

(PENDING BOARD APPROVAL)

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 via Zoom Conference

PRESENT (35):

S. Alexander	M. Esema	R. Jacklosky	R. Pochter-Lowe
R. Bender	R. Fanuzzi	M. Joyce	J. Reyes
J. Campbell-Priveterre	N. Fazio	R. Kaplan	R. Singh
C. Dastis-Galvin	S. Froot	C. G. Moerdler	L. Spalter
L. Daub	D. Gellman	T. Morris	D. Travis
M. Della	R. Ginty	O. Murray	J. Townes
E. Dinowitz	J. Gomez	D. Padernacht	S. Villaverde
P. Ellis	M. Goodman	T. Pardo	M. Wolpoff
D. Escaño-Bell	E. Green	K. Pesce	

ABSENT (6):	M. Donato	D. Leverett	G. Santiago
	M. Gluck	L. Lopez	C. Tepelus

STAFF:

- P. Romano, Community Associate
- T. Ochoteco, Community Coordinator
- C. Gannon, District Manager

GUESTS:

NYS Senator Alessandra Biaggi, Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, Congressman Jamaal Bowman, Council Member Vanessa Gibson, Sam Liedtka (Assemblyman Dinowitz's Office), Marilex Santana, Eric Sawyer (BX DA office), Andy Laub (Sen. Biaggi's office), Mariel de la Cruz (Comptroller Stringer's office), Stephanie Ehrlich (VCP Alliance), Ishrael Gonzalez (BX BP office), Tony Edwards (Marble Hill Houses), Paula Frye (Marble Hill Houses), Deirdre Burke, Rebecca Brown Barbier (NYPL), Sydney Renwick (NYPL)

Chair Spalter convened the meeting at 6:40 PM and welcomed all. Budget Chair, D. Gellman commenced the Public Hearing on Responses from City Agencies on the Capital/Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2022.

The following community residents and stakeholders spoke in response to the budget responses:

- Stephanie Ehrlich (Van Cortlandt Park Administrator) asked for support in restoring the Van Cortlandt House Museum Fence Restoration Project as well as the Red Steps Restoration Project. Ms. Ehrlich also asked for support to increase the Van Cortlandt Park Operations Budget.
- Christina Taylor (Van Cortlandt Park Alliance) thanked everyone who has been volunteering in the park during the pandemic. The Alliance is seeking discretionary support to continue keeping the park clean through their volunteer program. They are also seeking support to continue providing environmental educational programming for youth and school children as well as cultural programs like the Enslaved People's Project and Barefoot Dancing.
- Tony Edwards (Marble Hill Houses) inquired about a discrepancy in an allocation for Budget Infrastructure Repair of \$1.1M (\$12.6M - \$13.7M). C. Gannon has an inquiry in with NYCHA and will relay their response to Mr. Edwards upon receipt.
- Paula Frye (Property Manager at Marble Hill Houses) spoke about concerns around the parapet wall, the facade, watermain (leaking into apartments), tripping hazards throughout the interior as well as problems with the boilers (heat & hot water).
- Deidre Burke expressed dismay around the lack of Parks capital budget. Seeking support for DSNY's ability to dispose of hazardous and e-waste. She also spoke about the need for cameras and enforcement to address speeding.
- Rebecca Brown Barbier (Manager at Riverdale & Spuyten Duyvil NYPL) – seeking support for 6-day service as well as programming.
- Sydney Renwick (NYPL Associate Director for Government and Community Affairs) spoke about a capital project at the Riverdale branch \$1.7M for ADA upgrades for bathrooms and interior façade currently in the procurement process. Capital project upgrade for complete renovation for Spuyten Duyvil.

D. Gellman closed the budget hearing at 7:02PM.

1. GALLERY SESSION: (No Speakers)

2. REPORT FROM THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE – Ishrael Gonzalez

- The Borough President's monthly report was distributed.
- At this time, no new Community Board membership applications are being accepted.
- Welcomed new community board members and reminded existing members that the application renewal deadline was Friday, February 5th. Please submit your renewal applications asap if you have not done so yet.

