PENDING BOARD APPROVAL

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING Held on Tuesday April 13, 2021 via Zoom Conference

PRESENT (40):

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

ABSENT (0):

STAFF: P. Romano, Community Associate

T. Ochoteco, Community Coordinator

C. Gannon, District Manager

GUESTS: Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, 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), Ishrael Gonzalez (BX BP office), E. Zoundi, S.

Newman, T. McMaster, Y. Rodriguez

Chair Spalter convened the meeting at 7:08 PM and welcomed all. She held a moment of silence to acknowledge the death of Daunte Wright.

1. GALLERY SESSION:

- Eric Zoundi informed the community about employment opportunities at Dutch X
- Samantha Newman, Bronx Legal Services, gave an update on tax return filing deadline, exemptions, and unemployment benefits. Bronx Legal Services office telephone number is 917-661-4500
- Tara McMaster, Broadway Community Alliance, spoke in opposition of the proposed bike lane on Mosholu Avenue.

 Yolanda Rodriguez, Josephine Herrick Project, shared information about the programs' free photography classes to underserved communities throughout NYC, organization website: https://www.jhproject.org

2. REPORT FROM THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE – ISHRAEL GONZALEZ

- Any current Board members who submitted their reappointment application should continue to serve until they receive the confirmation letter from the BP's office regarding their appointment.
- Current Board members who did not reapply, their appointment expired on March 31st.
- New community board members will receive a letter from the BP's office regarding appointments by the middle of May/early June.
- 8-10 community board members have not submitted their Sexual Harassment Training completion certificate. If anyone is having issues accessing the link, please reach out to the Board Office.

3. REPORT FROM THE 50TH POLICE PRECINCT – OFFICER CONEJO

- The monthly crime statistics are: 29% down in all categories except rape. 5 rapes (domestic and arrests made), gunfire rash, 2 shots fired both individuals arrested due to Argus cameras.
- 1 Hate crime in the command involving writing on property.
- Anticipates disruptions due to marijuana reform. Currently, 30% of calls are related to marijuana smoking.
- The 50th Pct has a 20% drop in grand larceny auto. Drivers should not leave cars unattended with the keys in it.
- The graffiti removal NYPD event was headed by Officer Giordani and covered 3 locations: Reservoir Avenue, Verizon Building on Kingsbridge Avenue, C-Town W. 220th Street and Broadway.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – LAURA SPALTER

- Refer to Executive Committee minutes for the full report. Chair Spalter reported that Martin Gluck moved out of the district and therefore is no longer a member of the Board. We will miss him and wish him well.
- In response to the recent racial attacks occurring in this country and our city, we have posted a statement on our website and social media pages stating that Racism and Hate have no place in our community. The statement was taken from the very inclusive resolution that we passed on January 12th. We also wrote a letter to Mayor de Blasio expressing our support for the newly created Asian Hate Crime Task Force. Sergio Villaverde had drafted a resolution in support of the task force but concurs that the letter is effective.
- The newly formed Nominating Committee will meet after tonight's Board Meeting.

5. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY MEMBER JEFFREY DINOWITZ

- The State Budget was finalized and passed last week. We were rescued by a huge amount of Federal dollars and tax increases on incomes over \$5 million
- Highlights from the State budget include mobile sports gambling, help for small businesses, the arts, childcare, covid recovery, rent relief, education and other assistance.
- Senator Schumer was pivotal in obtaining Federal aid.

Secretary L. Daub conducts Roll Call. A quorum is present.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT - DIOMARYS ESCANO-BELL

- D. Escaño-Bell noted that we've allocated \$146,366 from our total budget and we have \$102,639 remaining for FY2021. The \$3,628 transfer to OMB that was pending in response to the citywide program to eliminate budget gaps was completed. The funds were taken from our Personal Services budget. We have a Budget Modification for FY2021 (Addendum A), which is reflected in a transfer and a resolution (Addendum B) for the FY2022 draft operating budget and modification.
- Resolution to Approve FY 2022 Operating Budget & Current Modification:

WHEREAS, the Treasurer and District Manager of Bronx Community Board 8 prepared a projected operating budget for the Board's expenses for FY 2022. **WHEREAS**, in support of the office to manage these budgets, a budget modification for FY 21 has been prepared and is attached to the April Treasurer's report.

BE IT RESOLVED, Community Board 8 approves the projected operating budget and the current years modification.

VOTE

In favor (39): S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, 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, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, C. G. Moerdler, T. Morris, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, T. Pardo, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0

7. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT - CIARA GANNON

- Sexual Harassment Training certificates are due. Please contact the Board Office if you are having any issues accessing the training.
- Irving Ladimer Community Service Award and Betty Campbell Adams Most Valuable Merchants Award nominations are due on May 15th. Please help spread the word. Board members are allowed to submit nominations.
- The Board website is coming along nicely with Tania Ochoteco and Pablo Romano's good work.
- The Office continue to keep busy addressing development and quality of life complaints and with the support from city agencies. Staff is also busy fulfilling required trainings.

8. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING - NONE

9. NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Chair Spalter noted that nominating committee is tasked with presenting a slate of Officers and Committee Chairs to the Board at least two (2) weeks before the June election meeting. The Nominating Committee is composed of 3-5 members. It is customary to read guidelines in accordance with our Bylaws and Ethical Guidance Manual:

- A member of the nominating committee may not be nominated by the committee for a position of officer.
- A member of the Nominating Committee under consideration for a committee chair shall recuse him/herself from discussion and not vote for that position.
- In the event of a tie vote in the Nominating Committee, both candidates shall be presented to the Board.
- The Nominating Committee must complete its activities and present its slate at least two calendar weeks before the June meeting at which the election will take place.
- L. Spalter read the following statement: Board Members who are putting together a proposed slate, should make their choice, bearing in mind that it is both good policy as well as conducive to the smooth functioning of the Board to strive for a Nominating Committee and a slate of proposed Officers and Committee Chairs who represent diversity in geographic areas within the Board, communities, diverse ethnic and racial groups, professional and work backgrounds and ages. The choices made should also consider the experience of any nominee as a Board Member and the extent of the interest shown by any such nominee in participating in Board matters. These factors, while not meant to impel any particular individual choice, should always serve as general guidance.
- Chair Spalter then opened the floor for nomination to the committee: Bob Fanuzzi nominated Joy Priveterre, she accepted. Paul Ellis nominated Steve Froot, he

accepted, Myra Joyce nominated Omar Murray, he accepted. Lisa Daub nominated Karen Pesce, she accepted. Bob Bender nominated Julie Reyes, she accepted.

- Chair Spalter called for a motion to close nomination, Bob Fanuzzi seconded the motion. No objections to accepting the slate. There are five (5) nominees who compose the slate.
- Dan Padernacht stated that the notice of the Nominating Committee should have been on a separate agenda and include four meeting dates. Chair Spalter responded that the notice for tonight is separately listed on the full Board agenda and it is also listed on the Board calendar. The other three dates clashed with committee meetings. She acknowledges the error. Tonight's meeting of the nominating committee was noticed on the board agenda and will go forward.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. YOUTH – J. GOMEZ

• Referred board members to committee minutes; Next meeting date is Monday, April 19.

B. AGING - E. DINOWITZ

- Referred to his minutes.
- Announced that this will be his last meeting as Committee Chair because last night he was sworn in as Council Member for council District 11.
- He thanked his colleagues for their support and looks forward to working with the Board in a different capacity.
- A member noted that CM Dinowitz is now an ex-officio member of the Board.

C. BUDGET - D. GELLMAN

- All committees should have their preliminary lists for Capital and Expense budget priorities. Priorities are due April 23rd.
- Now we prepare for the borough-wide meetings to discuss priorities in advance of the late Summer/early Fall budget meeting with the agencies.

D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - N. FAZIO

- Last meeting was held on March 25th, please refer to those minutes.
- Collaborating with SOBRO on a M/WBE workshop webinar initiative to be headed by Joy Campbell Priveterre and Margaret Della.
- The EDC had a successful walk-thru of some of our commercial areas accompanied by our DM. We will conduct monthly walk-throughs going forward. The next one is scheduled for April 29th, all are welcome to join us. Please contact us if interested.
- Shared announcements regarding PPP, grants, webinars and other assistance for small businesses.

- Betty Campbell Most Valuable Merchant Award nominations open until May 15th please submit your nominations.
- Next EDC meeting on April 22nd

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

- Refer to March minutes.
- Next meeting will be April 27th at 7:30pm.

F. ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION - R. FANUZZI

- A representative from the Mayor's Office of Climate Policy spoke about their commitment to an environmental justice assessment. All city agencies invited to start making budget and resource allocation based on environmental justice.
- The Mayor's office is asking for comments from community members on what the city should be counting as environmental justice and environment needs
- April meeting is devoted to working with the environmental justice map.

G. HOUSING - T. MORRIS

- Appreciates the Board's advocacy efforts towards the tenants of 22 Marble Hill Avenue and for the housing letter to Governor Cuomo and other elected officials.
- Budgetary priorities were discussed at our last meeting. Please refer to March minutes.
- The committee intends to request that the city consider extending the moratorium and/or ending the moratorium in increments. The written moratorium expires on May 1st.

