

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD MARCH 13TH, 2013
AT THE RIVERDALE TEMPLE**

PRESENT

Daniel Padernacht
Robert Press
Sylvia Alexander
Bob Bender
Andrew Cohen
Robert Fanuzzi
Steven Froot
Martin Galvin
Georgia Santiago
Martin Wolpoff
Herbert Young
Robert Kornfeld
Celia Kornfeld
Daniel Johnson
Patrick Geagan
Samuel Basch
Shoshana Shendelman
Vladimir Shendelman
Franz Poasche
Peter Nutly
Penny Wilson
Jennifer Klein
Robbie Bent
David Glasser
Rabbi Levi Shemtov
Cliff Stanton

AFFILIATION

CB8, Committee Chair
CB8, Committee Vice Chair
CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8, Chair
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CB8
rep. Assemblyman Dinowitz
Visitation School

The meeting was called to order at 7:47 PM at the Riverdale Temple by Chairman Dan Padernacht.

The Committee reviewed a SAPO Application (ID# 86506) for Springfest which is to occur on June 5, 2013. A representative from PS 24 stated that the event has been held the past four years, with the exception of the last year when rain forced the event indoors. A question about the event set up time and event start time being the same (3 – 7 PM) and the applicant stated that the event time should be 5 – 7pm. The event is on a Wednesday and there is no school the next day. It was stated that five to ten thousand dollars is raised for PS 24. There will be amplified sound, a portable generator, and inflatable rides at the event, and the applicant said in the past four years there has only been one complaint. The applicant agreed to give notification of the event to the buildings surrounding PS 24. T&T Chairman Padernacht apprised the applicant of the new guidelines for Street Activity Permits by Community Board 8, and stated that said guidelines were enacted within the past 24 hours by the board.

The vote by the committee was – 5 in favor, (Padernacht, Alexander, Bender, Santiago, and Young) 0 against, and 1 abstention for cause (Press)

The committee reviewed resident requests for new parking restrictions on the streets of Independence Avenue between West 252nd street and West 254th Street, Sycamore Avenue between West 252nd Street and West 254th Street, and West 254th Street between Sycamore Avenue and Independence Avenue:

With respect to Sycamore Avenue, residents stated that it was an issue of safety since there are no sidewalks or curbs and the street is very narrow. Residents stated that with cars parked on one side of the street it is very difficult to get another car through the street. In the high density times, there are blockages on the street and trucks cause back-ups in the street. One owner on Sycamore Avenue asked about carving out a space in front of his house where parking was allowed.

With respect to Independence Avenue, residents stated that cars parked on the western side of Independence Avenue (traveling southbound) were parked in the middle of the roadway so that cars traveling on the road were forced over the double yellow line.

With respect to West 254th Street between Independence and Sycamore, it was stated that the section of roadway is a steep, winding curve without street markings which is very slippery in wet weather.

Each of these streets abuts the SAR Academy and West 254th Street is a major artery to and from the Riverdale Metro North Station. During the morning and afternoon rush is the highest density of traffic and the times when residents state that safety issues are alarming. Residents stated that they have called the police and 311 often as their driveways are blocked and vehicles are parked at fire hydrants and in violation of other traffic laws. They have stated that the police have failed to enforce vehicles in violation of the law. Residents stated that a master plan for the school was promised to the community 18 months ago but was never delivered by the school. It is noted that no representative from the school or Metro North was present at the meeting.

After lengthy discussion, the committee set forth a resolution to support the following parking restrictions to the NYC Department of transportation:

1. No Stopping, No Standing and No Parking on West 254th Street between Independence Avenue and Sycamore Avenue.
2. No Parking on the east side of Sycamore Avenue between West 252nd Street and West 254th Street.
3. No Parking on the west side of independence Avenue between West 252nd street and West 254th Street.
4. No Standing on the East Side of Sycamore Avenue at the southwest corner of the intersection of West 254th Street and Sycamore Avenue.
5. No Standing on the South Side of West 254th Street at the southwest corner of the intersection of West 254th Street and Independence Avenue.

The committee vote was 6 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

The Committee reviewed a SAPO Application (ID# 85754) for Lag B'omer Picnic which is to occur on April 28, 2013. The applicant said that the event has been going on for 20 years now, and it is a celebration of a Jewish Holiday. Everyone is invited, and there will be food and pony rides. Chairman Padernacht advised the applicant of the new community board rules. The chair also stated that this application was a few days short of the 90 day requirement, and after checking with the SAPO office, the community board shall forward its recommendation to SAPO.

The committee vote was 6 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

The last item on the agenda was West 238th Street and Putnam Avenue. A parent from Visitation Church School appeared at the meeting. In addition to trucks on the street, he was concerned that livery cabs would speed past the school to the new Riverdale Crossings Shopping Center. It was requested that a traffic light be placed at the intersection of Putnam Avenue and West 238th Street. In addition, it was asked that Putnam Avenue be closed during dismissal of the school. The chair said that there would be a joint meeting of the T&T and Economic Development committees in two months to address the issue of the new Riverdale Crossings shopping center and its impact to the surrounding area. The representative from Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz' office said that the Assemblyman would seek to make Putnam Avenue one way from West 238th Street to Van Cortlandt Park Avenue.

Old Business: The street repaving list for 2013 needs to be made up, and the Chair said that a letter will be sent to all board members seeking streets that need repaving this year.

The minutes from the February meeting were approved as written, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Minutes submitted by,
Robert Press, Vice Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee