

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 via Zoom Conference at 7:00pm

PRESENT (38):

S. Alexander	P. Ellis	R. Jacklosky	R. Singh
C. Barnes- Watson	D. Escaño-Bell	R. Kaplan	L. Spalter
R. Bender	M. Esema	M. Joyce	C. Tepelus
K. Buford	R. Fanuzzi	C. Moerdler	D. Travis
C. Calhoun	N. Fazio	O. Murray	J. Townes
J. Campbell Priveterre	D. Gellman	D. Padernacht	S. Vasquez
S. Chittilappilly	R. Ginty	K. Pesce	S. Villaverde
L. Daub	J. Gomez	R. Pochter-Lowe	M. Wolpoff
M. Della	M. Goodman	J. Reyes	
M. Donato	E. Green	G. Santiago	

ABSENT (6): C. Dastis-Galvin, S. Froot, O. Jimenez, T. Pardo, L. Lopez, T. Morris

STAFF: T. Ochoteco, Community Coordinator
C. Gannon, District Manager

GUESTS: Senator Gustavo Rivera, Assembly Member Jeff Dinowitz, Council Member Eric Dinowitz, Sam Liedtka (Assemblyman Dinowitz's Office), Marilex Santana (Bronx DA's Office), Tyler Wong (Sen. Biaggi's office), Mariel de la Cruz (Comptroller Stringer's office), Ishrael Gonzalez (BX BP office), Carlos Muñoz (Senator Rivera's Office), Lorenzo Manzano (CM Dinowitz Office), Juton Horstman (DCP), Mary Serri

Chair Spalter convened the meeting at 7:04PM and welcomed all and hoped all had a happy and healthy summer.

1. GALLERY SESSION:

- Mary Serri – Expressed concerns of flooding at 2727 Palisade Avenue after DOT reconstructed the intersection of Palisade Ave & Kappock Street.

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

- Welcomed all back from summer break & welcomed all new board members.
- The Borough President's Office has storm damage resources on it's website

- Thanked Chair Spalter & N. Fazio for their advocacy of the Ridgewood Savings Bank. The BP wrote letters of support.

3. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY MEMBER JEFFREY DINOWITZ

- Chair Spalter thanked the Assembly Member for his legislation which allows for CB Meetings to be held virtually.
- Thanked Mary Serri for her statement on the flooding at 2727 Palisade Ave. He was never a supporter of this redesign and stated that DOT needs to correct their mistake.
- Flu shots will be given at the Riverdale Y on September 24th.
- The Eviction Moratorium was extended and the State has approved Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) for those who owe rent.
- Offered condolences for the tragic death of Ruth Mullen by an Express Bus. Families for Safe Streets, CM Dinowitz, DM Ciara Gannon all attended a rally for pedestrian safety.

4. REPORT FROM STATE SENATOR GUSTAVO RIVERA

- Updated the Board on the Eviction Moratorium, ERAP, Open Meetings Law, and offered assistance for those looking to apply.
- The District Office is open by appointment.

5. REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC DINOWITZ

- The City Budget was passed in June. CM Dinowitz secured \$300K for clean ups, such as graffiti removal, additional garbage collections, litter removal. Called on community groups to hold clean up days.
- If there are concerns about DOE classrooms and safety, please call 311 and send the CM Office the complaint number.
- Discussed the importance of Daylighting of Tibbetts Brook made clear by the recent flooding of the Major Deegan Expressway. The CM Office will host rain barrel giveaways.
- Stated concerns of flooding at 2727 Palisade Ave. He will be following up with DOT on this flooding issue.

6. REPORT FROM THE 50TH POLICE PRECINCT – CAPTAIN GIRVEN

- Chair Spalter thanked Captain Melendez for his years of service and dedication to Community Board 8 & The City of New York.
- Welcomed Captain Girven to his new position and stated that he is no stranger to Community Board 8.
- 82% of crimes in the 50th Precinct is theft of property. Crime is down 28% for the month and 6% for the year.

7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – LAURA SPALTER

- Refer to Executive Committee minutes for the full Chair's report.
- The New Community Board 8 Office will be located at 185 West 231st Street. It has taken many years to get to this point. A public hearing on the relocation will be held at the Department of City Planning on September 22nd. The hearing is part of the 195A process, a truncated ULURP procedure. The new space, currently under construction, will have enough room to host most committee meetings, state of the art technology, and is centrally located. The move is anticipated for next summer. The chair thanked former Chair Ginty for getting this process started and following it through.
- Welcomed and introduced the six new members- Kelli Buford, Constance Barnes- Watson, Christopher Calhoun, Osvaly Jimenez, Stephen Rivera and Sebastian Chittilappilly. Each new member introduced themselves.
- There will be an Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT – DIOMARYS ESCANO-BELL

- In OTPS the board has allocated \$32,299 and has \$249,505 remaining.
- No budget modifications
- The CB is responsible for moving costs and there is funding held in code 499 as a cushion if needed. Funds held in the holding code will be transferred via budget modification when needed, before the end of the fiscal year.

9. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – CIARA GANNON

- Refer to Executive committee minutes for full report.
- Welcomed our new members and looks forward to working with all of you.
- Attended a press conference with Assemblyman Dinowitz & Families for Safe Streets in response to the tragic death of Ruth Mullen. Thank you to those who attended to advocating for safer cross walks.
- The community board partnered on an organic recycling event with DSNY & local elected officials, tabled at National Night Out and was a sponsor of NYCHA Family Day at Marble Hill. We worked with the DOE fund on a graffiti clean up effort in Marble Hill funded by Councilmember Rodriguez.
- The CB office was flooded twice this summer due to the hurricanes. The office is inaccessible at this time. DOHMH inspected and found traces of black mold The landlord has been notified. Working on a claim for damages with the city.
- The five Yankee awardees received their checks and were able to go to the Yankee game on August 21 and sit in the Judges Chambers. The Yankees also gave us 300 additional tickets which were given to Broadway family plaza

residents, NYPD explorers, local little leagues, colleges, community centers, etc. I heard great feedback and we thank the Yankees for this partnership year after year.

- CM Rodriguez has given us \$5K this fiscal year to spend in his district.

10. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING – NONE

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

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. LAW, RULES & ETHICS- M. WOLPOFF

- There will be no September Meeting
- The Committee sent a Primer to the Board and welcomes questions.

B. LAND USE- C. MOERDLER

- Reported on an application referred by DCP for the NYPD Special Victims Squad. Application to relocate to W 230th St. The Land Use Committee expressed concerns regarding adequate parking. The NYPD will send a letter to the Board to clarify their proposal, and hold further discussions prior to the October meeting.

The Following resolution was presented:

WHEREAS, at a duly convened and noticed public meeting of the Land Use Committee of Community Board 8 noticed, inter alia, to consider and vote upon a requested authorization, pursuant to 105-91 of the Special Natural Area District, to facilitate the replacement of an existing DEP pump station in Riverdale Park at 3869 Palisades Avenue, and after hearing representatives of the Department of Environmental Conservation and others and in view of the prior supportive action of the appropriate committees of the Board, and due consideration having been given,

NOW THEREFORE, Community Board 8 approves and supports the proposed authorization.

VOTE

In Favor (37): S. Alexander, B. Bender, C. Barnes Watson, K. Buford, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, L. Daub, M. Della, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, D. Gellman, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, 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. Vazquez, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained: (0)

Opposed: (0)

The following resolution was presented and discussed:

WHEREAS, the Department of City Planning has proposed a citywide zoning text amendment removing sidewalk café regulations from the Zoning Regulations, increasing geographic eligibility as sidewalk café would become a unified sidewalk and roadway outdoor dining program, allowing DOT (rather than the Department of Consumer Affairs) to administer the outdoor dining program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to existing Executive Order the current regimen respecting authorization and regulation of outdoor dining facilities continues, pursuant to its terms, through 2022, thus providing in excess of one calendar year of continued operation;

WHEREAS, at a duly convened and noticed public meeting of the Land Use Committee of Community Board 8 noticed to consider and vote upon the foregoing, the City representatives, including senior officials of the Department of City Planning and DOT, acknowledged that an essential and integral part of the proposed outdoor dining program is a series of regulations, ordinances and other statutory authorization measures that will shape the outdoor dining program, the facilities and services to be authorized and provided thereunder, concerns respecting location, noise, traffic and structural concerns, issues relating to the public safety, public convenience and financial concerns that are inherent in the foregoing illustrated questions and that none of such materials have yet been presented for public review or prepared in such form as to be capable of public review and comment;

WHEREAS, the viability of public dining and restaurants is a matter of vital concern to the City of New York and its residents and taxpayers, as are the roadway and sidewalk facilities extant or contemplated as part of the outdoor dining program and such matters are an integral part of the concerns and issues set forth above and are inexorably intertwined therewith as well as with the proposed Department of City Planning Department zoning text change; AND

WHEREAS, the Land Use Committee of Community Board 8 at a duly convened and noticed public meeting determined by overwhelming majority vote of its members that the proposed Department of City Planning Department zoning text change should be rejected as premature and open to more questions and concerns than it usefully addresses;

NOW THEREFORE, COMMUNITY BOARD 8 APPROVES, ADOPTS AND CONFIRMS THE ACTION TAKEN BY ITS LAND USE COMMITTEE FOR THE REASONS THERE STATED.

