

Pending Committee Approval

Bronx Community Board 8 Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes January 27, 2022

- Attendees:
 - Committee: Nick Fazio (Chair), Moses Esema (Vice Chair), Joy Campbell Privaterre (Vice Chair), Camelia Tepelus, Osvaly Jimenez,
 - Absent: Julia Gomez, Constance Barnes
 - CB08 Board Members: Tania Ochoteco, David Gellmen, Bob Bender, Lisa Daub, Rosemary Ginty, Deb Travis
 - Community Attendees: Larry Heier, Tyler Wong (Sen. Biaggi), Elly Steiker-Pearl, Kristie Miranda, Tracy McCabe Shelton, Damian McShane (Main Street Alliance), Lorenzo Manzano (CM Eric Dinowitz), Amanda (CM Sanches), Bernadette Nation, Chris Rizzo (Main Street Alliance), Shajada Brown, Giordana Avila (Main Street Alliance), *Joselito Serevino (Talila Bar & Grill)*, Tracy Pardo, Marie Claud

- Called to Order 7:04pm

Acknowledgement and congratulate Clarence Stanley (Executive Director) on his official retirement from Small Business Development Center

- **Presentation: Main Street Alliance – Chris Rizzo**
 - Exclusively focused on 10471
 - Work on Vision Zero, beatification, small business support
 - Advocating strongly for vision zero upgrade on Riverdale Avenue (especially given students, outdoor dining)
 - Most of money that is raised is used for beautification efforts
 - Very generous tree sponsors from many local organizations
 - Working with Eric Dinowitz to put some trees/planters in front of the Skyview Shopping Center
 - Art mural on Mosholu Avenue
 - Supporting upkeep of the plaza on 242nd Street and Manhattan College Parkway
 - Thinking of expanding landscaping work to Van Cortland Park near the city line
 - Working closely with South Yonkers BID

- After 2022, leadership likely transitioning from Chris Rizzo to Damian McShane
- Damian McShane and Bob Bender echoed the thanks and confidence that Alliance will continue good work and communication with Economic Development Committee
- **Questions:**
 - C. Tepelus: Thanks for coming and speaking to the Committee. What are preliminary observations on Mosholu Avenue bike lane? Also, what can the Community Board do more for the businesses?
 - Answer: City ignores small business district without a BID. Requiring private fundraising. City should create a BID development program to help fund beautification efforts for small resources BIDs and local business districts. This would be important to advocate for. We need more BIDs. Bike lanes have been a non-event, has not hurt the businesses but officially RMA will not take position on bike lanes.
 - Fazio: What is the democratic process for building consensus on a position RMA takes?
 - Has RMA taken a position on businesses closing due to Homeless Shelter proposal?
 - Answer: Board of Directors decision with member outreach (but don't usually hear much from members). Board of Directors was initially created in 2012 and then they added more along the way, similar to other Non-profit.
 - Answer: RMA strongly opposed the development and has coordinated with Yonkers BID. Letter sent to Riverdale Press.
 - David Gellman: Support for Tree Pits, Cohen had used funds for graffiti in the past. Could we use a similar process for tree pits efforts?
 - Answer: Yes, RMA has a tree pit sponsoring program. We'd like to contract with an organization to enhance our clean-up efforts, but additionally funding stream would definitely be appropriate.
 - Enzo Manzano (CM Dinowitz): CM Dinowitz did fund some cleaning efforts already but please reach out to provide more support as needed. Send an email with which cross streets need attention.
 - Fazio: CB8 did get some funding from former CM Rodriguez for graffiti removal and executed the cleaning. This is a constant effort.

