

(PENDING BOARD APPROVAL)

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 via Zoom Conference**

PRESENT (36):

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

ABSENT (6):	J. Campbell-Priveterre	M. Donato	E. Garcia
	M. Goodman	T. Morris	T. Pardo

STAFF:

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

GUEST:

NYS Senator Alessandra Biaggi, Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, Council Member Fernando Cabrera, Sam Liedtka (AM Dinowitz's Office), Marilex Santana, Eric Sawyer (BX DA Office), Andy Laub (Sen. Biaggi's Office), Mariel, Stephanie Ehrlich (VCP Alliance), Tom Lucania (BX BP Office)

Chair Spalter convened the meeting at 7:05 PM and welcomed all.

1. GALLERY SESSION:

JEFFREY MOERDLER – Speaking as President of the Whitehall Co-op Board and long-time resident with a background in real estate law and transportation, expressed his opposition to the proposed changes to Independence Ave. He understands the problems of drag racing, noise and pedestrian safety, but explained why he finds that the T&T committee proposal is not the solution. Mr. Moerdler will attend the upcoming Traffic & Transportation committee meeting.

STEVEN WILLIAMS – Representative from Accessible Dispatch Program –This program, in partnership with NYC, supports transportation needs of people with disabilities and is available in all 5 boroughs 24/7. All drivers are trained on how to safely board passengers and secure wheelchairs. Patrons pay the standard fare set by the TLC. This service is available on demand or by booking a reservation.

2. REPORT FROM THE 50TH POLICE PRECINCT – Captain E. Melendez

- 3 gun arrests were made.
- 21 crimes in the month compared to 26 last year. Most crimes are grand larceny.
- 3 individuals were arrested for committing 17 burglaries.
- 2 homicides were solved
- 4 teenagers were arrested for robberies of e-bikes
- The precinct has not received drag racing complaints this month

3. REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBER FERNANDO CABRERA

- Council Member Cabrera informed the board that due to the financial impact of the pandemic, the \$42,500 special funding that he secured for Community Boards was not approved for this fiscal year. The administration is taking back funds from our FY 21 budget for a total of \$3,628 and \$8,153 for FY22. He encourages the Board to write to OBM and the administration expressing opposition to the cuts. Discretionary funding applications are currently available

4. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY MEMBER JEFFREY DINOWITZ

- Assembly Member Dinowitz reported that residents who are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination will get an appointment, but due to the high demand for limited supply, it may take time. The Assembly Member stated that he has noticed that local drag racing has reduced recently but recognizes that the problem is citywide.
- The Tenants Safe Harbor Law was signed into law to prevent evictions during the COVID crisis. He authored the COVID-19 Emergency Eviction Foreclosure Prevention Act to prevent mass eviction of tenants, mass residential mortgage foreclosure for homeowners and small landlords, tax foreclosure, tax lien sales and several other protections through May 1st.

5. REPORT FROM NYS SENATOR ALESSANDRA BIAGGI

- State Senator Biaggi discussed the incompetent vaccination rollout by the NYS Department of Health. The State had 10 months to plan and there was no coordination with the legislature. She is reaching out to secure potential vaccination sites within her district. The Senator announced passage of her Healthy Terminals Act ensuring health care to workers in this industry.

- State Senator Biaggi noted that she has expanded her emails to reach over 50,000 residents and urges constituents to contact the office with issues.

6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – LAURA SPALTER

- Chair Spalter shared that Daris B. Jackson resigned from the board. She thanked Daris for all his service. As per the by-laws, Vice Chair Ted Morris will assume the role of Interim Chair of the Housing Committee until an election is held.
- The SCRE report has been distributed to the Board and community. Board members who want a hard copy can pick one up at the Board office. The Chair will recruit for two SCRE members using the special committee members' stated criteria.
- A resolution regarding the insurrection at the Capitol may be added to the agenda during the SCRE report.
- In 2016 the board established the Special Committee on Veterans Services to hold public meetings or information forums and bring back any findings and recommendations to the board. S. Villaverde raised interest in bringing the Special Committee back. An email will be sent to board members.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT – DIOMARYS ESCANO-BELL

- D. Escaño-Bell provided an overview of the report. and noted that \$98,705 was allocated for FY 2021. No budget modification this month.

8. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – CIARA GANNON

- DM Gannon referred board members to the Executive Minutes for an extended report.
- The CB8 office provided a list of possible locations for vaccination sites to the office of Senator Biaggi and also provided sites to AM Dinowitz for self-testing centers.
- Due to citywide budget cuts, our Board was directed to return \$3,628 this year and \$8,153 next year. This will not result in staff reductions because of the advance planning done by former Chair Ginty and officers. Once city finances returns to normal the budget cuts should be reversed.

