

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD JUNE 6, 2012  
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

**PRESENT:**

Robert Fanuzzi, Chair  
Bob Abbott  
Sylvia Alexander  
Andrew Cohen  
Brendan Contant  
Arlene G. Feldmeier  
Phil Friedman  
Steven Froot  
Irving Ladimer

Damian McShane  
Maria Khury  
Rosemary Ginty  
Sergio Marquez  
Dan Padernacht  
Joyce Pilsner  
Nicole Stent  
Diane Bay

**ABSENT:**

Bob Bender  
Charles G. Moerdler  
Karen Pesce  
Sergio Villaverde

The meeting convened at 7:30 PM.

1. Chairman's Report – R. Fanuzzi

- Chairman Fanuzzi thanked the Executive Committee for their hard work during the year.
- Chairman Fanuzzi announced that Tom Durham has not been reappointed to the board and is very disheartened with this decision. He stated that the best way to honor Tom is to recommit to his work and make sure that his agenda over the past 6 years does not come to an end. R. Fanuzzi will make a statement at the board meeting and a letter of appreciation will be sent to him on behalf of the board.
- Patricia Manning will be honored for her over 25 years of dedicated work for the community board at the June meeting.
- At the invitation of the Kingsbridge Business Improvement District (BID), the Chair and the District Manager will be representing the board at the BID's annual lunch meeting at the Land & Sea Restaurant on Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.
- Councilman Fernando Cabrera will present a proclamation to the Board and citations to the members for their board service at the June board meeting.
- The Public Design Commission approved the DPR plan for tree removal and construction of the jogging path halfway around the Jerome Park Reservoir. The capital funding for Ft. Independence Park improvements was also improved. Work will begin in the spring of 2013.
- Chair's appearance before the Bronx City Council Delegation hearing scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup> to testify on Van Cortlandt Park pedestrian bridge over the Major Deegan was postponed and will be rescheduled.
- Chair conveyed suggestion made by several board members to use the Board's surplus funds to purchase a microphone for use at board meetings. The district manager did some research and recommended a wireless microphone with an amplifier. The amplifier could weigh between 4 to 8 pounds and more. The staff is not able to carry such equipment under the union guidelines, nor would the district manager be able to carry the equipment. S. Alexander reminded everyone that it would not need to be brought to all meetings since there are locations with a microphone. R. Ginty volunteered to pick up the equipment and bring it to the board meetings.
- The office will also use the surplus funds to purchase frames for the district map, filing cabinets to replace broken cabinets and needed office supplies.

- S. Alexander inquired as to whether the office continued to have the defibrillator and if so, was it brought to the board meetings. N. Stent responded that the machine's battery was no longer operable but she would inquire about purchasing a new one. S. Alexander asked about the machine's use. N. Stent responded that there had been plans by the previous Health, Hospitals & Social Services committee to schedule open trainings, however, these trainings had not occurred and no one on the board is currently trained to use the defibrillator. The district manager and the Chair of the Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee will follow up.

2. Treasurer's Report – P. Friedman

- As co-chair of the "Friends of Community Board 8" committee, P. Friedman presented a report to the Executive committee summarizing the work and research of the committee over a three year term. He requested that the executive committee vote on whether or not they want to independently raise funds for the board. After much discussion, it was concluded that the Executive Committee read final "Friends of Community Board 8" report over the summer and reach a decision at the September executive meeting whether to continue the conversation regarding fund raising. In addition, it was recommended that the Borough President's office be contacted regarding this issue and the other Bronx community boards should be surveyed on how they raise funds.

3. District Manager's Report – N. Stent

- At the Borough Service Cabinet meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup> it was announced that the Department of Buildings (DOB) was assigning 40 more inspectors and a DOB contact will be designated to the Bronx and for each borough.
- Due to the recommendations of several community boards on the budget requests, there will be a new item on the DOB website called Building on Block where you can go to your community board and access building permits that are listed.

4. Committee Reports

A. Budget – B. Contant

- As of June 6<sup>th</sup> the committees that still need to submit their FY 2014 budget priorities are Economic Development, Education, Public Safety and Traffic & Transportation. The deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup>. He suggested that each committee meet with its agency to come up with the most needed budget priority.
- Borough consultations will begin in September. Committee Chair's were encouraged to attend the meetings that relate to their committee. The FY 2014 Budget priorities will be presented for board approval at the October meeting.

B. Technology and Social Media – D. McShane

When Ari Goldman was Chair of the Technology Committee, his goal was to find a way for Bronx Community Board No. 8. to spread its message to the community. One idea was to set up a Facebook page. Mr. McShane gave a brief presentation on Facebook and how it works. Users can highlight events and businesses within the community. Currently, D. McShane manages the Facebook page for Community Board 8, on which he posts information about board and committee meetings but he stressed that this is only as effective as the board members are in disseminating it and actively recruiting people to participate. R. Fanuzzi and N. Stent will be added as managers of page. B. Contant commented that if posts on Community Board 8 Facebook page drive users to other sites and attract a large audience it may be possible to charge for advertisements on the page. This may be one of the avenues the board can fundraise. N. Stent recommended dedicating one of the e-our newsletters to inviting the public to join our

Facebook page and have the committee chairs invite their attendee's to the Facebook page. D. McShane suggested that if you are a current Facebook user; invite your friends to join the Boards Facebook page. R. Fanuzzi asked D. McShane and B. Contant to work together on future ideas for use of Board Facebook page.

