

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

PRESENT (33):

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

ABSENT (10): J. Campbell Priveterre, C. Dastis-Galvin, M. Donato, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, M. Joyce, L. Lopez, O. Jimenez, T. Pardo, R. Singh

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

GUESTS: Assembly Member Jeff Dinowitz, Council Member Eric Dinowitz, Carlos Torres (Bronx DA's Office), Tyler Wong (Sen. Biaggi's office), Lorenzo Manzano (CM Dinowitz Office), Frederick Klein (AM Dinowitz's office), Ish Gonzalez (Bronx BP's office), Ruben Diaz Jr., Victor Cruz, Tracey Collins, Inna Sobel, Alex Martinez, Sue Dodell, John McCaffrey, Herb Barrett.

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

1. GALLERY SESSION:

Tracey Collins read a statement on behalf of Jeffrey Moerdler pertaining to the Traffic & Transportation committee proposal to reconsider its prior decision regarding Independence Avenue.

Inna Sobel, Sue Dodell and John McCaffrey- spoke in opposition to 6661 Broadway Shelter

Alex Martinez - BronxWorks and KHCC Covid vaccine outreach work and identify possible opportunities to conduct additional outreach in the community.
Herb Barrett informed us that this will be his last year organizing the Memorial Grove event.

2. REPORT FROM THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT – RUBEN DIAZ JR.

- Greetings & Goodbye message. The Borough President reflected on his years of service to the Bronx and to our city. He thanked community advocates and partners for their collaboration and support over the years.
- 3. REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC DINOWITZ:
 - Discussed the proposed homeless shelter, food giveaway in January, clean ups continue, and the legislation that he has sponsored and authored.
- 4. REPORT FROM THE 50TH POLICE PRECINCT – SGT. VINCENT CAPRINO:
 - Overall decrease in crime, robberies are up 27.8%, grand larcenies (vehicle accessories), auto thefts down, scams (IRS & Con Edison), paper plate enforcement.
- 5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – LAURA SPALTER
 - Announced that Ciara is getting married on December 18th and offered congratulations!
 - Update on Shelter: contract has not been sent to the Comptroller's office and most likely will be deferred to the incoming administration. Thanked D. Padernacht and R. Ginty for reviewing the contract downtown in person,
 - Asked the Board for a vote to add DOI report resolution to the agenda, relinquished chair to B. Bender.

L. Spalter relinquished the chair and asked the board for a vote to add the following resolution to the agenda:

VOTE:

In Favor (33): unanimously approved

Whereas, on November 10, 2021 New York City's Department of Investigation (DOI) released a timely report entitled "***DOI Report on Corruption Vulnerabilities in the City's Oversight and Administration of Not-For-Profit Human Services Contracts***" in order to combat fraud, waste, and other abuses by not- for-profit agencies in contract with the Department for Homeless Services, Department of Youth and Community Development, Department for the Aging, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Social Services, and Administration for Children's Services.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doi/newsroom/public-reports.page>

Whereas, the report states that in Fiscal Year 2020 the City spent more than \$4 billion dollars in contracts awarded to not-for-profits in order to provide vital services for its most vulnerable populations.

Whereas, over the past seven years the DOI has conducted dozens of investigations into corruption, waste, fraud, and other abuses and pursued criminal charges against nonprofit executives and board members.

Whereas, DOI has provided in this report a clear blueprint for city government to increase oversight and combat corruption in 23 policy and procedure recommendations (PPR) for reforms in such contract management areas as budgeting, invoicing, and auditing.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that Bronx Community Board 8 calls on our new City Council members, Borough President, Mayor, Public Advocate and Comptroller to advocate for, adopt, and enforce the Department of Investigation's anti-corruption measures, standardized procedures, and best practices in order to protect and enhance the public trust.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that Bronx Community Board 8 calls upon District Attorney Darcel Clark to convene a special grand jury to examine into these matters and to recommend appropriate action.

C. Moerdler suggested a friendly amendment which L. Spalter accepted: that District Attorney Darcel Clark launch an investigation: "Therefore, be it resolved, Bronx Community Board 8 calls upon D.A. Darcel Clark to convene a special grand jury to investigate into these matters and to make appropriate recommendations and take appropriate action."

