

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

PRESENT (34):

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

ABSENT (10): J. Campbell Priveterre, S. Chittilappilly, C. Dastis-Galvin, M. Goodman, O. Jimenez, C. Moerdler, T. Morris, T. Pardo, J. Reyes, J. Townes

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

GUESTS: Senator Alessandra Biaggi, Assembly Member Jeff Dinowitz, Council Member Eric Dinowitz, Sam Liedtka (Assemblyman Dinowitz's Office), Carlos Torres (Bronx DA's Office), Tyler Wong (Sen. Biaggi's office), Lorenzo Manzano (CM Dinowitz Office), Juton Horstman (DCP), Randi Martos (AM Dinowitz's office), Jesse Lerer (Congressman Bowman's Office), Jaime Cobham (Congressman Bowman's Office)

Chair Spalter welcomed all and turned the Budget Hearing over to D. Gellman at 6:40 pm. During the Budget Hearing Stephanie Ehrlich (Friends of Van Cortlandt Alliance) testified and spoke about VC's budget requests. Amr Kotb (NYPL Government Relations) also spoke about the NYPL's Expense and Capital requests. Resident, Deirdre Burke voiced in support of the budget requests and highlighted DOT requests specifically.

The Budget Public Hearing was closed at 7:18 pm. Chair Spalter called the meeting to order after a brief break.

1. GALLERY SESSION:

- Noris De Jesus-Petron Director of KHCC's Changing Futures program shared a presentation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

- Noris DeJesus Petrone of KHCC discussed Domestic Violence Awareness Month and upcoming events at KHCC.
- Mary Serri – Expressed concerns of flooding at 2727 Palisade Avenue after DOT reconstructed the intersection of Palisade Ave & Kappock Street.
- Miranda Goodwin-Raab – Provided an update from the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission
- Neva Heatt – Complained about loud music that is being played from 3344 Ft. Independence Avenue
- Jaime Cobham from Congressman Bowman's office spoke about a proposed new tax on billionaires and how it would benefit our mutual constituencies. For questions contact Jaime.Cobham@mail.house.gov

2. REPORT FROM THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE – ISHRAEL GONZALEZ (NO REPORT)

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

- Larcenies up this week, violence is still down, property crime driving statistics
- Captain Girven addressed the noise complaint, at least (8) 311 calls from Giles Place. Will send neighborhood coordination officers from Sector Adam to have a one-on-one with Ms. Heatt to try to remedy the situation.
- Responded to complaints of Ms. Heatt. The issue of 311 complaints being closed out while they are still existing was discussed.

4. REPORT FROM SENATOR ALESSANDRA BIAGGI

- Deadline to change voting address is October 13, last day to apply for an absentee ballot online or by mail is October 18, Early Voting begins on October 23 and ends on October 31.
- Reminder to check the back of ballots for 5 important questions.
- Aware of the Homeless Shelter proposal will continue to monitor the situation.

5. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLYMAN JEFF DINOWITZ

- Updated the Board on shredding event, flu shot and Covid vaccine event at St. Gabriel. Expressed disappointment at the termination of the Gifted & Talented program. The Metro Card van expanding locations in the district.
- Supports all 5 amendments listed in the back of voting ballots.

6. REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC DINOWITZ

- Office has received an increase in complaints about garbage. CM secured new rat-proof garbage cans. ACE & Wildcat will be doing clean-ups in the district sponsored by CM's office.
- DOT installed left turn treatments on Johnson Avenue.

7. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – LAURA SPALTER

- Has been having conversations with office landlord after two floods. The management company will pay for professional mold abatement and cleaning services. Floors and drywall will be replaced.
- Testified with C. Gannon at 195 Hearing on 9/22 about our new office space. If all goes as planned, we expect to move in next summer.
- R. Ginty inquired about CSX meeting with DEP and Parks Dept. R. Fanuzzi reached out to DEP but the agency was not ready to present on October 20th. Once both agencies are prepared to present to the community, the meeting will be scheduled and publicized.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT – C. GANNON

- The board has allocated \$47,909 and has \$221,445 remaining for Operating expenses.
- For OTPS, \$7907 has been allocated and we have \$27,113 remaining.
- No budget modifications.
- All of the office renovations will be covered by the landlord and will not affect our budget.

9. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – CIARA GANNON

Refer to Executive committee minutes for full report.

The staff and DM are very happy about the office renovations and look forward to a new, safe space to work in. Phones were down due to office renovations.