- Deb Travis: What about Bus lanes? Are there other transportation related positions RMA has taken?
 - Answer: Vision Zero plan would improve Bus traffic tremendously. It is traffic calming. RMA has also been a supporter of 254th street sidewalk
- **Presentation – Small Business Services (Emergency Response Unit) – Bernadette Nation**
 - Report on the recent Bronx Fire (impacting 5 businesses) on Bailey Avenue and 238th Street
 - Worked with legal services and information on fire Departments Fire report for Insurance process
 - Department of Buildings have ordered property owners to restore integrity of the building
 - No permits have been pulled to date
 - There is roof damage
 - According to business owners: property owner is starting to work on the restoration work
 - We have provided Financial Assistance by providing information for the NY State Grant Application (COVID Grant)
 - **Questions:**
 - Fazio: Anything preventing the Owner from dragging feet?
 - Jose, have you applied to the Covid grant)?
 - Answer: Regulation requires them to start work in unsafe building otherwise they face fines
 - Jose Severino (Talilia Bar): Yes, they have begun the process
 - Frederick Klein (AM Dinowitz): Do we have a sense of when business would be able to return? Where are we in the process
 - Answer: Process/timeline is all on the property owner. Once the Department of Buildings has made the order. Fines will begin if the Owner does not comply
 - M. Esema: Do we know if all business plan to return?
 - Answer: Yes. All of them want to return. Only 1 business sustained interior damage so others are eager to return
 - Answer: Once property owner does structural work, then owners can do lighter work of interior repairs
 - C. Tepelus: Thanks to Bernadette for all of the amazing work you do for businesses including work with community board 8. Taskforce has been created with BP to look at structural issues in the Bronx that could lead to these fires. Money may be available.
 - Answer: SBS will make presentations to small businesses on how to prepare for disasters (e.g., a snowstorm)

- **Small Business Owners Report – Kristie Miranda (Miranda Write Bookstore)**
 - Started in the middle of the pandemic – Bridge the gap of literacy need and resource
 - Goal is to bring a Brick & Mortar Bookstore to the Kingsbridge community
 - Challenges: Finding a storefront location. Applying to different funding streams
 - Asks for the City:
 - Real estate database, central library of resources, city sponsored cohort programs. All of these would be good small business support
 - **Questions:**
 - Fazio: Can you elaborate on the different funding streams you have applied for?
 - Answer: NYPL Start-Up Fund is example of some I have applied for: <https://www.nypl.org/help/services/startup>
 - Bernadette Nation (SBS): Have you spoken to anyone at SBS? Please share our information.
 - Answer: Yes. Especially during the process for the MWBE certification process

- **Chair's Report**
 - Women of Color Grant Program
 - Form due February 9th
 - Up to \$20K
 - <https://www.fearless.fund/tory-burch-foundation>
 - Hospitality Alliance – American institute of Architects –
 - Developing workshop on Design of Permanent Outdoor Restaurant Program
 - <https://www.aiany.org/architecture/competitions-grants/open-restaurants-innovation/>
 - Empire State Development Corporation – State Small Business Credit
 - We would appreciate support in reaching out to contacts there
 - Entrepreneurial Assistant Program running this Spring in English and Spanish
 - rnorfleet@bcnet.org
 - Free business management, finance, and operations training program
 - Met with officials of the Office Comptroller of the Currency & NYS Department of Finance Services – on Banking needs of Knolls Crescent
 - Not much they can do at this point regarding Bank closure

- We will continue to meet about the needs of the community and what can be done
- **Outstanding Business:**
 - Office of Cannabis Management event. Camelia volunteers to attend the workshop and report back
 - February 2nd for information series event
 - <https://ocmeventsny.eventbrite.com/>
- **New Business**
 - D. Gellman: Mentioned the Dykeman Avenue BIDs efforts to engage with the community in addressing neighborhood concerns and noise complaints
 - Osvaly Jiminez: Great idea and agree
 - C. Tepelus: First iteration of program didn't work but second iteration worked a lot better (included funding and resources)
 - C. Tepelus: DOT said that they are revamping permitting program for Holiday Lights (no longer allowing lighting on wooden poles – plan)
 - Want to flag early as this is desired effort
 - Marie Claude: Buy-k Store on 231st and Broadway (15min delivery dark store)
 - Cannot enter store. Entire store is papered over
 - City should look into these closely
 - They act like warehouses
 - Fazio: Is CM Dinowitz aware of the 15 min delivery services that are running dark stores
 - Please send email about the concern on this phenomenon
 - C. Tepelus: Agencies are recognizing a shift in the need of the community (e.g., DOT and Sanitation). Local Bodegas may not be meeting current need, especially as the dynamic shifted during the pandemic and these Dark Stores may be serving that need. However, protections for employees should important to monitor
- **Budget Item Process:**
 - M. Esema: I did like the excel writing process and then allowing for discussion in each meeting
 - Fazio: We will set up link and plan for discussion next meeting
 - D. Gellman: Reminder – February meeting should lead to 2 lists (capital and expense items)
 - Submitted by April 20th
- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - M. Esema: motion to approve.

- C. Tepelus: second
 - Minutes approved unanimously
 - C. Tepelus: Can we send information on separate community meetings in advance meetings? Can we update the website with committee names?
- **Adjourned 8:53pm**

Submitted by Nick Fazio