R. Jacklosky called for a roll call vote

VOTE:

In Favor (26): S. Alexander, C. Barnes-Watson, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, L. Daub, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, R. Kaplan, C. Moerdler, T. Morris, O. Murray, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, D. Travis, S. Vasquez, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Opposed: 0

Abstained (7): R. Ginty, D. Padernacht, C. Tepelus, S. Froot, D. Gellman, B. Bender, M. Della (present, ineligible to vote)

6. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY MEMBER JEFFREY DINOWITZ:

- Thanked Ruben Diaz Jr. for his 13 years of service to the Bronx, thanked Herb Barrett for his service,
- Update on 6661 Broadway proposed shelter: it's a bad model, most objectionable is this lack of transparency. Councilman Dinowitz and Assemblyman Dinowitz sent letters in opposition to the Comptroller's office.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT – DIOMARYS ESCANO-BELL

- Allocated \$87,544, \$108,110 remaining for FY22, OTPS allocated \$7,931 and \$27,089 remaining, \$5,693 encumbered funds, rent \$19,044 and \$48,128 remaining, budget modification in Addendum A: (\$4034 from code 499).
- The following resolution was presented:

WHEREAS, to support the work of the Board Office, a budget modification for FY22 has been prepared and is attached to the December Treasurer's Report.

BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board 8 approved the budget modification.

Short code	Description	2022 Original	2022 MOD	2022 Final Budget
100	Supplies and Materials – General	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,000
101	Printing Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
117	Postage	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
302	Telecommunications Equipment	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250
314	Office Furniture	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000
315	Office Equipment	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
319	Security Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
332	Purchases of Data Processing Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
40B	DOIT Phone Expenses	\$ 2,570	\$ -	\$ 2,570
400	Contractual Expenditures - General	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
417	Advertising	\$ 250	\$ 184	\$ 434
451	Local Travel Expenditures - General	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
499	Other Expenditures - General	\$ 20,000	\$ (4,034)	\$ 15,966
600	Contractual Services - General	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
608	Maintenance and Repairs - General - Contractual	\$ 250	\$ 850	\$ 1,100
624	Cleaning Services - Contractual	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
706	Prompt Payments Interest	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
Total		\$ 35,020	\$ -	\$ 35,020

VOTE:

In Favor (33): Unanimously approved

Opposed:0

Abstained:0

- Dio announced that due to her pregnancy, she will be stepping down as Board Treasurer shortly.

8. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – CIARA GANNON

- Referred to minutes from the Executive committee report, Congratulations to Dio!
- C. Gannon is happy to put together the Treasurer's report until the position is filled.

9. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING – NONE

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – N. FAZIO

- Refer to minutes, Entrepreneurs Assistance Center, mask mandates for indoor will go into effect on 12/27
- To participate in discussion of Permanent Open Restaurants program visit NYCEngage,
- Bailey Avenue fire meeting was held with merchants, SBS, KRVC and CB8. Next EDC meeting January 28.

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

SCA will present on proposed 696 seat school on Visitation Church site. C. Moerdler encouraged the community to attend and D. Padernacht suggested a resolution be made that the Education Committee speak for the Board on this issue. There is no information on the SCA report, District Needs report requested by D. Padernacht.

C. Moerdler made a motion to amend the agenda, which was unanimously approved. He made the following motion: To authorize the Education Committee to represent the Board on December 22nd. *Any other board member that attends should be able to express themselves and vote.

Chair Alexander introduced the following draft resolution:

WHEREAS, On November 19, 2021 the school Construction Authority notified Bronx Community Board 8 that Pursuant to Section 1731 of the New York City Construction Act notice that a proposed site selection of lot 150 Bock3271 in the Bronx for construction of a new 696 seat primary school in Community School District 10, including a statutory due date of January 3, 2022 for submitting comment, and

WHEREAS, On December 1, 2021 Bronx Community Board 8 received a Notice of Filing from School Construction Authority with a proposal of site selection for a primary school at the former Visitation Church site at 160 Van Cortlandt Park South, and

WHEREAS, Since approximately 15 years ago School District 10 has had overcrowding condition in their schools and the need for more seats to alleviate this overcrowding condition which is especially severe in Community Board 8 schools, and

WHEREAS, In 2010 the Department of Education promised a new school Kingsbridge in their 5-year plan which was never sited, and

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 passed a resolution at their General Meeting on December 14, 2021 to authorize the Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee to represent the Board at their meeting on December 22, 2021 in order to make the statutory deadline of January 3, 2022 for comment, and

WHEREAS, School Construction Authority's presentation at the Land Use meeting on December 7, 2021 proposed a 696 seat primary school but had no site plan for the building, school bus parking, teacher parking, open space for the students etc,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 welcomes the 696 primary additional seats at the former Visitation Church site, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Construction Authority returns to Bronx Community Board 8 with a site plan including design and operational details and information not available at this time.

