



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

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Laura Spalter, Chairperson

Ciara Gannon, District Manager

OFFICERS:

Vice Chairperson

Bob Bender

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Minutes: Housing Committee (Pending Committee Approval)

Date: February 22nd, 2021 Meeting called to order: 7:09pm via ZOOM

Committee Members Present: T. Morris, R. Kaplan, M. Della, T. Pardo, J. Reyes, J. Townes

Community Board guests: L. Spalter, D. Gellman

Community guests present: M. Jenkins, D. Barber, T. Edwards

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Aging

Eric Dinowitz

Budget

David Gellman

Economic Development

Nicholas Fazio

Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs

Sylvia Alexander

Environment & Sanitation

Robert Fanuzzi

Health, Hospitals & Social Services

Omar Murray

Housing

Theodore R. Morris II

Land Use

Charles G. Moerdler

Law, Rules & Ethics

Martin Wolpoff

Parks & Recreation

Rosemary Ginty

Public Safety

Edward Green

Traffic & Transportation

Daniel Padernacht

Youth

Julia Gomez

Housing meeting called to order at 7:09 PM by Interim Chairman T. Morris with a moment of silence to commemorate the 500,000 that were lost to COVID-19. After which committee roll call was taken and guest introductions were made. Agenda items were discussed as follows:

1. Approval of January 2021 minutes: Motion to approve was unanimous.
2. Guest address #1- Mr. Daniel Barber President of the Jackson Houses Resident Incorporated, Chairman South Bronx District Council of Presidents, Citywide Council Chairman, Community Board #1 member. Mr. Barber begins by letting the committee know that Gregory Russ drafted the Blueprint for Change and that it gives NYCHA the ability to create a community trust. He then outlined steps NYCHA will take to draft legislation to ultimately send to Washington. The Blueprint for Change provides no tenant protections. The speaker was cut off and did not return to the meeting.
3. Guest address #2- Mr. Marquez Jenkins with the Residents to Preserve Public Housing is a group that aims to address NYCHA issues. The biggest problem they have with this Blueprint for Change is that it was pushed on the tenants during a worldwide pandemic NYCHA residents were hit hard during this time and it has only served as a distraction during a time when families are dealing with loss of income loss of jobs and sadly loss of loved ones. Also, this program borrowed money from private concerns with NYCHA having no way to pay them back aside from using Section 8 vouchers as collateral. Interim Chairman Morris raised a question regarding the RAD PACT and the difference between section 8 and section 9. Community Board member Margaret Della raised a question if there was a federal monitor of NYCHA. Mr. Jenkins stated that a monitor was appointed to oversee the Blueprint for Change. Interim Chairman Morris asked if any jobs would be created from the implementation of the Blueprint for Change Mr. Jenkins stated that section 9 is under HUD and that housing residents and community residents should be hired to fill any construction jobs. One of the main points of having public housing is to put a halt to gentrification of neighborhoods of color. The Nydia Velazquez rescue agreement is what is being supported by the Residents to Preserve Public Housing. Mr. Jenkins stated he would attempt to find the information as to who is the federal monitor and get back to the board. Interim chairman Morris thanked all speakers for taking the time out to address the committee.
4. Chairman's Report- 22 Marble Hill update: A partial stop work order and \$125,000 in violations were previously issued due to workplace or land use violations. A meeting has been planned with the landlord, Atmosphere Academy representatives, elected officials, and members of the Community Board #8.
5. Old Business- None
6. New Business- capital projects from NYCHA and Community Housing ideas were suggested by Community Board member David Gellman. Lucy Mercado proposed an idea for some type of fund to assist tenants being evicted. Margaret Della suggested funding for possible winterizing of buildings. Nick Fazio of the Economic Development Committee suggested possible funding for commercial rent assistance. Jyll Townes stated the biggest issue before us was the end of the moratorium on rents. Because of her current job she sees the courts preparing for the influx of housing court cases and questioned if there was any way to make this moratorium impact a budgetary request. David Gilman suggests a letter, or a resolution be drafted to the mayor and OMB outlining how important this issue is for the community. It was also suggested that our budget request focus more on issues within our district and community. Chairlady Spalter indicated there was a letter submitted from the Land Use Committee chairman outlining ways to address post moratorium concerns. Interim Chairman Morris thanked all participants from the Community Board as well as the public.
7. Adjournment- Motion to adjourn was made by M. Della, a second of that motion was given by J. Townes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.