

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD, OCTOBER 7, 2010 AT
“THE NEW LITTLE SHOPPE”
231 West 231st Street, Bronx, N.Y. 10463

PRESENT

Maria Khury
Sylvia Alexander
Brendan Contant
Nils Graham
Tricia Mullen
Robert Press
Ari A. Spett, Esq.
Michael Nixon
Gregoria Feliciano
Andrew Sandler
Brendan McHugh
Dorine Dabby
Katherine Broihier
Ellen Feld,
Despina Gabriela
Jennifer Javier
Jack Kartsch
Pamela Loeser
Keith Mitchell
Carlin Power
Renny Raymundo
Melinda Ruby
Dr. and Mrs. Shah
Tracy Shelton
Kevin Vega
Ashley Welsh
Delroy Ximines
Ruth Yelloz
Lilliane Zach

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair
CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
Resident
BOEDC/NYC Business Solutions
Resident
Representative Councilman Koppell
Riverdale Review
The Little Dress Shoppe, Owner
Kingsbridge BID, Executive Director
Sotheby's/South Riverdale Merchant's Assoc.
Gabriela Party Supply, Owner
Capital One Bank, 231st. Street
Bikram Yoga Bronx, Owner
Loeser's Kosher Deli, Rep. W. 231st, Owner
Leila's Chocolate, W. 231st, Owner
Wildon Power Conservation
Staples
Escape Salon, Owner
Health and Nutrition Galaxy Pharmacy, Owner
KRVCDC, Director
Citibank, West 234th Broadway
CUNY Grad., School of Journalism
Chase Bank, Riverdale Avenue
The Little Dress Shoppe
Cappuccino Bakery, Owner

The meeting convened at 7:45 PM

1. Minutes: September 2, 2010 meeting upon correction of affiliation of Brendan McHugh to Riverdale Review was unanimously approved.

2. Chairperson's Report: Chair opened the meeting by thanking Gabriela's Party Supplies for supplying the Chairs. She thanked the Mrs. Dorine Dabby, Owner of the Little Shoppe for hosting the first Economic Development' "Meetings on the Road". Mrs. Dabby thanked the attendees for coming, especially her fellow business owners, and briefly described how good it will be to work as a community to help each other during difficult economic times. The Chair reminded all that the committee's agenda is shaped by the economic needs of the community. She encouraged dialogue and feedback on priorities. She explained that issues may come up that are not part of the mission of the Economic Development Committee, but as a CB8 Board Member and Chair of this Committee, she would pass any information or concern to the appropriate Committee Chair as well as inform the attendees of any upcoming events of the Board. She reminded attendees that they also had the option to contact the District Office of CB8 directly, and encouraged all to go to CB8's website for committee information and calendars of public meetings. A reminder to all of the Health Forum of HH&SS Committee on December 8th was mentioned. She reiterated that one of the goals of the committee's "Meetings on the Road" was to meet in local venues to encourage productive relationships amongst the business community. She acknowledged and thanked the large number of representatives from our economic community. She explained that in an effort to clarify the different roles of community business organizations, she invited the various representatives and the meeting will focus on their role. The Chair welcomed them and all were present to later update attendees on their activities.

3. Follow-up Business:

Stella D'ora site and the West 230th lot developments are still not known to the public.

Pam Loeser, daughter of owner of Loeser's Kosher Delicatessen, requested that the committee assist her in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the deli her father created and still manages. Several ideas were explored; a bench, resolution, proclamations, etc. She appreciated the ideas, yet her family is interested in some permanent public honor to recognize the businesses role in the Economic Community. She explained that her family understood that street names are usually given after a person is deceased. Mrs. Dabby mentioned that her business was also in its 50th year. Tricia Mullen mentioned that she believed that the florist on 231st was also in its 50th year, and perhaps, there can be an event to celebrate these significant anniversaries.

Kingsbridge Business Improvement District: Katherine Broihier, Executive Director described the specific programs and area of the BID. KBID specifically Covers Broadway to Corlear, between 230th to 236th Street. Their office is located at 237st and B'dwy. She explained that the KBID is different because it is funded by property and business owners. The money is used to improve the area. Founded 2002. Facade Improvement Grant - \$500 will be given to upgrade the front of the business including updating security, new gate, or new sign. Brochure does not, however, address the needs of Spanish speaking business owners.