VOTE:

In Favor (21): S. Alexander, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esemá, S. Froot, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, R. Kaplan, C. Moerdler, T. Morris, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, S. Vasquez, M. Wolpoff

Opposed (8): B. Bender, M. Della, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Reyes, D. Travis

Abstained (4): C. Barnes-Watson L. Daub, N. Fazio, S. Villaverde

C. ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION – R. FANUZZI

- NYC investment in flood litigation and storm water management has not been able to discover any litigation measures proposed as a result of our region's vulnerability. Need to report flooding conditions to 311. We will have more incidents like Hurricane Ida.
- Joint meeting with Parks Committee on December 15 on update regarding Putnam South Greenway.

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

- Thanked everyone who is working on the homeless shelter issue. Department of Health attended November meeting, everyone eligible is encouraged to get booster shots.
- Next meeting LiveOnNY will present on organ donation.

E. HOUSING – T. MORRIS

- Thanked everyone for their patience during his personal challenges. Next meeting 12/27, will discuss new initiatives with Marble Hill Management including heat and safety concerns.
- A celebration for new solar lighting at Marble Hill Community Garden took place in November.

F. LAND USE – C. MOERDLER

- Discussed the need for oversight of the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) considering the troubling lack of transparency and questionable actions by the agency that became evident at the last Land Use meeting.

G. LAW, RULES & ETHICS – M. WOLPOFF

- OML requirements to post resolutions 24 hours in advance, additions or subtractions in leadership positions require a resolution, rules regarding speakers.

H. PARKS & RECREATION – B. BENDER (NO REPORT)

- Committee did not meet in November.
- Joint meeting with E&S tomorrow.

I. PUBLIC SAFETY – E. GREEN

- 2 resolutions: renewal application for The Barbeque Pitt (wine, beer and cider), new application for full liquor license Ezili Luxury Hall Corp.

The following resolutions were presented:

WHEREAS, Representatives of The Barbecue Pit, located at 5788 Mosholu Avenue appeared before the Public Safety Committee on November 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.

WHEREAS, Representatives of Ezili Luxury Hall Corp, located at 5540 Broadway, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on November 16th, 2021 to apply for a new liquor license.

WHEREAS, a 2AM agreement was signed by the establishment owner, agreeing to close down business by 2AM, every day, during their first year of operation.

WHEREAS, Representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior notable disturbances or complaints at the location of this establishment.

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

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

VOTE as unit:

In Favor (33): unanimously approved

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

- E. Green received notice that one of the SLA applications, Casa Tobala Corp. 3732 Riverdale Avenue received a notification from the SLA regarding the 500-foot rule conditions upon them getting their application. Heating season is upon us, Fire Presentation by Captain Colabella, make sure everyone has upgraded smoke detectors. Next meeting January 21st at 7:00pm.

J. TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION – D. TRAVIS

- Refer to minutes, DOT will attend next meeting, will continue work regarding Bailey Avenue.

The following resolutions were presented:

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2020 and early winter of 2021, the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Community Board 8 held several public discussions on ways to reduce drag racing on Independence Avenue;

WHEREAS, the majority of the community expressed strong opposition to general, common traffic calming measures on Independence Avenue such as lane narrowing, pedestrian extensions, bike lanes, additional traffic lights and the completion of sidewalks;

WHEREAS, during the March 2020 Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting committee members and the general public discussed the placement of flexible delineators and channelization at each impacted intersection to identify locations that would best reduce the intersection size while also addressing concerns with parking, pedestrian crossings, bus stops and garbage pickup;

WHEREAS, in April of 2021 Community Board 8 passed a resolution to recommend NYC DOT install flexible delineators and rubber speed bumps on Independence Avenue at the intersections of West 235th Street, West 236th Street, West 237th Street, West 239th Street and West 240th Street to reduce reckless “donuts” by vehicles;

