

## BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON September 10, 2019 AT WILLIAM E. IRWIN AMERICAN LEGION POST 774 3035-37 CORLEAR AVENUE

- PRESENT:** S. Alexander, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, E. Garcia, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, L. Lopez, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, C. Tepelus, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras
- ABSENT:** E. Bell, B. Bender, M. Donato, D. Fuchs, M. Gluck, D. B. Jackson, D. Leverett, S. Paige, T. Pardo, G. Santiago, D. Travis, C. Wilcox,
- STAFF:** C. Gannon – District Manager  
D. Bay – Community Associate
- GUESTS:** Assemblyman Dinowitz, Senator Biaggi, M. Gelman – office of Senator Biaggi, P. Lewicki – office of Assemblyman Dinowitz, J. Stephenson – rep. Councilman Cohen, Captain Melendez - NYPD, 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct, P.O. Cesar Sala - NYPD, 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct, P.O. Cintron - NYPD, 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct, A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, T. Tureski – Spuyten Duyvil Library, S. Bird, M. Esema, M. Santana – Bronx DA Office, J. Dela Cruz – office of Councilman Cabrera, R. Pena – office of Senator G. Rivera V. Cruz - Grace Tabernacle Church, C. Rodriguez-NAICA Inc., J. Anderson, A. Rathus, C. Roberts, G. Diaz, K. Ferrera,

Chair Ginty convened the meeting at 7:30 P.M and welcomed all.

#### 1. Gallery Session

- Sibylla Byrd spoke about a Girl Scout project on sexual abuse and assault recovery and acceptance. A discussion for children and parents will be at the Kingsbridge Library basement on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 6PM to 7PM.
- Victor Cruz announced that the Grace Tabernacle Church at 3404 Bailey Avenue would like to be more present and involved with the community. He's been attending community board meetings. CB 8's monthly newsletter will be forwarded to Mr. Cruz.
- G. Diaz spoke about housing issues, abusive landlords and the need to change laws.

#### 2. Report from the 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct – Captain Melendez

- Chair Ginty held a moment of silence for the two officers who were tragically lost at their own hand, Kevin Preiss and Johnny Rios. Their family, friends and colleagues at the 50<sup>th</sup> precinct were also acknowledged. Captain Melendez said it's been a tragic year for the police department. Today is suicide prevention today. There is no shame in seeking help.
- Crime is up, especially car break-ins. Stop leaving valuables in your car. Videos of crimes being committed will not be posted on social media.
- Crime stats - 2019 vs. 2018 - homicide 6 vs. 1, robberies 71 vs. 71, felony assaults 105-95, arrests 604 vs. 556. Overall crime is up 4.3%. Police Officers and Detectives are doing an excellent job. Citywide, rape is up but this is due to rapes that were committed months and years past and are coming to trial now because of better SVU work and evidence.
- The City of Yonkers and the 50<sup>th</sup> police precinct work closely together on crime.
- There was gang-related crimes committed at 3121 Kingsbridge Avenue.
- Captain Melendez introduced the new Community Affairs P.O. Cesar Sala. He's looking forward to getting to know the community.

- Detective Ramos will retire the end of September.

#### **Chair Ginty welcomed Senator Biaggi to address the board**

- Senator Biaggi announced her new office location to be 3190 Riverdale Avenue, Suite 2.

#### **Chair Ginty welcomed Assemblyman Dinowitz to address the board**

- Thanked Captain Melendez for NYPD's assistance at a Town Hall meeting he held with Senator Biaggi that was disrupted by demonstrators.
- NYS primary's is April 28, 2020 and the State and Federal primaries are on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.
- A left turn signal will be installed at 231<sup>st</sup> Street and Riverdale Avenue after many years.
- Requesting that DOT restore some parking that was removed when crosswalks were installed at 236 & 237 Street and Hudson Manor Terrace after community complaints.
- There was a sponsored shredding event held on September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Rent protection laws were recently passed. See Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019.
- Religious exemptions for vaccinations are no longer available.
- Erin's Law requires public schools to teach K-8 students to recognize how to prevent sexual abuse and instruct teachers and parents on how to recognize if a child is being abused.
- Beginning Spring 2020, vehicles registered in the Bronx will be allowed to enroll in an EZ Pass program to rebate the cost of the Henry Hudson Bridge Toll.

