

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING Held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 via Zoom Conference

PRESENT (35):

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

ABSENT (6):

C. Dastis-Galvin	O. Jimenez	T. Morris
T. Pardo	R. Pochter-Lowe	L. Spalter

STAFF:

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

GUEST:

AM Jeffrey Dinowitz, CM Eric Dinowitz, Captain Charles Girven

Vice Chair Bender convened the meeting at **7:03 PM** and welcomed all. He stated that Chair Spalter would not be presiding the meeting since she is ill.

1. GALLERY SESSION:

Maeve McGee (GrowNYC) – The organization will be running an event in the District on February 2022. The organization focuses on environmental matters.

Mary Serri – requested the Community Board approve the resolution from the Traffic & Transportation Committee rejecting the proposal from DOT. They request the sidewalk be returned to its former state to prevent future flooding at 2727 Palisade Avenue.

Fatime Ba (RAIN Inc) presented on her organization. The organization matches seniors with volunteers.

2. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY MEMBER JEFFREY DINOWITZ

AM Dinowitz informed the Board that Bill 8591 extending the Open Meetings Law passed the assembly and senate. The Eviction Moratorium will expire on January 15th. But resources will be made available to residents needing assistance.

3. REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC DINOWITZ

CM Dinowitz informed the Board that individuals wanting to help those affected by the Bronx Fire can make monetary donations to the Mayor's Fund. The Council Member also shared that the legislation that has passed included: Gas Free NY, the opening of an office focused on Safety and Gun Violence Prevention within the Mayor's Office, Language Access and Video for voters.

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

Mr. Gonzalez reported that we have a new Borough President Vanessa Gibson and Deputy Borough President Janet Peguero. The Borough President hosted a vigil for the victims of the Twin Park building fire. The report is not yet complete but will be circulated to District Managers soon.

5. REPORT FROM THE NYPD 50TH PRECINCT – Captain Charles Girven

Captain Girven reported that an increase in grand larceny has been seen in the Riverdale area, particularly auto theft. Units are patrolling during the overnight shifts in the areas targeted by criminals. The NCO's are talking to businesses in areas with recent car theft. Also, workshops will be held for seniors to avoid them becoming victims of scams.

6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Vice Chair Bob Bender

Vice Chair Bender informed the board that Chair Spalter is out sick and will be with us for the next meeting. He also shared thoughts on the passing of Marvin Goodman.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT – DM Ciara Gannon

DM Gannon reported that there were no changes from the previous report. OMB would provide an updated report for the February meeting.

8. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – Ciara Gannon

DM Gannon thanked everybody for the good wishes on her recent married. She shared that the office is saddened over the passing of Marvin Goodman. The Borough President and Deputy were scheduled to attend the Full Board meeting but due to the recent fire they re-scheduled. A letter was sent to elected officials requesting more testing sites in CB8. The new website should be ready to launch by next week.

9. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING – NONE

10. ROLL CALL – Secretary Rob Jacklosky

A quorum is present with 35 board members.

11. ELECTION OF TREASURER

Vice Chair Bender opened the floor for nominations. N. Fazio nominated Joyce Campbell-Priveterre. Also, Camilia Tepelus expressed her interest in running for the position. Both candidates shared their professional background and answered several questions from Board Members.

JOYCE CAMPBELL-PRIVETERRE

IN FAVOR (21):	B. Bender	K. Buford	S. Chittilappilly
	L. Daub	M. Donato	P. Ellis
	D. Escano-Bell	M. Esema	R. Fanuzzi
	N. Fazio	S. Froot	D. Gellman
	E. Green	R. Jacklosky	M. Joyce
	C. G. Moerdler	O. Murray	K. Pesce
	G. Santiago	D. Travis	M. Wolpoff

CAMELIA TEPELUS

IN FAVOR (13):	S. Alexander	C. Calhoun	J. Campbell-Priveterre
	M. Della	R. Ginty	J. Gomez
	R. Kaplan	D. Padernacht	J. Reyes
	R. Singh	C. Tepelus	S. Vasquez
	S. Villaverde		

Abstention (1): C. Barnes-Watson

Vice Chair Bender declares Joyce Campbell-Priveterre the Treasurer.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs – Sylvia Alexander, Chair

S. Alexander referred board members to her minutes. The School Construction Authority attended her last meeting to discuss the site selection for a new school. The agency stated that they would not return to the Community Board until the City Council approves the site selected. The Committee approved a resolution in favor of the site selected. M. Wolpoff indicated that there was no need for a vote since the committee was authorized to represent the board.

b. Environment & Sanitation – Dr. Robert Fanuzzi, Chair

Dr. R. Fanuzzi reported on the joint committee meeting held by Environment & Sanitation and Parks and Recreation committees on the Daylighting of Tibbetts Brook. It was well attended by agency officials and community members. He referred board members to his minutes prepared by himself and R. Singh. He reported that DEP and DPR will be investing \$100 million in CB8 for Daylighting of Tibbetts Brook and building the Greenway. He recounted the history. The project has 3 phases. R. Fanuzzi outlined each phase in detail and how they would involve the Parks Committee and the Traffic and Transportation committees. He pointed to a calendar of engagement that will ensure the community will be able to participate in the project, which should see fruition in 10 years.

