

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

November 3, 2021

Held on Zoom

(pending approval)

Committee Members Present

Laura Spalter (Chair), Bob Bender, Margaret Della, Diomarys Escano-Bell, Daniel Padernacht, David Gellman, Robert Jacklosky, Nicholas Fazio, Sylvia Alexander, Robert Fanuzzi, Omar Murray, Martin Wolpoff, Edward Green, Debra Travis, Julia Gomez, David Gellman, Ramdat Singh, Theodore R. Morris II, Charles Moerdler, Sergio Villaverde.

Committee Members Absent

None.

Staff

Ciara Gannon, District Manager

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the October 6, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously by all members present 13-0 (several members---David Gellman, Ramdat Singh, Ted Morris, Charles Moerdler---were not yet present).

Chairperson's Report

Chair Spalter announced that the Community Service Awards and Most Valuable Merchant awards will be awarded at the next Full Board Meeting.

She informed the committee that Jyll Townes has submitted her resignation.

Member Courtney Dastis-Galvin has given birth to a baby boy on September 28th

Chair Spalter informed the committee that she has a meeting tomorrow with the administrator of the W, formerly the Riverdale Manor. There have been many issues surrounding this location, including aggressive panhandling. She will report to HHSS on that meeting and Omar has been invited to attend.

Regarding proposed homeless shelter at 6661 Broadway for 130 men, chair noted that 700 people participated in two committee meetings on two different calls. The community has expressed great concern because legally the department of Homeless Services cannot screen for mental health, criminal records, or sex offender status. The CB has reached out to the businesses that will be impacted by the demolition with information from Small Business Services.

Chair noted that she and David had a productive budget meeting with Councilman Eric Dinowitz. Several of our priorities have been funded: renovation of the InTech Academy track, money for education upgrades, and Ewen Park improvements.

A special budget meeting with Senator_Rivera has also been arranged. The goal is to keep our priorities in front of the elect officials.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Diomarys-Escano Bell reviewed the report and there were no budget modifications this month.

District Manager's Report

Ciara reported on the devastating fire on Bailey Avenue and W. 238th Street. She was able to connect government relations and emergency services at Special Business Services (SBS) with Nick Fazio, and Tracy Shelton at BOMBA (Bailey Avenue Merchants and Business Alliance/BAMBA). They were on site and in contact with businesses within an hour after the fire.

Ciara reported that Nivardo Lopez, Bronx Commissioner of DOT is moving on to a position with New York State. Sanitation Superintendent Rob Falcaro, has been promoted. Ciara is working with Deb Travis and Bob Fanuzzi to establish relationships with the new leaders and manage the transition.

The office renovation is complete and flood damage and mold have been abated. The board office has continued to receive calls about Homeless shelter and Department of Homeless Services has been invited to the Dec. 7th Land Use Committee meeting.

Both DEP and DPR have been invited to the December meeting of the E and S and Parks Committee to discuss the daylighting and the Putnam Trail Greenway.

FY 2023 Budget Discussion

David Gellman listed the items Councilman Eric Dinowitz approved for the budget. He encouraged all of the chairs to keep those items in mind for the coming budget cycle.

Committee Resolutions

Public Safety Chair Ed Green updated the committee on the liquor license renewals. Palace of Japan, 3505 Avenue, Montezuma's Mexican Restaurant, 119 W Kingsbridge Rd (approved without objection), and The Hill Bistro, 3451 Riverdale Avenue approved by committee with one abstention.

There was a question of whether this should have been a renewal versus a new application but the board staff investigated and found that it had been properly done.

Casa Tobala, 3732 Riverdale Avenue signed a 2 a.m. agreement to close the establishment at this time for the first 2 years of their operation.

EDUCATION:

Education, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Chair Alexander reported that the committee unanimously approved the application for the Hanukkah Menorah Lighting on November 28th from 4-5:15 p.m.

Issues for Discussion

Chair of the Special Committee on Veterans Affairs Sergio Villaverde and CB Vice Chair Bob Bender outlined the plans for the veterans' celebration at Memorial Grove at VCP. Herb Barrett has said this

will be his final year. Sergio is reaching out to groups at Manhattan College (the ROTC and the Veteran's group) to get some buy in. The Special Committee on Veterans Affairs will take the lead on keeping the ceremony going. This year the event will be this Sunday, November 7th, at noon.

Law, Rules and Ethics Chair Wolpoff discussed the new Open Meetings Law rules going into effect on November 19th. It dictates that the public must be fully informed about all documents introduced at the public meeting 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

There are concerns that the turn around will be challenging. Laura noted that we are anticipating some guidance from the Bronx Borough President's office on these new rules. Marty said he will discuss the law at upcoming Laws, Rules and Ethics committee meeting.

LAND USE:

The Committee took up the Land Use Resolution on the Homeless Shelter at 6661 Broadway written by Chuck Moerdler. There was extensive discussion of the resolution.

Key points: saturation of this type of institution in the community, the process, and the failure to provide adequate services.

Chuck Moerdler said he was open to revising the resolution and would do so, taking into account the suggestions made.

The resolution will be presented next week at the Full Board meeting.

The Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9 p.m.

Submitted by Rob Jacklosky, Secretary

Reviewed by Laura Spalter, Chair