H. LAND USE - C. G. MOERDLER

- Two major initiatives over the last few months. 1. To move forward on specific zoning changes within the framework of the 197-A plan that was sent to City Planning over five years ago, and 2. regarding the 197-A plan along with the introduction by the City Council of a proposal that will be a parallel planning entity to City Planning.
- A representative to the City Council will be at the May 3rd Land Use meeting to discuss this very important issue.
- Our goal is to update the 197-A plan. Please review the plan that is posted on our website prior to the May meeting.

I. LAW, RULES & ETHICS - M. WOLPOFF

 LRE has been looking at a February article of City and State, where Manhattan CB8 was not consulted regarding bike lanes and how DOT ignores the community board's concerns on the topic without consultation. In BxCB8, for example, we were not aware that DOT removed parking on 231st Street to install bike rental lanes. The Board wrote to DOT regarding the need to gain community board input before making a decision that will impact the community

J. PARKS - R. GINTY

 R. Ginty presented the following resolution to approve a capital project at Seton Park.

WHEREAS, representatives of the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) appeared before the Parks & Recreation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 at its December 2020 and March 2021 meetings to present a plan for a Skate Park and Exercise Equipment in Seton Park on Independence Avenue between West 232 Street and West 235 Street which will better utilize and make active park space for residents; and

WHEREAS, those representatives listened to testimony from residents and responded to questions concerning the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, our former City Council Member Andrew Cohen and our Borough President, Ruben Diaz Jr. supported the project and it is fully funded in New York City's Capital Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Parks & Recreation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 unanimously approved the proposed Skate Park and Exercise Equipment Project as presented to the committee requesting that the DPR return to the committee in the event that substantive changes are made to the design or location of equipment.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that Community Board 8 approves the Seton Park Skate Park and Exercise Equipment Project.

VOTE

In favor (40): S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, 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, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, C. G. Moerdler, T. Morris, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, T. Pardo, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained: (0) Opposed: (0)

- Herb Barret was on Bronx 12 News and Manhattan College heard his request to maintain Memorial Grove. Brother Ralph Bucci along with a group of volunteers generously responded and cleaned the Memorial Grove on April 12th.
- Next meeting is April 28th. We will have another presentation from the Department of Parks on two important capital projects: Strong Street Playground and Van Cortlandt Park Exercise Equipment. The Van Cortlandt Park Alliance will provide an update on the Enslaved People's Project.

K. PUBLIC SAFETY - E. GREEN

 Presented 2 renewal applications for Beer & Cider. The board voted on both resolutions simultaneously:

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, Clark Earthman, a Representative of Smashburger #1485, located at 193 West 237th St. appeared before the Public Safety Committee on March 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: Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, Representatives of Moss Cafe, LLC, located at 3260 Johnson Ave., appeared before the Public Safety Committee on March 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 (40): S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, 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, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, C. G. Moerdler, T. Morris, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, T. Pardo, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained: (0) Opposed: 0

- E. Green received notice about the NYPD's request for 180 Argus cameras being approved. This sounds promising but it is still up to the Commanding Officer.
- Next meeting April 20th.

L. TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION - D. PADERNACHT

- DOT brought back a proposal for bike lanes on Mosholu Avenue which will be discussed at the next T&T meeting.
- D. Padernacht presented the following two resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, that Traffic and Transportation Committee requests that the NYC Department of Transportation conduct a feasibility study for a traffic light at the intersection of West 237th Street and Independence Avenue;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the NYC Department of Transportation report its findings to Bronx Community Board 8 prior to any plan to install a traffic light at this location.

• There was discussion of the resolution by the board. Resolution did not pass.

VOTE:

In favor (15): M. Della, M. Donato, P. Ellis, M. Esema, N. Fazio, J. Gomez, R. Jacklosky, D. Leverett, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, D. Travis, M. Wolpoff

Abstained (12): B. Bender, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Dartis-Galvin, E. Dinowitz, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, M. Goodman, O. Murray, T. Pardo, R. Singh, L. Spalter, J. Townes

Opposed (11): S. Alexander, L. Daub, D. Escaño-Bell, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, E. Green, M. Joyce, C. G. Moerdler, T. Morris, C. Tepelus, S. Villaverde

WHEREAS, the roadway on Independence Avenue between West 232nd Street and West 246th Street ("Independence Corridor") has become an attractive street for reckless drivers who are using this stretch for racing and stunt driving;

WHEREAS, the Traffic and Transportation Committee ("Committee") tasked a working group to look at possible traffic changes to make the Independence Corridor a less desirable location for reckless driving;

WHEREAS, the working group presented a report to the Committee on December 17, 2020 that included numerous suggestions for the Committee and community input;

WHEREAS, the matter was laid over to the January 21, 2021 Committee meeting, and then adjourned to the February 18, 2021 Committee meeting, and then further laid over to the March 18th Committee meeting in order to hear public testimony;

WHEREAS, after more than eight hours of public testimony, and thorough and thoughtful discussion, the Committee has decided to put forth the following recommendations to the New York City Department of Transportation for feasibility.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 requests that the NYC Department of Transportation investigate the feasibility and advice of the following changes to the Independence Corridor:

- 1. At the intersection of West 235th Street and Independence Avenue:
- a) Channelization with small rubber speed bumps on all corners except northeast corner
- b) Channelization with two delineators on southeast corner;
- c) Three delineators in No Standing zone on northwest corner, two delineators in No Standing zone in southwest corner and three delineators in No Standing Zone on southeast corner;
- d) Reinforce existing painted curb extensions with new paint
- e) Small rubber speed bumps on centerlines or painted medians where needed to prevent wide turns & donuts
- 2. At the intersection of West 236th Street and Independence Avenue:
- a) Channelization with small, rubber speed bumps on all corners
- b) Reinforce existing painted curb extensions with new paint and delineators;
- c) Small rubber speed bumps on centerlines or painted median where needed to prevent wide turns and donuts
- 3. At the intersection of West 237th Street and Independence Avenue:
- a) Reinforce existing painted curb extensions with new paint;
- b) Two delineators to protect crosswalk on northwest corner:
- c) Two delineators to protect crosswalk on southeast corner;
- d) Delineators to protect curb extension on northeast corner:
- e) Channelization with speed bumps on southwest and southeast corners
- f) Small rubber speed bumps on centerlines to prevent wide turns and donuts;
- 4. At the intersection of West 239th Street and Independence Avenue:
- a) Reinforce existing painted curb extensions with new paint;
- b) Reinforce existing painted curb extensions with two delineators on northeast corner, two delineators on southeast corner and three delineators on southwest corner:
- c) Channelization with small, rubber speed bumps on all corners
- d) Small rubber speed bumps on centerlines to prevent wide turns and donuts
- 5. At the intersection of West 240th Street and Independence Avenue:
- a) Expand the existing curb extension on the southwest corner of the intersection slightly

- b) Add truffle paint to the striped areas of the curb extensions on the west side of the intersection
- c) Add one small rubber speed bump to perimeter of the southwest corner curb extension.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the small rubber speed bumps shall be no greater than ten feet in length at any location;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT no parking shall be removed from any of the areas in this corridor;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee requests that the NYC Department of Transportation report its findings to the Committee and not implement any of the changes herein until such time as the Committee and community can weigh in on a final design and recommendation by DOT.

VOTE:

In favor (31): S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, N. Fazio, S. Froot, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, T. Morris, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, T. Pardo, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained (7): R. Fanuzzi, R. Ginty, E. Dinowitz, D. Gellman, C. Tepelus, C. Moerdler, L. Spalter

Opposed (0)

M. HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES - O. MURRAY

- Shared current statistics on Covid testing in NY: 128,912 have been tested,
 5,029 tested positive, 869 in ICU
- Today the CDC and FDA have issued a pause on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine due to 6 reported cases of severe blood clots; Moderna and Pfizer will continue to be administered.
- Next meeting will be tomorrow night at 7:00pm. The NYC Department of Health will speak about testing and vaccinations. Budget priorities will be discussed and approved.

N. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HUDSON RIVER GREENWAY - B. BENDER

- B. Bender provided a brief history of the Special Committee.
- The committee met last week. Minutes went to the Board office.
- The situation has changed dramatically in Washington, and there is now a very substantial infrastructure bill which could benefit this project.
- The Board office is setting up meetings with Congressman Bowman and Senator Schumer to discuss this and other issues.

O. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY - J. TOWNES

- M. Della updated the board on behalf of J. Townes.
- All Committee Chairs received a document regarding individual as well as Board
 office activity to support the SCRE and advance racial equity. The document will
 be incorporated into the SCRE report as well as on our website. J. Townes will
 continue to remind chairs to share their efforts to capture them and share with
 the community.
- Next meeting is May 13.

P. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON VETERAN'S SERVICES - S. VILLAVERDE

- Our first meeting will be April 29, all are invited.
- Had a very successful meeting with the Commissioner of Department of Veteran's Services.
- 11. DISCUSSION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2021 NO DISCUSSION
- 12. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2021

A motion was placed to approve the minutes and seconded by R. Ginty.

VOTE

In favor (38): S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, 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, D. Leverett, C. G. Moerdler, T. Morris, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, T. Pardo, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained: (0) Opposed: (0)

13. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - None

Motion to Adjourn at 9:20 PM, seconded by G. Santiago and passed by unanimous consent.

Prepared By: Tania Ochoteco, Community Coordinator

Reviewed By: Lisa Daub, Secretary