

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD MAY 2, 2012  
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

**PRESENT:**

Robert Fanuzzi, Chair  
Bob Abbott  
Sylvia Alexander  
Bob Bender  
Andrew Cohen  
Tom Durham  
Arlene G. Feldmeier  
Phil Friedman  
Steven Froot

Maria Khury  
Rosemary Ginty  
Sergio Marquez  
Karen Pesce  
Joyce Pilsner  
Nicole Stent  
Diane Bay

**ABSENT:**

Brendan Contant  
Irving Ladimer  
Damian McShane  
Charles G. Moerdler  
Dan Padernacht  
Sergio Villaverde

The meeting convened at 7:30 PM.

1. Chairman's Report – R. Fanuzzi

- The Chair discussed the Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee issues adding that the Parks Departments (DPR) had an application to cut trees along Jerome Park Reservoir. It was not scheduled by the Public Design Commission (PDC) until DPR can provide further details about the removal of the trees along the dam by the hill at Ft. Independence Park. As a result, capital funding for Ft. Independence Park improvements and the jogging path halfway around the reservoir are both on hold. R. Fanuzzi and B. Bender have been in contact with DPR, and have learned that a revised application will be submitted by the Parks Department on May 15<sup>th</sup> for a PDC hearing in early June.
- The Chair on behalf of the Board will appear before the Bronx City Council Delegation on May 15<sup>th</sup> to testify on building a pedestrian bridge over the Major Deegan that connects the east to west sides in Van Cortlandt Park.
- The Chair attended the Bronx Borough Presidents Borough Cabinet meeting to support a vote in favor of Equity One Inc.'s purchase of the West 230<sup>th</sup> Street Broadway Plaza site. The Bronx Board Chairs inquired about a net increase in Bronx jobs, especially for publicly financed economic development projects as this is an economic priority for the borough. Equity One is not receiving public funding and is not under the living wage requirements, however, the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was asked to report on the job opportunities provided by this project. S. Alexander asked if jobs would be set aside for local residents. R. Fanuzzi will ask S. Villaverde chair of Economic Development Committee to add it to the committee agenda and work on a possible local job fair with the hopes of job placement for local residents.
- A condolence letter was sent to the family of Mr. Arnie Hyman.
- The Chair thanked L. Spalter and the board office for planning the successful Earth Day celebration and clean up of Endor Community Gardens at West 253<sup>rd</sup> Street and Fieldston Road. The Riverdale School and Wave Hill summer interns will be working on the maintenance of Endor Gardens throughout the year.

## 2. Treasurer's Report – P. Friedman

- There is a surplus of \$2,200 that will be used for office supplies and community outreach. T. Durham suggested that the office purchase of a portable projector screen.
- The "Friends of Community Board 8" committee met and a report was developed. P. Friedman spoke with the Conflict of Interest Board and there were several suggestions and revisions to the report. A final report will be presented at the next Executive Committee meeting.
- P. Friedman announced that D. McShane started a facebook page for each committee. He supports this idea which can offer a new dimension to board communication and show the board accomplishments. He would like to discuss this at the next Executive Committee meeting.

## 3. District Manager's Report – N. Stent

- N. Stent reported that the office contact list file on optimum had a corrupt file which resulted in a loss of board contacts. The office will be transitioning to the government email address [BX08@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:BX08@cb.nyc.gov) in late June.
- The Boards community collaboration project supported the Horace Mann School's 5th Annual Service-Learning Day held on Saturday, April 21, 2012. It is a project that combines community service and action with education, often through curricular connections. N. Stent attended the service day and has been working over the past 2 years on expanding this collaborative project to other schools.
- On May 1<sup>st</sup> the Economic Development Committee hosted a Noise Reduction Workshop for restaurants, bars and night life establishments. The workshop discussed city noise regulations, compliance and ways to reduce noise levels such as soundproofing. It was held at the Kingsbridge Library, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) presented and the NYPD 50th Precinct also attended to answer questions.
- In the District Service Cabinet meeting this morning, the community liaisons from the 3 Department of Design & Construction (DDC) projects received kudos for their community outreach from Randi Martos of Assemblyman Dinowitz office and Andrew Sandler of Councilman's Koppell's office.
- R. Ginty added that the Environment and Sanitation Committee had DDC representatives at the April committee meeting to discuss the Corlear Avenue water main project.

