

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON APRIL 13, 2010 AT  
KINGSBRIDGE HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER  
3101 KINGSBRIDGE TERRACE**

- PRESENT:** R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. Cohen, A. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, J. Goris, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, Y. Levy, B. Maybury, D. McShane, K. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff
- ABSENT:** D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. Fana, B. Feinberg, B. Fettman, T. Giallorenzi, A. Goldman, V. Gray, G. O. Koppell, S. Marquez, C. Moerdler, J. O'Reilly, J. Reyes, H. Young
- STAFF:** N. Stent – District Manager, CB 8  
D. Bay – Community Associate, CB 8  
P. Manning – Community Associate, CB 8
- GUESTS:** A. Green, Bronx Deputy Borough President  
J. DeSio – representing Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
G. Faulkner – rep. Councilman Fernando Cabrera  
R. Fedderman - rep. Congressman Eliot Engel  
M. Gary – rep. State Senator Pedro Espada  
M. Grubiak – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein  
J. Kim – rep. State Senator Eric Schneiderman  
R. Martos - Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz  
Z. Myrie – rep. Councilman Fernando Cabrera  
A. Sandler - Office of Councilman G. Oliver Koppell  
L. Almanzar  
A. Applebaum – Riverdale Press  
F. Cincenti – Wild Dogs Foundation  
Capt. B. del Pozo – 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct  
B. Gallegos  
C. Giove – Riverdale Review  
J. Gordon  
P.O. Kreeman – 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct  
J. McKeow  
R. A. Milo – Baby Its You  
R. Montesano – Fire Department  
R. Press – Bronx News  
P.O. M. Ramos – 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct  
S. Ramirez – News 12 Bronx  
A. Robinson  
M. Scateva – Columbia University  
L. Schwaraz – FIPNA  
J. Sonett  
S. Spielberg  
J. Veder

Chairman McShane called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

## Gallery Session:

- A. Frank Vincenti, Wild Dogs Foundation, presented information on how to coexist with coyotes. Noted that coyotes are in Van Cortlandt Park. He advised on a few rules: not to feed coyotes and not to leave pets out overnight. Free talks offered.
- B. Dana Liebert expressed her concern about receiving fines from 50 violations for illegal posting of her yoga class flyers. She stated that she was unaware of the law. Ms. Liebert asked that the Board investigate ways for small businesses to post advertising flyers.

Chairman McShane referred her issue to the Economic Development Committee. He also offered to send a letter to the Department of Environmental Control Board on her behalf regarding the excessive tickets from the Department of Sanitation. S. Scheinbach, Chair, Environment and Sanitation Committee stated his position as a private citizen and as Committee Chair to report illegal postings. The Board in the past has supported the law to keep the community free of illegal postings and graffiti. R. Fanuzzi, Chair, Economic Development Committee advised of his willingness to continue to work with Ms. Liebert on legal postings and renewed his invite from last month to attend the Economic Development Committee's meeting. At the suggestion of S. Villaverde, Chairman asked that the Law, Ethics and Rules Committee review the issues presented with respect to the conduct of the Board.

- C. Rose Ann Milo, Baby Its You, advised of the newly formed South Riverdale Merchants Association. She presented ideas to attract business such as holiday lights, park benches, festivals, etc. At this time the businesses involved with the Association are participating in a campaign offering a 10% discount to customers during a specified week that will be advertised in local newspapers.
- D. Ileen Dunnian spoke on behalf of workers at the Hebrew Home and requested the Board's support in urging the Home to sign the long delayed Union Contract in order to ensure benefits and pensions.
- E. Joyce Pilsner invited all to attend Riverdale Mental Health Association's free educational event "Healing Individuals & Strengthening Communities" on Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, at Riverdale YM/YWHA from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Morning coffee and lunch provided.

1. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2010

The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Discussion of Executive Board Committee Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2010

B. Bender corrected the last item under the Parks & Recreation Committee report to reflect that the damaged trees were unrelated to the Putnam Trail, that NY State monies designated for the Putnam Trail had been eliminated due to budget constraints.

T. Durham provided an update to the Housing Report to inform that a spokesperson from NYCHA will attend the April 29<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting.

The minutes were accepted as revised.

## 3. Report from the Borough President's Office –

Chairman welcomed Deputy Borough President Aurelia Green.

- Deputy Green thanked the Board and N. Stent, the district manager in particular for participating in the Press Conference that took place at Bronx Borough Hall on April 5<sup>th</sup> held in support of community boards to protest the Mayor's budget cuts. Borough President Diaz will make recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission in support of community boards.
- Borough President Diaz joins with Public Advocate Bill de Blasio in holding a "Walking the Walk" Town Hall meeting on the State of Our Youth to address their needs and direct their path. The event will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, in the Rotunda at Bronx County Building, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.
- Bronx Food Summit will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup>, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Hostos Community College. Its purpose is to encourage healthy diets.
- Bronx Homeowners Forum will be held on May 13<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM, at Fordham University, McGinley Center.

