

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016
AT THE RIVERDALE YM/YWHA – YOUTH LOUNGE
5625 ARLINGTON AVENUE, BRONX NY 10471**

Board/Community Members Present: Affiliation:

Paul Ellis	CB8 Housing Committee, Chairman
Amy Joy Robateau	CB8 Housing Committee, Vice Chair
David Kornbluh	CB8 Housing Committee
Sergio Marquez	CB8 Housing Committee
Omar Murray	CB8 Housing Committee
Julie Reyes	CB8 Housing Committee
James Santiago	CB8 Housing Committee
Georgia Santiago	CB8 Housing Committee

Guests:

Lee Chong	Community Resident
Denise Pollock	Community Resident
Sara Schreiber	Community Resident
Nathaniel Schreiber	Community Resident
Orchid Tavares Bogart	Community Resident

Absent:

Anthony Creaney	CB8 Housing Committee
David Gellman	CB8 Housing Committee

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Paul Ellis, Chair of the Committee, welcomed the attendees, introduced himself, and reviewed the agenda for the evening. He explained that the order of business would be altered from the agenda.

1. Preparations for October Public Forum on Heat and Hot Water Issues at Fort Independence/Bailey Houses and Marble Hill Houses

Mr. Ellis explained the need for a public forum on heat and hot water due to Community Board 8's (CB8) intervention with New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) during winter 2016. The aim of the forum is to provide an opportunity for the residents and the Committee to meet with NYCHA representatives in advance, when they will present their plans to provide proper service for the coming heating season. Another aim will be to advise tenants on steps to take in case of a reoccurrence in service disruption.

Lee Chong, a community resident, suggested an invitation to Housing Preservation Development (HPD) be extended.

Publicity will consist of flyers distributed to Marble Hill and Fort Independence/Bailey Houses Tenant Associations. An announcement will be placed in the CB8 newsletter. The NYCHA Heat/Hot Water Forum is tentatively scheduled for October 31, 2016 at 7:30 p.m., location to be announced.

Julie Reyes suggested contacting the Fire Department to see if we could obtain free smoke/carbon monoxide detectors for distribution at the forum.

2. Discuss and Allocate Remaining Work for Completion of Housing Resource Guide

Mr. Ellis described the contents of the Housing Resource Guide (HRG) for new committee members. The HRG has not moved past final review approval. It is the goal of the HRG team, CB8 Board members Paul Ellis, Amy Joy Robateau, Julie Reyes, and John Sims (a community resident), to finalize the guide by the end of December.

3. Community Concerns

Mr. Ellis invited the community residents in attendance to raise any concerns that they wished to bring up with the Committee.

Denise Pollock, community resident, shared her concerns on the push for privatization at Amalgamated Houses. Lee Chong and David Kornbluh volunteered to offer guidance to Ms. Pollock.

4. Approval of minutes

Mr. Ellis moved to approve the May 23, 2016 Housing Committee minutes. Motion seconded followed by unanimous approval: Paul Ellis, Julie Reyes, Amy Joy Robateau, Sergio Marquez, David Kornbluh and Georgia Santiago.

5. Planning the Agenda and Activities of the Housing Committee for 2016/2017.

Mr. Ellis went through a few logistics. He introduced Amy Joy Robateau as the Housing Committee Vice Chair, mentioned the opportunity for new community committee members, announced Julie Reyes as the point person for minutes, and asked for each committee member to prepare the minutes once or twice. Mr. Ellis expressed his expectation for all members of the Housing committee to be involved in publicity, establish interest-driven working groups, and help maintain an active committee for the coming year.

The discussion turned to suggestions for potential meeting topics for the 2016/2017 session.

- October's meeting will be the NYCHA Heat/Hot Water Forum.
- The third part of the Affordable Housing Forum was suggested for November.
- A forum on Locating Affordable Housing was suggested.
- A Housing Resource Day was projected for a spring forum.
- Mr. Kornbluh suggested having someone come in to do analysis of the residential real estate market in CB 8.
- Lee Chong suggested having City Planning, ARC (Association of Riverdale Cooperatives and Condominiums), RSA (Rent Stabilization Association) come to discuss Mr. Kornbluh's suggestion.
- Ms. Robateau suggested a talk on Green/Sustainable Building.
- Budget request meetings will be held toward the end of the 2016/2017 session.

There was a breakout discussion on the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption program (SCRIE) and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) application process (a possible addition to Housing Day Forum).

6. Old Business

David Kornbluh briefly discussed research in obtaining housing market statistics regarding the various neighborhoods in CB8. Lee Chong advised she would forward Mr. Kornbluh websites that could be of use in this project.

7. New Business

Georgia Santiago raised the issue of Wells Fargo's involvement, as a private investor, in NYCHA Capital Projects. Further discussion will occur during the upcoming meeting on NYCHA. Budget consultations reports were laid over until a future meeting. Promotional CB8 materials were distributed to all in attendance.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by,
Amy Joy Robateau
 Vice-Chairperson
 Housing Committee
 Bronx Community Board 8

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Ellis
 Chairperson
 Housing Committee
 Bronx Community Board 8