

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD MARCH 7, 2012
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

PRESENT:

Robert Fanuzzi, Chair	Dan Padernacht
Bob Abbott	Karen Pesce
Bob Bender	Joyce Pilsner
Brendan Contant	Ari Spett
Tom Durham	Nicole Stent
Sergio Villaverde	Diane Bay
Phil Friedman	
Arlene G. Feldmeier	
Steven Froot	
Rosemary Ginty	

ABSENT:

Sylvia Alexander
Andrew Cohen
Irving Ladimer
Maria Khury
Damian McShane
Charles G. Moerdler

The meeting convened at 7:30 PM.

1. Chairman's Report – R. Fanuzzi

- The Mayor issued a preliminary budget proposing a 6% cut to all Community Boards. The 12 Bronx Community Board Chair's and District Managers wrote a response stating their opposition to any plan that would cut the Community Board's budget. In addition, the Chair with other community board chairs will appear before the City Council's Governmental Operations Committee on March 29 to testify against these budget cuts.
- The Chair reported on the Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee (CFMC) meeting of February 16. On March 1, the Parks Department brought a proposal to the Public Design Commission to cut down trees along Jerome Park Reservoir along with a proposal to commence Ft. Independence Park restoration and the construction of the jogging path. In total, approximately 140 trees will be cut down, 70 on top of the dam and 70 around the perimeter. Concerns were raised among CFMC members about soil stabilization and maintenance of the area. As per CFMC resolution, replanting will occur around the reservoir and in the CB8 area.
- The Chair congratulated N. Stent on being honored at Senator Jeffrey Klein's Black History Month Celebration for her leadership and community work.
- The Chair announced that Metropolitan Realty, the new owners of former Stella D'Oro factory will host a tour of the West 238th Street site in March for board members only. Date and time will be announced Ginty raised concerns about the purpose and object of the meeting with the executive committee discussing issues to present to the developer.
- The Chair wished all a Happy Purim.

2. District Manager's Report – N. Stent

- The District Managers are preparing a joint testimony opposing the budget cuts to the community boards to be presented at the City Governmental Operations Committee preliminary budget hearing. The hearing will be on Thursday, March 29th at 1:15 p.m. in the 14th floor committee room, 250 Broadway and they welcome anyone who wishes to present testimony on the budget cuts.
- A new water main project is scheduled to begin in the next 2 weeks on Corlear Avenue from West 230th to West 240 Streets. Excavation begins on West 240th from Broadway to Irwin; Waldo & West 238th Street; Irwin, Broadway and Corlear from West 230th to West 240th. It should be completed within 8 weeks. Area residents were notified. The crew will work on a block by block system whereby trenching will be refilled daily and there will be minimum disruption of parking. There will be water shut-downs and advance notification will be issued to area of impact. Repaving will be done in accordance with Department of Transportation regulations which stipulate that "protected streets" where street re-surfacing had occurred within the past 5 years, required curb to curb repaving. Other streets will receive restoration resurfacing of trenched area only. Identification of streets resurfacing requirements is known at time of permit issuance.
- Palisades Retaining Wall Project has a delayed start date. It is a 6 month project.
- Bailey Ave retaining wall and water main project has a delayed start date due to ongoing negotiations with the abutting property owner, Galaxy Construction, to grant permission for DDC encroachment on the wall. Due to this hold-up, it may be necessary to proceed with the water main job in advance of the retaining wall project.
- An accident at West 259th Street and Riverdale Avenue resulted in the death of a pedestrian last week. This year's report shows 3 accidents at that intersection since January 28th. In 2011 there were 17 incidents at this intersection. Office will write to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for traffic survey and recommended traffic calming measures. Due to the number of accidents at that intersection, routine police surveillance is in place.
- The board was instrumental in the Department of Sanitation's Adopt a Public Space Recycling Receptacle Program. There are 3 partner groups participating in Riverdale: the Riverdale Merchants Association (RMA), Mt St. Vincent and Riverdale Neighborhood House (RNH) sponsoring 4 locations where recycling containers have been placed:
 - ▶ Mt St. Vincent has two - 1 on their property and 2 in front by Riverdale Avenue and West 263rd Street.
 - ▶ On the corner of West 259th Street and Netherland Ave (RMA).
 - ▶ In front of Riverdale Neighborhood House.
- The first Community Board 8 health fair is being planned by the office and the Health, Hospitals, & Social Services committee. It will be Nutrition and Health Fair on May 12th co-sponsored with Bon Secour Health Systems/Schervier and PS 7. It will be held at PS7 and city agencies will be invited. There will be nutritionists, cooking demonstrations, poster contest, etc.
- Con Edison and the NYC Parks Department invited the District Manager to a site tour along Palisade Avenue from West 252nd to West 261st Streets. The tour assessed the problems with overhead wires and power outages caused by trees and limbs interference with power lines. More tours have been planned for future sites.