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

Secretary L. Daub conducts Roll Call. A quorum is present with 36 board members.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. YOUTH – J. GOMEZ

- Chair J. Gomez introduced a resolution to increase the presence of LinkNYC in Community District 8. The friendly amendments brought forth by C. Tepelus and D. Padernacht were accepted by Chair Gomez.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 global pandemic has caused in person gatherings to become dangerous; and

WHEREAS, community centers and afterschool programs have had to shift to virtual programming; and

WHEREAS, schools have had to transition to remote learning; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens in our community have an increased risk of isolation and depression due to social distancing requirements; and

WHEREAS, LinkNYC kiosks provide critical, real time information to pedestrians on public transportation, buses and subways, weather, local emergency events, free access to 911 call etc., and

WHEREAS, LinkNYC specifically through its LinkLocal Program provide a free advertising platform to non-profits for posting information about community events and programs; and

WHEREAS, LinkNYC provide an easily accessible platform for local businesses that may be interested in advertising promotions, special products and special offers; and

WHEREAS, NYC kiosks contributed substantially to modernizing the aspect and infrastructure of commercial corridors throughout New York City; and

WHEREAS, New York City has implemented the LinkNYC program to provide free internet access in conjunction with the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, and

WHEREAS, out of approximately 1,800 LinkNYC locations only one kiosk is located within Bronx Community Board 8 (intersection of University Avenue and Kingsbridge Road); and

WHEREAS, there are 135 LinkNYC kiosks located in the Bronx; and

WHEREAS, out of 305 pending LinkNYC applications no additional kiosks are pending for Bronx Community Board 8; and

WHEREAS, there will be a need for high-speed internet access after the COVID-19 global pandemic.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 calls upon the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications to expand the current LinkNYC kiosk network to include no less than 5 additional kiosks in Bronx Community Board 8 with input from both Bronx Community Board 8 and local community stakeholders to address the digital divide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that DOITT present a siting and design plan of proposed LinkNYC kiosks to the Traffic and Transportation Committee for comment and concern prior to installation of kiosks in the community district.

VOTE:

In favor (34): B. Bender, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained (2): S. Alexander, D. Gellman

Opposed: 0

B. AGING – E. DINOWITZ

- The Aging committee meeting is next week on January 18, 2021. The committee is looking for a guest speaker to present information about the coronavirus vaccine and older adults.

C. BUDGET – D. GELLMAN

- The Community Board is now in 2nd half of FY 2021 which ends on June 30th. In the fall the board submitted the Budget Request to OMB for FY 2022 which starts on July 1st. Currently, the Board is preparing the Capital and Expense budget plan for FY 2023 which starts the following year. This month all committees should discuss budget request and bring to the February full Board meeting. All submissions should be given to the board office by April 23rd.

D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – N. FAZIO

- Alberto Roldan from the Department of Consumer Affairs and Workers Protection attended the December Meeting. He will attend the January Meeting to discuss street vendors. The Committee received a response from Speaker Johnson in regards to Intro 1116, which is pending legislation for street vending regulation. This law will change the number of permits issued. N. Fazio also discussed

assistance programs for small business owners and burglaries. C. Tepelus noted a hearing to extend Open Storefronts and complications with street vendors.

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

- Civics education in schools started and will hopefully continue. The next meeting is on January 26.

F. ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION – R. FANUZZI

- DSNY has issued a call to buildings to host e-cycle receptacles for consumers to recycle electronics.
- The next committee meeting is January 20th and DEP water officials will be attending to explain the foul odor in the water. Also, a representative from DSNY will attend to discuss service needs for the next budget.

G. HOUSING – NO REPORT

H. LAND USE – C. G. MOERDLER

- The next committee meeting is scheduled for February 1st. C. Moerdler plans to invite Stagg to address various complaints raised on the 5278 Post Rd development. A development on 3011 Sedgwick Ave will also be discussed.
- C. Moerdler is soliciting assistance of those prepared to work hard on district planning, including the formation of working groups that will focus on appropriate zoning, development and housing.

I. LAW, RULES & ETHICS – M. WOLPOFF

- Alex Kipp from the Conflict of Interest Board attended the last committee meeting and discussed the difference between abstention and abstention for cause. LRE minutes will provide a recap of the presentation. The proper terminology is “present – ineligible to vote” due to conflict, and not “abstention for cause”.
- L. Daub introduced a Communication Principles and Channels document to provide concise guidance on communication principles based on laws/procedures and ways for members’ voices to be heard. A discussion followed regarding the pros and cons for protocols regarding email blasts and how they may impact board communication.

