

## **BXCB8 Traffic and Transit Committee Meeting**

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Zoom Conference  
(*Pending Approval*)

### **Committee Members Present:**

Sylvia Alexander, Margaret Donato, Diomarys Escano, David Gellman, Ed Green (Vice Chair), Myra Joyce, Dan Padernacht (Chair).

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Eric Bell, Daniella Fuchs, Tao Moran, Georgia Santiago.

### **Guests:**

Peter (AM Dinowitz Rep), Raymond Pultinas (James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center, Inc.), Robin Schwartz, Karen Argenti (Bronx Council for Environmental Quality), Kelly Mclean, Shira Silverman, Deb Travis, Dan Ranells, Nick Fazio.

Chair Dan Padernacht called meeting to order at 7:05pm and introduced the guests.

- 1. SAPO application: JBOLC Garden Community Farmer's Market. Sponsee is the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center, Inc. This permit is to operate a Farmer's Market each Saturday from 8/8/20-10/31/20 from 8:00am to 3:30pm.**

Applicant requests partial sidewalk closure on the east side of Goulden Avenue between Sedgwick Avenue and West Mosholu Parkway. The location is the existing closed roadway adjacent to DeWitt Clinton High School (on North Side):

Raymond Pultinas of the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center, Inc. provided background information about himself and the organization he represents:

- Non-profit 501C3 formed two years ago
- Was a teacher at DeWitt Clinton High School for 25 years
- Started a gardening program in 2010 called Clinton Garden
- Won various awards including Golden Apple and Golden Shovel from NY Sanitation
- Won a National Endowment of the Arts grant for project design
- Provides internships for students

Raymond Pultinas presented his proposal to the Committee:

R. Pultinas stated the Farmer's Market plans to bring healthy food to a community that currently doesn't have a lot of food resources in the immediate vicinity.

R. Pultinas stated the market area is approximately 160ft., and vendor booths and tents will be 10ft apart.

Chair Padernacht used shared screen satellite Google map to illustrate the location in question. A Farmer's Market layout blueprint was visually presented to clarify the final design.

Chair Padernacht questioned the blueprint design, with regards to available social distancing space. Raymond Pultinas stated people would line up on the sidewalk or lawn area before entering the market and this would provide adequate social distancing space.

Chair Padernacht asked if the market would be blocked off by barricades to limit the amount of people in the market. R. Pultinas stated they were requesting volunteers to help and they already have enlisted a variety of available volunteers.

Chair Padernacht asked if they have any vendors on board yet. Shira Silverman stated they didn't, but she planned to reach out to Farmers this week.

Chair Padernacht asked if they foresee any issues with parking. R. Pultinas stated the area in question was mainly a pedestrian area and he expected most traffic to be traveling by foot.

Chair Padernacht suggested the Farmer's trucks might need parking spaces, and suggested Mr. Pultinas contact Community Affairs, NYPD 50th & 52nd Precincts to inform them of any concerns surrounding the event.

Pultinas stated the DeWitt Clinton High School parking lot is usually open on Saturday and Farmer's trucks could potentially park there if there weren't enough available parking spaces.

Myra Joyce stated she was in favor of the Farmer's Market.

David Gellman questioned if Farmer's driving from distant locations is good for the environment, with regards to potential fossil fuel emissions.

Shira Silverman stated the Riverdale Y Farmer's Market uses 3 Farmers (2 from Middletown, NY) and noted that the process of getting food delivered from the NY State area is much better for the environment than neighborhood supermarkets having their food delivered from other countries around the world.

Ed Green suggested market coordinators reach out to the school to make sure the parking lot was available for use during the hours the market is scheduled to be

open for business. Mr. Green also inquired about Farmer's Market security, citing the potential of vandalism and theft to the garden located near the school.

R. Pultinas stated the edible forest in the area in question had eighteen trees stolen soon after they were planted and the theft was very discouraging but has not deterred their enthusiasm for the project. He also stated there have been no significant incidents of theft in three years since the trees were stolen and the garden fence is locked and the area is adequately protected.

R. Pultinas stated the permit is being sought between August 8, 2020 through October 31, 2020. Hours of operation will be between 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM. Market will be open to the public between 10 AM and 2:30 PM. Vendors need set-up and close-down time before and after the market does business.

Karen Argenti (Bronx Council for Environmental Quality) stated she has worked with Raymond Pultinas in the past and her organization and gave him an award. She stated she believes keeping New York State Farmers working is really important.