- At the district service cabinet meeting held yesterday, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) offered to have a Noise Reduction Workshop for restaurants, bars and night life establishments in the district. The workshop will discuss city noise regulations, compliance and ways to reduce noise levels such as soundproofing. The Economic Development Committee will host at a date and time to be determined.
- N. Stent visited the Atria Senior Living facility and met the new executive director. The board is welcomed to host committee meetings at this location.

3. Treasurer's Report – P. Friedman

- A report was distributed.
- Treasurer confirmed that monies from Councilman Cabrera contributed to the board's budget. The board was operating in the black prior to the contribution.

4. Committee Reports

1. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

- A resolution was presented on liquor license renewals and a new application will be presented at the March 13th, Board meeting. A new applicant, Taqueria Rancho Escondido Mexican Restaurant, 257 West 231st Street went to the wrong location for the meeting. A. Feldmeier opted to approve this application.
- There have been arrests for prostitution at the New Healing Touch massage parlor. This case will go to court and a judge will decide if this is a nuisance in the community, and if so, it will be shut down. The chair will write a letter supporting the closure of this site.
- A complainant wrote to the board office about Fenwick's Bar and Grill, 432 West 238th Street. They began placing flags and a temporary-type barrier on the public sidewalk which restricts pedestrian flow. The complaint is being handled by the Department of Transportation.
- Neighboring residents of the Riverdale Garden are complaining of noise disturbance from the restaurant during hours of operation and at closing time. The Public Safety committee will work with the Economic Development Committee to inform the community and local establishments about DEP's noise reduction workshop to help them with this dilemma.
- The next meeting is on March 15th. Discussion of upcoming speaker at the April meeting about gang violence.

2. Education – report given by R. Fanuzzi

- The committee had an excellent conversation with Ms. Lori O'Mara, the Principal of MS/HS 141. She talked about the great programs in the school.
- A more detailed committee report will be given by S. Alexander at the board meeting on March 13th.

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

- A representative from Visions organization gave a presentation of the services that they have for the blind in all five boroughs.
- On February 27th there was a ceremony celebrating the opening of a new building at the Ittleson Center. This was made possible largely through a grant from Councilman

Koppell. The Henry Ittleson Center operates a Residential Treatment Facility for young, severely emotionally disturbed children who receive special education on site.

- The Bronx Borough President is having a Medicaid Rights forum and Disability Resource fair on March 15th. A committee will attend and report back to the committee.
- A complainant wrote in about a bad experience at Montefiore Hospital/Emergency Room and in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The complaint was forwarded to the Chief Medical Officer of Montefiore.
- March 27th is American Diabetes Alert Day – flyers will be distributed at the next board meeting.
- A healthy eating and nutrition fair is scheduled for Saturday, May 12th at PS7, hosted by the community board.
- There will be health screenings at the June Riverfest. One will be a dental screening.
- The committee is working on holding a forum on underage drinking in the fall.
- The next committee meeting is Monday, March 19th at the board office.

4. Aging – K. Pesce

- A speaker from Albert Einstein made a presentation on dementia and how to prevent and treat this disease. Some tips were to engage in exercise, puzzles, etc.
- The next meeting is on Tuesday, March 27th at Riverdale Senior Services. A speaker will be there from Hudson Gardens, a housing complex that's being rejuvenated on Johnson Avenue, across from Key Food.
- K. Pesce suggested doing a food drive as the board did last year. The Board office will attempt to coordinate a meeting site with a food drop-off location for a future board meeting.

5. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

- The committee hosted a good meeting at Riverdale Garden Restaurant. S. Villaverde and A. Feldmeier met with the owner and discussed ways to improve business and reduce noise.
- The committee will host a DEP Noise Reduction Workshop inviting restaurants, bars and night-life establishments to learn about noise reduction procedures and prevention methods.
- The Chair mentioned planning a meeting with the ice skating rink developer to discuss economic development in the area. B. Bender and D. Padernacht will accompany.
- The North Riverdale Merchants Association discussed the Henry Hudson Parkway signage and was not in favor of removing the words "Riverdale Avenue" from the West 252nd Street highway sign. State DOT plans to replace signs with smaller, brighter, more cost efficient signs along the roadway. It also plans to remove Riverdale Avenue from the Henry Hudson Parkway West 252nd Street overpass sign. B. Bender suggested that before the State DOT returns in October with the final designs; a letter should be generated emphasizing the importance to the community of having Riverdale Avenue noted either on the sign or in the area of the exit.
- S. Villaverde announced that Metropolitan Realty will present plans for the new commercial development on the site of the former Stella D'Oro factory at the April meeting of the Economic Development Committee. This will be a public forum and all board members and the public are invited to attend. The date and location will be

determined. S. Villaverde affirmed the role of the committee in reporting to the board. R. S. Froot voiced support for role of the board in voicing community interests and concerns.

6. Housing – T. Durham

- The Heat Conversion Forum was very successful. T. Durham plans to host another forum in Kingsbridge Heights in the spring.
- Rent Stabilization laws were extended.
- The expanded DEP Leak Notification Program will now include Large Residential Buildings. The Leak Notification Program will proactively notify large building owners of potential leaks and enable the owners and managers to quickly respond to and fix them before they become a costly problem.
- Board 8, Councilman Rodriguez and Promenade Apartments are working together towards cleaning the property line between the MTA tracks and fence at the Promenade Apartments. T. Durham is reaching out to managing company of Promenade to expedite clean-up and secure property line.

7. Parks & Recreation - B. Bender

- The New York Philharmonic is returning to Van Cortlandt Park on Monday July 16 at the southern most portions of the parade grounds near the Van Cortlandt mansion.
- There has been progress at the Memorial Grove. The replacement plaque fabrication and the pipe rail fabrication have been approved. The Parks Department believes the work will be completed by the end of April.
- B. Bender will do a site visit with the Parks Department for a skateboard park. The two locations being looked at are Van Cortlandt Park, just south of the stadium and the Bailey Avenue playground.
- The Chair mentioned that he has contacted the Ice Rink Events vendor about sending a representative, along with representatives from DPR and DOT, to a future Parks committee meeting to discuss questions about the VCP ice rink.
- Its My Park Day is on May 19th and they will be cleaning up Ft. Four Park in Kingsbridge Heights.
- Green Jobs for Youth – This program is open for 15 students this summer. They get a college credit and they get paid. They can apply at the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy website which is vcpark.org. Students must have completed the 10th grade and two regents level science courses with a “B” or better by the end of December 2011. Must have an 80 or above academic average and must meet STEP eligibility guidelines. It starts Monday, July 2 – Friday August 17, 2012. They do field work and field studies in Van Cortlandt Park and their wages are \$7.25 per hour.
- Earth Day is April 22nd. Laura Spalter, Vice Chair of the Parks Committee and the Riverdale Temple will be working together at Endor Gardens on West 253rd Street and Fieldston Road.

8. Law, Rules & Ethics – reported by Ari Spett

- There was no February meeting and there will be no meeting in March.
- A question came up regarding political activity of board members. I. Ladimer wrote a memorandum quoting the Bylaws and the conflict of interest board decisions that board members may be involved in political activity and run for public office while continuing to

serve on the Board. However, a Community Board member would have to resign from the Board upon assuming elective office. Fundraising must be undertaken separately and without reference to Community Board membership.

