

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD OCTOBER 2, 2013
AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Fanuzzi, Chair
Maria Khury, Vice Chair
Phil Friedman, Treasurer
Joyce Pilsner, Secretary
Sylvia Alexander
Bob Bender
Steve Balicer
Brendan Contant

Rosemary Ginty
Marvin Goodman
Michael Heller
Sergio Marquez
Dan Padernacht
Nicole Stent, District Manager
Diane Bay, Community Associate

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Charles G. Moerdler
Arlene G. Feldmeier
Steven Froot
Lamont Parker
Sergio Villaverde

The meeting convened at 7:30PM.

1. Chairman's Report – R. Fanuzzi

- R. Fanuzzi thanked I. Ladimer and the Riverdale Senior Center for inviting him to speak at their Constitution Day.
- R. Fanuzzi, as chair of the Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee, reported on reopening talks with DEP about a pilot public access to the JP reservoir. The committee is also tracking the progress of the jogging path construction along the JP Reservoir and the Ft. Independence Park area and forwarding concerns with contractor activity to CB8. The committee is also confirming replacement costs and number for trees cut down within Ft. Independence and perimeter of Reservoir.
- R. Fanuzzi reviewed the committee chairs responsibilities and the importance in producing attendance, minutes and resolutions with voting records one week after committee meetings, in advance of the executive committee meeting. He suggested a committee chair appoint a person to take the minutes. It is also important to appoint a Vice Chair for your committee and inform the board office.
- The Chair reported on priorities for the \$7000 of discretionary funding the Community Board received from Councilman Fernando Cabrera and Councilmen Ydanis Rodriguez, pending approval of all necessary contracts. The proposed plan for Councilman Cabrera's contribution: \$2,000 to support the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center Teen Green Youth Market (same amount as last year); \$ 500 to support the NYPL Jerome Park Library Branch three cooking programs; \$750 for a color print/scan/fax laser machine to match the new computers and \$250.00 for general office supplies. For Councilman Rodriguez's contribution: \$2000 for the Marble Hill Youthmarket in its 6th year; \$150.00 to the NYPL Kingsbridge Library Cooking Program; \$1,136 for a new computer, and \$214.00 for general office supplies. The monies will probably not be

spent until after the Mayor's preliminary budget is issued to head off the effect of any possible board cuts in March 2014.

- R. Fanuzzi reported on a support letter written on behalf of the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center's application for Healthy Eating and Active Living grants. These grants to fund KHCC programs that Bronx Community Board 8 has already helped to create and supported, including both Playstreets and the Teen Green Youth Market. The board received the request for a support letter days before the application deadline, but the letter was read and approved by Health and Hospitals Chair S. Froot and Vice Chair M. Heller.
- R. Fanuzzi asked B. Contant and P. Friedman to report on their research on how to improve the Community Board's online activity and to connect better with the community through social media. B. Contant gave an informative PowerPoint presentation that initiated a discussion on how to manage and implement the board's online activity. District Manager Stent provided statistical analysis of the e-newsletter and website for the presentation. P. Friedman noted that Facebook and twitter are more interactive than emails. M. Heller noted that these online mediums require an intensive, daily commitment to keep information up to date. Recommendations were to have a student intern or a board member skillful in social media to work with these online mediums. S. Balicer noted many residents in the district are not social media savvy and suggested reviewing other methods of sending information to them. Chairman Fanuzzi asked B. Contant and P. Friedman to return to the executive committee with more information on how other community boards use online media, what their experience may be, and how much cost, time and effort it requires.

2. Treasurer's Report – P. Friedman

- A Treasurer's report will be presented to the board every 3 months.
- P. Friedman met with N. Stent to go over the financials of the board office. If interested contact P. Friedman.

3. District Manager's Report – N. Stent

- Borough Consultation took place on September 12 and 18th. The last one is on Friday, October 4. Committee chairs are invited to attend. Highlights from these meetings include: the Bronx has the highest staff narcotics squad in the city; City Council added \$10 million dollars to NYPD surveillance camera programs; the Department of Buildings is offering training for its website; illegal conversions have decreased; the Major Deegan will be reviewed for repaving next year; and there will be a review of all step streets in CB8 with particular focus on renovating or repairing West 229th and West 231st step streets.
- The co-naming of James V. Downey Way will be held on Saturday, October 5th at 12PM on Mosholu Avenue between West 254th and 256th Street.
- Councilmember Rodriguez is having a groundbreaking ceremony announcing the security measures taken with surveillance cameras at the NYCHA Marble Hill Houses. This will take place on Thursday, October 3rd at 4:00 pm with NYCHA Chair, John Rhea. The ceremony location will be at the Marble Hill Houses Management Office, 5220 Broadway, (near 225th St.) Bronx.

4. Committee Reports

A. Budget – B. Contant

- The FY 2015 Capital and Expense Budget reports were distributed. Adjustments were made and distribution will occur before the Board meeting.

B. Land Use – R. Fanuzzi

- Chair Fanuzzi, M. Khury, R. Ginty, C. Moerdler, ~~M. Khury, R. Ginty~~, D. Padernacht, M. Wolpoff and N. Stent met with the Borough President and elected officials to express their support for the community concerns with the development at 6469 Broadway.
- M. Khury represented Bronx Community Board No. 8 in a joint press conference of Senator Klein and Assemblyman Dinowitz announcing that Communilife had withdrawn from the partnership with Self Help at 6469 Broadway.

C. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – M. Heller, Vice Chair

- The Under-Age Drinking Forum has been postponed until a new venue can be found. This will be discussed further at the October 21st committee meeting.