J. PARKS & RECREATION – R. GINTY

- The next committee meeting will be held on January 27th. The Department of Parks & Recreation will attend to discuss two capital projects in the eastern section of the district. The projects are for Strong Street Playground and installation of an exercise equipment area at Van Cortlandt Park.

K. PUBLIC SAFETY – E. GREEN

- .E. Green presented the following resolutions:

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, Franklin Vargas, owner of El Economico Restaurant, located at 5589 Broadway, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on December 15th, 2020 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 unanimously approves this application.

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, David Lindsay, owner of Kingsbridge Social Club, located at 3625 Kingsbridge Ave., appeared before the Public Safety Committee on December 15th, 2020 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 unanimously approves this application.

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, Geraldo Pacheco, owner of Spanglish, located at 6697 Broadway, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on December 15th, 2020 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 unanimously approves this application.

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, Edward Christ, Representative of Bronx Post 95 War Veterans, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on December 15th, 2020 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 unanimously approves this application.

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, Representatives of Jake's Steak House, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on December 15th, 2020 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 unanimously approves this application.

VOTE: (on all renewals)

In favor (36): B. Bender, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esemá, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, S. Alexander, D. Gellman

Abstained (0):

Opposed: 0

The next committee meeting will be January 19th, 2021

L. TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION – D. PADERNACHT

The Independence Ave Working group will be presenting their ideas at the next committee meeting. This will lead to more discussion and the committee is expected to have a large turnout. Board members discussed the plan.

M. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY – B. Bender

- The Special Committee does not have a Chair at this time. During the last meeting the Committee had a guest speaker from the NW Bronx Food Justice Coalition.
- Chair Spalter calls for a vote to add to the agenda the resolution being brought forth by SCRE member M. Della about the riot at the US Capitol. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

VOTE: Adding U.S. Capitol Resolution to Agenda

In favor (36): B. Bender, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esemá, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, S. Alexander, D. Gellman

Abstained (0):

Opposed: 0

Board members requested friendly amendments to include people of several demographic groups in the final whereas clause, a clause regarding NYC employees and replacing “rioters” with “insurrectionists”. Friendly amendments accepted.

M. Della presents the final resolution to the Board members:

WHEREAS the U.S. Capitol, representatives, staff as well as journalists and other guests endured an attack that is an act of domestic terrorism and/or sedition on January 6, 2021;

WHEREAS these insurgents displayed symbols associated with slavery, the Holocaust and hatred in general and engaged in acts of the destruction of our national property

and violence in one of our Nation's most sacred landmarks in which the business of our Democracy is carried out and was actually in progress;

WHEREAS the business conducted within the United States Capitol aspires to represent an inclusive, diverse union of the People, by the People and for the People;

WHEREAS the very lives of our countrymen and fabric of our communities was threatened, as 5 lives were actually lost including that of a Capitol Police officer;

WHEREAS reporting suggests that employees of the City of New York may have participated in the attack on the U.S. Capitol;

WHEREAS Community Board 8 represents the interconnectedness of Black and white Americans, Caribbean, Hispanics, Asian, Latinx, Jewish, LGBTQIA, Indigenous, disabled, Muslims and people of color.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Bronx Community Board 8 urges the City of New York to fully investigate, and take all appropriate disciplinary action, against any employee of the City of New York involved in criminal conduct at the U. S. Capitol.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Bronx Community Board 8 strongly condemns these actions and insurrectionists and we affirm that we are proud of our diversity and stand together against all forms of hate, division, and violence that threatens lives, our sense of security, our union and our system of Democracy.

VOTE:

In favor (34): B. Bender, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, S. Alexander

Abstained: (1) D. Gellman

Present Ineligible to Vote: (1) C. G. Moerdler

Opposed: 0

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

- Committee plans to invite a representative from the city to speak about COVID-19 vaccine distribution and he is working on inviting someone from the Biden transition team.

11. DISCUSSION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2021 – NO DISCUSSION

12. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2020

A motion was placed to approve the minutes with corrections outlined by L. Daub and seconded by R. Ginty.

In favor (36): B. Bender, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, S. Alexander, D. Gellman

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

13. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

14. REPORT FROM THE BX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE – Tom Lucania

- The sexual harassment training will be available to take from home due to the pandemic. The BP's office will also require that board members take a Diversity and Inclusion training.
- Reappointment applications were sent out and the deadline for return is February 5th.
- The latest BP Newsletter will be sent out tomorrow.

Motion to Adjourn at 11:06 PM, seconded by R. Ginty and passed by unanimous consent.

Prepared By: Pablo Romano, Community Associate
Reviewed and submitted by: Lisa Daub, CB8 Secretary