9. Environment & Sanitation – R. Ginty

- A complaint from a resident on Palisade Avenue was sent to the committee indicating problems of noise from air-conditioning units at Hebrew Home for the Aged property as well as noise from delivery and dumpster trucks at the institution. DEP was called and took readings and decibel levels at the complainant's home. In addition, the complainant recently wrote to the institution detailing these facts and asked for a response. A letter will be written to DEP and the Hebrew Home to check the status of the complaint. R. Fanuzzi suggested inviting both parties to a committee meeting to discuss the noise issues.
- The city is intending to charge not-for-profits for garbage pick-up beginning FY 2013. It is now in the process of being surveyed. This will effect many organizations in this community. L. Spalter, Vice Chair of the E&S Committee will spearhead this topic as it raises a possible conflict of interest for the chair.

10. Traffic & Transportation – D. Padernacht

- Captain Burke attended the committee meeting to discuss Independence Avenue and the accidents that occurred in this location. A letter to do a traffic study in this area was sent to DOT.
- MTA discussed that they will be decreasing the headway on the #7 bus and they will slightly increase the headway on the #1 and #2.
- Residents from Cannon Heights came to the meeting to discuss traffic safety issues at Bailey Place and Ft. Independence intersection. The retaining wall on Bailey Place will soon be repaired and they are putting in new green streets at this location. The committee may not address this issue until after this work has been completed.
- Palisades Avenue and Bailey Avenue retaining wall work has been delayed.
- FIPNA –the Giles Place site, the owner took down the retaining wall in back of the property which has resulted in run off. DOB has been called to investigate.
- Community members and organizations have advocated for public access to the top level of the Henry Hudson Bridge. D. Padernacht has asked the MTA Bridges to investigate whether that top level has ever been used as a pedestrian walkway.
- There have been a number of pedestrian accidents at West 259th Street and Riverdale Avenue. Dan Padernacht will send a letter to DOT requesting a traffic survey and recommendations for safety measures.
- Safe Route to Transits Design for West 242d Street and Broadway will be discussed at the March meeting.
- R. Fanuzzi requested that D. Padernacht write a letter to NYS DOT regarding the opposition towards removing Riverdale Avenue from the signs on the Henry Hudson Parkway at West 252nd Street overpass (going northbound on the Henry Hudson Parkway).

11. Budget Report – B. Contant

- All Chairs should have received their FY 2013 Budget priorities chart. Very few requests were funded. Please share this with your committee and consider the city agency

responses when assessing community needs for your FY2014 budget requests. Your submissions should be finalized, approved by your committee and sent to the board office by the June meeting. B. Contant suggested prioritizing items that will have the biggest impact on our community, consider applying for expense items and/or capital projects that will improve the operational efficiency of your respective agency thereby saving the City money over the long term, and focus on urgent matters.

- The chair reminded the executive committee members to invite city agencies and community organizations that match their committee mandate to meetings in March through May. The budget priorities should then be submitted to the board office in June. The preliminary statement is based upon all requests.

12. Libraries & Cultural Affairs – R. Abbott

- Libraries & Cultural Affairs committee will meet on Monday, March 12th in the board office.
- The committee is accepting nominations for the Community Service Awards. Those awards will be presented at the May meeting.
- The FY2013 budget approved funding for Libraries to be opened 6 days a week.

13. Miscellaneous

- J. Pilsner is reviewing absenteeism of board members at meetings for the months of January and February.
- J. Pilsner reported that M. Wolpoff sent a thank you note in response to a letter of sympathy of his brother's passing sent on behalf of the board by J. Pilsner.
- J. Pilsner sent a letter of sympathy to the Arnold Hyman family. The former Kingsbridge Librarian was hit by a car at West 259th Street and Riverdale Avenue and soon after passed away.
- T. Durham suggested writing a letter thanking the 6th grade children of St. Gabriel's for making a presentation to the community on reducing youth access to tobacco products.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Diane Bay
Community Associate