

DRAFT MINUTES PENDING APPROVAL

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
Traffic and Transportation Committee
Minutes of February 15, 2018 - 7:30pm
Riverdale Y 5625 Arlington Ave, Bronx, NY 10471

Committee Attendance:

Dan Padernacht (Chair)
Eric Bell (Vice Chair)
Myra Joyce (Vice Chair)
S. Alexander
E. Dinowitz
M. Donato
D. Escaño
D. Gellman
G. Santiago
L. Spalter
H. Young

Absent:

D. Fuchs

Guests:

Please see attached attendance sheets.

The meeting came to order at 7:30pm

1. SAPO applications.

The committee discussed and voted on the following SAPO resolutions:

Kingsbridge Heights Community Festival – Block Party on May 5, 2018, to be held on Kingsbridge Terrace between Perot Street and Summit Place. Sponsor is Kingsbridge Heights Community Center. Event previously held.

In Favor: S. Alexander, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, D. Escano, D. Gellman, M. Joyce, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, H. Young

Riverdale Run – Street Event on May 6, 2018, to be held on Arlington Avenue between Netherland Avenue and West 256th Street. Sponsor is Riverdale Ym-YWHA. Event previously held.

In Favor: S. Alexander, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, D. Escano, D. Gellman, M. Joyce, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, H. Young

Unity in the Community – Block Festival on June 16, 2018, to be held on Reservoir Avenue between West 195 Street and West Kingsbridge Road. Sponsor is Mosholu Preservation Corporation. Event previously held.

In Favor: S. Alexander, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, D. Escano, D. Gellman, M. Joyce, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, H. Young

Johnson Avenue Block Festival - Block Festival on September 16, 2018, to be held on Johnson Avenue between West 235 Street and West 236 Street. Sponsor is Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corporation. Event previously held.

In Favor: S. Alexander, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, D. Escano, D. Gellman, M. Joyce, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, H. Young

Safety Awareness Day - Block Party with full street closure on October 7, 2018, to be held on West 237 Street between Blackstone and Independence. Sponsor is Riverdale Jewish Center. Event previously held.

In Favor: S. Alexander, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, D. Escano, D. Gellman, M. Joyce, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, H. Young

2. Request from St. Gabriel's Church to restrict parking of two spots from 9am-1pm on Sundays on the southwest corner of Netherland Avenue at West 235th Street.

Father Murphy from St. Gabriel's Church appeared at the meeting. He stated that the church only has one handicap accessible entrance to the chapel located on the southwest corner of West 235th

3. Discussion of public access to Netherland Avenue connecting West 256th and West 254th Streets. For details on the issue, see Business Association "2017 Streetscape Report" at <http://www.riverdalebronx.nyc/docs/streetscapereport.pdf> [See Page 16]."

- A discussion was held regarding the Streetscape Report's inclusion of public access to Netherland Avenue connecting West 256th and West 254th Streets. In which a majority of residents from the surrounding buildings spoke in opposition to the NRMA streetscape report and the specific plan to connect W. 256th and W. 254th St.

-The President of Skyview spoke in favor of the plan.

-A petition was presented from Pride Management/Riverdale Park opposing the plan.

-Myra Joyce and Eric Dinowitz noted that they live in Skyview and did not receive notice of the plan prior to the submission to DOT

-A letter from Daniella Fuchs was submitted for the record in her support for the street connection.

-D. Gellman stated that he heard that there was some prior conversation between the Chair and counsel for NRMA regarding the word "proposal" to characterize the item. Chair Padernacht

stated that, at the request of NRMA, he changed the wording on the agenda. With regard to the classification of the item, Chair Padernacht stated that a letter was sent to DOT in July 2017 regarding the Streetscape Report which asked for the implementation of items in the Streetscape Report. The Chair stated that he would read the relevant Streetscape Report and letter to DOT dated July 27, 2017 and the audience can interpret the item on their own.