## 4. Chairman welcomed Captain del Pozo and invited him to address the Board.

Captain del Pozo reviewed the crime statistics which show an overall crime reduction of 14%; discussed the accident prone area at West 230<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway, where there was a recent incident involving a sign hit by a car. The sign fell on a child. The Police Department has requested a study to improve safety at that intersection and requested the Board's support. He also announced dates to visit and talk to him at the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct to discuss any issue. They are: April 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, and April 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Call P.O. Ramos at 718-543-5978/9 to schedule.

## 5. Chairman welcomed Michael Gary, representing State Senator Espada and invited him to address the Board.

M. Gary distributed the Senator's Newsletter. A public hearing on NYCHA's recent cancellation of Section 8 housing vouchers will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 AM at Manhattan Community College.

## 6. Chairman's Report

- Attended the Bronx Budget Rally held by Borough president Ruben Diaz opposing the community board budget cuts on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the County Court House. N. Stent the district manager and all 12 Bronx district managers attended. He thanked Assemblyman Dinowitz and the Board members who attended.
- Presented testimony at the Charter Revision Commission's public hearing held in the Bronx April 12<sup>th</sup>. Thanked N. Stent for assisting in preparing the Bronx District managers' statement and board members S. Alexander and A. Cohen for attending the hearing.
- Presented the following resolution concerning the Charter Revision Commission for Board approval:

Community Board No. 8, Bronx, calls upon the 2010 charter revision commission to conduct a comprehensive review of the entire charter, meaningfully engage the public in its process, ensure that any question(s) placed on the ballot is clearly and concisely written, and conduct an extensive public education campaign about the ballot questions that voters will be asked to consider on Election Day.

WHEREAS, The last major charter revision commission (commission) which comprehensively examined the function and operation of city government was over twenty years ago with the 1989 commission;

WHEREAS, Mayor Bloomberg's appointment of a commission presents the City with a unique opportunity to fully examine government operations and to discuss how best to improve our City;

WHEREAS, In order for this commission to be successful, first and foremost it must meaningfully engage New Yorkers by conducting extensive outreach about the charter revision process to ensure they understand what it means and how they can participate;

WHEREAS, Such outreach should use all available modes of communication – social networking media, civic, community and religious organizations, webcasting, video- and teleconferencing, and transcribing and posting all testimony and information about commission meetings and hearings online;

WHEREAS, The commission should also conduct frequent public hearings in every corner of the City that encourage New Yorkers to provide their recommendations about their visions for New York and how to make government more responsive to their needs;

WHEREAS, In addition to public hearings, the commission should also conduct open public meetings to allow it to observe the commission's deliberative process;

WHEREAS, Once the commission completes its deliberative process and decides what Charter changes it would like to put before the voters, it should submit clear and concise ballot question(s) make it easy for voters to know what they are being asked to consider; and

WHEREAS, Finally, the commission with the assistance of elected officials, members of the civic, community and religious community, and the media must then conduct an extensive public education campaign about what voters will see on the ballot;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Community Board No. 8, Bronx, calls upon the 2010 charter revision commission to conduct a comprehensive review of the entire charter, meaningfully engage the public in its process, ensure that any question(s) placed on the ballot is clearly and concisely written, and conduct an extensive public education campaign about the ballot questions that voters will see on Election Day.

Vote: 26 In Favor, 2 Opposed, and 1 Abstention

In Favor –

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, S. Froot, J. Goris, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, Y. Levy, B. Maybury, D. McShane, K. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, S. Villaverde

Opposed –

A.Cohen, M. Wolpoff

Abstention –

R. Ginty

7. Election of the Nominating Committee - 5 members to be elected.

The following nominations were made and accepted: R. Abbott, B. Bender, A. Cohen, R. Fanuzzi, M. Khury and Y. Levy.

The following votes were received: R. Abbott – 24 in favor, B. Bender – 25 in favor, A. Cohen – 15 in favor, R. Fanuzzi – 24 in favor, M. Khury – 26 in favor, Y. Levy – 18 in favor.

The following five nominees were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee: B. Abbott, B. Bender, R. Fanuzzi, M. Khury and Y Levy.

8. Treasurer's Report – P. Friedman

Will review methods and legitimacy of fundraising for the Board.

9. Committee Reports

A. Education – S. Alexander

1. Refer to Committee minutes.
2. The following resolution was presented:

**WHEREAS**, the MTA has proposed discontinuing full-fare student discount Metro Cards beginning September 2010 and proposed charging half-fare for all trips of students; and

**WHEREAS**, the MTA has proposed that beginning September 2011, the remaining half-fare discount Metro Card would be eliminated and students would be charged full-fare for all trips; and

**WHEREAS**, given the policy of the Department of Education, which encourages open enrollment throughout the city, students will be faced with the inability to attend the school of their choice due to the loss of the full-fare student discount Metro Cards, and

**WHEREAS**, parents who are already under financial hardship because of economic difficulties would be under additional stress, and

**WHEREAS**, our children are our future,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 strongly urges the MTA to allow continued use of full-fare discount Metro Cards to enable students to continue their education.