After discussion of the resolution and questions answered by J. Horstman, of DCP, a new Be It Resolved was proposed and accepted as:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Community Board 8 at a duly convened and noticed public meeting determined by overwhelming majority vote of its members that the Department of City Planning Zoning Text change be rejected as premature and open to more questions and concerns than it usefully addresses.

VOTE

Secretary Daub called the roll.

In Favor (31): S. Alexander, B. Bender, C. Barnes Watson, K. Buford, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Calhoun, Chittilappilly, L. Daub, M. Della, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, D. Gellman, M. Goodman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, L. Lopez, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, T. Pardo, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, J. Townes, S. Vazquez, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained: (1) R. Fanuzzi

Opposed: (5) N. Fazio, J. Gomez, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, S. Villaverde

This proposed Text Amendment fails.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY- E. GREEN

- Congratulated Captain Girven on his promotion
- Asked 50th Precinct if there were any complaints about Khalle Bar & Grille. There has been no criminal activity at this location, just noise complaints about the outdoor dining.

The following resolutions were presented

WHEREAS, a representative of Khalle Bar & Grill Corp., located at 3638 Bailey Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on September 9th, 2021 to renew the establishment's liquor license.

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

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

WHEREAS, A representative of The College of Mount Saint Vincent, located at 6301 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on September 9th, 2021 to apply for a new liquor license.

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, C. Barnes Watson, K. Buford, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, L. Daub, M. Della, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, D. Gellman, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, 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. Vazquez, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained: (0)

Opposed: (0)

It was noted that there are traffic issues & safety concerns on Johnson Avenue that need enforcement.

D. ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION- R. FANUZZI

- Provided update on joint meeting of Environment & Sanitation and Traffic & Transportation Committees re: flooding on our streets, parks, and Major Deegan Expressway from Hurricane Ida. Thanks to Karen Argenti & Deb Travis for hosting meeting. There will be more meetings on this subject moving forward.
- Thank you to Council Member Dinowitz for hosting a curbside recycling event that CB8 sponsored. Residents must sign up for curbside recycling.

E. TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION – D. TRAVIS

- Presented the Committee's June resolution regarding DOT's plan to install an enhanced crosswalk on Greystone Ave. The Committee rejected the plan.

The following resolution was presented:

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Transportation ("NYC DOT") presented a plan to the Traffic and Transportation Committee for an enhanced crosswalk on the south side of the intersection at Greystone Avenue and West 242nd Street;

WHEREAS, the NYC DOT proposes to install a painted crosswalk at this location without a traffic control device at the intersection;

WHEREAS, the enhanced crosswalk would eliminate two (2) parking spots;

WHEREAS, the committee believed further study of the intersection could recapture the eliminated parking spots while still providing a safer right of way;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Bronx Community Board 8 rejects the NYC DOT Greystone Avenue Enhanced Crosswalk plan.

VOTE

In Favor (34): S. Alexander, B. Bender, C. Barnes Watson, K. Buford, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, L. Daub, M. Della, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, M. Goodman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Vazquez, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained: (0)

Opposed (2) C. Tepelus, D. Gellman

- Condolences to Ruth Mullen's Family. The T&T Committee will take up a discussion of safety at the October Meeting.
- DOT is reopening the book on the Palisade & Kappock intersection after flooding issues at 2727 Palisade Ave during the recent storm. Supports DEP & DOT focusing on making Palisade & Kappock more resilient. Immediate action is being taken by DOT, and there will be formal efforts in the future.
- Refer to minutes for more information

A discussion ensued and background information provided about DOT's redesign of the Palisade Ave & Kappock Street intersection and flooding at 2727 Palisade Avenue.

F. YOUTH – J. GOMEZ- No Report

G. AGING – D. PADERNACHT

- The committee had a presentation from New York Academy Medicine about Image NYC which is a great tool for the aging committee. The Committee will be planning for the year.

H. BUDGET – D. GELLMAN

- Welcomed new members and provided brief summary of budget cycle.
- Public Hearing on Budget Priorities will be held in October and the Board will vote on them. The priorities will then be submitted to DCP.

I. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- N. FAZIO

- Refer to Minutes for detailed information
- Ridgewood Savings Bank will remain open thank you to CB8, BP Office & State Department of Financial Services, BOEDC, Clarence Stanley & committee member J. Gomez for research. The area surrounding bank will be considered an “under banked area.”
- Next Meeting will be held in September 23rd and NYS DFS & a local entrepreneur will be on the agenda. New neighbor Best Buy has reached out in hopes of introducing new store to community.

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

- Next meeting will be in October and DOHMH will be a guest to discuss pandemic updates. Urged residents to get flu shot.

K. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY- J. TOWNES

- Next meeting will be in October. Committee will be interested in selection process of 50th Precinct Commanding Officer.

L. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON VETERAN’S SERVICES- S. VILLAVERDE

- Looking forward to meeting with Council Member Dinowitz, Chair of Veteran Services committee.

Chair Spalter, committee chairpersons and other board members welcomed the six new members.

12. DISCUSSION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 – No discussion

Chair Spalter called for an executive session per §105.f of the Open Meetings Law at which “the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation”. The A motion to go into executive session was made, seconded and adopted.

In Favor (37): S. Alexander, B. Bender, C. Barnes Watson, K. Buford, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, L. Daub, M. Della, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, 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. Vazquez, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Motion to End Executive Session – Motion passed by unanimous consent.

The following resolutions were presented:

Resolution for Community Coordinator's Salary

WHEREAS, Ms. Tania Ochoteco has been employed as Community Coordinator for Bronx Community Board 8 as of December 2, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ochoteco's current salary is \$63,000; and

WHEREAS, after an evaluation of Ms. Ochoteco's performance and ability to meet a myriad of challenges, especially this past year during the Pandemic, the District Manager strongly recommends a merit raise of 3.5 % bringing her salary to \$65,205; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Board supports the 3.5 % merit raise; and

WHEREAS, this decision is concurred by the Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, the Community Board adopted a resolution on February 9, 2010 that required any decision concerning internal operating budgets be made by the Chair in consultation with the officers and brought to the Community Board for "ratification, amendment or rejection."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 approves Ms. Ochoteco's merit increase of 3.5% retroactive to July 1, bringing her salary to \$65,205 per year.

Resolution for Community Coordinator's Salary

WHEREAS, Mr. Pablo Romano has been employed as Community Associate for Bronx Community Board 8 as of December 2, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Romano's current salary is \$48,500; and

WHEREAS, after an evaluation of Mr. Romano's performance and ability to meet a myriad of challenges, especially this past year during the Pandemic, the District Manager strongly recommends a merit raise of 3.5 % bringing his salary to \$50,198; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Board supports the 3.5 % merit raise; and

WHEREAS, this decision is concurred by the Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, the Community Board adopted a resolution on February 9, 2010 that required any decision concerning internal operating budgets be made by the Chair in consultation with the officers and brought to the Community Board for "ratification, amendment or rejection."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 approves Mr. Romano's merit increase of 3.5% retroactive to July 1, 2021 bringing his salary to \$50,198 per year.

Resolution for District Manager's Salary

WHEREAS, Ms. Ciara Gannon has been employed as District Manager for Bronx Community Board 8 since June 11, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gannon's last raise was in October 2019, bringing her salary to \$88,467 dollars; and

WHEREAS, after an evaluation of the District Manager's exceptional job performance, the chair of the Community Board enthusiastically recommends that Ms. Gannon receive a merit increase of 6 % bringing her salary to \$93,775; and

WHEREAS, this decision is concurred by the Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, the Community Board adopted a resolution on February 9, 2010 that required any decision concerning internal operating budgets be made by the Chair in consultation with the officers, and brought to the Community Board for "ratification, amendment or rejection."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 approves Ms. Gannon receiving a merit increase of 6% retroactive to July 1, 2021, bringing her salary to \$93,775 per year.

VOTE

In Favor (33): S. Alexander, B. Bender, K. Buford, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, L. Daub, M. Della, D. Gellman, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escañó-Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, M. Goodman, R. Ginty, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, D. Travis, S. Vazquez, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Opposed: (0)

Abstained (4) J. Reyes, C. Tepelus, C. Barnes-Watson, J. Townes

13. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF June 13, 2021

A motion was placed to approve the minutes and seconded and approved by unanimous consent.

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - None

Motion to Adjourn at 10:43 seconded and passed by unanimous consent.

Prepared By: Ciara Gannon, District Manager

Reviewed By: Lisa Daub