Please review Board Members List and Committee List and let office know if any changes are needed.

Board Office is receiving all communication regarding the 6661 Broadway proposed homeless shelter and staff is responding to everyone as fast as possible.

10. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING – NONE

L. Spalter thanked R. Ginty and L. Daub for their invaluable service to Community Board 8. Two open positions up for election: Parks Chair and Board Secretary.

Vice Chair R. Bender conducts Roll Call. A quorum is present.

R. Bender nominated R. Jacklosky for Board Secretary. D. Travis supported the nomination. The nomination was accepted.

M. Wolpoff moved to close nominations.

VOTE by acclimation: Unanimously approved

J. Gomez nominated R. Singh for Parks Chair which he accepted.

M. Wolpoff moved to close nominations.

VOTE by acclimation: Unanimously approved.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. AGING- D. PADERNACHT

- No September meeting due to Indigenous Peoples Day
- Next meeting November 8th at 4:00 pm

B. BUDGET – D. GELLMAN

- Reported on part B of what the Board is mandated to do during tonight's budget hearing.
- Capital priorities #5 and #6 were swapped and a modified list will go out to board members.

A vote to approve the FY 23 Budget Requests was taken and unanimously supported by the Board.

C. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – N. FAZIO

- Refer to minutes for details on small business report from Seth Kaplan.
- Great (ongoing) discussion on transition to Permanent Open Restaurants Program.PPP Loan Forgiveness in full swing and Small Business Grants as well as eligibility expanded by Governor Hochul.
- Next meeting October 28th at 7:00 pm. Manhattan College will present on Financial Literacy.

D. EDUCATION, LIBRARY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS – S. ALEXANDER

- Sorry to see R. Jacklosky and R. Singh leave her committee for leadership roles.
- Next meeting October 26th at 7:30 pm.

E. ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION – R. FANUZZI

- Next meeting October 20th at 7:00 pm, progress of composting and Mayor's response to resiliency will be discussed.

- Storm Water Infrastructure will be presenting tomorrow, and we will be discussing the Major Deegan Expressway flooding.

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

- No September meeting.
- Next meeting will be tomorrow night and we will focus on the proposed Men's Homeless shelter at 6661 Broadway. The Department of Social Services as well as the provider, the African American Planning Commission (AAPCI) will be in attendance.

A. HOUSING – NO REPORT

B. LAND USE – M. WOLPOFF

The following resolutions were presented:

WHEREAS an authorization has been sought with respect to 5051 Iselin Avenue, in the Fieldston community of Community Board 8, for a modification of topographic features on Tier 1 Sites pursuant to 105-421 of the Zoning Resolution and an authorization of an enlargement on a Tier 2 site or portion of a zoning lot having a steep slope buffer pursuant to 105-422 to permit specified alterations; and

WHEREAS the Land Use Committee unanimously voted to approve the application at its October 4, 2021 regularly scheduled public meeting; Now therefore,

Be it RESOLVED, the foregoing application is APPROVED

VOTE

In Favor (34): S. Alexander, C. Barnes Watson, R. Bender, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, L. Daub, M. Della, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, L. Lopez, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, S. Vazquez, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained: (0)

Opposed: (0)

WHEREAS the City of New York, DCAS and the NYPD have urged a site selection and acquisition for an approximately 20, 165 sf of office space to facilitate the relocation of the NYP Bronx Special Victims Squad to 188 W. 230th St; and

WHEREAS the applicants, particularly the NYPD, the Special Victim Squad by its Commander has provided assurances that parking restrictions will be enforced on West 230th Street and neither NYPD nor Special Victims Squad personnel will be

permitted to park in restricted areas adjacent to the premises, especially West 230th Street, and

WHEREAS the Land Use Committee at its Oct 4, 2021 meeting unanimously resolved to approve the application, as clarified by the foregoing representations,

Now Therefore, **Be it RESOLVED**, the application, as thus clarified, is APPROVED.

VOTE

In Favor (33): S. Alexander, C. Barnes Watson, R. Bender, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, L. Daub, M. Della, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, L. Lopez, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, S. Vazquez, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained: (0)

Opposed: (1) G. Santiago

- 318 College Road Update was provided.
- The proposed homeless shelter at 6661 Broadway will be discussed at future Land Use meeting.

C. LAW, RULES & ETHICS – M. WOLPOFF

- Primer Memo sent to Board Members, voting rules discussed.
- OML meeting requirements will be reviewed at next meeting.
- The filling of leadership positions and possible schedule will also be discussed at November meeting.

D. 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.

E. PARKS & RECREATION – R. BENDER

- Survey by Groundworks Hudson Valley about the northwest in Van Cortlandt Park was presented to the committee. No action can be taken in the park without the approval of Parks & Recreation and the “Forever Wild” status protects the northwest forest from any development.
- The large cross country meet at Van Cortlandt Park was very well run and was a model of how this type of event should be done.

- Congratulations to R. Singh on becoming chair of the Parks & Recreation Committee.
- Next meeting date is October 27th.

F. PUBLIC SAFETY – E. GREEN

- Welcome C. Calhoun, R. Kaplan & S. Vasquez for joining the committee.
- Next meeting October 19 – school safety agent relocated at PS24, 311 noise complaints, declaration of disaster emergency at Rikers Island will be discussed.

G. TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION – D. TRAVIS

- DOT having public hearing on Moped share rules on October 28th at 2:00 pm.
There will also be a public hearing on car share rules on November 8th at 2:00 pm.

The following resolutions were presented:

WHEREAS in October, 2019 a pedestrian curb extension was installed by DOT at the intersection of Palisade Avenue and Kappock Street,

WHEREAS the extended curbing inadequately directs water runoff to existing catch basins and no new catch basins were installed as part of this project,

WHEREAS the committee has heard testimony from the community calling for the removal of the curb extension, the restoration of the previous street design and the integration of green infrastructure to protect from climate change,

WHEREAS during Tropical Storm Elsa on July 8th and during Tropical Depression Ida on September 1, 2021, 2727 Palisade Avenue experienced severe flooding for the first time since its construction due to inadequate storm water management in the design of this intersection,

WHEREAS the flawed design fails to adequately address storm water,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Traffic and Transportation Committee strongly urges DOT to remove the curb extensions and restore the street to its previous design, while maintaining pedestrian safety, reducing impervious surface, integrating green infrastructure, rebuilding the curb on the west side of Palisade Avenue and incorporating new storm water catch basins as needed and to bring a plan to do this back to the committee.

D. Gellman offered a friendly amendment which was not accepted.

VOTE

In Favor (29): S. Alexander, C. Barnes Watson, R. Bender, C. Calhoun, L. Daub, M. Della, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, L. Lopez, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, R. Pochter-Lowe, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, D. Travis, S. Vazquez, M. Wolpoff

Abstained: (1) S. Villaverde

Opposed: (4) C. Tepelus, K. Buford, K. Pesce, D. Gellman

WHEREAS – on September 7th, at 8:30 pm, local resident Ruth Mullen was tragically struck and killed by an MTA Express bus en route down Kappock Street and making the left turn onto Johnson Avenue

WHEREAS Johnson Avenue and Kappock Street is a three way stop controlled intersection with visibility limitations due to multiple slopes

WHEREAS this route is a heavily used bus route, serving the BXM1, BXM2, BXM18, the BX10, the BX20 and the Hudson RaiLink

WHEREAS we have heard from community members stating that vehicles routinely fail to stop at the stop signs and that a traffic signal at this intersection would be more effective

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Community Board 8 supports the DOT proposal to study the need for a traffic signal and improved lighting at this intersection.

VOTE

In Favor (34): S. Alexander, C. Barnes Watson, R. Bender, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, L. Daub, M. Della, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, L. Lopez, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, S. Vazquez, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Abstained: (0)

Opposed: (0)

- D. Travis followed up on previous resolutions that had been approved: 1. April resolution for flexible delineators on Independence Avenue. 2. Safety improvements on Sedgwick Avenue. Both will be discussed at next T&T meeting.

H. Youth – J. Gomez

- No September meeting; Next meeting October 18

I. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HUDSON RIVER GREENWAY – R. Bender (NO REPORT)

J. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY – J. TOWNES (NO REPORT)

K. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' SERVICES – S. VILLAVERDE

- Met with the NYC Council chair of Veteran's Committee. Chair Spalter attended as well.

12. DISCUSSION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2021 – (NO DISCUSSION)

13. APPROVAL OF CORRECTED BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF September 14, 2021

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

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - None

Motion to Adjourn at 9:20 pm seconded and passed by unanimous consent.

Prepared By: Tania Ochoteco, Community Coordinator

Reviewed By: R. Jacklosky (Board Secretary)