3. REPORT FROM THE 50TH POLICE PRECINCT – Officer Conejo

- The monthly crime statistics are: 0 murders, 1 rape, 9 robberies, up 50% from last year, 12 felony assaults, up 9%, 6 burglaries for the year compared to 9 last year, 29 grand larcenies, 3 grand larceny assaults, down 80%
- Board Members asked questions regarding speeding, shot spotters and budget priorities. Officer Conejo will pass them along to Captain Melendez.

4. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY MEMBER JEFFREY DINOWITZ

- His office has received complaints regarding appointments for COVID vaccines at Yankee Stadium; this site is open to the entire Bronx.
- Office is open and seeing constituents by appointment.
- State budget does not look good, cuts promise to be severe unless we receive a massive infusion from the Federal government. Raising taxes on the very wealthy may be necessary. C. Moerdler recommends income generation such as air rights.

5. REPORT FROM CONGRESSMAN JAMAAL BOWMAN

- The Congressman expressed that after the insurrection on January 6, there has been incredible collaboration, communication and unity within the Democratic party.
- He introduced his first bill, “The Congressional Oversight for Unjust Policing (COUP) Act” in response to the lack of police and level of resistance in comparison to BLM protests. Congress is asking for a 9/11 style commission to investigate exactly what happened.
- Recently elected as vice chair of Education & Labor committee and sits on the Science and Technology committee.
- The District office is open virtually and the Congressman along with his staff are eager to get to work for the community.

6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – LAURA SPALTER

- Refer to Executive Committee minutes for the full report. Chair Spalter stated that she asks everyone to be mindful of the time. Aim to end tonight's and all future full board meetings by 9:00pm to be respectful of the public and board members. Remote meetings have been ending very late.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT – DIOMARYS ESCANO-BELL

- D. Escaño-Bell provided an overview of the report and noted that we've allocated \$118,175 with \$134,212 remaining for FY2021. The asterisk refers to a pending transfer to OMB of \$3,628 in response to the City's goal to eliminate budget gaps.

8. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – CIARA GANNON

- DM Gannon referred board members to the Executive minutes for an extended report.
- Working closely with the Land Use committee on projects in the district.
- Stagg group created an email address for questions and complaints re 5278 Post Rd: info@5278ptrd.com
- At the District Services Cabinet meeting the Parks Dept agreed to clean up Bailey Triangle with local volunteers taking care of ongoing maintenance.

9. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING – **NONE**

Secretary L. Daub conducts Roll Call. A quorum is present with 35 board members.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. LAND USE – C. G. MOERDLER

- Thanked C. Gannon for the work she has done to help make the work of the Land Use committee possible this year.
- The Land Use committee will be working on a planning and zoning project with the help of Rosemary Ginty. They will focus on Dash Place, Kingsbridge area/ Claflin Av and Webb Avenue.
- C. Moerdler thanked D. Travis for her work on the Webb Avenue project. J. Reyes will lead work on issues surrounding proposed development on NYCHA grounds.
- We have ascertained that the Department of Traffic is responsible for the right of way and repair of rockslide along Henry Hudson Parkway, not the property owners.

B. TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION – D. PADERNACHT

- Next meeting is Thursday, February 18, Con Edison to update the community on current projects including North Riverdale.
- We have received complaints about DOT making changes without notifying the board or the community, such as speedbumps on Palisade Avenue near the Hebrew Home and new daylighting signs near Amalgamated. This issue will be on the agenda.

C. YOUTH – J. GOMEZ

- Next meeting date is Monday, March 15.
- The committee will continue to explore how to expand current free Wi-Fi network.
- Thanked R. Singh for agreeing to be Vice Chair.

D. AGING – E. DINOWITZ

- For older adults, vaccinations have been tough to schedule. The Board sent a letter to Mayor de Blasio asking him to create a portal to allow senior centers to directly schedule appointments for seniors. The request was echoed by our senior centers.
- A representative from DFTA attended our last meeting. We suggested sites in the district and will continue to forward suggestions. Transportation to vaccination sites is available through Aging Connect. Scams are still rampant.
- Next meeting scheduled for March 18.

