

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE
MARCH 26, 2012 AT
KINGSBRIDGE HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER
3101 KINGSBRIDGE TERRACE**

PRESENT

Thomas C. Durham, Committee Chair
Steven Balicer
Tony Creaney
Philip Friedman
Julie Reyes
Georgia Santiago
Andrew Sandler
Allison Summers

AFFILIATION

CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell
Riverdale Review

1. Introductions

- A. Meeting started at 7:45 PM.
- B. Meeting held at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center
- C. The Housing Committee minutes of February 27, 2012 were approved.

2. Chair's report

- A. Chairman apologized to all members and guests who did not receive the notice for the change in venue. Department of Building's speaker Mr. Donald Ranshte was not in attendance. However, the chairman did attend two important meetings in which he reported on since the February Oil Conversion Forum.
- B. Josie Urena, liaison to NYS Senator G. Rivera, reported that their office is working on an April 21, 2012 Housing Forum. This forum is to help obtain information on the state of housing in the 33rd State district.
- C. The Chairman attended BXCB8's Environment & Sanitation Committee meeting held on March 21, 2012 to learn the details of the Department of Environmental Protection, (DEP) Negative Declaration in regards to Property Water Overflow Amendment (PWOA). This complete document accompanied this meeting agenda and was attached to the February minutes. This proposal is aimed to slow down the flow of rainwater from entering the sewer system. Residential property under development, or existing property consisting of 5000 sq. ft. or more, that is planning to extend the buildings existing footprint will be affected by this proposal. The DEP spokesperson said that she and the public learned of this proposal only through BXCB8's acquiring this information. The proposal was directed only towards structural engineers and architects, stating that the DEP administration felt that the community would not be interested in this proposal. The Housing Chairman stated that this is very strange reasoning because it is the residents that hire the engineers and architects which this proposal will surely add to the cost of their projects.

3. Agenda

- A. Update of 3882 Cannon Place** - Due to the absence of DOB's Mr. Donald Ranshte the current update of 3882 the privately funded unoccupied supportive housing on Cannon Place was not available. This completed building, as of January 2012, was \$54,000 in tax arrears. This is posted by the Department of Finance (DOF). The Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee Chairman, Mr. Bob Abbott and the Housing Committee Chairman

have been trying to set up a meeting with Councilman Koppell and discuss this site in regards to creating new space for the undersized, overcrowded Van Cortlandt Village Library. If Mr. Ranshte was present I would have requested DOB's budget and inquired if DOB funded any not for profits.

- B. **Heating Fuel Conversion Forum** - A second heating fuel conversion forum was requested on the southern eastside of the CB8 district to accommodate Van Cortlandt Village (VCV) and Kingsbridge Heights and spill over from CB7s neighboring University Heights. We discussed possible venue locations as Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, Lehman College and a few other centers. T. Durham will not commit to another forum until NYC has its financial assistance package in place. The city's financial package was still in the negotiation stage during the February 27th forum.

4. Old Business

- A. Chairman would like to meet with New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Commissioner to discuss security issues in and around NYCHA complexes in CB8.
- B. There was discussion on where this meeting will take place.
- C. The chairman would rather have this meeting take place at the board office, while others thought the meeting should be held in Marble Hill. This meeting will take place in April if the commissioner is available.

5. New Business

- A. Chairman will reach out to all city housing agencies for their budget requests.

6. Adjourn

- A. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Submitted by

Mr. Thomas C. Durham
Chair, Housing Committee