Chair Padernacht introduced the resolution:

WHEREAS, the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center, Inc. has applied to the NYC Street Activity Permit Office (SAPO) to operate a Farmer's Market EACH SATURDAY from August 8, 2020 THROUGH October 31, 2020 from 8:00am to 3:30pm;

WHEREAS, the Applicant seeks a permit to operate the Farmer's Market for a period of Thirteen (13) Weeks at this location;

WHEREAS, the Applicant requests a partial sidewalk closure on the east side of Goulden Avenue between Sedgwick Avenue and West Mosholu Parkway, on the existing closed roadway adjacent to Dewitt Clinton High School;

WHEREAS, the Traffic and Transportation Committee expressed its sentiments that the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center, Inc. would be a valuable resource to the community at this location;

BE IT RESOLVED, that Traffic & Transportation of Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the SAPO Application by the James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center, Inc. subject to the following conditions:

1. The Applicant shall follow all guidelines provided by the NYC Department of Health with respect to safety measures implemented with the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Favor: S. Alexander, M. Donato, D. Escano, D. Gellman, E. Green, M. Joyce,  
D. Padernacht

## **2. Committee planning discussion for Traffic and Transportation initiatives in Bronx Community Board No. 8:**

Chair Padernacht asked Committee Members to think about creative traffic and transportation initiatives within our Community Board and consider how we can safely connect the community when there are likely to be few funds available for projects in the upcoming year.

Chair Padernacht stated that Putnam Trail is about to open, so there is likely to be more activity on local roads as people attempt to get there.

Chair Padernacht cited topics of concern for the Traffic and Transportation Committee when session resumes after summer: Alternative means of transportation during the pandemic; ways to increase available parking; ways to increase space and safety for commuters via safe bike routes in the community board.

Chair Padernacht stated he plans to send out an email to Community Board Members to see who is interested in participating in a working group to discuss solutions to these and other traffic and transportation issues.

David Gellman stated that outdoor cafés are a wonderful idea but will require monitoring because they could get chaotic. Mr. Gellman also stated he is concerned about motorized mopeds following traffic laws.

Dan Ranells stated he appreciates the idea of a working group and thinks it needs to be done before the summer.

Deb Travis stated people are nervous about getting on public transportation and a want to use cars. She also stated the importance of providing other opportunities for people to get around without using public transportation.

Chair Padernacht inquired about social justice issues and asked Committee Members to consider concrete initiatives on social justice, with regards to traffic and transportation.

## **3. Approval of Minutes:**

March 2020 minutes were voted on and approved unanimously (6-0).

January 2020 minutes:

David Gellman objected to language used to characterize a statement attributed to him in the minutes and requested to amend the minutes.

Chair Padernacht stated he was not going to make Mr. Gellman's request a friendly amendment but asked Mr. Gellman if he would like to make a motion before the Committee to amend the minutes and the Committee would vote on it.

Mr. Gellman proposed a motion to eliminate a section of the minutes he disagreed with.

In Favor: D. Gellman, M. Joyce  
Opposed: D. Escano; D. Padernacht  
Abstain: S. Alexander; E. Green

Mr. Gellman's motion did not pass.

The January 2020 minutes were voted on by the Committee and approved.

In Favor: S. Alexander; D. Escano; E. Green; M. Joyce; D. Padernacht  
Opposed: D. Gellman

#### **4. Outstanding Business:**

The parking space adjacent to Wendy's Restaurant on Broadway entrance to drive-thru, in both directions, is problematic and needs to be addressed. The area in question has traffic congestion, confusion and has potential for traffic accidents.

#### **5. New Business:**

Chair Padernacht stated there are new NYC rules regarding the removal of curbside parking and allowing restaurants to use sidewalks for their businesses.

Chair Padernacht asked the Committee to consider ideas for creating available parking.

Nick Fazio (BXC8 Economic Development, Chair-Elect) stated we need to strategize this issue carefully to help our local businesses.

Robin Schwartz stated LED streetlights make it difficult to see and there are health and safety issues associated with this. She urged people to research the International Dark Sky Association, with regards to light pollution issues. Ms. Schwartz stated she wants to present a discussion on this issue.

Chair Padernacht stated Ms. Schwartz could email the board her request and the Committee could possibly present it in September.

Chair Padernacht thanked the Committee for their work throughout the year and thanked the community, Press and Elected Officials for their involvement.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11PM.

Dan Padernacht  
Chair  
Traffic & Transportation Committee