale Press, issued a report on job growth within the five boroughs, the zip code 10463 enjoying the sixth most robust rate of increase in the Bronx over a ten year period. The chair contacted the authors of the report, noting the need to break down the statistics so that various growth sectors—commercial, health services, education, etc—could be identified.

As a way of advertising job opportunities in the area, the chair reported that BOEDC helps community boards to sponsor Job Fairs, and proposed that the committee look further into holding such an event. B. Fettman made the

suggestion that special effort should be made to promote part-time job opportunities in the district.

Manhattan College parking garage has opened without a commercial space reserved or built. The entire first floor is being used for cars, and the chair has received no further communication from the developer since a letter from the developer announced the change of design for the structure. J. Goris added that twelve to fourteen street parking spots have been eliminated by the construction of the parking garage. Chair promised to look further into both issues.

Guest Speakers Diane Sargent, a volunteer with the Community Emergency Response Team, spoke to the committee about her experience organizing emergency response teams among small business owners, the "eyes and ears of the community." Several details of such a plan were given, including the need for a Go Bag, an evacuation plan, a communication plan, rendezvous site, business contingency plan, and the security of phone lines and computer networks. Ms. Sargent said that Ready NY supplies information for churches and families as well small as business emergency responses. Katherine Broihier expressed interest in conveying the information to Kingsbridge BID.

Katherine Broihier, Director of the Kingsbridge BID, reported on opening and closings of businesses in the area. Ten businesses changed hands over the year, with 4 store closings and 8 vacancies remaining out of 190 retail lots. Improvements to the business district include tree planting and sidewalk lighting for 231<sup>st</sup> Street, and advertisements for the BID in the bus shelters. The BID is also cooperating with the DOE Fund, helping ex-convicts return to meaningful work, and participating in a Resource Recovery program, which removes and recycles used frying oil. Kentucky Fried Chicken and IHOP, both on Broadway, have completed major renovations, while the space occupied by Duane Reade and Payless on 231<sup>st</sup> has a new owner. Three items were of special note: The Kingsbridge BID, in conjunction with 30 others across the city, has applied to the City Council for 30% increase in its assessment on property owners in order to provide essential services. The last assessment increase was seven years ago.

The development on 231<sup>st</sup> and Corlear Ave., Sycamore Gardens, will include commercial space on the 231<sup>st</sup> exposure. K. Broihier recommended that the space be leased for business services, noting the absence of high quality office space in the area. R. Fanuzzi suggested that they contact the developer to make sure that this vital commercial space is best utilized.

Asked whether she would consider expanding the BID, K. Broihier commented on the need for further resources and personnel to recruit new businesses in the 238<sup>th</sup> St. area.

Old Business

R. Fanuzzi reported that the Bronx Tourism Council's Cultural Trolley is being used by Wave Hill as part of a joint program with Lehman College. He proposes further contact with the new leadership of Wave Hill to create more routes for the trolley, with stops at local restaurants and clubs.

Julia Schwartz Leeper, director of Riverdale Senior Services, employs a shuttle to bring seniors to and from her senior center. R. Fanuzzi has been closely working with her, trying to find ways to expand the shuttle service to include the commercial district of CB8 and to partner with other senior centers in the area

#### New Business

#### Green Markets

The Youth Market, a joint program of Riverdale Neighborhood House and the YMHA, is a smaller version of the Greenmarket program run by the NYC Council on the Environment. It runs from July to October, on Thursdays from 3 to 7, and trains young people in the management of the market and agricultural producers. Committee members expressed interest in finding a site for the Greenmarket program, preferring that a prospective market should be located in areas not currently served by a Youth Market, the Riversale Community Supported Agriculture Cooperative, major food store, or private green grocer.

#### Access-a-Ride

B. Fettman proposed that since Access-A-Rides frequently ferry a single person, a system of taxis, with a reimbursement system, might be a better use of city resources.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM, with the next meeting to be held on October 30, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Reyes,  
Economic Development Committee

Robert Fanuzzi,  
Economic Development Committee

JR:RF:pm