C. Libraries & Cultural Affairs – R. Abbott

- The committee will meet on Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Spuyten Duyvil Branch at 6:00 PM. NYPL is facing a devastating \$43 million cut in the FY2013 budget. The City Council is likely to restore some of that funding but, as of now, it has not been restored. Visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org) where you have the opportunity to send a letter to your councilman in protest of the cuts or make a donation. There is also a possibility that there could be cuts in the FY2014 budget.
- At the May committee meeting, it was learned that the NYPL branches are all maintaining an activity profile such as how many books are loaned; how many downloads occur; etc. B. Abbott will try to include this data in his minutes.

D. Law, Rules & Ethics – I. Ladimer

- At the May committee meeting the consensus and vote of the committee was that a comprehensive manual for the election and management of the Nominating Committee be included in the Ethics manual. Among other suggestions, the committee recommended that in the future the Nominating Committee conduct a survey to find who may not be seeking reelection and make that information available to the entire Board.
- On communication from B. Bender, the Committee discussed the issue of the adequacy of notice on franchise considerations provided by the city as applied in the matter of the Van Cortlandt Park ice rink. The matter was tabled until the fall.

E. Health Hospitals and Social Services – S. Froot

- The Nutrition & Health Fair at PS 7 has been postponed until the fall.
- The Riverdale Festival of the Arts on May 6<sup>th</sup> was very successful and Montefiore Medical Center had health and blood pressure screenings thanks to Mike Heller.
- At the June 24<sup>th</sup> Riverfest, there will be medical and dental screenings.
- The Committee's budget priorities will be forthcoming. Included will be obesity education or intervention.
- The next committee meeting is on June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Kingsbridge Heights Rehabilitation & Care Center, 3400 Cannon Place. There will be a presentation by Bronx Health REACH.

F. Youth – A. Cohen

- Refer to minutes.
- There is no meeting in June.
- Councilman Koppell is hopeful that monies will be restored for the Out of School Time (OST) program.
- A. Cohen thanked those who worked with him on the nominating committee.

G. Nominating Committee – A. Cohen

- A. Cohen thanked those who worked with him on the nominating committee.

H. Traffic & Transportation – D. Padernacht

- D. Padernacht attended the Riverdale Merchants Association meeting regarding the revised Riverdale Avenue Henry Hudson Parkway signage. After the community protested the New York State Department of Transportation suggested a ground-mounted post reading Riverdale Avenue Exits 20 and 22 a quarter of a mile before the West 239<sup>th</sup> Street exit. Southbound drivers will be directed to Riverdale Avenue only at Exit 22. There will be no separate sign singling out Riverdale Avenue at Exit 20. The North Riverdale Merchants Association was satisfied with this compromise.
- There will be a presentation by DDC on the reconstruction of Bailey Place Retaining Wall and water main project at the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting in the board office.
- A subcommittee is working on the complaints sent to the board office by the President of Netherland Gardens. An update from the Netherland Gardens is that the A&P has been cooperating.
- The Executive Committee created a resolution for review of the board to renew the Greentree's unenclosed sidewalk café. D. Padernacht requested they be invited to the board meeting on Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The next committee meeting is on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the board office.

I. Education – S. Alexander

- PS 24's Principal came to the May Education meeting. Refer to minutes.
- The Education committee extended additional time to submit Budget Priorities for 2014 since PS 24 had not responded on time. The Education Committee was invited to take a tour of PS 24 on June 20.
- The Education committee has hopes of continued communication.
- S. Alexander requested that when minutes are submitted by the Chair's they be distributed expeditiously.
- Included in the Education FY 2014 expense budget priorities will be a new request to ask for updated equipment in school gyms in Community Board 8 with the purpose of addressing student obesity.

J. Environment & Sanitation – R. Ginty

- Refer to minutes.
- The Community Clean-Up Event in Marble Hill is on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Meeting place is at the Water of Life Pentecostal Church. The event has support from the Marble Hill Tenants Association, Promenade Apartments, St. Stephen's Methodist Church, Carolina Baptist Church and Water of Life Pentecostal Church, NYCHA, DSNY and many elected officials.
- Reverend Dixon has requested the community board to have Board meetings in Marble Hill..

K. Public Safety – Arlene G. Feldmeier

- A resolution was presented on new liquor license applications to be presented at the June 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.
- Winners, the establishment on West 260<sup>th</sup> and Broadway is coming to the June committee meeting to discuss an alteration application that was submitted to the board office.
- The New York Philharmonic will hold a concert in Van Cortlandt Park on Tuesday, July 17, 2012, 8:00PM. A. Feldmeier suggested that the board set up a table for community outreach.
- A. Feldmeier reported a complaint by the management office of 5676 Riverdale Avenue (Board office location) due to the presence of undesirable characters congregating and participating in illegal activities within the property's parking lot. The committee will be meeting in the summer.

L. Miscellaneous

- J. Pilsner reviewed the attendance of committee members at committee meetings and distributed a list to each chair.
- M. Khury reported that the Kingsbridge Merchants Association is having a block party that the board is co-sponsoring on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and would like all to spread the word.
- N. Stent reported that the Kingsbridge Heights Youthmarket will not occur this summer but Councilman Cabrera is committed to making this happen next year.
- N. Stent reported that the Marble Hill Youthmarket will be open on Thursdays in July. The community sponsors are Bon Secours, GrowNYC and Riverdale Neighborhood House.
- N. Stent announced that the board office will participate in the Operation Backpack 2012, Support Homeless Children program like last year. It begins July 1<sup>st</sup> and runs thru July 30<sup>th</sup> and the board office will be a drop off site for backpacks and school supplies. Visit the web site.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Diane Bay  
Community Associate