

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MAY 28, 2009 AT THE BOARD OFFICE
5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT

Robert Fanuzzi
Thomas Giallorenzi
James Plaza
John Bonizio
Lisa Cooper
Gene Palent
Robert Press
Howard Ring
Cliff Stanton
Cori Worchel

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair
CB #8
CB #8
President, Bronx Business Alliance
Elisa Tucci Contemporary Art
Riverdale Press
Bronx News

KRVCDC
KRVCDC

- I. Acceptance of Minutes
The minutes of the April 30, 2009 meeting were accepted and read.
- II. Chair Report
 - A. Expense Priorities for FY 2011 were reviewed: increased funding and opening of local office for Workforce One, entrepreneurial training service, through Small Business Services; increased funding and opening of local office for NYC Business Solutions, through Small Business Services.
 - B. Planning for Marble Hill Youth Market opening is progressing, with permission being sought from NYCHA for use of sidewalk; Schervier Houses is purchasing tables and tents; young people from Marble Hill Houses, JFK High School, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, and Friends of Van Cortlandt Park are being recruited and invited to training, supervised by Greenmarket; Riverdale Neighborhood House will manage the payroll for the youth workforce at both its own Youth Market and the new one in Marble Hill.
 - C. The chair thanked Ms. Lisa Cooper of Elisa Tucci Galleries for hosting the last meeting, and warmly supported her idea of holding a community fair in North Riverdale, hosted either by local merchants or by local institutions.
 - D. At the behest of local merchants on Riverdale Avenue, the chair passed along a request through the Traffic and Transportation chair that parking on Riverdale Avenue become diagonal rather than parallel.
- III. Guest Speaker
Mr. John Bonizio, President Bronx Business Alliance, Westchester Square Merchant Association

- Mr. Bonizio's efforts in reviving the commercial district of Westchester Square has gained him and his organization borough- and city- wide attention from newspapers and elected officials. Although he contended that his work is far from over, he reported on the conditions that merchants face in this area and the programs he has initiated on behalf of their association
- ⇒ Long a government office and social service area, Westchester Square has started attracting national retailers
 - ⇒ The merchants association boasts 168 members, a sizeable budget supported by dues and grants, and support from the local elected officials
 - ⇒ Clean Streets, a program of SBS, has been a great success, for street and sidewalk cleaning
 - ⇒ Banners were installed on street lamps, and lights for the holidays
 - ⇒ Each month an Arts Walk is held, with local artists featuring work on sidewalks
 - ⇒ Merchants advertise in "pull-out" advertising section in the local paper
 - ⇒ Ongoing promotional events are planned so that merchants see a tangible benefit for their commitment
 - ⇒ Entertainment events bring the community together

IV. Old Business

A. Riverdale Business District

Mr. Howard Ring complained of poor quality of merchants in the area and need for modern business practices. Several committee members saw the need for better marketing of the area through a new media kit. Ms. Lisa Cooper suggested that an informal poll be made of Riverdale residents through a Yahoo web site that asked for their 5 favorite small chains that they would want here. The chair suggested that the KRVCDC become involved in recruiting desired chains.

V. New Business

A. Community Fair

The committee approved the idea of organizing a community fair in North Riverdale that would feature and be sponsored by local businesses

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15. The meeting for June was cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Fanuzzi
Chairman
Economic Development Committee

RF:db (June 9, 2009)