R. Ginty praised the joint meeting and the presentation, but also noted the lack of transparency up until the meeting. She thanked R. Singh for his plan to request periodic presentations from the Parks Department.

c. Health, Hospitals & Social Services – Omar Murray, Chair

O. Murray reported that the Governor has launched a new campaign called Get Your Kid Vaccinated. This focuses on parents getting their children ages 5 and up vaccinated. At the next meeting the committee will discuss testing sites and vaccination.

d. Housing – No Report

e. Land Use – Charles G. Moerdler, Chair

C. G. Moerdler informed the board about some items related to the proposed homeless shelter at 6661 Broadway. He clarified that the city agencies have nothing to do with the selection of sites. These offers are brought to agencies by not-for-profit providers and often times the agency takes the offer. A meeting will be scheduled with the Senate Majority Leader to discuss the matter. This project will negatively impact local businesses in the area as 5 businesses will be demolished to build the shelter

Law, Rules & Ethics – Martin Wolpoff, Chair

M. Wolpoff brought forward a resolution approved by the committee which addresses the protocol for midterm vacancies.

WHEREAS the LRE committee seeks to establish a protocol for filling midterm vacancies caused by the death, resignation or termination of a Board officer or committee chair and

WHEREAS LRE seeks to minimize the possibility of a chilling effect caused by the premature announcement of the names of Board members interested in seeking to fill such vacancy,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board No. 8, Bronx approves the following language to be included in the Board's Ethical Guidance Manual:

Upon the vacancy of any Officer or elected Committee Chair position as the result of death, resignation or termination, the expression of interest by any community board member in seeking election to the position will not be made public before 10 days after the effective date of such vacancy. Expressions of interest may be submitted at any time up to the time of the election to fill such vacancy. A vote to fill such vacancy shall be taken not later than at the second regular meeting following the creation of the vacancy. At the election to fill the vacancy, all nominations will be made from the floor

VOTE →	In Favor (31)	Opposed (1)	Abstention (3)
IN FAVOR:	S. Alexander K. Buford S. Chittilappilly M. Donato M. Esema J. Gomez M. Joyce O. Murray J. Reyes D. Travis M. Wolpoff	C. Barnes-Watson C. Calhoun L. Daub P. Ellis N. Fazio E. Green R. Kaplan D. Padernacht G. Santiago S. Vasquez	B. Bender J. Campbell-Priveterre M. Della D. Escano-Bell S. Froot R. Jacklosky C. G. Moerdler K. Pesce R. Singh S. Villaverde
OPPOSED:	R. Fanuzzi		
ABSTENTION:	D. Gellman	C. Tepelus	R. Ginty

M. Wolpoff indicated that in the *Ethical Guidance Manual* the phrase “abstention for cause” has now been changed to “ineligible to vote” as approved by the NYC Conflict of Interest Board. No Vote was required.

f. Parks & Recreation – Ramdat Singh, Chair

In connection to the joint meeting held with E&S, R. Singh added that Parks and Recreation would have to follow up with DPR more closely in terms of what the design would look like, including the redesign of the lake. He said he would be in constant communication with the Parks Department monitoring each phase, to make sure that everything the CB8 wanted is in this projected. R. Singh expressed that he would miss

Marvin Goodman who was a valuable Parks Committee member of CB8 and informed that the committee will meet on January 26.

g. Public Safety – Edward Green, Chair

E. Green referred board members to his December minutes. He reported that the committee had no resolutions. The committee had a presentations from Community Affairs on Crime Prevention and from Con Edison on scams. The next meeting is January 18 and will include a guest speaker from DHS addressing Human Trafficking.

h. Traffic & Transportation – Debra Travis, Chair

D. Travis brought forward 4 resolutions approved by the committee, providing context on each.

Independence Avenue Flexible Delineator Resolution Replacement

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.

