

**Minutes of Aging Committee Meeting
Bronx Community Board 8
Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 4:00 pm
Board Office – 5676 Riverdale Ave, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471**

[Meeting Recording Link](#)

Committee Board Members in Attendance (2): Barbara Kail Chair, Jyll Townes (ADA zoom)

Committee Board Members Absent (3): Lee Chong, Rabbi Bob Kaplan, Georgia Santiago

Other Board Members (1): Constance Barnes-Watson

Community Committee Members (CCM) (4): Aubrey Balcolm, representing River Spring Living; Miryam Rabner, representing MJHS; Merritt Claude, E. Doyle McCarthy

Community Guest: Alexis Rummey, Lili Lopez, representing Center for Independent Disabled NY, Michelle Mullen, Riverdale Press, Alexis Gibbs

CB8 Staff: Jaylyn Adorno

Barbara Kail opened the meeting at 4:05 pm

Each participant introduced him/herself and where applicable described the services provided by the organizations they represent.

Roll call: quorum (2) quorum of at least 3 Board members not met.

Chair's Report

Chair Barbara Kail met with Constance Barnes-Watson, chair Economic Development Committee, to discuss collaboration on efforts to revitalize the Kappock-Knolls commercial strip and establish a Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) in the Knolls Crescent buildings.

Unfinished Business

Developing budget priorities is our most pressing business. Jaylyn has sent out letters to service providers focused on the older adult population of CB8 asking for expense requests. Major requests last year were transportation along with a lunch program and a mental health program. All were considered worthy, but funds were not available.

Jaylyn will send out a follow-up letter and gather requests to discuss at our next meeting. Transportation remains a major need. Repair/refurbishing elevators was identified as another need. Ready to prioritize in April in time to meet the new deadline for submissions.

Jyll Townes noted an issue with community refrigerators in the area. Recently, someone has been emptying them for their own purposes. We might reach out to Riverdale Neighborhood House and Friendly Fridge for expense requests that would increase security and accessibility.

Older Adults Resource Guide

- There was a brief discussion concerning issues around access-a-ride We decided this was a matter for the Transportation Committee since it is provided by the MTA.
- There was further discussion of the Older Adults Resource guide (OARG) categories and who is responsible. Doyle will cover food. Aubrey offered to help with housing. Discussion of how categories might look. Discussion of each service center on specific service provided under that category.
- Comments on additions and corrections should be completed by our next meeting April 16

New Business

- Constance Barnes Watson chair Economic Development Committee spoke about our Collaborate on issues concerning the Kappock/Knolls shopping area's vacant store fronts because so many older adults live in Knolls Crescent. Concerned residents have met with legislators and one of the landlords, ABC realty. The issue has appeared in the Riverdale Press twice. Barbara Kail has committed to speaking to staff at Regal Pharmacy about ways we might support its ability to manage and deliver prescriptions to Knolls Crescent.
- This collaboration is also connected to establishing a NORC within Knolls Crescent. There are two models: a traditional one situated in a single building with many older adults; a newer neighborhood model encompassing a wider geographic area. NYS offers both models. New York City Department for the Aging (NYCDFTA) is considering piloting the neighborhood model. We are waiting for Requests for Proposals to be released. Considering a letter resolution support the adoption neighborhood style or pilot neighborhood style. Aubrey drafted 1 page overview to share moving forward.

Next meeting: April 16, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Kail, Chair