

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD No. 8  
Minutes of Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee  
March 26, 2024  
[Meeting Recording](#)

PRESENT

Sylvia Alexander  
Sebastain Chittilappilly  
Emily Hausman

AFFILIATION

Chair-ELCA  
CB8-Committee Member  
CB8-Committee Member

EC

Rita Pochter Lowe  
Georgia Santiago

CB8-Committee Member  
CB8-Committee Member

ABSENT

Constance Barnes Watson  
Judith Green

CB8-Committee Member  
CCM

GUEST

Rabbi Shemtov  
Lindsey Johnson  
Aga Chan  
Melissa Koszer  
Rob Spalter  
Deidra Burke  
Rosemary Ginty

Chabad of Riverdale  
Amalgamated Nursery School  
Spuyten Duyvil Library-Manager  
Spuyten Duyvil Library-Childrens  
Broadway Community Alliance  
Broadway Community Alliance  
CB8 Board Member

The meeting came to order at 7:36PM.

The minutes of January 23,2024 and February 27,2024 were approved unanimously as written.

In Favor: S. Alexander, S. Chittilappilly, E. Hausman, R. Pochter Lowe, G.Santiago

The Chair shared that the School Construction Authority was invited to attend but were not available. The Van Cortlandt Motel site was approved by the New York City Council on March 7,2024. The Community Board received the

“Negative Declaration” on March 6<sup>th</sup>, although it was received by SCA on January 31,2024. Therefore, CB8 & the Council Member could not formulate any questions to ask before the City Council Stated Meeting and the site was approved. The Chair will be forwarding many questions to SCA, although they do not feel that we have any comment time due us because they did not perform an EIS. The Chair will continue to badger SCA to get the answers.

The ELCA committee passed the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** Rabbi Shemtov of the Chabad of Riverdale has submitted a SAPO application for an event to be held on May 25,2024 to celebrate Lag Baomer with a block party picnic.

**WHEREAS** The street closing will take place on West 235 Street between Independence Avenue and Douglas Avenue from 9:00am to 10:30pm.

**WHEREAS** This event was held successfully in the past.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee approves of the event.

In Favor: S. Alexander, S. Chittilappilly, E. Hausman, R. Pochter Lowe, G.Santiago

The ELCA passed the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** Ms. Johnson of Amalgamated Nursery School submitted a SAPO application for an event to be held on May 19,2024 to celebrate their Spring Bazaar.

**WHEREAS** The street closing will be at Gale Place between Orloff Avenue and Van Cortlandt Park South, from 9:00am to 4:30pm

**WHEREAS** The event been held successfully in the past.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs committee approves this event.

In Favor: S. Alexander, S. Chittilappilly, E. Hausman, R. Pochter Lowe, G.Santiago

#### BUDGET FY26-ELCA COMMITTEE-CAPITAL

Edu – DOE – PS24 Playground rehab and update-needs rubber flooring to prevent injuries and updated equipment.

Edu – Cultural Affairs – Kingsbridge Historical Society is a Landmark building-needs roof repair to fix leaks. The building is a community resource with programs of educational significance.

BUDGET FY26-ELCA COMMITTEE- EXPENSE

Edu-NYPL – Continue 6-day service in branch libraries and serve as safe havens for after school activities for students.

The Chair reported that the SAT test will be administrated by digital only which could be a problem as it was this winter on a snow day. Deputy Chancellor leaving position, so Chancellor Banks is dropping the division which was going into effect next school year. It was a top priority to reshape how the city's elementary schools teach reading.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia Alexander, Chair-ELCA Committee