D. Housing – S. Balicer

- There was no committee meeting in September.
- The committee will meet on October 28th in the board office.
- S. Balicer also announced the groundbreaking ceremony Councilman Rodriguez is having on his security measures at the NYCHA Marble Hill Houses.

E. Environment & Sanitation – S. Marquez

- The committee met at the Water of Life Church in Marble Hill and discussed sanitation concerns. Pastor Franco will have the Youth ministry clean the street once a month in front of the Church.
- There are garbage cans missing from the SE corner of 230th Street and storm drains need to be cleaned. There is a raccoon problem at the Promenade buildings and a tree leaning in the driveway to the parking lot of the Promenade. These issues will be sent to 311.
- The next meeting is October 30th. DEC will hold an informational meeting for the neighbors living around the Brownfield site at 6469 Broadway.

F. Economic Development – M. Khury

- The Street Festival in South Riverdale was very successful.
- There will be an upcoming fair on Johnson Avenue, November 10, 2013.
- M. Khury and P. Ellis are working with Equity One on a resume job bank. Equity One will be issuing an ad in the Riverdale Review and the Riverdale Press. At this time, there is no commitment from them but they are willing to speak with us.
- S. Villaverde is concerned about business owners receiving numerous violations from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). D. Padernacht reported that S. Villaverde discovered an article indicating that a Consumer Affairs administrative law judge stated the policy within DCA was that a judge must give the maximum penalty, and if not, must refer it to the Commissioner of Consumer Affairs and the Commissioner will decide what the penalty will be. D. Padernacht stated that the law does state that the decision does go to the Commissioner. S. Villaverde will continue to discuss this topic at his meetings.

G. Education – S. Alexander

- There was no committee meeting in September due to the religious holiday.
- The committee will meet on October 22nd in the board office.

H. Traffic & Transportation – D. Padernacht

- A resolution will be presented at the board meeting for a stop sign and crosswalk at the intersection of West 259th Street and Netherland Avenue.
- The Committee will discuss converting West 259th Street from a two-way street to a one-way street from Arlington Avenue to Riverdale Avenue at the October meeting.
- On West 254th Street in the Sycamore, Independence, Palisades Avenue area the committee put forward a request to DOT about 6 different traffic regulation changes. A response from DOT is forthcoming.
- Residents requested a speed bump be placed at Bailey Place between Fort Independence Street and West 234th Street. DOT does not like to place speed bumps on hills. No action is being pursued until after the greenstreet and the installation of new curbs is completed at this location.
- A resolution will be presented at the board meeting to approve the special event permits for the Menorah Lighting Ceremony and Riverdale Jewish Heritage events.

I. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

- The Department of Parks & Recreation gave a presentation on the renovation plans in Ewen Park. Instead of two basketball courts there will be one and remaining funds will be used to improve the drainage near the proposed tot lot. Residents would like renovations made to the dog run but the monies given by Councilman Koppell indicated funds were provided for the purpose of the tot lot and basketball court renovation in response to requests at a scope meeting. Repairing the dog run could cost \$250,000 or more and that neighbors should ask the next councilperson for funding to do this work. B. Bender said he will add this to the capital funding budget request.
- The DEC held a public hearing at Lehman College on the Putnam Trail. The hearing was held because the Parks department has to have a wetlands permit from the State DEC to work on the Putnam Trail. If the DEC approves the permit, then the Parks Department will return to the Public Design Commission.
- The committee will meet at the Van Cortlandt Golf House on October 23rd. The Van Cortlandt Park Master Plan will be discussed.
- M. Goodman pointed out that the oldest living tree in the Bronx is a Sycamore tree on Corlear Avenue.

J. Libraries & Cultural Affairs – M. Goodman

- M. Goodman met with B. Abbott and was introduced to Giselle Dixon, the new Library Branch Network Manager. She will be a speaker at the committee meeting on October 10th at 7:00 PM in the board office.

K. Law, Rules & Ethics – R. Ginty

- There was no committee meeting in September due to a religious holiday.
- The October meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29th at 7:00 PM. The meeting has been changed to a Tuesday because there is an event at the College of Mt. St.

Vincent on Thursday, October 24, the regular meeting date of the Law, Rules and Ethics Committee. All board members were invited to this event. Since the November meeting falls on Thanksgiving the committee will try to meet on a different night.

L. New Business

- M. Heller suggested that the community board meetings be held in one, central location in the neighborhood every month, possibly Manhattan College. He said that a single location with good parking, HVAC, PA System and access to public transportation would outweigh the value of rotating among poorly situated and equipped locations. This is the practice employed by BxCB 11. Board members discussed the effect of a single location on board and community attendance. R. Fanuzzi stated that rotating meeting locations has connected Bronx Community Board 8 closely to community institutions and diverse neighborhoods of the district and that cutting long-established ties to these institutions will severely damage community relations.
- P. Friedman reported that 36% of all minutes are not posted which is unfair to the public and to board members. Not everyone can make meetings and it is imperative that there is a record of all committee meetings to review. He also suggested having a digital recording for each meeting on the website.
- P. Friedman is concerned with the board's budget and staff salary increases and recommends it be reviewed.
- December, it is the final date for terminating the current board office lease. P. Friedman feels another location would create more of a presence in the community. P. Friedman, M. Khury, M. Heller and D. Padernacht volunteered to explore this option. Chairman Fanuzzi recommended they review the documents provided by District Manager Stent with the criteria for ending a lease and finding new space.
- P. Friedman stated that the board office staff may be involved in tasks that officers; committee chairs or board members are supposed to or should be doing. He would like to review board operations in order to optimize the performance. Chairman Fanuzzi suggested reviewing the bylaws, specifically describing committee chair responsibilities.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Diane Bay,
Community Associate

Reviewed by:

Joyce Pilsner,
Secretary