

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2015 AT  
RIVERDALE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Board / Committee Members:**

Paul Ellis  
David Kornbluh  
Lenora Croft  
David Gellman  
Omar Murray  
James Rather  
Julie Reyes  
Amy Joy Robateau  
Georgia Santiago  
Karen Pesce  
Lucy Mercado  
Ruby Palma  
John Sims  
Steve Balicer

**Affiliation:**

CB8 Housing Committee, Chair  
CB8 Housing Committee  
CB8 Board member  
CB8 Community Committee members  
CB8 Community Committee members  
Community resident  
Community resident

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 P.M.

Mr. Paul Ellis, Chair of the Committee, introduced himself, and welcomed the attendees. Mr. Ellis reviewed the agenda for the evening.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The June minutes were approved by a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed and 3 abstention - with cause.

**In Favor –**

P. Ellis, D. Kornbluh, L. Croft, O. Murray, J. Reyes, A. Robateau, G. Santiago, L. Mercado and R. Palma

**Abstaining, with cause-**

D. Gellman and J. Rather

**2. Planning the Agenda and Activities of the Housing Committee for 2015/2016**

Mr. Ellis stated that the purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm regarding issues and projects, old and new, that should be addressed by the committee over the coming year.

As a logistical matter, Mr. Ellis noted that taking minutes will be a rotating responsibility of committee members. J. Reyes will schedule minute takers, although members who do not feel comfortable taking minutes are free to refuse. Minutes are typically a descriptive account of the meeting for members who are absent.

Mr. Ellis listed some of the issues that the committee should consider as follows: affordable housing, ongoing monitoring of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments at Ft. Independence/Bailey and Marble Hill, Mitchell Lama preservation and new construction, a Housing Court forum and a community forum on SCRIE and DRIE.

The Housing Committee needs an action plan regarding new housing. The text for zoning and mandatory housing has not yet been released. An informal working group on affordable housing was established to meet after the text for zoning has been released. The following members volunteered to participate: D. Gellman, D. Kornbluh, A. Robateau, L. Croft, and P. Ellis.

Mr. Ellis noted that regular monitoring of staffing at Marble Hill Houses is desirable. NYCHA now has recycling, but these efforts depend on resident cooperation. Ms. Santiago advised that in some Marble Hill buildings, hallways/stairways are being cleaned by tenants with no supplies being provided by NYCHA. The question was raised as to whether our area is getting its share of funding for Ft. Independence and Marble Hill. Ms. Palma noted that she has approximately 3000 signatures from the Marble Hill neighborhood to support clean up. The following committee members volunteered to be members of the informal NYCHA working group: P. Ellis, L. Croft and L. Mercado.

Borough budget hearings were recently conducted which were attended by Mr. Ellis for the HPD segment (DOB did not attend this year). However, the NYCHA representatives appeared much later than scheduled and Mr. Ellis was unable to wait for their arrival. Mr. Ellis noted that the NYCHA segment might be rescheduled.

Mr. Ellis noted that two meetings are scheduled for October: Mitchell-Lama on October 8 and the Housing Court Forum on October 26. The following persons volunteered to participate and follow up on the October 8 meeting: P. Ellis, J. Rather, S. Balicer, and J. Sims. The following persons volunteered to participate and follow-up on the October 26 meeting: J. Reyes, L. Mercado and P. Ellis (and Mr. Ellis noted that he believed that Mr. Marquez would also want to participate). Mr. Gellman requested consideration of issues which might impact on co-ops/condos.

There was a discussion regarding meeting sites. Forums need to be held in larger spaces, and regular meetings might be conducted in a regular location, i.e., the Riverdale Mental Health conference room.

Mr. Kornbluh advised of an affordable housing forum taking place on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Minutes recorded by,

Karen Pesce  
Community Board 8 Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Ellis  
Chairperson  
Housing Committee, CB-8