

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 via Zoom Conference**

PRESENT (37):	S. Alexander	R. Bender	J. Campbell Priveterre
	C. Dastis Galvin	L. Daub	M. Della
	E. Dinowitz	M. Donato	P. Ellis
	D. Escano Bell	M. Esemá	R. Fanuzzi
	N. Fazio	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	K. Pesce	R. Pochter Lowe
	J. Reyes	G. Santiago	R. Singh
	L. Spalter	C. Tepelus	D. Travis
	J. Townes	S. Villaverde	M. Wolpoff
	L. Lopez		

ABSENT (4):	S. Froot	M. Gluck	D. Leverett
	T. Pardo		

STAFF:

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

GUEST:

Captain Emilio Melendez (NYPD 50th Precinct), Assembly Member Nathalia Fernandez, Police Officer Mercedes Conejo (NYPD 50th Precinct), Tyler Wong (Sen. Biaggi's Office), Ishrael Gonzalez (Bronx Borough President's Office), Mariel De La Cruz (NYC Comptroller's Office), Carlos (Sen. Rivera's Office), Sam Liedtka (AM Dinowitz's Office), Eric Sawyer (BX DA office), Samantha Newman, Erik Schryver, Yolanda Rodriguez, Eric Kollin, Rose Sandick, Monique Riley

L. Spalter convened the meeting at 7:02 PM and welcomed all to this month's virtual Board Meeting.

1. GALLERY SESSION:

Samantha Newman from the Bronx Legal Services introduced her colleague Erik Schryver. Mr. Schryver works for the Low-Income Taxpayers Clinic providing legal services with IRS disputes in areas of audits and collections. For help with tax preparation, he recommended people call 311. Individuals that have not received their stimulus check should file their 2020 return and request their rebate recovery credit for the stimulus amount due. He also noted that unemployment benefits are taxable but taxpayers must request 1099G form from the NYS Department of Labor.

Yolanda Rodriguez informed the Board of the work done by the Josephine Herrick Project. She is seeking help in identifying community-based organizations that might be interested in collaborating with them to bring the services they provide to the residents of CB8. The mission of the organization is to teach photography to and exhibit work by people from a broad range of under-resourced communities.

Eric Kollin read a statement in opposition to the Independence Ave proposal. He expressed that the changes proposed would be detrimental to his building, e.g., prevent cars from entering the Non parking area, impact the ability of ambulettes, Access - a- rides, and taxis from picking up elderly and disabled passengers, and encourage Amazon. FedEx and other delivery trucks to double park on this corner.

Rose Sandick expressed her opposition to the Independence Ave proposal.

Monique Riley introduced the Freedom Youth Family Justice Center to the Board. The organization provides different services to empower, strengthen and stabilize victims and immediate family members of human trafficking and domestic violence. A youth council is available to educate young people about advocating.

2. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

L. Spalter referred the board to the Executive Committee minutes. L. Spalter reported that she and C. G. Moerdler attended a Board of Standard and Appeals meeting to address matters pertaining to 7-15 Terrace View Avenue in Marble Hill. The Board voted against this application in June 2020 and most recently, testified again in opposition. BSA asked the developer to return in three months.

The Irving Ladimer Community Service Award committee will consist of Lisa Daub, Marvin Goodman, Robert Kaplan, Robert Jacklosky, and Julie Reyes. The Economic Development Committee was acknowledged for leading the efforts of the Most Valuable Merchant Award, to be renamed in memory of Betty Campbell Adams, the beloved owner of Lloyd's Carrot Cake. The community, including board members, are encouraged to offer nominations.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

D. Escaño-Bell provided an overview of the report and noted that we've allocated \$133,871 with \$118,425 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. In OTPS, we've allocated \$5,217 with \$24,554 remaining. The Board holds \$1,702 in encumbered funds.

4. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – Ciara Gannon

- Complaints were received about towed abandoned vehicles parked around the 50th precinct. Due to COVID-19 the towing unit was not operating but has resumed. The office is working closely with the Police Captain to resolve this matter.

- Two drag racing vehicles were confiscated by the NYPD.
- On February 16, DCAS sent our personalized links to all board members for the Sexual Harassment training. If board members have any issues please reach out to the office.

5. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING – Not present

L. Daub conducted a **Roll Call of Board Members** and determined that a quorum was present.

6. ELECTION FOR HOUSING COMMITTEE CHAIR

In accordance with Article 5, Section 3, L. Spalter opened the floor for nominations. E. Green nominated Ted Morris. Mr. Morris accepted the nomination. Having no other nomination from the floor. S. Villaverde moved to close nominations.

VOTE:

In favor (37): S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell Priveterre, C. Dastis Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, 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, K. Pesce, R. Pochter Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, L. Lopez

Abstained: (0)

Opposed: (0)

7. REPORT FROM THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT OFFICE – Ishrael Gonzalez

Mr. Gonzalez reported that the monthly report was sent to all. The Borough President's office has received some of the re-appointment applications. If anyone has yet to submit it must be done ASAP. The sexual harassment link was sent to all board members by DCAS. Mr. Gonzalez informed board member that if anyone has issues accessing the training via the link provided by DCAS, they can contact him via the Board office for assistance.

8. MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY MEMBER NATHALIA FERNANDEZ

Assembly Member Fernandez informed the board that NYS will receive \$12 billion from the Federal Stimulus package. She is working to ensure every community receives an equitable portion by area of need. Her office will be hosting a Small Business Pop-up at Maestros Caterers to assist minority and women business owners.

9. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON VETERANS SERVICES

L. Spalter re-introduced a resolution to establish the Special Committee on Veterans Services. Chair Spalter explained that this was originally formed by resolution in June 2016 but the special committee did not actively develop. Borough President Rubin Diaz, Jr. championed the focus on veterans. Board Member S. Villaverde expressed interest in bringing back the special committee.

WHEREAS, currently there are approximately 22 million veterans living in the United States and approximately 33,000 live in The Bronx;

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 supports all efforts to assist those who have served in the armed forces of the United States especially those who have returned to be residents of our community;

WHEREAS, the needs of veterans can involve jobs, education, housing, health and mental health, financial assistance and support services;

WHEREAS, the City of New York has created a Department of Veterans' Services and the Bronx Borough President has called upon the borough's community boards to form committees to address the needs of our veterans;

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 desires to give consideration to the needs of our veterans in cooperation with community groups, elected officials, government agencies, and any other stakeholders in a public and inclusive manner;

BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Article VI, Section 5 of our By-laws, a Special Committee be created to hold public meetings or informational forums and report to the Community Board its findings and recommendations, if any, on the issues concerning our residents who are United States Veterans;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Committee be named the “Special Committee on Veterans Services” and be comprised of five (5) members who shall be Sergio Villaverde, Martin Gluck, Julia Gomez, Joy Campbell Priveterre, and Louis Lopez;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Sergio Villaverde shall serve as chair of the Special Committee;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Committee be discontinued immediately following the next Annual Board elections unless it is specifically continued either by resolution of the Board or by public declaration of the newly elected chairperson of the Board, which declaration shall be recorded in the minutes.

VOTE:

In favor (37): S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell Priveterre, C. Dastis Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, 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, K. Pesce, R. Pochter Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, L. Lopez

Abstained: (0)

Opposed: (0)

S. Villaverde thanked board members for supporting the special committee. This committee will not meet monthly.

10. REPORT FROM THE NYPD 50TH PRECINCT – Captain Melendez

Captain Melendez reported that the 50th Precinct is the #1 in crime reduction. Overall crime is down by 34%. All categories of crime are down except robberies are flat. The detective bureau to date has 152 arrests. Due to street activity changes this year vs. last during shut-downs, comparison data will show change. The city has re-opened the tow pounds. A total of 8 vehicles have been removed from Broadway. A new graffiti program was launched by the NYPD. A total of 15 locations were selected around the 50th precinct to clean up in the community. The Community Board looks forward to this partnership. The Captain thanked the federal agents for their assistance to the 50th precinct that resulted in arrests in connection to a large meth lab in Kingsbridge.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. YOUTH – J. Gomez

J. Gomez referred to the committee minutes. The next meeting will be on March 15th.

b. AGING – E. Dinowitz

E. Dinowitz informed the board that the Senior Citizens Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE) and Veterans Benefit for Homeowners deadline is March 15. He also informed that Senator Biaggi's office reached out to the Board to provide assistance securing appointments for seniors.

c. BUDGET – D. Gellman

D. Gellman reminded the board that we are currently in FY 2021. Three weeks ago, the Board submitted to OMB our budget commentary for FY 2022 that begins on July 1st. The process for budget request for FY 2023 has begun. Every committee should have had a first pass on budget priorities. Next month budget priorities should be finalized in every committee. The deadline is April 23.

d. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – N. Fazio

N. Fazio referred members to his committee minutes for more information. He encouraged all to nominate someone for the Most Valuable Merchant Award. The next meeting will be on March 25th. The committee has invited a guest speaker from the South Bronx Economic Development Corporation.

e. EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & CULTURAL AFFAIRS – S. Alexander

S. Alexander referred board members to the ELCA minutes for additional information.

S. Alexander introduced the resolution below for approval by the Board:

Whereas, New York City has a rich history as a center for efforts designed to bring about abolition of slavery, And

Whereas, Councilmember Ydanis Rodrigues has introduced into the City Council Legislative calendar, Intro number 0293-2018, designed to establish a New York City Freedom Trail Task Force to identify historic sites in New York City such as stations that were part of the Underground Railroad and sites linked to the abolitionist movement with a goal of establishing walking tours and plaques identifying these sites and their historic relevance, And

Whereas, it is believed that New York City residents and its student population need to learn about and appreciate New York City's historic role in the effort to ensure human rights and dignity for all citizens,

Therefore, Be it resolved that Community Board 8, Bronx, supports Councilmember Rodriguez's Intro to establish the New York City Freedom Trail Task Force.