E. BUDGET – D. GELLMAN

- FY2021 ends June 30th
- The board will send a budget response letter for FY2022 to the Mayor and OMB.
- Embarking on Fiscal / Budget year 2023 – Expense / Capital budget priorities in development.
- L. Spalter added that we have 29 Capital projects that were submitted in April: 8 are in Riverdale/Spuyten Duyvill area, 18 are distributed throughout the rest of the district and 3 are in Van Cortlandt which is a regional park. The committees are being sensitive to needs throughout the entire district.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – N. FAZIO

- Last meeting was held on January 28, please refer to minutes
- Thanked Moses Esema for accepting to be Vice Chair of the committee
- The Economic Development committee has renamed the Most Valuable Merchant Award to the Betty Campbell-Adams Award.
- EDC continues to make referrals for the PPP loan assistance through the Small Business Development Center at Lehman College
- South Bronx Overall SOBRO and Chamber of Commerce newly funded program called the Small Business Resource Network
- R.A.I.N. Total Care invited to discuss finding skilled workers
- Refining budget request for FY2023
- Please spread the word to business to let them know our committee is here as a resource
- Economic Development Committee will collaborate with Land Use committee on the planning initiative mentioned by C. Moerdler
- Next meeting March 4th –Manhattan College Professor Amiri Anati to present

G. EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & CULTURAL AFFAIRS – S. ALEXANDER

- Refer to January minutes
- S. Alexander thanked R. Singh and M. Joyce for their assistance with the Zoom meetings.

- SAPO Resolution - ELCA committee unanimously approved the SAPO, noting that social distancing guidelines will be followed:

BE IT RESOLVED: Riverdale Jewish Center has submitted a SAPO application to hold an event celebrating Purim on February 25, 2021. They have asked for a street closing on West 237 Street between Independence Avenue and Blackstone Avenue. The street will be closed from 1:00PM to 9:00PM. This is the first time this event has been held.

VOTE:

In favor (35): S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman R. Ginty, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, C. G. Moerdler, T. Morris, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, T. Pardo, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, R. Singh, L. Spalter, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained: (0)

Opposed: 0

H. ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION – R. FANUZZI

- Appointed by L. Spalter to represent the board at SWAB, a borough-wide environmental forum.
- DSNY confirmed a 30% reduction in baseline sanitation pick up a total of 60% reduction including supplemental service.
- Next meeting date is March 17 – the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Director of Climate Change will be speaking to the committee regarding the Climate Action and Community Leadership Act.
- DEP Croton team spoke about the changes in water taste and smell in a thorough presentation. Please use 311 to report these changes as DSNY is needs the 311 complaint reports for tracking purposes.

I. HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES – O. MURRAY

- Next meeting date is February 10.
- Invited speakers include Dr. Celine Gounder, Medical Advisor, Biden-Harris Transition Covid-19 Advisory Board Specialist, Infectious Disease and Public Health and Ms. Anita Reyes, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Bronx Neighborhood Health NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.
- Phase 3 of vaccine distribution will begin February 15th.

J. HOUSING – T. MORRIS

- Announced that the first vaccine distribution at Marble Hill Houses was a success. Over 300 residents were able to take advantage of the services.
- There were some issues with non-residents who bypassed the registration process to get vaccinated. This will be addressed going forward to ensure a fair distribution for the intended population.
- Thanked Senator Robert Jackson, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Tony Edwards, Paula Frye and others for their contribution in making the Marble Hill vaccination event possible.
- Next meeting will be February 22 where a portion of the agenda will be dedicated to budget priorities.

K. LAW, RULES & ETHICS – M. WOLPOFF

- The next committee meeting will be held on March 8. Guest speaker will be from the Campaign Finance Board to discuss the upcoming City Council elections under the new city charter, Rank Order Voting.
- L. Daub noted an expansion of early voting sites.

