

DRAFT MINUTES

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
Traffic and Transportation Committee
Minutes of November 30, 2017 - 7:30pm
Riverdale Y 5625 Arlington Ave, Bronx, NY 10471

Committee Attendance:

S. Alexander
E. Bell - Vice Chair
E. Dinowitz
M. Donato
D. Escaño
D. Fuchs
D. Gellman
M. Joyce
D. Padernact - Chair
L. Spalter
H. Young

Absent:

G. Santiago

Guests:

Barbara Velez, Toni Butler, Mark Bauer, Tom Santos, Bobby Forloine (Con Ed), Matthew Maynard (Con Ed), Keiko Iwama, H. Zahit Axvnlr, Nicholas Hamilton, David Kornbluth (State Senator Klein), Susan Brumlen, Katherine Broihier, Jen Sproull, Robert Press, Eric Soto (Con Ed), Rob Spalter, D. Burke, Daniel Ranells, Kerry, Barbara Connolly, Don B., Gloria Cohen, Lisa Daub (CB8), Farrah Rubin (State Senator Klein), Nancy Quigley, Joshua Stephenson (Councilman Cohen), Jimmy OConner, Assemblyman Dinowitz

DOT was invited but no representatives showed.

The meeting came to order at 7:41pm

1. Review of Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously 11-0-0

In favor: S. Alexander, E. Bell, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, D. Escaño, D. Fuchs, D. Gellman, M. Joyce, D. Padernact, L. Spalter, H. Young

2. Con Edison Update on Gas/Electric Projects is CB8

The Chair gave an update on the CB8 meeting with Con Ed and elected officials. Discussed key issues with Con Ed including; No notice of street closures, removal of parking at night, permit violations not being enforced, wetting down dust, signage at sites. Discussed ongoing 2017 projects and tentative plans for 2018. Con Ed will keep the board informed.

3. Menorah Lighting SAPO

Rabbi Shemtov from Chabad of Riverdale described the event. December 17, 2017, 4:00-5:30pm. Full Street closure on West 239 Street between Riverdale Avenue and Henry Hudson Parkway. This event has been held previously.

Committee approved unanimously: 11-0-0

In favor: S. Alexander, E. Bell, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, D. Escaño, D. Fuchs, D. Gellman, M. Joyce, D. Padernact, L. Spalter, H. Young

4. Discussion of NRMA “Streetscape Report”

The North Riverdale Merchants Association proposal named the “Streetscape Report,” which was presented to this Committee at the October 17, 2017 meeting, was discussed. Assemblyman Dinowitz and State Senator Klein’s office sent a letter to DOT asking them to reject the plan. Community residents were concerned about “road diet.”

The NRMA Streetscape Report can be located at:

<http://www.riverdalebronx.nyc/docs/streetscapereport.pdf>

Resolution:

WHEREAS, on October 17, 2017 the North Riverdale Merchants Association (NRMA) presented its Streetscape Report at a public meeting of the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board No. 8; and

WHEREAS, the NRMA stated that its proposal, which contains numerous beautification projects and traffic design alterations, was submitted to the NYC Department of Transportation for study and implementation; and

WHEREAS, the report proposes to remove a traffic lane in each direction on Riverdale Avenue between West 254 th Street and the City line, thereby reducing the travel lanes from four to two; and

WHEREAS, a large amount of residents testified in front of the Traffic and Transportation Committee expressing serious concern about reducing the number of traffic lanes on Riverdale Avenue between West 254 th Street and the City Line;

WHEREAS, residents testified in front of the Traffic and Transportation Committee expressing the stated fears of increased congestion and gridlock on Riverdale Avenue, a major thoroughfare of the community, possibly causing safety issues on the corridor; and

WHEREAS, there are six city bus routes, two schools, a college, two faith based institutions, numerous residential buildings, and businesses located on Riverdale Avenue between West 254 th Street and the City Line that require deliveries; and

WHEREAS, Riverdale Avenue between West 254 th Street and the City Line serves as a critical route to another school, a major senior citizen home and the YM-YWHA; and

WHEREAS, five new crosswalks are proposed for Mosholu Avenue between Broadway and West 256 th Street and Riverdale Avenue between West 254 th Street and West 256 th Street without traffic controls which appears to require the removal of approximately twenty (20) parking spaces; and

WHEREAS, testimony described the need for implementation of a left hand turn signal at 256 th Street and Riverdale Avenue to alleviate northbound traffic congestion and increase safety;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee appreciates the efforts of NRMA to beautify our community district and offer suggestions for traffic safety to the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Community Board No. 8;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee supports the beautification projects identified in the Streetscape Report to replace dead street trees, enhance tree pits, create a maintenance plan for public spaces, create a uniform series of street lights, create public art programs, create new farmers markets, install green infrastructure where available; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee supports the safety improvements identified in the Streetscape Report to Re-pave, re-mark and re-stripe Riverdale Avenue and Mosholu Avenue, repair deteriorated sidewalks, re-pave bus pads and install state-of- the-art traffic signal controllers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee supports the implementation of a left hand turn signal at West 256 th Street and Riverdale Avenue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee strenuously opposes NRMA's request for the NYC Department of Transportation to study or implement the reduction of the number of traffic lanes on Riverdale Avenue between West 254 th Street and the City Line; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee strenuously opposes NRMA's request for the NYC Department of Transportation to study or implement the removal of parking spaces on Mosholu Avenue between Broadway and West 256 th Street and Riverdale Avenue between West 254 th Street and West 256 th Street in order to create new, uncontrolled crosswalks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee strenuously opposes NRMA's request for the NYC Department of Transportation to study or install signage that prohibits trucks from traveling west from Riverdale Avenue on West 259 th Street; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee strenuously opposes the approval or implementation of any proposal set forth in the NRMA plan prior to the presentation of any such change to the Traffic and Transportation Committee, opportunity for community review and comment of any such proposal and Community Board 8 approval of such proposal.

In Favor: S. Alexander, E. Bell, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, D. Escano, D. Fuchs, M. Joyce, D. Padernacht, L. Spalter, H. Young

Opposed: D. Gellman

The resolution passed 10-1-0

5. Old Business

- Resident following up on a complaint she made Land & Sea
- Chair Padernacht offered a resolution for DOT to do a traffic study on new traffic lights added on Broadway 242nd St - 251st St

The resolution was approved unanimously 11-0-0

In favor: S. Alexander, E. Bell, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, D. Escaño, D. Fuchs, D. Gellman, M. Joyce, D. Padernact, L. Spalter, H. Young

6. New Business

- Complaints were made about cars parking in North Riverdale long term
- Complaints were made about a woman with Alaska plates sleeping in her car in N. Riverdale
- Resident wanted to see if traffic study was being done around the Riverdale Crossing Shopping Center area

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.
Minutes submitted by E. Bell