WHEREAS, the Bronx DOT office has informed the Traffic and Transportation Committee that specific requested treatments cannot be guaranteed and that the agency does not have specific treatments to reduce intersection radius to address illegal vehicular activity like “donuts”;

WHEREAS, 311 reports on Independence Avenue and adjacent side streets have dramatically been reduced from 54 complaints between January 2020 and March 2021 to 8 from April to October 2021 with the re-installation of speed bumps, street lines and increased enforcement;

WHEREAS, the April 2021 resolution has not been acted on by the New York City Department of Transportation;

WHEREAS, this resolution supersedes and replaces the April 2021 resolution from Community Board 8 to the New York City Department of Transportation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Bronx Community Board 8 requests that the New York City Department of Transportation make no changes to Independence Avenue to address drag racing without first coming back to the Traffic and Transportation Committee.

- Board members stated that they did not receive the revised resolution
- Tabled until January full board to allow adequate time to study.

Stephenson Place No Standing Zone

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 requests that the NYC Department of Transportation change the parking regulation for the south side of Stephenson Place along the retaining wall for Fort Independence Park to a “No Standing Zone” to eliminate the parking of any vehicles.

VOTE:

In Favor (29): S. Alexander, C. Barnes-Watson, B. Bender, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly, L. Daub, M. Della, P. Ellis, D. Escaño-Bell, M. Esemá, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, R. Kaplan, C. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, S. Vasquez, M. Wolpoff

Opposed (2): S. Villaverde, K. Buford

Abstained (2): R. Ginty, T. Morris

K. YOUTH - NO MEETING

L. AGING – D. PADERNACHT

- Next meeting DFTA will discuss employment opportunities for older adults with the agency. Next meeting January 10.

M. BUDGET– D. GELLMAN NO REPORT

N. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON HUDSON RIVER GREENWAY– B. BENDER NO REPORT

O. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY – M. DELLA

A motion was put forth to amend the agenda. A second motion was presented to amend the SCRE resolution.

VOTE (33): unanimously approved

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

The following Amended SCRE resolution was presented after unanimous vote to place on the agenda:

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 passed a resolution on June 9, 2020, that consideration of systemic racism and inequality should be addressed under the auspices of Bronx Community Board 8; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2020 Bronx Community Board 8 established a Special Committee on Racial Equity to initiate consideration of addressing systemic racism and inequality in a thoughtful, transparent and inclusive manner; and

WHEREAS, a framework is needed in order to research, identify and consider issues of inequity within the purview of Bronx Community Board 8 and its committees that affect our diverse communities and to propose recommendations for addressing such issues; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 reauthorizes the Special Committee on Racial Equity to continue its mission as described above and to

make recommendations to the Community Board;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Special Committee shall be comprised of Margaret Della (Chair), Bob Bender, Bob Fanuzzi, Julie Reyes, Ramdat Singh, Camelia Tepelus, and Julia Gomez

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Special Committee shall engage members of the Community Board and the community in undertaking its work and shall be inclusive of their expertise, resources, and experience;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with the bylaws, the Special Committee be discontinued following the next annual Board election unless it is specifically continued either by resolution of the Board or by declaration of the newly elected Board chairperson, which declaration shall be recorded in the minutes.

VOTE (33): unanimously approved

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

- The committee met 12/2. M. Della was elected chair and J. Reyes, vice chair.
- Presentation from Cesar Ruiz from Latino Justice on Redistricting and encouraged community board members to submit their testimony to the Redistricting Commission.
- Reviewing initial report, reached out to Chairs about Equity Activities List, requesting feedback. Planning for a series of community presentations.
- Next meeting first Thursday in February

P. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON VETERANS SERVICES – S. VILLAYERDE

- Refer to minutes. S. Villaverde thanked Council member Dinowitz as chair of the Veterans Committee for his detailed report.
- Selecting next meeting date in January or February.
- Establishing meetings to have a group take over Memorial Grove.

10. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2021

11. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2021 – unanimously approved

12. Miscellaneous Business – None

Meeting adjourned at 10:23pm

Prepared By: Tania Ochoteco, Community Coordinator

Reviewed By: R. Jacklosky (Board Secretary)