

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

December 1, 2021

Held on Zoom

(Pending Approval)

Committee Members Present

Laura Spalter (Chair), Bob Bender, Diomarys Escano-Bell, David Gellman, Robert Jacklosky, Nicholas Fazio, Sylvia Alexander, Robert Fanuzzi, Omar Murray, Martin Wolpoff, Edward Green, Debra Travis, Julia Gomez, David Gellman, Ramdat Singh, Sergio Villaverde. Rosemary Ginty, Daniel Padernacht,

Committee Members Absent

Theodore R. Morris II, Charles G. Moerdler,

Staff

Ciara Gannon, District Manager

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of November 3 were approved with one abstention (Rosemary Ginty).

CB8 and Guests

Karen Pesce.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Spalter welcomed Camelia Tepelus and Julia Gomez to SCRE. Laura remarked that they will be great additions.

It was announcement that Ciara is getting married on December 18th. Laura and board congratulated her on her exciting news.

Laura updated the committee on the 6661 Broadway Homeless Shelter. The Department of Homeless Services and the CEO of AAPCI will attend the December 7th Land Use Meeting. On November 15th, Councilman Dinowitz organized a meeting with Steve Banks and Erin Drinkwater, the Deputy Commissioner of Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs at NYC Department of Social Services, and all the elected official and some members of the Board attended the meeting. Questions were asked, but there wasn't probability of any change to the model of 130 men or type of shelter at this point based on the financials. We asked what the financial implications of making changes to the contract would be. The Board sent 24 questions to DHS weeks ago, which they said they would answer in writing. We are waiting for that. We asked about the length of the contract (34 years). It was said to be necessary for the provider's financing. The RFP was asked for, but we were told we can't get it until 2022.

We were told we can't get the contract until after the MOC's (Mayor Office of Contracts) hearing was held on November 16th. Laura, Dan Padernacht and 25 residents testified at that hearing in opposition to the shelter.

Subsequent to that hearing, there was a meeting with Victor Pullo, the agency chief contracting officer for the department of social services, to view the preliminary draft contract. It was difficult to read a 234-page contract on a screen. Because it is a preliminary contract there are no signatures, RFP, and budget information. The process works against us because Homeless shelters are not subject to ULURP, FOIL or community oversight.

The contract has not been sent to the Comptroller's Office yet. The Comptroller's Office has received our resolution, testimony and hundreds of letters. The Comptroller's role is to register the contract, and if it is not registered, the AAPCI cannot be paid. It may be that the rolls over to the next administration.

Laura asked when we could see the building plans but we were told they are only 30 % complete.

Laura thanked Dan Padernacht for going downtown to look at the contract. Dan reported on his visit to see the contract.

Treasurer's Report

\$87,544 allocated from total budget. \$181,890 remaining in the fiscal year 2022.

There are budget modifications this month. The budget modification they are proposing. In the other than personal services budget, we have allocated \$7,931 and have \$27,089 remaining. In Purchase Orders and Accounts Payable we have \$5,693 in encumbered funds. Rent and energy numbers are listed for your reference, but it's maintained by OMB. In Addendum the proposed budget modification are listed: taking \$4,034 out of that and moving it to supplies and materials now that we are back in the office. There was \$184 for advertising (an old newspaper employment ad that wasn't paid for).

Ciara reported that we had to do HVAC repair over the summer and we didn't have enough money in that line so that's why we are transferring it over.

This shift from one budget line to another is something we typically do halfway through the year. And Ciara anticipates another budget modification in the spring.

A budget modification resolution was presented.

Bronx Community Board 8 December 2021 Resolution to Approve Budget Modification

WHEREAS, to support the work of the board office, a budget modification for FY 22 has been prepared and is attached to the December Treasurer's report.

BE IT RESOLVED, Community Board 8 approves the budget modification.

There was a question from David Gellman about the level of detail in the resolution. Ciara said she would address that by adding to the “Be it Resolved” and inserting the detailed information from addendum.

District Manager’s Report

Ciara wished everyone a Happy Hanukah. She reported that the DOE fund will return to remove graffiti from the Broadway corridor. The Comptroller sent a letter thanking the CB for its work and collaboration. She noted the Open Meetings Training and the Registration deadline.

Ciara said Rabbi Shemtov had trouble getting the crane permit for the annual Menorah lighting, and the CB and CM Dinowitz helped to secure it. Ciara thanked Councilman Dinowitz’s office for expediting crane permits for the lighting of the Menorah

50th Precinct is holding a Toys for Tots event on December 21st. Gifts can be dropped off at the precinct.

She reminded chairs to send their agendas, resolutions and other documentation in a timely fashion so we can comply with the new Open Meetings Law.

David Gellman asked about the newsletter, and Ciara said it will resume in the new year.

Rosemary reminded that in past holiday seasons the CB usually contacted local homeless shelters to ask if there was anything we could do to help. Ciara agreed that this would be a good idea.