South Merchants Riverdale Association: Ellen Feld, President. Founded 2010. Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the Month. Approximately 40 members. A question was asked if other merchants can join if not on Riverdale Avenue. Ms. Feld indicated that the members want it to stay in the boundaries defined until they are solid and off the ground. The Chair indicated that there is a group interested and there are meetings being held. Tracy Shelton and members of the Community Board are attending and assisting in forming the North Riverdale Merchants Association.

Spring Arts Festival: Ellen Feld, updated attendees on the festival organized by an ad hoc E.D. Committee. Either the date will be Sunday, May 22 or June 5 of 2010, 10am to 5pm. The festival will engage the local merchants and community representatives of the district in a collaborative effort in order to achieve effective results. Partners specifically mentioned are the Bronx Council of the Arts, and Citibank, Kevin Vega for his institution's contribution to pay the cost of the Bronx Trolley. The route of the Trolley may likely be: transporting people residing in Riverdale to Kingsbridge and Kingsbridge to Riverdale. A curator of fine art and an organizer of performances, an event has been selected. In addition, the father of Ari Spett, a known local artist, will participate in some manner. The discussion of street closures was tabled until more communication is made with the Chair of the Traffic and Transportation Committee, Dan Padernacht. As well, the Chair made it clear that the Business owners must be informed and in accord with any closure. Stores and real estate owners with empty storefronts are anticipated to participate to host art exhibitions or performances. The chair asked if any Art work was to be sold at the Festival.

Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corporation: Tracy Shelton, Executive Director (since 2010) updated attendees on KRVDC (in community over 25 years) on recent accomplishments. Many businesses including our host, The Little Dress Shoppe, have taken advantage of energy conservation products. Mr. Powers was also present to explain greener options. On Thursday, September 23, 2010 the first "Graffiti Clean-Up and Awareness Day" was held. During these monthly events presentations are made to local schools regarding the impact of graffiti on the community. Schools are encouraged to organize Clean Up activities. On Thursday, September 30, 2010, the Restaurant Guide was released at an event hosted at Citibank's Broadway branch. A web version of the Restaurant Guide will be introduced as well. She explained that the Halloween event is now a Fall Fun Day and Farmer's Market on the properties of PS 81 and Riverdale Neighborhood House, on Oct. 24, 2010 from 11am to 3pm. She distributed flyers for Merchants to participate for free. The deadline to apply is Oct.15, 2010. KRVDC will create and distribute a Holiday Shopping Guide for free, similar to Restaurant and Bank guides, as it will also include the contact information of local businesses. The deadline to apply is Nov, 5, 2010. In addition, the KRVDC will organize a "Holiday Shopping Shuttle," in which businesses are invited for free

to be "Hot Spots" off the Shuttle, at which they will hold events, such as: Kids Activities, Food and/or Wine Tastings, Mini-Makeovers, Fashion Shows, etc. The deadline to participate is Nov.12, 2010.

Bronx Community Board No. 8: Gregoria Feliciano (in the absence of Vice Chair Steven Balicer) gave an overview of the Board district, the function and purpose, how the members are selected, budget process, the committees, etc.

Business Survival Act, Gregoria Feliciano and Tricia Mullen (in the absence of Bob Bielder of the Bronx Merchants Coalition) informed attendees that the act sponsors the cost of a mediator between the landlord and the commercial tenant's rent. Andrew Sandler explained that Councilman Koppell has not sponsored. Before he commits to do so, he will attend a meeting of the NYC Council on October 8 to hear Christine Quinn's concerns regarding whether the resolution is Constitutional. A. Spett would follow-up and report at a future meeting. G. Feliciano suggested a resolution. A. Spett suggested a petition with commercial tenant's signatures and support. The Chair indicated that this topic is of interest and continued to be evaluated and remain on the agenda until a conclusion is met.

4. Other Business: "Meetings on the Road", Nov.4, 2010, Citibank & Staples will host ***BXCB8 Business to Business Card Exchange***. Committee members will facilitate introducing local businesses to each other. Refreshments and snacks will be served. A drawing of prizes is also in the works. The Chair requested that participants provide feedback/constructive criticism of to ensure the committee is addressing the needs of CB8's economic community.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tricia Mullen

Approved by,

Maria Khury, Chairperson
Economic Development Committee