

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD APRIL 6, 2016
AT THE RIVERDALE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Daniel Padernacht, Chair	Marvin Goodman
Rosemary Ginty, Vice Chair	Michael Heller
Karen Pesce, Secretary	Joseph O'Brien
Phil Friedman, Treasurer	Lamont Parker
Sylvia Alexander	Robert Press
Bob Bender	Laura Spalter, (Vice Chair, E&S)
Lisa Daub	Martin Wolpoff
Paul Ellis	
Steven Froot	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Demetrius McCord
Charles Moerdler
Sergio Villaverde

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amy Joy Robateau

STAFF:

Patricia Manning, District Manager
Diane Bay, Community Associate

Chair Padernacht convened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

1. Approval of March Executive minutes:

Vote: 11 in favor Opposed: 0 Abstention: 0

In favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, P. Ellis, P. Friedman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, R. Press, M. Wolpoff

2. Chairman's Report – D. Padernacht

- The New York Yankees will partner with Bronx Community Board 8 to recognize the Youth Leadership Award honorees on Tuesday, May 24. Chair Padernacht, Youth Chair Lamont Parker and District Manager Patricia Manning, along with the honorees will be recognized on-field during a pregame ceremony. The Yankees will provide Bronx Community Board 8 with 300 complimentary tickets to disperse within the community. The Chair proposed to give tickets to each little league coach in Community Board 8 and disperse the remaining tickets to the various institutions in the same manner done last year. R. Ginty suggested that we give tickets to the new venues used this year for committee meetings. The Executive Committee agreed on both suggestions.
- The FBI's Community Outreach Specialist contacted the Community Board with an offer to educate the public about the FBI on a variety of topics. The Chair anticipates having a speaker for the May Public Safety meeting.
- BSA approved the reduced number of parking spots for 6469 Broadway (Self Help).
- There officers are still advocating to relocate the board office. A revised application will be submitted. Since this may take some time, the District Manager is searching for different

architects who are city vendors to advise us on how we can improve the design of the current office.

- HRA put in an emergency housing center at 2810 Webb Avenue. The office was not informed of the facility opening, the 50th precinct was not informed, neighbors were not informed and Councilman Cabrera was not informed. The Chair sent an email requesting a conference call with the HRA Commissioner and the Office of Councilman Fernando Cabrera to gather further information.

3. Treasurer's Report – P. Friedman

- The Treasurer's report was distributed. P. Friedman reported that the staff's annual leave and comp time will be included in the final version and will be distributed before the next board meeting. The report will be reverted back to the old version so it shows available monies in the budget. Suggestions on how to spend monies available discussed.

4. District Manager's Report – P. Manning

District Service Cabinet report

- Captain reported a huge uptick with theft of motorcycles
- One Police Office is assigned to Van Cortlandt Park almost daily and until dark. They're trying to get two.
- No new officers for the 50th Precinct received from April class
- Department of Environmental Protection is conducting a rain barrel giveaway at Bronx CB12 on April 16th, and/or sign-up on line for further information.
- Department of Health is beginning larva testing for Zika and the West Nile
- Two additional street lights were installed on corner 225 Street and Broadway. DOT determined no need for any more.

Borough Service Cabinet report

- Lions Clubs International presented: 1.4 million members/46 chapters worldwide, approaching centennial this year. The Bronx is lowest number of chapters with only 8. They are lobbying for Bronx membership to be able to increase grant opportunities (more chapters more grants). Their new initiative KidSight USA is focusing on vision screening, also hearing screening. They go into schools.
- Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) presented on the Budget. CB8 allocations are to 17 community based organizations, for 5,837 participants, representing total funding of \$5,721,998
- Summer Youth Employment Program hired 54,000 last year and is aiming for 75,000 this year.
- DYCD will meet with the Youth Committee to discuss funding (they will send report).
- The Campaign Finance Board discussed a bus trip to Albany Day on May 3rd to rally for support of Voting Reform Bills to allow early voting, early registration for 15, 16 year olds and other changes.

5. Committee Resolutions

Environment & Sanitation – L. Spalter, Vice Chair

The following resolution was approved by the Environment & Sanitation Committee on March 16, 2016 and will be presented at the April 12, 2016 board meeting.

