

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
March 2, 2022
Held on Zoom
(pending approval)

Committee Members Present

Laura Spalter (Chair), Sylvia Alexander, Bob Bender, Joy Campbell Priveterre, Margaret Della, Nick Fazio, Robert Fanuzzi, David Gellman, Rosemary Ginty, Julia Gomez, Rob Jacklosky, Omar Murray, Daniel Padernacht, Ramdat Singh, Deb Travis, Sergio Villaverde, Martin Wolpoff, Nicholas Fazio.

Committee Members Absent

Charles G. Moerdler, Theodore R. Morris.

Staff

Ciara Gannon, District Manager

Guests and CB8 Members

Sachi McClendon.

Chair Spalter called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of January 5th and February 8th 2022 were unanimously approved.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Spalter announced that it is anticipated that on March 16th the executive order that allowed us to do remote meetings will be lifted and board members will have to meet in person.

We have to comply with our venue's Covid protocols (ie., masks). Consideration is being given to whether the public will be able to Zoom in, but not all sites have Wifi. There was consensus that public participation greatly increased while using Zoom.

Chair Spalter indicated that sexual harassment training will start shortly. Board members will be able to complete the training from their home computers. The Board Office will send a certificate upon completion. Also, diversity training along the lines of the EEO that is used in NYC will be considered.

Chair Spalter raised the recent *New York Times* article by Amy Julia Harris that focused on corruption within the African American Planning Commission, Inc. (AAPCI). This not-for-profit provider is in contract with the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) to build the homeless shelter planned for 6661 Broadway. The reporter stated that AAPCI is under investigation from the Department of Investigation (DOI) for issues including the CEO hiring his brother as Chief Financial Officer, continuing to hire family as consultants, as well as their excessive salaries. The Mayor's Office of Contract Services (MOCS) approved the contract on November 16, 2021. The contract has not been sent to the Comptroller's Office for registration. Questions were raised about this delay and whether AAPCI may proceed with their plan prior to registration by the Comptroller. C Spalter summarized the questions and will report

back. She reported that on behalf of the board a letter was sent requesting the DOI to investigate the contract between DHS and AAPCI, and that this project is subject to City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) and Environmental Assessment.

A big issue that has come up regards New Legacy Studios which is operating a club illegally at 6840 Riverdale Avenue. They do not have a liquor license. C. Gannon has been reached out to the 50th Precinct, FDNY, SLA, and DOB. The Board arranged a tour with Fr. McCarthy of St. Margaret's Church, the 50th Precinct, and representatives from AM Dinowitz and CC Dinowitz's offices. Subsequently, C. Spalter and C. Gannon met with the landlord. He said holding any events is in violation of their lease. Another issue was the smoke shop around the corner from New Legacy, which has cartoon characters on windows that might be a draw for children. The department of consumer affairs is checking their license. As of now, they don't have one. The community is very organized in their opposition to both businesses.

There will be a controversial T&T meeting at the end of the month. DOT will present a plan to reduce Riverdale Avenue (between 254rd Street and 261st Street) from 4 lanes to 3 lanes and install a bike lane. We have asked for the plan.

C. Spalter welcomed Sachi McClendon, a new reporter from the *Riverdale Press* to his first meeting.

Treasurer's Report

J. Campbell-Priveterre reported that the budget is \$269, 354. This includes the standard budget allocated to the office, and the additional \$5,000 allocated by CC Rodriguez's office.

There are no budget modifications for this month, although we do expect to have one next month.

There is \$6,253 encumbered and no request of funds. Rent and energy are separately provided by the city and is unchanged from February.

R. Ginty asked about the Mayor's request for 3% cut proposed for next year. Are we comfortable with our staffing and everything else when we take that 3% off? C. Gannon said that Community Boards have not to date been targeted by the Mayor's program to reduce budget gaps.

District Manager's Report

C. Gannon said we will be meeting in person by the end of the month. We have begun to reach out to hosts. If there are new locations that you know of, please contact Ciara. C. Gannon said she is doing everything in her power to continue on Zoom for the public. It's especially valuable because the meetings are recorded on Zoom. She is talking to other DMs about the hybrid methods they are using. R. Ginty observed that CB8 should not bear the cost alone and suggested a budget request to the Borough President.