## 4. Committee Reports

### A. Libraries & Cultural Affairs – R. Abbott

- The committee will meet on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Van Cortlandt Library Branch at 6:00 PM.
- There was a good presentation at the Aging Committee on the Lifetime Arts program. Ed Friedman created the program with libraries and there will be 7 to 8 week programs. The Kingsbridge Library branch will start with this group on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The Community Service Awards (CSA) will be presented at the May 8<sup>th</sup> Community Board meeting. The following winners were announced this week in the Riverdale Press: Riverdale Riverfest, the organizers Yael Levy and Paul Elston and host College of Mount Saint Vincent; Kingsbridge, Riverdale, Marble Hill Food and Hunger Project (KRMH), Deirdre La Porte for her volunteer work at Wave Hill since 1999 totaling 1400 hours of donated time and Friends of Van Cortlandt Park (FVCP) in celebration of its 20th Anniversary of the organization.

### B. Aging – K. Pesce

- Refer to minutes.
- K. Pesce is concerned that the Lifetime Arts program may interfere with the programs at the senior centers.

- The next meeting is Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Hudson Pointe at Riverdale at 3:30 PM.

C. Education – S. Alexander

- Refer to minutes.
- The committee met on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The Marble Hill School for International Studies discussed their school and its programs. They have a very high attendance, graduation and college acceptance rate. The school wants to offer internship opportunities. S. Alexander would like to work with N. Stent on possible internship hosting opportunities in the board office.
- New Visions presented a student project at the two New Vision Charter Schools within JFK called “The Greening of JFK”. The students developed ways in which solutions could be implemented to make the surroundings eco friendly.
- PS 24 has agreed to speak at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Education meeting.
- The Chair spoke about having sent letters to solicit budget priorities from local schools. Members of the committee will make some phone calls to the schools that have not responded.

D. Public Safety – Arlene G. Feldmeier

- Detectives testified today before the grand jury regarding the murder of a local resident for an iPhone.
- A resolution was presented on liquor license renewals and new applications to be presented at the May 8 Board meeting.
- In response to an inquiry about safety in the board, the chair stated that there were several traffic studies pending. Chair Fanuzzi added that requests for traffic studies were sent to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for West 259<sup>th</sup> Street and Riverdale Avenue, Broadway and Mosholu Avenue and the Neighborhood Slow Zone at Independence Avenue and West 237<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Chair Fanuzzi distributed a pending bill on Community Board’s involvement in State Liquor Authority (SLA) hearings.

E. Health Hospitals and Social Services – Steve Froot

- Refer to minutes.
- There will be Nutrition & Health Fair at PS 7 on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The committee will contact principals and parent association leaders in each of the elementary schools in the community to make them aware of this event so they can have a representative there to think about replicating the fair at other schools.
- Riverdale Festival of the Arts is on Sunday, May 6 from 11:00AM to 4:00PM on Johnson Avenue between West 235<sup>th</sup> and 236<sup>th</sup> Streets. Through Michael Heller’s effort, Montefiore Medical Center will have blood pressure screenings.
- The Committee’s budget priorities are due in June. The Committee will continue with its expense budget request for Riverdale Mental Health Association geriatric mental health program funding. The committee will also resubmit a capital request for the establishment of an EMS restocking station in CB 8.
- The next committee meeting is on May 21<sup>st</sup> in the board office at 7:30 PM.

F. Housing – Tom Durham

- Refer to minutes.
- Discussion included security cameras at the NYCHA houses, building entry systems, policing, enforcement of NYCHA rules and general public safety. He reported that Councilman Cabrera allocated \$700,000 of discretionary funding for security cameras for Marble Hill Houses. The estimated cost for all 11 buildings is \$100,000 per building and additional funding of \$400,000 is

needed. In addition, another \$200,000 will be needed to install the systems. The NYCHA Ft. Independence Houses have 2 buildings that also need security cameras. The Housing Committee agreed to reach out to Councilmen Koppell and Rodriguez whose electoral districts cover portions of the Marble Hill Houses. A portion of Marble Hill and all of Ft. Independence Houses are within Councilman Cabrera's district.

- Donald Ranshte from the Department of Buildings (DOB) had two expense items for the budget requests: a Computer Integration System that will allow all DOB web programs and users to interface with one another; and a new computer program system called the Developer's Hub. This program will allow all web users to examine plans and permits issued by DOB and will offer transparency and accountability.
- NYCHA is testing a key pod building entry system in the Mitchel Houses in the south Bronx as a pilot program. Key pods are digital magnetic device that substitutes the standard door key. The pods can be programmed to open an assigned door and dedicated to a specific owner. If the pilot program proves to be successful, NYCHA will install this system throughout all 21 NYCHA complexes city wide.
- On April 21<sup>st</sup> T. Durham attended a forum on tenant's rights.
- There will be a 7 1/2% increase in water rates beginning July, 2012.
- K. Pesce, chair of Aging Committee will be hosting a meeting with Councilman Koppell's office for those who may be eligible for tax lien waivers. It will be at the board office on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Telephone calls will also be accepted on that day.
- There is new striping and a new stop sign on Manhattan College Parkway and West 246<sup>th</sup> Street. T. Durham requested follow up on striping request at Manhattan College Parkway and West 242<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- The next Housing committee meeting will be on Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> and there will be a discussion on foreclosures.