VOTE →	In Favor (17)	Opposed (7)	Abstention (4)
IN FAVOR:	C. Barnes-Watson J. Campbell-Priveterre M. Esema E. Green R. Kaplan C. Tepelus S. Vasquez	B. Bender M. Della R. Fanuzzi R. Jacklosky D. Travis M. Wolpoff	C. Calhoun P. Ellis S. Froot J. Reyes
OPPOSED:	S. Alexander R. Ginty D. Padernacht	K. Buford C. G. Moerdler	D. Gellman O. Murray
ABSTENTION:	S. Chittilappilly R. Singh	L. Daub	N. Fazio

Kappock/Palisade DOT Revision Resolution

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, during Tropical Storm Elsa on July 8th, 2021 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 from the street,

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 passed a resolution urging the removal of the curb extension and restoration of the 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 to manage storm water,

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Transportation provided stakeholders with a drawing of their intended changes to the curb line of the intersection and their plan to do the following: create several openings in the concrete for plantings to be either bioswales (pending

DEP approval) or planted areas; install porous slabs in the roadway adjacent to the concrete extensions; install center channelization to identify travel lanes; install raised channelization; and to work with Con Ed to further improve the sidewalk in front of the co-op's property,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 rejects this proposal and calls for the intersection to be returned to its previous configuration.

VOTE →	In Favor (22)	Opposed (4)	Abstention (3)
IN FAVOR:	S. Alexander C. Calhoun L. Daub M. Esema R. Ginty M. Joyce D. Padernacht R. Singh	C. Barnes-Watson J. Campbell-Priveterre M. Della N. Fazio E. Green R. Kaplan S. Vasquez M. Wolpoff	B. Bender S. Chittilappilly P. Ellis S. Froot R. Jacklosky C. G. Moerdler
OPPOSED:	K. Buford D. Travis	D. Gellman	C. Tepelus
ABSTENTION:	R. Fanuzzi	J. Reyes	G. Santiago

Sedgwick Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue West Intersection

WHEREAS, residents have raised concerns about safety on Sedgwick Avenue at the intersection of Van Cortlandt Avenue West;

WHEREAS, the Traffic & Transportation Committee heard public testimony at the June, October and November 2021 committee meetings regarding the details of these safety concerns;

WHEREAS, in the past five years 37 motorists have had crashes without injuries, 18 motorists and 4 pedestrians have been injured and one pedestrian has died at this intersection;

WHEREAS, this intersection has bus stops for the BX1, BX2, BX10 and BXM3 and has many commercial businesses;

WHEREAS, this intersection is frequently used by children and seniors because it is adjacent to the Jasa Senior Center and is within a school zone for PS 95 and Ampark Neighborhood School and is a route served by crossing guards during the school year;

WHEREAS, this corridor has heavy traffic volume connecting the Major Deegan, Henry Hudson Parkway, Mosholu Parkway and local streets;

WHEREAS, modifications made to the intersection of Sedgwick Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue West have not made pedestrians crossing Van Cortlandt Avenue West safe from turning vehicles;

WHEREAS, vehicles traveling both north and south on Sedgwick Avenue are unable to safely turn left without interference from oncoming traffic;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 requests that the NYC Department of Transportation perform a traffic study of the intersection of Sedgwick Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue West to address adverse sightlines between motorists and pedestrians and last minute lane changes, the placement of the traffic island on Van Cortlandt Avenue West, review the feasibility of a dedicated left turn lane and signal for northbound traffic, review the signal timing for traffic in all directions including new signals for each flow of traffic;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, that the Traffic and Transportation Committee requests the restoration of the pedestrian crossings at all four sides of the intersection.

VOTE →	In Favor (30)	Opposed (0)	Abstention (1)
IN FAVOR:	S. Alexander C. Calhoun L. Daub M. Esema R. Ginty M. Joyce O. Murray R. Singh D. Gellman R. Fanuzzi	C. Barnes-Watson J. Campbell-Priveterre M. Della N. Fazio E. Green R. Kaplan D. Padernacht S. Vasquez C. Tepelus J. Reyes	B. Bender S. Chittilappilly P. Ellis S. Froot R. Jacklosky K. Buford K. Pesce M. Wolpoff D. Travis G. Santiago
ABSTENTION:	C. G. Moerdler		

Sedgwick Ave Resolution

WHEREAS, residents of 3850 Sedgwick Avenue have raised concerns about safety on the two block section of Sedgwick Avenue from Van Cortlandt Avenue West to West 238th Street;

WHEREAS, the Traffic & Transportation Committee heard public testimony at the June, October and November 2021 committee meetings regarding the details of these safety concerns;