#### **3. Report from the Office of the Bronx Borough President – A. Toledo**

- A. Toledo welcomed all board members back from summer recess.
- All are invited to September 11<sup>th</sup> Day of Remembrance, Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 12PM-2PM at Lou Gehrig Plaza.
- NYC Charter will have 5 questions on the ballot in November: including elections, how police officers are held accountable, how the city budget is set, government ethics rules and how land in the city is developed. An informational session will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Andrew Freedman Home from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.
- Opioid overdose crisis public education and responder training Thursday, September 26 4-6PM at NYC Health & Hospitals/Lincoln 234 East 149 Street, 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Receive a free rescue kit with Naloxone if you choose to certify.
- Sexual Harassment training is now available at the board office. It must be taken by December 13, 2019.
- R Ginty thanked the Borough President who after his ULURP hearing on the SNAD proposal, sent a n a negative recommendation to the City Planning Commission based on an inappropriate process where we were not given appropriate time to review the plan.

#### **4. Chair Report – Rosemary Ginty**

- There are 5 new board members. Introduced themselves at the June board meeting. Chair Ginty called on Camelia Tepelus to introduce herself. Lives in Spuyten Duyvil, has been attending board meetings and heads the Morris Park Bid.
- Board member Patricia Mullen moved to New Jersey and resigned from the board. We wish her the best.
- An email was sent to board members to consider chairing the Youth Committee. In accordance with the bylaws there will be an election next month.
- Due to the Jewish Holidays the next board meeting will be on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at Amalgamated Houses.

## 5. Treasurer's Report – R. Zavras

- A detailed Treasurer's report was discussed and reviewed.
- Discussed budget mod from OTPS to PS for an increase in possible salary, for advertising an upgraded position to the next Civil Service Title, Community Coordinator.
- Reviewed 2019 summary, broken down by line item – budget vs spending.

## 6. District Manager's Report – C. Gannon

- Successful events over the summer were Riverfest, National Night Out and Marble Hill Family Day.
- A new email system was installed over the summer. Some people in our distribution lists are not receiving emails. Please check your spam and inform the office if you're not receiving emails you normally do.
- Make a Wish Foundation presented at a summer Borough Board Meeting. They create life changing wishes for children with a critical illness. If interested, please call the board office for information.
- Sexual harassment training is available now in the board office. Every board member is required to do this training by December 13<sup>th</sup>. Live training sessions at the Borough President's office are on September 24 at 11am or October 1 at 5:30pm. Training can also be taken at DCAS downtown or if you're a city employee send your certificate to the board office and we'll forward to the BP office.
- Borough Consultations start September 11<sup>th</sup> and the District Manager is the Bronx Borough Coordinator this year. Chairs are welcome to come.
- The Borough President issued a report on Community Board demographics. This report will be forwarded to all board members.
- M. Ortiz accepted a new position in her area of interest-working with seniors and will be missed. Work in the community board office has evolved to include; Financial Management System (FMS), inputting FMS is very difficult, Microsoft office is used a great deal more than in the past, resident complaints can be challenging and a new function - social media. For these reasons the District Manager is recommending that this Community Associate position be upgraded to a Community Coordinator. The office has the full support of the Borough President's office, the Board Officers and was discussed with the Executive Committee. The hiring process will remain the same. This job will be listed in the Riverdale Press, Norwood News, City and State, social media, our website and our newsletter. R. Zavras now recommends moving monies into personal services to accommodate the Community Coordinator position.

**Chair Ginty made a motion to present the following resolution:**

WHEREAS, the Treasurer and the District Manager of Bronx Community Board 8 prepared an operating budget and modification for the Board's expenses for Fiscal Year 2020.

WHEREAS, in support of the office to manage these budgets, a budget modification has been prepared to authorize funding for a position being upgraded from a Community Associate to a Community Coordinator and is attached to the September Treasurer's Report

BE IT RESOLVED, Community Board 8 approves the operating budgets and the modification to support them.

Vote: In favor 28      Opposed: 0      Abstentions: 4

S. Alexander, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, E. Garcia, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, L. Lopez, R. Pochter Lowe, T. Moran, O. Murray, , K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras

Abstentions: C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, C. Tepelus, S. Villaverde

7. Department of City Planning – No City Planning representative was present

8. Committee Reports

A. Land Use – C.G. Moerdler

- Under the Special Natural Area District changes the Department of Buildings will replace the Department of City Planning (DCP) on properties under 10,000 square feet. They will inform the community board but whether the board has input is not clear. Chair Moerdler said the community has the right to be heard and doesn't feel the Department of Buildings has the staff or expertise to handle these properties. In October the City Council will receive this new proposal from DCP and hopes our Councilman will do right by this community.
- S. Froot emphasized that the agency with the expertise in dealing with SNAD issues is the Department of City Planning and putting the Department of Buildings as the agency to deal with this is a disaster. We rely on Councilman Cohen to help stop this from happening. He noted that the community opposed the proposed SNAD changes at the public hearings.
- R. Fanuzzi recommends watching the City Planning hearings on this.