Whereas, daylighting Tibbetts Brook, that is, bringing it back to the surface instead of burying it underground to flow through our sewer system, is a key project in the Van Cortlandt Park Master Plan endorsed by Community Board 8;

Whereas, a Coalition for the Daylighting of Tibbetts Brook, spearheaded by the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, has begun an advocacy campaign and asks that Bronx Community Board 8 join with other community and environmental groups in support;

Whereas, according to the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), when there are heavy rains and the sewer system is at full capacity, a mixture of rainwater and raw sewage may overflow into local waterways as a combined sewer overflow (CSO);

Whereas, during and after rainstorms, the large volume of clean water from Tibbetts Brook overwhelms the Wards Island Stormwater Treatment Plant beyond its capacity, causing raw sewage to be discharged into the Harlem River, violating the Clean Water Act and contributing to an environmental and public health hazard;

Whereas, during both wet and dry weather large volumes of clean water from Tibbetts Brook overwhelm Van Cortlandt Park, as there is no municipal separate storm water sewer system (MS4) within its more than one thousand acres;

Whereas, this is an environmental problem which involves many agencies including the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) and the use of their CSO and MS4 programs both in and outside Van Cortlandt Park;

Whereas, daylighting Tibbetts Brook will not only reduce CSO's and pollution in our water bodies, but will help with severe flooding issues along the Broadway corridor;

Whereas, the Environment and Sanitation committee has a long history of supporting the Coalition's goal of daylighting the stream inside and outside of the park to relieve the problem caused by either CSO's or the absence of MS4, and has held numerous meetings including a joint meeting with the Parks Committee in 2015 to explore these issues;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Environment and Sanitation Committee recommends that Community Board 8 support the efforts of the Coalition for the Daylighting of Tibbetts Brook.

Vote: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

In favor: Laura Spalter, Bob Bender, Bob Fanuzzi, Robert Press, David Kornbluh

Community Committee member: Rob Spalter

Land Use – M. Wolpoff

The following resolutions were voted on at the March 29 Land Use meeting and will be presented at the April 12, 2016 board meeting.

1. **RESOLVED**, Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves Department of City Planning Application No. N 160150ZAX / N 160151 ZAX - Special Natura Area District (NA-2): 5264 Independence Avenue, Block 5942, Lot 285, Bronx, for the grant of authorizations for a modification of topographic features on Tier I sites and for modification of botanic environment

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and tree preservation and planting requirements to permit the construction of a single-family residence.

Vote: 16 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstentions

In Favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. Creaney, L. Croft, M. Donato, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, R. Press, A. J. Robateau, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, H. Young

Opposed: C. G. Moerdler, M. Wolpoff

2. **RESOLVED**, Bronx Community Board No. 8 **DISAPPROVES** Board of Standards and Appeals Calendar No. 231-15-BZ – Proposed construction at 5278 Post Road for 9-story, 120 unit multiple dwelling with cellar community facility (doctors, 6074 sq. ft.) and sub-cellar retail pharmacy.

VOTE: 18 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

In Favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. Creaney, L. Croft, M. Donato, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, C. G. Moerdler, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, R. Press, A. J. Robateau, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

3. **RESOLVED**, Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves Department of City Planning Application Nos. N 160223 ZAX and N 160224 ZAX – Submitted by Philip Michael pursuant to Sections 105-421 and 105-425 of the Zoning Resolution, for the grant of authorizations for a modification of topographic features on Tier I sites and for modification of botanic environment and tree preservation and planting requirements to allow the construction of an in-ground pool in the backyard of an existing single-family residence located at 326 West 246th Street (Block 5809, Lot 505) within the Special Natural Area District (NA-2), within Community District 8, Borough of The Bronx.

VOTE: 18 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

In Favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. Creaney, L. Croft, M. Donato, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, C. G. Moerdler, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, R. Press, A. J. Robateau, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Traffic & Transportation – M. Heller

The following resolutions were approved by the Traffic & Transportation Committee on March 15, 2016 and will be presented at the April 12, 2016 board meeting.

- 1) Bronx Community Board 8 approves the SAPO application for a full street closure for an event entitled "Lag B'Omer Picnic and Block Party." May 26, 2015, 1-9 PM, West 235 street between Independence and Douglas Avenue. The event has taken place before. A motion to approve the applications was approved 8-0-0, M. Heller, R. Press, S. Alexander, A. Creaney, J. O'Brien, G. Santiago, H. Young, and Community Committee member Myra Joyce in favor.
- 2) **Resolution Supporting Restoration of BX1 Starting Location to Original Location**

Whereas, the provision of safe and convenient public transportation serving local residents, commuters and visitors is a goal of Bronx Community Board #8, and

Whereas, the Bx1 bus route is a major trunk line connecting Riverdale and Kingsbridge with the Grand Concourse and the communities therein, and

Whereas, a number of years ago, a new terminal was constructed at the junction of Riverdale Avenue and Irwin Avenue, between West 230 and West 231 streets to serve as a safe turnaround and layup location for Bx1 buses preparing to start their Southbound runs, and

Whereas, the starting location on the northbound side of Riverdale Avenue, immediately south of West 231 street, has effectively served the bus riding community for years, and

Whereas, the bus stop is designated only for the pickup of passengers as buses begin their runs, is not used for layovers, and buses have no reason to idle there for extensive periods, and

Whereas, the temporary location around the corner of west 231 street, when combined with existing bus stops serving the Bx7, Bx10 and Bx20 routes only exacerbates crowding on the curb by students from local schools headed home, and

Whereas, there is nothing inherently dangerous about a public bus stop being located in front of a school, which is commonplace elsewhere, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Bronx Community Board #8 requests that the Bx1 bus stop in question be restored to its original location on the east side Riverdale Avenue, just South of West 231 Street.