WHEREAS, in the past five years 9 motorists and 2 cyclists have been injured in crashes in these two blocks;

WHEREAS, 36 motorists have had crashes without injuries;

WHEREAS, this area has bus stops for the BX1, BX2 and BXM3 and adjoins an actively used public park and playground, Fort Independence Playground;

WHEREAS, this area is within 1.5 miles of a public school;

WHEREAS, this corridor has changes in grade and several twists that limit sightlines;

WHEREAS, this corridor has chronic double-parking which causes traffic to cross the centerline;

WHEREAS, there is no pedestrian crosswalk for three blocks in either direction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 requests that the NYC Department of Transportation study the feasibility of a traffic light at the intersection of Stephenson Place and Sedgwick Avenue near 3850 Sedgwick Avenue;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee requests the restoration of the flashing yellow caution light at the bend between Stephenson Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue West and the addition of a “No Standing Sign” on the east side Sedgwick Avenue just north of Stephenson Place to clarify the existing No Standing Zone and reduce vehicles illegally parking and blocking sightlines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee requests that sharrows be installed on Sedgwick Avenue between Van Cortlandt Avenue West and Fort Independence Street, with no impact to parking, to improve visibility of the presence of cyclists;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Traffic and Transportation Committee requests a study for a speed camera on Sedgwick Avenue between Giles Place and Stephenson Place.

VOTE →	In Favor (30)	Opposed (0)	Abstention (1)
IN FAVOR:	S. Alexander	C. Barnes-Watson	B. Bender
	C. Calhoun	J. Campbell-Priveterre	S. Chittilappilly
	L. Daub	M. Della	P. Ellis
	M. Esema	N. Fazio	S. Froot
	C. G. Moerdler	E. Green	R. Jacklosky
	M. Joyce	R. Kaplan	K. Buford
	O. Murray	D. Padernacht	K. Pesce
	R. Singh	S. Vasquez	M. Wolpoff
	D. Gellman	C. Tepelus	D. Travis

R. Fanuzzi

J. Reyes

G. Santiago

ABSTENTION: R. Ginty

i. Youth – DM Ciara Gannon

No report. The committee will reconvene in January 2022.

j. Aging – Dan Padernacht, Chair

There was no meeting in January. The Committee will reconvene on February 14th. D. Padernacht remarked that Marvin Goodman would be greatly missed.

k. Budget – David Gellman, Chair

D. Gellman informed committee chairs that their committees should start discussing FY24 Capital and Expense in January and prepare a list in February.

l. Economic Development – Nick Fazio, Chair

N. Fazio referred board members to his minutes. He said a small business executive order was announced by Mayor Adams that will protect small business from burdensome fines. The SSBCI (part of the American Rescue Plan) will theoretically improve credit access to our small business. The state has to apply by February 11th, and N. Fazio will ask state representatives to keep track of our application. He expressed thoughts honoring the memory of Marvin Goodman. The next meeting is January 27th.

m. Special Committee on Hudson River Greenway – Bob Bender, Chair

B. Bender informs that the Committee will convene in the spring.

n. Special Committee on Racial Equity – Margaret Della, Chair

M. Della informed that the committee will reconvene on February 3. She asked committee chairs to review and update their list of activities their committee has taken on and future agenda items that touch equity issues and provide their comments to her by the end of the month.

o. Special Committee on Veteran Services – No Report

13. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2022

R. Ginty expressed that the Executive Committee minutes had some incorrect items regarding the SCA presentation on the Visitation Site at ELCA committee meeting. It was understood that they would be corrected at the next Executive meeting.

14. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2021

C. Gannon indicated that there were some errors in the Education section of the Full Board minutes. A revised version was emailed to all board members after consulting with S. Alexander. The vote was taken on the amended minutes.

VOTE →	In Favor (30)	Opposed (0)	Abstention (1)
IN FAVOR:	S. Alexander C. Calhoun L. Daub M. Esema C. G. Moerdler M. Joyce O. Murray R. Singh D. Gellman R. Fanuzzi	C. Barnes-Watson J. Campbell-Priveterre M. Della N. Fazio E. Green R. Kaplan K. Pesce S. Vasquez C. Tepelus J. Reyes	B. Bender S. Chittilappilly P. Ellis S. Froot R. Jacklosky K. Buford R. Ginty M. Wolpoff D. Travis G. Santiago
ABSTENTION:	D. Padernacht		

15. Miscellaneous Business

None.

Motion to Adjourn at 10:46 PM, seconded and passed by unanimous consent.

Prepared By: Pablo Romano, Community Associate

Reviewed By: Rob Jacklosky, Secretary