**Chair Moerdler moved the following 2 resolutions:**

**Whereas**, the Landmark Preservation Commission Application for 319 College Road (LPC-19-40874) including a renovation at an existing second floor study to transform into a master bathroom. Work will include the addition of a dormer and new window to match the existing. There is no change in agree or occupancy.

**Therefore, Be it resolved**, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves this application.

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the application is approved provided that at the time of the September 12 board meeting the applicant secures and forwards to the Board office the written consent/approval of the neighbor, failing which the approval is limited construction solely on the applicant's property and excluding any easements.

Vote: In favor 31      Opposed: 0      Abstention: 1

S. Alexander, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, E. Garcia, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, L. Lopez, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, C. Tepelus, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras

Abstention: Eider Garcia

**Whereas**, the Landmark Preservation Commission Application for 4601 Fieldston Road (LPC-20-00947) requested a Certificate of Appropriateness for the repair and modification of an existing fence using Aztek material instead of natural wood.

**Therefore, Be it resolved**, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves this application.

Vote: In favor 32      Opposed: 0      Abstentions: 0

S. Alexander, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, E. Garcia, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, L. Lopez, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, C. Tepelus, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras

B. Law, Rules and Ethics – M. Wolpoff

- Reminded board members of the 5 questions that will be voted on the ballot in November that relates to City Charter Revision. The questions will be posted on the board's website and on Facebook.
- There are ethical conduct guidelines for board members and city workers. COIB has promulgated a new rule to combine individual COIB decisions into one opinion.
- There have been community board disciplinary actions. The Law Department wants Board Presidents to regulate. In turn, the Borough President's office would like each board to deal with their own disciplinary actions. A resolution was presented and a discussion on the resolution pursued. Because there was a discussion to make amendments to this resolution it was tabled until the next board meeting. There was a suggestion to attend the Law, Rules & Ethics Committee meeting in October to discuss this further.

C. Parks & Recreation – D. Gellman reported for B. Bender

- Had a budget consultation meeting with the Parks Department where they provided an update on upcoming capital projects.

D. Public Safety – M. Joyce reported for M. Donato

- M. Joyce thanked M. Donato for doing a great job with the committee.
- The next meeting is September 17<sup>th</sup>, 7PM at the 50<sup>th</sup> precinct.

E. Traffic & Transportation – D. Padernacht

- The next meeting is Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at Marble Hill Community Center. DOT is proposing to make bus lane changes to Broadway between West 230<sup>th</sup> Street and West 225<sup>th</sup> Street.

F. Aging – E. Dinowitz

The Aging Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 in the board office. Please note new day.

G. Budget – D. Gellman

- Budget consultations start tomorrow and will be followed by sessions on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. A public hearing on the budget will be held prior to the board meeting in October from 7PM to 7:30PM.

H. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

- The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Bronx Ale House.
- S. Villaverde reported that the merchants on the Broadway corridor are very upset with DOT's proposal to make changes between West 230<sup>th</sup> and West 225<sup>th</sup> Street.

I. Education – S. Alexander

- The next meeting is September 24<sup>th</sup>. The October meeting will be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> due to the Jewish Holidays.

J. Environment & Sanitation – R. Fanuzzi

K.

- The next meeting is September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Riverdale Neighborhood House.
- The agenda for the year will be discussed.
- DEP will hold a Long-Term Control Plan Meeting On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30PM at the Golf House in Van Cortlandt Park. Daylighting Tibbetts Brook is on the agenda.
- Waiting to hear from DEP on keeping the Jerome Park Reservoir empty.
- SNAD Environmental Issue – There is a 30% level of non-permeable surface in the SNAD area.
- If the SNRD should happen there may be an increase in non-permeable surface and this is something we should all think about.

L. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – O. Murray

- The Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:30PM at the Atria-Riverdale.

M. Housing – Chair not present

9. Approval of Board Minutes of June 27, 2019

Vote: In favor: 31 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

In favor: S. Alexander, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, E. Garcia, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, L. Lopez, R. Pochter Lowe, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, C. Tepelus, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras

10. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2019 – None

11. Miscellaneous – None

Before a motion was made to adjourn the meeting, the Chair hoped that members found a peaceful, meaningful, way to commemorate September 11<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Vote: In favor: 31 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

In favor: S. Alexander, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, E. Garcia, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, L. Lopez, R. Pochter Lowe, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, C. Tepelus, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras

Submitted by,

Diane Bay  
Community Associate

Reviewed by Lisa Daub, Secretary