CB applications are due March 4th. We have gotten lots of questions about the attendance part of the application. It is a self-certifying method.

There have been several reports of Seaman drivers littering in the district. C. Gannon is in contact with them to resolve this.

D. Gellman asked about the status on the new office. Chair Spalter said we'd have an update on that next month.

Committee Resolutions

Public Safety Committee Chair E. Green reported on liquor license applications. "Welcome to the Family Coffee Shop," 219 W. 230th Street, William E. Irwin Jr. American Legion Post 774 at 2035-7 Corlear Avenue, Riverdale Diner at 3657 Kingsbridge Avenue, Caridad Restaurant 135-45 West Kingsbridge Road, Van Cortlandt Golf Course at 115 Van Cortlandt Park South, Mon Amor Coffee and Wine Inc., at 234 West 238th Street all applied for license renewals. A temporary retail permit for wine, beer and cider for Savor Coffee and More at 3725 Riverdale Avenue was also submitted. There was an application for new liquor license for Yokomo 216 West. 242nd Street. There was a method of change operation for Mugoos, 6687 Broadway. The 50th Precinct had no issues with any of them. The Public safety committee voted unanimously to approve all of them.

C. Spalter noted the full board will be voting a second time on the street re-naming for I. William "Bill" Stone. An additional "Whereas" on the street naming indicates the specific organizations and board chairs that spoke on behalf of the street name.

Parks Committee

R. Singh reported on the Parks Resolution. He noted that the Bronx parks are losing 50 employees. Mayor Adams issued his preliminary budget and it allocates only .05% of it to Parks. The committee voiced concern because the Parks played such an important role during the pandemic. The committee has drafted a resolution to ask Mayor Adams to honor his campaign promise to allocate 1% of the budget to parks. Members made suggestions on how to strengthen and expand the resolution.

Budget Committee

D. Gellman reported on agency responses to FY23.

C. Spalter said she was gratified by some of the things that are being funded. There will be a public hearing on March 8th. Please come at 6:30 p.m. for it.

B. Fanuzzi reported that the expansion of the composting is going to sunset but that our district is not going to be touched. We are not going to be cut and it is open to new registrants.

D. Gellman said he sent out a couple of attachments as templates for each committee to put together their capital budget requests and expense budget requests. He encourages us to use them and submit our current year thoughts, and to turn them around to committee members this week, so the prioritization can be done next month and they can be returned to the office by April 20th. If you have any questions about how to use the form or the Excel Spreadsheet feel free to call him or the office.

B. Fanuzzi said they were going to bridge together some committee budget requests (for instance, Park and T&T).

Youth Committee

C. Spalter congratulated Julia Gomez on the Youth Summit on Monday, March 21st at 7 pm.

If there isn't a physical location, it can be pushed back.

Issues for Discussion

S. Villaverde asked about suggestions for shortening the board meetings. His suggestions included limiting time on debates, submitting comments in writing, etc.

M. Wolpoff commented that the LRE committee will look at ways to shorten meetings and S. Villaverde's comments will be part of the discussion on March 14th.

R. Singh brought up the Half Moon Overlook park issue and the DPR's response to it. An extended discussion ensued about the unauthorized and dangerous work being done there.

S. Alexander asked questions that arose out of the Education, Library and Cultural Affairs Committee. Has the School Construction Authority (SCA) responded to the last board letter concerning environmental review? The chair reported she has not received a response. S. Alexander inquired about funding from the Council Member Dinowitz's Office and the District Manager will follow up. S. Alexander stated that a resident raised concerns about speed bumps near schools at her committee and she advised him to get in touch with the Community Board Office.

B. Fanuzzi discussed commercial dumping around Jerome Park Reservoir. He had a question about whether there were any surveillance cameras used by Sanitation. C. Gannon said he would look into it.

The next Executive Committee meetings will be held at the College of Mount Saint Vincent.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Submitted by Rob Jacklosky, Secretary

Reviewed by Ciara Gannon, District Manager