

## BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

### MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 23, 2013 AT FORT INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY CENTER 3350 BAILY AVENUE, BRONX, NY 10463

#### **ATTENDEES**

Lamont Parker, Youth Chair  
Maria Khury, Vice Chair, Community Board No. 8  
Alina Williams, Fort Independence Community Center  
Sadie Mahoney, Kingsbridge Heights Community Center  
Nancy Nunez, Riverdale Neighborhood House  
Wendy Garcia, DYCD  
Erik Maldonado, Advocate of Wordz  
Police Officer Marisol Guerrero, 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
Police Officer Mindy Ramos, 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
Maribel Felipe, Community Member

The meeting was called to order at 1:25pm

The minutes of July 22, 2013 was unanimously approved.

Chair Lamont Parker reported that the Budget has been approved by the Community Board. Now we must wait to see what each Community Center will receive to fund their programs.

Chair Lamont Parker announced that this year the Comeback Kid and the Yankee Youth Leadership Award ceremonies will be held in November or December. Date, time and place to be announced.

Each community center representative in attendance gave a brief overview on how their centers are doing:

**Fort Independence CC- Alina Williams-** This center is facing the possibility of being closed. This location is part of NYCHA which is partially funded by the City Council. Due to some discussions on the future of NYCHA at this particular Community Center, programs offered by this location might not continue to exist. Currently funds are still available but are very limited. They may only be able to sustain themselves until June 2014, but with limited resources. This center also services the elderly. They provide after school and summer programs. Other programs available but not limited to are zumba, piano & martial arts. The center is in need of volunteers to assist with Homework Help, a program to help children with their homework needs.

This Community Center is in need of support to keep their doors open for the children in this community. Maria Khury is going to bring this to the Board to make them aware of this situation. Mr. Forbes, Director and Ms. Dabo, Deputy Director of this location can be reached at 718- 409-8631

**Kingsbridge Heights CC - Sadie Mahoney-** Due to their tight budget, trips for the kids are limited. There are not enough vans for the trips since they are being shared between the Riverdale Neighborhood House. The Teen/Youth program is full to capacity. In preparation for Halloween, the kids worked on creating Haunted House Theme where kids and parents from the neighborhood can come and have a great time. The center is very excited about the internship with Fordham University which will help kids with different programs to help prepare for college. Also a College Fair is being held on October 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30pm at KBHCC, where 25 SUNY/CUNY schools will be available to answer questions.

**Riverdale Neighborhood House- Nancy Nunez-** Things are going well. The new building is finally going up with an estimated completion date of February 2014. Everyone is excited and hoping that everything goes well so that the building is ready for the Pool membership program. They collaborated with the Kingsbridge Heights CC in the Fordham University Internship program geared towards 9-12 graders. This helps the students prepare for college.

Maria Khury mentioned that there will be a forum on "Under Age Drinking" geared towards parents of Middle School to High School students. It will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at MS/HS 368 In-Tech Academy located at 2975 Tibbett Ave, Bronx NY. Contact the school for time at 718 432-4300.

There will also be a Latino College Fair at Fordham University on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 from 11:30am to 3:35pm. For further information you can call (516) 436-4781 ext.23

We had two guests that are part of the Lehman College Nursing Program. They currently work with Bronx Lebanon Hospital on creating Health & Wellness programs for the community. They came to find out what the Youth meetings are about and how maybe a joint venture can be made between Health/Wellness and kids. They also work with the elderly as well. Maria Khury will stay in contact with them to also see how they might contribute useful programs that can be brought to the Board's Aging Committee. Bronx Lebanon has programs available for people to attend and participate, like their Health/Wellness Drive.

Eric Maldonado gave us a follow-up on how a video from the Poetry Slam has gone viral as they say. So many people are viewing the YouTube video which showcases some of the talented students that participated in this great event. This is great because it will push other kids to join next year and also help with getting more sponsors to be a part of such a great event. Maria Khury requested to have this video clip sent to her so that it can be shared with the other Community Board members. As a side note, KBHCC requested that a couple of dates be provided for this event because not all of the kids from that center were able to join because an awards dinner was held the same night for some of the students and their parents. They want to give all the students the opportunity to showcase their talent at such a great event next year.

Eric Maldonado also mentioned having a Math Olympics that would be great for the kids. This is still in the development stage but he is looking to have it spring 2014. There will be team and individual competitions, geared towards different age ranges and grade levels.

October is Domestic Violence month. We had two police officers from the 50<sup>th</sup> precinct come and speak on how important it is to spread awareness to the young couples on the different types of abuse. They also stated that Toys for Tots is low on toys this year. They are asking the community centers to inform them of any families they feel are in need of toys. The centers must have this information to them by November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Wendy Garcia from DYCD provided booklets and information on last year's DYCD Job Fair. The Youth Chair and Community Board 8's Vice Chair are working on having a Bronx Job Fair sometime in April 2014. Wendy provided some suggestions on the best way to tackle the Job Fair. Starting on a small scale where you have a certain amount of job openings to the number of kids applying is best. Avoid having long lines which can frustrate them. You want to make sure they have some work readiness experience so that they are able to get hired right away. Some openings may include summer jobs, cashier, movie ushers and other entry level positions from local businesses. The Community Board will have to decide on which local business to speak to and choose the best plan of action.

The Youth Chair reported on the Van Cortlandt Golf Day event. It had a great turnout. 141 kids from different Community Centers participated and had a great time!

Youth Chair Lamont Parker is looking into having a Skating Day at the Van Cortlandt Ice Rink. Dates are still undecided but possible month will be January or February 2014.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm. Next Youth Committee meeting will be held at the Board office on Monday, November 18, 2013 at 1 pm.

Minutes recorded by,

Maribel Felipe

Reviewed by,  
Lamont Parker, Chair  
Youth Committee