

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE LIBRARIES & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 2, 2017  
AT THE RIVERDALE BRANCH LIBRARY,  
5540 MOSHOLU AVENUE**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Marvin Goodman	CB8, Chair, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee
Martin Wolpoff	CB8, Committee member
Judith Green	CB8, Education Committee member
Avigdor Gorgy	Community Resident
Michael Oberholtzer	Community Resident
Rebecca L. Barbier	Library Branch Manager, Riverdale Library
Peter Pamphile	Library Branch Manager, Van Cortlandt Library
Martha Gonzalez-Buitrago	Library Branch Manager, Kingsbridge Library
Nicola McDonald	Library Branch Manager, Jerome Park Library
Tim Tureski	Library Branch Manager, Spuyten Duyvil Library

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Sylvia Alexander	CB8
Amy Joy Robateau	CB8

The meeting began at 6:30 PM.

Our scheduled guest speaker from the Bronx Region of the NYPL was unable to attend. It is customary that at the initial meeting of each fiscal year of this committee, the regional libraries head librarian informs this committee about the plans of the NYPL for our regional branches with regards to on-going or scheduled projects, both capital projects for building improvements, maintenance or replacements and expense projects for maintenance or improvement of services. In the absence of the scheduled speaker, each librarian gave a detailed account of the programs and services provided at the branch.

The following were noted:

Every branch has computers available for public use.

All branches offer free Wi-Fi at home for eligible students in grades K-12 who lack internet access at home and who have library cards.

All branches participate in the early literacy programs, which offer early literacy kits to families with children ages 0 to 5, family literacy programs which help parents and caregivers learn how to create a friendly household through reading, talking, singing, writing and playing with their children.

Our branch librarians participate in the pre-k for all partnership program by working with pre-k teachers and their students, offering curriculum support and resources and by librarians' visits to classrooms and hosting pre-k visits to their local branch.

As for class visits to the local library branch, teachers can work with the local librarian for help with lesson plans or information on the library's resources and in finding books for specific topics for the class. Students can receive such assistance as well as attend book talks, library orientations, and computer classes. Pre-schoolers can enjoy story times, literacy activities, and kid-friendly library orientations. Branch librarians work with school librarians as well as with classroom teachers on a host of joint school related projects and library resources.

Teen programs include: a teen space with computer access, database tutorials, homework help, and even snacks. Teens are also encouraged to help write books, shelve materials and work with young children on children's craft projects. Each branch offers free movies for adults. Many offer programs for adults in knitting, crocheting, and artworks. Each branch offers a family literacy program for adults and teens. Each branch offers programs to adults and students of all ages in ESOL (English to speakers of other languages). Several branches, including the Jerome Park Branch, offer classes to adults and teens to prepare for becoming citizens of this country. Some branches offer some of the above programs to adults in languages other than English, as well, such as in Spanish. Additional specific programs are offered at each branch to meet the specific on-going needs of the local community.

The committee discussed the NYPL projects for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. The committee has requested our community board and the NYPL to consider expanding services to include Sundays and to increase the hours of service during the week. The committee has worked with C.B.8's budget committee to include requests for capital improvements, such as heating and cooling updates, security and technology upgrades and ADA compliance.

A major request was made for funding to expand the Spuyten Duyvil branch library, since so many new students have entered the nearby schools. We are still waiting for the renovation work to begin on the new site for the Van Cortlandt Library. The branch manager was told work would begin soon and that the new, expanded site would be available by late 2019 or by 2020. We have also worked with Councilman Cohen's Participatory Budgeting Committee to encourage the expansion of the Spuyten Duyvil Library to better serve that community, as one of its projects.

The meeting ended at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted.  
Marvin Goodman, Chairperson  
Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee