

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting  
January 5, 2022  
Held on Zoom  
(pending approval)

Committee Members Present

Laura Spalter (Chair), Sylvia Alexander, Bob Bender, Moses Esema ( For Nick Fazio), Robert Fanuzzi, David Gellman, Rosemary Ginty, Rob Jacklosky, Theodore R. Morris II, Daniel Padernacht, Ramdat Singh, Deb Travis, Sergio Villaverde, Martin Wolpoff

Committee Members Absent

Margaret Della, Nicholas Fazio, Julia Gomez, Edward Green, Charles G. Moerdler, Omar Murray

Staff

Ciara Gannon, District Manager

Guests and CB8 Members

Abe Safdie, Araceli F, Linc, Camelia Tepelus, Ethan Stark-Miller, Shajada Brown, Yesenia Jimenez

Chair Spalter called the meeting to order at 7pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of December 1, 2021 were approved with one abstention (Rosemary Ginty).

**Chairperson's Report**

Chair Spalter congratulated District Manager, Ciara Gannon, on her recent marriage & happy to report that she has recovered from the Coronavirus. Sadly, L. Spalter received the sad news of Marvin Goodman's passing. Marvin was a longtime board member who was dedicated and committed to Community Board 8. He will be sorely missed.

L. Spalter informed the committee that Louis Lopez moved upstate and is no longer on the board. There is an opening for Treasurer and there will be an election at the next board meeting.

The Office received a letter from Bill Stone's widow, Dorothy, asking about naming a street after him at West 237<sup>th</sup> Street and Hudson Manor Terrace. He was a former board member and Chair of Community Board 8. He was on many committees, and won numerous awards for his civic work and organizations he was involved with. Three letters of support have been submitted to the Community Board Office and this item will be discussed at the next Traffic & Transportation Committee Meeting.

Attendance letters will be going out to members who have been absent, because this is the time of year that the Bronx Borough President sends out notice about applications for the next term.

L. Spalter updated the committee on the proposed homeless shelter at 6661 Broadway. The sale is still pending. It is not final yet and it has not been submitted to the Comptroller's office so it is still not registered. The latest thing the board has done has been to write a letter to the State Comptroller, Thomas DiNapoli, and another letter to the new City Comptroller, Brad Lander. The issue is a lack of transparency. She outlined the information we have not received. Thank you to Rosemary Ginty & Dan Padernacht for going to read the contract in person; the contract lacked essential elements. We have submitted a letter and asked the Inspector General to investigate red flags.

David Gellman asked where the Governor's suspension of the open meetings rule stood. It is scheduled to run out on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Laura said she asked Jeff Dinowitz and it is on his radar. He is pushing the issue.

#### Treasurer's Report

Due to the holidays, the budget modification is not reflected in the report. It will be updated for next month. The Treasurer's report is virtually the same as last month without the budget modification. C. Gannon walked the committee through the report.

D. Gellman suggested that there should be another column added to the report template which would give a "status" update on where we stand at any given time to indicate if we are overspending. D. Padernacht suggested that there be an update on where the CB staff is on their accumulated vacation time and comp. time.

#### District Manager's Report

C. Gannon stated that the office staff was saddened by the passing of Marvin Goodman. His desk will be left empty now. She has sent a letter welcoming the new Bronx Borough President and invited her to an upcoming meeting. We have made a request for a testing sight in our CB to her office and the Governor's office. A new website will be up soon. It's been a lot of work, but worthwhile. C. Gannon reminded the committee that the Governor's new rule of 24-hour notice for all board information and documents will require us to post resolutions, minutes and agendas. The office will be posting resolutions 24-hours in advance of meetings. If committee chairs have material that needs to be posted, please be aware of that requirement and send them to the board office as soon as possible.

#### Committee Resolutions

##### Traffic and Transportation

Several resolutions were presented by Deb Travis.

The first resolution was on Sedgwick Avenue, asking for the feasibility of a dedicated left turn lane and new signaling of northbound traffic and restoration of pedestrian crossing at all four sides of the intersection of Van Cortlandt Avenue West. This resolution passed unanimously in T&T Committee. There was some question about the exact location cited in the resolution, so D. Gellman asked that there be a map at the full board meeting to make the location clear.

The second resolution was for 3850 Sedgwick Avenue which asked DOT to study the feasibility of a traffic light between Stephenson Place and Sedgwick Avenue at this address. Other requests are for flashing yellow light and speed camera in this location. This passed unanimously in T&T Committee. B. Bender

noted that DOT may not be replacing broken flashing yellow lights any longer according to the former DOT Commissioner Lopez.

S. Villaverde had a question about recent work being done by Con Ed to put in new gas lines on Sedgwick south of Fort Independence to 231<sup>st</sup> Street. C. Gannon and B. Fanuzzi said they had no notice of it and will investigate it.

D. Travis presented a third resolution on the DOT's Palisades and Kappock Avenues intersection proposal which rejects the DOT proposal and asks DOT to return the intersection to its previous configuration. It passed by a vote of 4 to 2. D. Gellman asked that if the resolution is going to be amended that it be brought back to the T&T Committee for a re-vote. It was decided that the committee had voted on the resolution, and so it would go to the Full Board as it stands.

### EDUCATION

S. Alexander presented on the proposal for the new school at the Visitation Church site. The committee approved that site as an appropriate site for the school, and requested that the School Construction Authority return to CB8 at their earliest possible convenience to address issues about traffic and where the catchment area would be. They will not come back before the City Council votes on it.

Laura noted that there was an error in the Full Board minutes. The votes on the Education committee resolution were placed in the wrong location in the minutes. The vote tally should have been after the resolution to amend the agenda, not on the resolution itself. That will be corrected and fleshed out in amended minutes at the full board meeting.

R. Ginty asked whether we were certain that the SCA would in fact return to the committee. B. Bender stated that SCA did say they would come back to us to engage on questions of the number of the students and the design of the school and the recent meeting was only on the issue of approving the Visitation as an appropriate site. R. Ginty asked that we follow up on the Environmental Impact Statement, because the time frame will be short and that would be the time to have them come back (before the Environmental Impact Statement is issued). Ciara said that the CB Office would request the EIS & CEQR. B. Fanuzzi made the point that if we did follow up on the environmental impact, it should remain with the committee that it is now with. Dan Padernacht asked that the ELCA committee return to the video tape to review what exactly was said, since memories differed.

### Issues for Discussion

D. Padernacht continues to be concerned about the Independence Ave resolution since we do not have their response to us in writing. So, if DOT has given us advice on the Independence Avenue resolution we need that in writing.

B. Fanuzzi was concerned at the lack of testing sites in Community Board 8. He asked fellow board members about their experience with testing in our Community Board. Discussion ensued, and there was agreement about a dearth of testing in CB8. He said there was a new testing site called "Level Up" at SAR near the post office on Riverdale Avenue. C. Gannon stated that we are reaching out to the Mayor, Governor's office, and City Council Member Dinowitz. O. Murray said he would email the Bronx Borough Coordinator for the Department of Health to invite her to next week's meeting and ask for more testing

sites in the CB8 Northwestern Bronx. AM Dinowitz Is working to get the drive thru returned to Lehman College.

M. Wolpoff presented a resolution from the LRE committee which addressed the Community Board 8 fills midterm vacancies. The issue was the feeling that that if a candidate's name is announced too early, it might chill additional nominations. This resolution is designed to establish a 10-day window where nominations would be welcome, from the effective date of the vacancy. Laura asked if it was voted on by LRE; M. Wolpoff stated that it was. C. Gannon noted that she never received the resolution. R. Ginty noted that there was no obligation on a person interested in a vacancy to express an interest until the date of the meeting and some language in this resolution seemed to complicate that.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Submitted by Rob Jacklosky, Secretary

Reviewed by Ciara Gannon, District Manager