Vote: 29 In Favor, 0 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions

In Favor –

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. Cohen, A. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, J. Goris, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, Y. Levy, B. Maybury, D. McShane, K. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

3. The next meeting will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>, Board Office, at 7:30 P.M. Budget priorities will be discussed.

B. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – M. Khury

1. Referred to Committee minutes.
2. Representatives related to the methadone clinic opening within the confines of Kings Terrace Nursing Home will attend the next Committee meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>.
3. The Committee is planning a health forum.

C. Housing – T. Durham

1. Attended a special meeting with Commissioner Hess, Department for Homeless Services and Borough President Diaz on the issue of “supportive housing.” The district manager N. Stent also attended.
2. Speakers from New York City Housing Authority will attend the Committee meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss Section 8 vouchers and federalization of housing.

D. Land Use

1. M. Wolpoff presented the following resolutions:

- I. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves Landmarks Preservation Commission Docket No. 10-4981, 274 College Road, Block 5816, Lot 1857 – Application to construct a rear deck and alter windows, a Medieval Revival style house designed by Julius Gregory and built in 1926.

Vote: 29 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions

In Favor –

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. Cohen, A. Creaney, W.S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, J. Goris, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, Y. Levy, B. Maybury, D. McShane, K. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

- II. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves City Planning Commission Application No. N 090077 ZAX, 4673 Delafield Avenue, Block 5824, Lot 2490, for the grant of authorizations involving modifications of topographic features on Tier I sites, and development, enlargement, or site alteration on a portion of a zoning lot having a steep slope buffer to allow the construction of a patio, walled garden and

storage shed on property located within the Special Natural Area District (NA-2).

Vote: 28 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 1 Abstention for Cause

In Favor –

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. Cohen, A. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, J. Goris, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, Y. Levy, B. Maybury, D. McShane, K. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstention for Cause –

B. Trebach

- III. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 reiterates its affirmation to **DENY** approval of Board of Standards and Appeals Calendar No. 214-07-BZ, 3217 Irwin Avenue, a/k/a 3210 Riverdale Avenue, Block 5759, Lot 358, revised proposal for parking spaces.

Vote: 29 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions

In Favor –

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. Cohen, A. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, J. Goris, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, Y. Levy, B. Maybury, D. McShane, K. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

2. Urban Pathways supportive housing proposal is off the table for now.
3. The Historic District Landmarking application for Kingsbridge Heights which includes the area of Cannon Place, the same location of the Urban Pathways proposal will be taken up at the next Land Use Committee meeting. Date to be announced.

E. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – R. Abbott

1. Library budget cuts were discussed at the last meeting.
2. Kingsbridge Library is on schedule for completion by summer with 2011 opening date. Furniture for the library has been funded.

F. Parks and Recreation – B. Bender

1. Refer to minutes.
2. Attended "Bronx Park Speak Up" on April 9<sup>th</sup>, at Lehman College which provided for good lobbying opportunity
3. Discussion regarding Kingsbridge Heights Community Center's homeless shelter issue will be reactivated with the Center's new director.
4. The next meeting will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup>, Board office, at 7:00 PM.

G. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

Refer to Committee minutes.

H. Traffic and Transportation

B. Trebach reported.

The next meeting will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>, will review Dale's renewal application for sidewalk café; proposal for Saturday Alternate Side Parking at Manhattan College Parkway and Broadway; and proposal to improve pedestrian/bicycle access going north/south in Riverdale.

I. Aging – K. Pesce

1. The next meeting will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Hebrew Home, at 3:30 P.M. Budget priorities will be discussed.
2. I. Ladimer announced recruitment efforts by Riverdale Senior Services for 40 seniors of low income to participate in a grant program provided by the Department of Youth and Community Development to track seniors with respect to healthy lifestyle activities.

J. Budget – K. O'Brien

Response to Preliminary Budget for FY 2011 was sent.

K. Economic Development – R. Fanuzzi

1. Urged support of the newly formed South Riverdale Merchants Association "Street Pass" from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>.
2. Surveyed vacant buildings which are now mapped.
3. Requested Law, Rules and Ethics Committee to review legitimacy of posting commercial businesses to the Board's website.

L. Environment and Sanitation – S. Scheinbach

1. Illegal posting numbers are down.
2. Federal Government is involved with the gas drilling issue.
3. Water rate increases of 12.9% are proposed.
4. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>, Board Office, at 7:30 P.M.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Patricia Manning  
Community Associate