L. PARKS – R. GINTY

- At our last meeting, the Dept. of Parks presented a concept plan for Strong Street playground by the reservoir and exercise equipment project in Van Cortlandt Park near Amalgamated.
- The Parks Department will return in the Spring for another update as projects approach completion.
- Referred members to the committee's minutes for additional details
- Next meeting is February 24th. The committee will delve into Capital / Expense budget priorities

M. PUBLIC SAFETY – E. GREEN

- Presented 4 new renewal applications and 2 new applications for full liquor licenses. The board voted on all resolutions simultaneously:

WHEREAS, Representatives of An Beal Bocht, located at 445 W. 238th St., appeared before the Public Safety Committee on January 19th, 2021 to renew the establishment's liquor license.

WHEREAS, Representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior notable disturbances or complaints about this establishment.

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, Sean Barry, owner of The Punch Bowl, located at 5820 Broadway, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on January 19th, 2021 to renew the establishment's liquor license.

WHEREAS, Representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior notable disturbances or complaints about this establishment.

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, Representatives of TCR Tennis Club of Riverdale, located at 2600 Netherland Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on January 19th, 2021 to renew the establishment's liquor license.

WHEREAS, Representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior notable disturbances or complaints about this establishment.

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, Representatives of Flame, located at 5740 Broadway, Unit D, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on January 19th, 2021 to renew the establishment's liquor license.

WHEREAS, Representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior notable disturbances or complaints about this establishment.

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

NEW APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, Adelphi Minaya Reyes, owner of Tulum Restaurant & Lounge, located at 5625-2 Broadway, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on January 19th, 2021 to apply for a new liquor license.

WHEREAS, Representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior notable disturbances or complaints about the location of this establishment.

WHEREAS, Adelphi Minaya Reyes signed a 2AM closing agreement for the first year of operation.

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee approved this application.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

NEW APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, Representatives of Baby Crab, located at 5740 Broadway, Unit C, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on January 19th, 2021 to apply for a new liquor license.

WHEREAS, Representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior notable disturbances or complaints about the location of this establishment.

WHEREAS, Brian Chen, President of Baby Crab 1 Inc, signed a 2AM closing agreement for first year of operations.

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

VOTE:

In favor (35): S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esemá, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman R. Ginty, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, C. G. Moerdler, T. Morris, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, T. Pardo, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, R. Singh, L. Spalter, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained: (0)

Opposed: 0

- The Public Safety committee hosted the Bronx District Attorney's office at their last meeting and discussed Bail Reform and how it affects our community. We will continue to have more discussions with the Bronx DA on any public safety matters going forward.
- The committee will also have a winter Fire Safety presentation by the FDNY at an upcoming meeting.

N. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY – J. TOWNES

- The next SCRE meeting will be on February 11
- J. Townes strongly encouraged committee chairs to attend the upcoming meeting as the committee will discuss how they will incorporate the integration of the other committee's work with the SCRE.

11. REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBER VANESSA GIBSON

- Working with stakeholders to ensure an equitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine for Bronx residents.
- Last Friday, Yankee Stadium opened for distribution of the vaccine to Bronx residents. Appointments are available via the website at www.somosvaccinations.com the hotline is 1-833-SOMOSNY
- February 16 deadline for online application for the City Council's budget process.
- Noted Civil Legal Service Providers legislation to assist tenants who will be affected by the expiration of the Housing moratorium.

12. DISCUSSION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2021 – NO DISCUSSION

13. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2021

A motion was placed to approve the minutes and seconded by K. Pesce.

In favor (35): S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman R. Ginty, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, C. G. Moerdler, T. Morris, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, T. Pardo, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, R. Singh, L. Spalter, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained: (0)

Opposed: 0

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- S. Villaverde inquired about his proposal to bring back the Veteran's Committee. L. Spalter will re-circulate an email to the Board to survey interest.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:40 PM, seconded by R. Ginty and passed by unanimous consent.

Prepared By: Tania Ochoteco, Community Coordinator

Reviewed By: Lisa Daub, Secretary