The Chair read the following excerpts from the Streetscape Report:

In the Streetscape Report, Section 1 begins with the statement:

1. The purpose of this section of the report is to identify thirteen safety improvements to be studied and implemented by the City in 2017. The thirteen requests in this section of the report are based on very specific studies by VHB Engineering and requests from community residents and institutions.

Section 1.4 identifies one of the safety improvements referred:

1.4. Create Safe Pedestrian Connections

Safe pedestrian connections will encourage residents to walk, increasing business and improving community vitality. Moreover, with thousands of schoolchildren using Riverdale Avenue, Mosholu and Broadway to reach their schools, attractive and safe connections are vital. Many such connections are outlined in this plan. Eight improvements deserve special focus.

Section 1.4(c) contains the Netherland Avenue connection:

Sidewalk on Netherland Avenue Connecting W. 256th and W. 254th Streets

Netherland Avenue passes through the two cooperative apartment complexes just to the west of Riverdale Avenue. At W. 255th Street, a row of dumpsters and fencing prevents north south access. Several residents have asked the Association to ask the City to explore the creation of a safe sidewalk path in cooperation with neighboring cooperatives.

The Chair read the following letter dated July 27, 2017 from counsel for NRMA to DOT Bronx Commissioner Lopez.

“Dear Commissioner Lopez:

On behalf of the North Riverdale Business Association, I am pleased to submit this streetscape report to the New York City Department of Transportation. The Association has been working on this report for two years, seeking expert advice from traffic engineers, consulting with community members and studying the successes of other communities. The Association now asks DOT to consider and act on the recommendations in this report as soon as possible. The report can also be accessed at www.riverdalebronx.nyc.

The City announced on July 7, 2017 that the Vision Zero Action Plan has resulted in the lowest number of pedestrian fatalities since records have been kept-a tremendous credit to the DOT’s hard work over the past few years. It is time to bring that level of creative streetscape

planning to Riverdale and Mosholu Avenues. The report addresses 19 traffic safety improvements-14 for your study and implementation as soon as possible and 5 for your study and implementation over the next couple of years. I will be reaching out to your office in the next few days to set up an in-person meeting to discuss these ideas more.”

Chair Padernacht stated that the documents are public information and members of the audience can view these documents if they wished.

D. Gellman state that he was satisfied with the reading of the documents.

-After receiving testimony from the public members present, the Chair made a motion to amend the resolution from November to reject this portion of the proposal.

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

Opposed: D. Gellman

4. Discussion of Dept. of Transportation’s rejection of request for left turn signals at intersection of West 256th Street and Riverdale Avenue.

-No representatives from DOT were present.

-D. Padernacht noted that DOT would be re-considering a left hand signal on W. 254th St.

5. Presentation by neighborhood resident for crosswalk at Hudson Manor Terrace at the corner of West 239th Street.

-Nina Huberman of Hudson Terrace proposed two cross-walks on either side of Hudson Manor Terrace at W. 237th St. with Stop signs. N. Huberman noted that it is hard for people to cross the street and there are already curb cuts at the intersection. She also noted that cars often park in front of the curb cut, making it hard for the disabled or elderly to cross.

-D. Padernacht noted an error on the agenda stating W. 239th St., so he suggested laying this discussion over until the next meeting, to allow residents of the area to be present.

6. Update from DOT on the modification/removal of traffic island on Sedgwick Avenue at Van Cortlandt Park West.

- No representatives from DOT were present. D. Padernacht will follow up with DOT on the topic.

7. Old Business / New business

-Lisa Daub suggested a delayed green on W. 256th St. and Riverdale Ave.

-Herb Young submitted drawings where School crossing signs need to be repainted around Kingsbridge Ave. and W. 232nd St.

-D. Padernacht sent an email to DOT requesting a traffic study on the entrances to Broadway Crossing on West 237th St. and Broadway and West 238th Street and Putnam Ave. West.

- D. Padernacht sent an email to DOT requesting a traffic study on the Broadway Corridor between West 242nd Street and West 246th Street where the new traffic lights were installed in December 2016.

8. Review of Minutes

-Motion to approve January 2018 minutes.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.
Minutes submitted by E. Bell