Committee Resolutions

Public Safety

Ed Green said a Public Safety had two resolutions. One was the renewal for the BBQ Pit located at the 5788 Mosholu Avenue. The committee approved the wine, beer, cider license.

New application was submitted by Ezili Luxury Hall Corp at 5540 Broadway and they signed a 2AM agreement (to close the business down by 2 AM in the first year of operation). Police reported that there were no recent complaints in the area. There will be no live entertainment. A capacity limit of 74 people. Committee approved it unanimously.

Traffic and Transportation

Traffic and Transportation resolutions were presented by Deb Travis.

The Stephenson Place resolution is a request that parking regulations be changed along the south side of the road along the retaining wall, so as to eliminate the parking of any vehicles. This resolution was approved by the T&T back in June with that membership, when the committee was chaired by Dan Padernacht. The resolution itself is the same. Deb Travis added the “Whereas” clauses that were not there previously.

There was a question about whether it had to be re-voted because of the addition of the Whereas clauses. Deb said she will add another “whereas” to reflect the history and introduce to the Full Board it as amended.

The second resolution concerned the Independence Avenue flexible delineators and channelization issue. The resolution asks that the past resolution be rescinded.

Rosemary Ginty objected to rescinding a proposal that was duly passed by the committee and community board. An argument was made that it doesn't matter if the DOT doesn't have a policy on preventing cars doing "donuts." Deb said that the concern was that this opened the door to the DOT to imposing some other traffic calming solution (other than the flexible delineators requested) that the community might not want.

Dan Padernacht said he would like the DOT to put in writing the verbal request to rescind the resolution and their other assurances. He would also like DOT's assertion that the last resolution had not been logged for 8 months be put in writing.

Dan said that the understanding was DOT would return to the CB and tell us what they could do to address the problem. He objected to the idea that there weren't remedies (wedges) available for stunt driving that are currently employed across the city.

Ed Green noted that DOT is on record saying that such a request could "open a can of worms"---opening the possibility that DOT might do something the community wouldn't want. Bob Bender seconded this idea.

Bob Bender remarked that perhaps a new resolution asking the DOT to return to board and not do anything until they come before the committee to present on what they intend to do.

Bob Fanuzzi remarked that if DOT doesn't want to do what we want to do (a traffic study), we should want it more, not less. He said that we should make the request and see what they present as a solution, which we could then deal with when it happens.

Deb responded that the worry is that Navardo was doing us a favor is saying the thing you ask for may not be what you get. Once they do a study, they may do treatments on each of the intersections that the community may not want.

Laura reflected back on the comments, mentioned that resolutions have been superseded in the past, and asked Deb to consider the comments of the committee.

Bob Fanuzzi said that perhaps what we want to do is replace or supplant the previous resolution based on new information—that the problem has largely been resolved. He pointed to a precedent: a 2014 resolution to supersede a previous resolution. Laura supplied that language from the Hudson River Greenway resolution to which Bob referred. The resolution could now ask the DOT "to not approve any plan without coming back to the community."

Deb said she'd like to bring to the resolution to the full board for a vote and trust that process. It was agreed that a Whereas would be added that says the new resolution supersedes the previous resolution. A second Whereas would be added that mentions that the previous resolution "hasn't been acted upon." A third Whereas would be added that mentions that the traffic situation has changed and improved since the last resolution. Finally, a request that DOT return to present to the CB outlining what their suggested solutions are.

Department of Investigation (DOI) Report

Laura presented her draft resolution in support of the DOI report "Corruption Vulnerabilities in the City's Oversight and Administration of Not-For-Profit Human Services." The report was published on 11/11/21 and focuses on five city agencies (including DHS) that contract with not-for profits. It cites 23 recommendations to eliminate fraud, waste, and corruption.

There was some discussion and revisions suggested. Laura said she would make the requested adjustments.

Issues for Discussion

Sergio Villaverde said that there were discussions with the Van Cortlandt Park Alliance and they may take over and be a home for the annual Veterans Day event. The Special Committee on Veterans Affairs will take the lead on Memorial Grove, and if the Special Committee should cease to exist, it would revert to the Parks and Rec Committee.

Marty Wolpoff commented on the open meetings issues, and wordsmithing in meetings. He noted that resolutions can still come organically from the floor. But if you intend on discussing a topic, you need to post that 24-hours in advance. Each committee has 2 weeks to get their minutes posted. But if you go into Executive Session, you need to have the minutes out in 1 week.

Laura noted that the open meetings law allowing for Zoom meetings was renewed until December 15th. Laura will send a letter asking for an extension to allow zoom meetings .

Ed Green said there would be a police officer from the crime prevention unit at the next Public Safety Committee Meeting on December 21st, who will report on scams.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Submitted by Rob Jacklosky, Secretary