

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 27, 2010 AT THE BOARD OFFICE

CB8 Members Present: Andy Cohen, Sylvia Alexander, Tom Durham, Colleen Hanley, Robert Press

Community Organizations: Kathleen Gilson, Riverdale Community Center; Derwin Greene, Kingsbridge Heights Community Center

Staff: Nicole Stent, District Manager

Guests: Jeremy Leeds, PhD, Center for Community Values & Action, Horace Mann School; Lisa Lindvall, Parent, Horace Mann School

Andrew Cohen introduced himself as new Committee Chair.

Teens on Johnson Avenue have a history of being disruptive on Friday nights. Drug use was an issue as well. Teens in the Van Cortlandt Village area have been assaulted and mugged for their cell phones and MP3 players within the past two months.

Bob Press is a member of the Department of Youth and Community Development. DYCD needs members. They meet bi-monthly.

(<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dycd/html/home/home.shtml>).

The Riverdale Community Center no longer has a Teen Center on Friday nights due to budget cuts. There is a need for a Street Outreach program for vulnerable youth/teens. Unfortunately there is no Outreach funding left.

Any funding needed for a Friday Night Teen Program should be outlined and submitted by May 2011 for FY2013. We must now begin to seek support from our local elected officials to push for teen youth programs. We need strong advocates for the forgotten group of 13 – 19 year olds.

One suggestion was to form a teen/youth based running club for health benefits. The RCC has worked with Mighty Miles and the NY Road Runners club in the past.

Nicole Stent announced a Youth Market @ Kingsbridge Heights Community Center. This will be a duplicate of the Marble Hill Youth Market serving Kingsbridge Heights and Van Cortlandt Village. The program is in the very early stages of development and will begin early next summer. The KHYM will satisfy the needs of the community with fresh fruit and vegetables. The Kingsbridge Heights Community Center will host the Youth Market. All of the Community Centers will be using local students from volunteer opportunities. It's a great way to get young people involved in their communities.

Sylvia Alexander mentioned the Education Committee will be focusing on bullying as a social epidemic in young people. They will be working with "Joyce" at the Riverdale Mental Health Center to find solutions. Andrew would like to work in conjunction with the Education Committee to find solutions to any issues we have with teens/youth. Support between Committees is essential to progress and getting things done.

Ms. Lindvall announced the formation of the Vegetable Garden at Horace Mann. The goal is to get kids more involved in the process leading to good nutrition and healthy eating habits. Horace Mann children and parents are also interested in starting a new sports program and would love to work with the community to make this a success.

Dr. Leeds announced the Private School Day of Service. Students reach out into the surrounding communities to donate their time and effort in human service. The schools will work as a cohesive group with the same focal point. It's a great way to get young people engaged in community outreach programs to support their peers and neighbors.

Tom Durham is looking into programs at the Riverdale Presbyterian Church (Henry Hudson Parkway) working in conjunction with Manhattan College for a College Pathway Program.

Andy Cohen discussed the New York Yankees Foundation Awards. This is an annual event. The grants have increased from \$500-\$750. Participation is voluntary. All student applicants are involved in a variety of activities. All community centers received information regarding candidate selection. The deadline for candidate submissions is November 14, 2010.

Andy also discussed moving the Youth Committee meeting to another time. All were in agreement that the current time and day work well until further notice.

For next meeting (November 24, 2010):

- 1) We'll work on a plan to "attack" funding issues for a Friday/Saturday night teen program.
- 2) Youth Market doesn't need anything but support. We need to spread the word in neighborhood about the Youth Market.
- 3) April 16 if the Youth Day of Service. Can we involve more schools?
- 4) Feedback on Running Club possibility after contact with Might Miles and NY Road Runners.

Submitted by,

Colleen Hanley