#### G. Environment & Sanitation – R. Ginty

- Refer to minutes.
- There will be a Community Clean-Up Event in Marble Hill on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the Board and Councilman Rodriguez. DSNY will provide equipment and supplies and the community provides volunteers to clean up. The community response was positive. There was also interest in having a second event. There will be a press release and flyers will be distributed. Volunteers are welcome.
- Note: Chair, Rosemary Ginty recused herself from discussion and participation on a resolution presented by Andy Cohen and drafted by Laura Spalter, Vice-Chair. The resolution opposes the Mayor's proposal to charge not-for-profit organizations and charities fees for garbage removal and supports the passage of Int. No. 792. This will be presented at the board meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>. If passed, this will be sent to Speaker Quinn and other Community Boards with a cover letter asking them to support the passage of this bill.

#### H. Youth – A. Cohen

- Refer to minutes.
- The committee adopted budget priorities for FY 2014 and they will be submitted to the board office. N. Stent reported that an emergency call came in from Marble Hill Community Center early that the center will be closing due to funding cuts in the Out of School Time (OST) program. There are approximately 110 children from ages 5 to 12 years old that attend this program everyday and also on some of the federal holidays. The Director of Marble Hill will be reaching out to elected officials and media to support funding this program in the Department of Youth and Community Development budget. A. Cohen added that last year's budget priorities included a request for additional funding for the request for proposals for Riverdale Community Center (RCC), Marble Hill Community Center and Kingsbridge Heights Community Centers. Discussion

ensued with Steve Froot and Phil Friedman urging A. Cohen to include additional specifics on funding needed for each center in his budget priorities.

- A representative from Congressman Engel will discuss federal funding programs at the next meeting on May 23rd at the board office.

I. Parks & Recreation - B. Bender

- Refer to minutes.
- Bob Bender reported on the skateboard park site visit. It was decided that Van Cortlandt Park was the better location. Parks Department estimated the cost of the skate park at approximately \$1.15 million. Councilman Koppell may be able to provide some funding. The hope is that the Borough President's will also provide funding.
- There was a Van Cortlandt Park master plan planning session. It was well attended with many excellent suggestions. When the master plan is finished, it will be presented to Community Boards 7, 8, 12. This is an ongoing project that is expected to take one year.
- There was a presentation from the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC). They received funding from Senator Schumer to conduct a study of the greenway and to identify the third location of the greenway. This is the final stage of this study. A Parks Committee resolution concerning the Greenway was merged with a Traffic & Transportation Committee resolution and will be presented at the Board meeting.
- Budget priorities are listed in the minutes.
- B. Bender mentioned that CB8 Chair Bob Fanuzzi had written to the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to thank them for reviewing the plan by the MTA to remove the pedestrian walkway on the upper level of the Henry Hudson Bridge. At the April 17<sup>th</sup> T&T committee meeting, MTA disclosed that it has submitted its plan to dismantle the walkway – already in progress – to SHPO in response to requests from the community board and local activists. We are waiting for their response.
- It's My Park Day will be held on Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup> and there will be clean up at Ft. Four Park in Kingsbridge Heights from 10:00AM to 3:00PM. Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood Association (KHNIA), Ft. Independence Park Neighborhood Association, Our Lady of Angels Parish and other community associations will be participating.
- There will be Youth Farm Stand in Van Cortlandt Park at West 242<sup>nd</sup> Street and Broadway on Tuesdays from 3:00PM to 7:00PM from July 10 to August 28, 2012.
- The next meeting will be May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Van Cortlandt Park Stadium and they will be discussing the preparations for the ice skating rink. A person from Ice Rink events and the 50<sup>th</sup> precinct are expected to attend.

J. Law, Rules & Ethics – S. Marquez on behalf of I. Ladimer

- There was no April meeting.
- I. Ladimer wants to acknowledge the board members for their interest and participation in the process of the nominating committee. He believes that this participation had a positive outcome.
- The Law Committee will decide whether this new practice of the nominating committee should be placed in the ethics manual. The Conflict of Interest Board will also be informed to see if there are any conflicts for the board, board members or committees.
- There is a project underway to provide civic education to the public.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Diane Bay  
Community Associate