VOTE:

In favor (37): S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell Priveterre, C. Dastis Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, 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, K. Pesce, R. Pochter Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, L. Lopez

Abstained: (0)

Opposed: (0)

f. ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION – R. Fanuzzi

R. Fanuzzi updated board members about the NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act of 2020. This is a law signed by Governor Cuomo. The committee had the pleasure of having the Director of Climate Change, Ms. Maureen Leddy, speak at the meeting.

g. HOUSING – T. Morris

T. Morris referred everybody to his minutes and noted the vaccine event at Marble Hill Houses. He provided an update on discussions regarding 22 Marble Hill Avenue between tenants and their landlord that was facilitated by C. Moerdler. The next meeting is March 22.

h. LAND USE – C. G. Moerdler

C. G. Moerdler informed the board that the next meeting will be on April 5th. He attended a BSA hearing to address matters pertaining to 7-15 Terrace View Avenue in Marble Hill, and will return to BSA in the next few months. This location has become a prime area for development. The current project being disputed is located at a very steep slope in which the developer plans to construct an apartment building with no parking. The proposal lowered the height as compared to the initial construction plans. At the next meeting, planning matters will be discussed to return focus on and consider what the district wants and needs. This includes the central Riverdale plan submitted 5 years ago including Dash Place, the preservation of homes around Webb Avenue, and revisit the district's 197A plan.

i. LAW, RULES & ETHNICS – M. Wolpoff

M. Wolpoff shared with board members that Eric Friedman from the Campaign Finance Board attended his meeting to explain Rank Choice Voting. This process will be used in the special election to replace former Council Member Cohen on March 23rd, 2021. This will allow the public the ability to vote in order of preference. This process will avoid run-off in elections. Candidates would require more than 50% to be declared the winner.

j. PARKS & RECREATION – R. Ginty

R. Ginty thanked D. Travis for running the committee meeting in her absence. She referred board members to her minutes for information. The next meeting will be March 24th. The Parks Department will be coming to the committee to display their proposal for Seton park's skate area.

k. PUBLIC SAFETY – E. Green

E. Green informed the board that his committee received a report from EMT that response time is under 7 minutes. The report also showed that EMT's are being assaulted by people they are assisting. The committee also had a Fire prevention presentation by the FDNY and plans to invite them back later in the year.

E. Green presented two SLA renewal resolutions:

WHEREAS, Representatives of Great Performances/Artists as Waitresses, Inc., located at 675 W. 252nd St., appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 16th, 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, Joe Irizarry, owner of P&K's Grille, Inc., located at 170 W. 231st St., appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 16th, 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.

VOTE:

In favor (37): S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell Priveterre, C. Dastis Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, 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, K. Pesce, R. Pochter Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, L. Lopez

Abstained: (0)

Opposed: (0)

1. TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION – D. Padernacht

D. Padernacht informed the board that ConEdison attended their last committee meeting and reported on projects in North Riverdale, and Reservoir Ave. that were paused due to the pandemic. The committee will continue to hear concerns and opinions from the public in reference to the Independence Ave proposal at the next meeting, March 18.

m. HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES – O. Murray

O. Murray informed the board that the committee had 2 special guest speakers: Dr C. Gounder - Medical Advisor, Biden-Harris Transition Covid-19 Advisory Board and A. Reyes - Acting Assistant Commissioner, Bronx Neighborhood Health. The speakers addressed areas of interest revolving COVID-19 and vaccination. O. Murray noted updates on purchase of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and the American Rescue Plan. The next meeting will be on March 10.

n. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY – J. Townes

J. Townes informed the board that the SCRE report may be revised to make it more user friendly and accessible to the public. The committee is working on a survey to gather public opinion and measure the committee's impact. J. Townes expressed she felt proud of the Board for focusing on these issues. The next meeting will be March 11.

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

13. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2021

A motion was placed to approve the minutes by R. Singh and seconded by B. Bender.

VOTE:

In favor (37): S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell Priveterre, C. Dastis Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, 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, K. Pesce, R. Pochter Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, L. Lopez

Abstained: (0)

Opposed: (0)

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

D. Gellman expressed that he was very impressed with the speakers during the Health Committee meeting. The age requirement to obtain the vaccine has dropped to 60 years of age and other professions. Vaccines are available at Bronx Science. J. Gomez shared that the vaccines will be available at Bronx Science until the high school re-opens.

C. G. Moerdler expressed that at some point the board will be offered a proposal by the NYC Department of City Planning called the Fresh Health proposal. This refers to the expansion of health facilities making it easier to open. These proposals will go through the Health Committee and Economic Development Committee to review. The matter about the falling rocks along the Henry Hudson Parkway around 246th and 250th was taken up with the Building Department. Many summonses were wrongly issued to property owners since it was concluded that most of the wall and entire sidewalk belong to the City Department of Transportation.

Motion to Adjourn at 9:00 pm by M. Wolpoff and seconded by G. Santiago.

Prepared By: Pablo Romano, Community Associate
Reviewed By: Lisa Daub, Secretary