Motion to approve 8-0-0, M. Heller, R. Press, S. Alexander, A. Creaney, J. O'Brien, G. Santiago, H. Young, and Community Committee member Myra Joyce in favor.

6. Issues raised by Committee Members for Discussion

- There were complaints by neighbors that the former Montefiore site has not been kept up. There is still no further information of what is happening with that property.
- Chair Padernacht attended a Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association meeting. At the meeting it was reported that 3469 Cannon Place is in contract for sale. Stagg group is the present owner.
- M. Wolpoff reported that board recommended the developer of 3019 Corlear Avenue revisit his plans to develop a three story 6 unit building on this property since there are serious water problems with the land. This is known by M. Wolpoff from previous history.
- There is no April Law, Rules and Ethic meeting because it is the end of Passover.
- M. Wolpoff distributed a voting guide to the executive committee members and explained the possible votes on resolutions. These guidelines were planned to be part of the "Member Handbook" to be approved by the board.
- There will be upcoming civic meetings. M. Wolpoff thanked B. Press for literature that will be helpful to the committee. This literature was given to him by State Senator Gustavo Rivera.
- M. Wolpoff noted item number 049-2014A on the legislative information distributed by R. Ginty. It states to notify the community board of new or alt Department of Building permit that changes Certificate of Occupancy. This item (local law 10-2016) has been signed into law by the Mayor.
- R. Ginty announced that the legislative updates will now be distributed by email.
- P. Ellis and L. Spalter attended a BSA hearing on 6469 Broadway (Self Help), requesting to reduce the number of parking spaces from 19 to 11. This request was approved. P. Ellis found this troubling since the deciding factor was an in-house study done by one of the BSA Commissioners by going out to the site for a month, observing parking near the site and then determined that there was sufficient parking. P. Ellis noted that BSA doing an in-house study is very troublesome since they're supposed to be the arbiter.

- R. Ginty attended a special meeting regarding addressing veteran issues. The Borough President wants Community Boards to form veteran-affairs committees.
 - CB 5, 7 and 10 have already formed them.
 - The Borough President issued a Veteran & Military Resource Guide. It's in our April newsletter.
 - Beginning this new fiscal year there will be a new city agency called the "Department of Veteran Affairs". There were presentations from the new Department of Veteran Affairs City Commissioner, the NYS Division of Veteran Affairs and the Bronx VA Medical Center.
 - New York State has the fifth largest veteran population in the USA behind California, Florida, Texas and Pennsylvania.
 - There are 22 million veterans in the USA; 33,000 veterans in the Bronx. 15% women; 35% from Vietnam War; 42% are 65+. There is no breakdown for each community board because of privacy reasons.
 - Of a Standing Committee, Subcommittee or Special Committee, R. Ginty described the advantages of a Special Committee that could meet 3-4 times a year and hold forums.
 - This Executive Committee was asked to consider the issue. This will be discussed further at the next Executive meeting.

- L. Parker announced that there are 6 winners of the comeback kid award. They overcame challenges and are working hard to improve their future and inspire others to follow their example. The winners are chosen by the community centers. They will be honored at the April 12 community board meeting.
- M. Goodman announced that he received 3-4 nominee's for the community service award. The District Manager said it is advertised on facebook, the newspapers, our newsletter and the website.
- B. Press questioned the lack of contents in the Economic Development agenda. Chair Padernacht asked the District Manager to follow up on this.
- D. Padernacht stated that the office received an email today from S. Villaverde reporting that his absence at the Executive Committee meeting. He asked that the following information be given:
 - Merchants on Riverdale Avenue upset over DOT notice
 - Next meeting will be April 11, 2016 at Yo Burger and focus on 311 as a merchant resource
 - We are getting reports of aggressive pan handlers at West 231 Street and Broadway
- B. Bender announced that the Special Committee on the Hudson River Greenway will meet on April 13 at the Riverdale YM/YWHA, 7:30PM. The focus of the meeting will be finding funding for this project.

7. Follow up on Outstanding Issues

- None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Diane Bay,
Community Associate

Reviewed by:

Dan Padernacht
Chairman