

(pending board approval)

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING Held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 via Zoom Conference

PRESENT (35):

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

ABSENT (6):

O. Jimenez	T. Morris	K. Pesce
T. Pardo	D. Escaño-Bell	N. Fazio

STAFF:

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

GUESTS:

AM Jeffrey Dinowitz, CM Eric Dinowitz, Captain Charles Girven,
Greer Mayhew(NYC Comptroller's Office), Carlos Torres (Bronx DA Office)

Chair Spalter convened the meeting at 6:35 PM and welcomed all to the Budget Hearing. Budget Chair, D. Gellman commenced the Public Hearing on Responses from City Agencies on the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2023. The following community residents and stakeholders spoke in response to the budget priorities:

Tara McMaster spoke in support of an increase to the Parks Department Budget. Ms. McMaster supports additional funding for park maintenance and programming at Van Cortlandt Park. The Parks Department is understaffed and does not have enough equipment to do the important job they do.

Deirdre Burke spoke in support of additional funding for Parks, specifically staff, maintenance, and equipment. Ms. Burke also spoke in support of DOT maintenance such as: repaving, curb maintenance and sidewalk safety.

Calder Orr spoke in support of additional parks district staff, for park maintenance. He would also like to see an increase in park staff trainings and invasive species control at parks.

D. Gellman closed the budget hearing at 6:58 PM.

Chair Spalter convened the Full Board meeting at 7:00 PM. Chair Spalter called for a moment of silence for the people of Ukraine as they experience day thirteen of Russian aggression.

1. GALLERY SESSION:

Jodie Colon spoke in support of virtual meetings. When the Community Board resumes in person meetings, it is important for meetings to be hybrid.

Michael Greco (FDNY EMT & Paramedic Union) explained that FDNY EMS is making changes to the 911 system. Unit 27, stationed at W 234th St & Broadway, is being eliminated after ten years of service.

Leslie Hogan raised concerns about sewer back-ups between W 260th St & Mosholu Ave. on Broadway due to the recent storms. This has been an ongoing concern for residents who live on Broadway. Residents would like to see new storm water sewers along Broadway included in the Federal Infrastructure funding. New developments along Broadway add to these capacity concerns.

2. REPORT FROM The Bronx Borough President's Office- Ishrael Gonzalez

I. Gonzalez stated that all applications have been received for new board members. Board Members will be required to complete a sexual harassment training and once the link is available it will be sent out. There will be an Irish Heritage celebration at The Rambling House on Tuesday, March 15th.

3. REPORT FROM the 50th Precinct – Captain Florentino

Captain Florentino was recently assigned to the 50th Precinct. Year to date, there are 28 robberies, 103 grand larcenies and 45 grand theft automobiles. The Captain reminded residents not to leave valuables in cars and do not leave cars unattended. Concerns of tire theft and catalytic converters were discussed.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Chair Laura Spalter

Please see Executive Committee Minutes for a full report. Chair Spalter reported on a recent *New York Times* article regarding the African American Planning Commission and the proposed shelter at 6661 Broadway. The article focused on corruption, nepotism and fiduciary management concerns. Chair Spalter has written letters to the Department of Investigation,

Mayor Adams, local Elected Officials and she pointed out issues with the model, corruption, and lack of transparency.

5. TREASURER’S REPORT – Joyce Campbell Priveterre

Treasurer Joyce Campbell Priveterre went over the March Treasurer Report. The Budget report shows little to no changes. OMB has processed the December Budget modifications. There are no modifications for this month, but we expect a modification for next month and end of year spending. The Mayor’s budget did not call for a Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEG) for Community Boards, meaning that the Community Board budget is not being cut this fiscal year. The office will be purchasing new equipment, software, furniture and supplies that can be used in a new office. All items must be purchased and received by June 30th, which is the end of the fiscal year.

6. DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT – Ciara Gannon

Please refer to the Executive Committee Minutes for a detailed report. Happy International Woman’s Day & Woman’s History Month. C. Gannon reported on hybrid meetings. The first priority is to secure physical locations for potential in person meetings. DM Gannon is fully committed to a hybrid model for meetings so that the public can observe meetings virtually. DM Gannon is exploring what other CBs are doing to prepare, speaking with DOITT, the Borough President’s Office and outside tech professionals.

7. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING – NONE

8. ROLL CALL – Secretary Rob Jacklosky

A quorum is present with 35 board members.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Land Use – Charles G. Moerdler

C. Moerdler reported on the committee meeting. C. Moerdler presented the following resolution for 3904 Orloff Ave. that will go to the Board of Standards and Appeals:

WHEREAS an application for multiple zoning variances was made to the Board of Standards and Appeals under Calendar No. BSA Application (2021-29-BZ) 3904 Orloff Ave to permit in an R4A Zoning District construction of a cellar and residential building that does not provide a required front yard and for other relief; and

WHEREAS the application was heard before multiple meetings of the Land Use Committee (January 13, 2022, February 7, 2022 and March 7, 2022) at which the applicant

was afforded the opportunity to be heard and various changes in the proposed application were agreed to be made other than the two set forth below;

WHEREAS the Committee continues to be concerned respecting two aspects of the application as to which it appears that the requisite findings pursuant to Section 72-21 cannot be made,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the application on condition that:

- a. The proposed stairway from the cellar to the street be removed and no external public entranceway to the cellar be provided since it will encourage the creation of an illegal residence in the cellar and the conversion of the premises to a multiple dwelling without compliance with the applicable provisions of law with respect thereto; and
- b. The 70-foot front yard facade fronting on Orloff Avenue be improved or reconfigured to be more in conformity with the existing single-family houses in the neighborhood possibly in terms of diversity of material, dimensions, variegation, or any other element that can vary, diminish or relieve the extensive, massive and undifferentiated facade on Orloff Avenue that appears to the community to impact adversely on nature, character and residential design of the immediate neighborhood.

Vote:

In Favor: (35) S. Alexander, C. Barnes-Watson, R. Bender, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, J. Campbell-Priveterre, S. Chittilappilly, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, S. Vasquez, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff , M. Della

Opposed: (0)

Abstain: (0)

C. Moerdler presented on an application before the committee for the 50th Police Pct, 3450 Kingsbridge Ave, which includes Exterior work to modify asphalt with ADA requirements and replacing the existing door we will need to submit to the Public Design Commission. There was much discussion at the committee meeting and the architect will attend the next meeting. C. Moerdler formed a working group to work with Stagg on the Riverdale Ave Project. He also put together a working group in response to the Governor's rezoning proposal which would have an incredible impact on Bronx Community Board No. 8.

10. Report from Council Member Eric Dinowitz

Council Member Eric Dinowitz applauded Community Board 8's virtual meetings and commitment to hybrid meetings in the future. It is budget season and he urges residents to fill out the budget feedback form on his website. He reported on an increase in summer youth employment and urges young people to apply for Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Recent webinars hosted by his office are on his website. His office will be hosting a rat academy webinar. CM Dinowitz fully supports the street co naming for Bill Stone.

Committee Reports:

a. Housing – No Report

b. Law Rules & Ethics – Martin Wolpoff

The committee will meet on March 14th and they will discuss potential guidelines for meetings.

c. Parks & Recreation- Ramdat Singh

Please review minutes for a full report. R. Singh presented the following resolution:

Whereas Mayor Adams' preliminary budget actually allocates 0.5% of the proposed budget to parks, reducing the budget for the Department of Parks and Recreation from its current level, which will result in the loss of personnel in city parks; and

Whereas Mayor Eric Adams campaigned on a promise to allocate 1% of the New York City budget to The Department of Parks & Recreation ; and

Whereas, Department of Parks and Recreation needs additional funding for operations and maintenance of parks and green spaces; and

Whereas when he was Brooklyn Borough President Mr. Adams recognized how vital the parks have been to New Yorkers during the pandemic, saying, "In the moments of this pandemic our green spaces provided a place for us to gather, express ourselves, and to simply catch a breath of fresh air"; and

Whereas all five borough presidents have endorsed the principle of 1% for parks; and

Whereas the City Council is holding hearings on the Mayor's proposed budget in March;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that Parks and Recreation Committee of the Bronx Community Board 8 calls on the City Council and our City Council Members, to hold Mayor Adams to his pledge to devote 1% of the budget to parks.

A discussion of the resolution took place.

Vote:

In Favor: (29) S. Alexander, C. Barnes-Watson, R. Bender, C. Calhoun, J. Campbell-Priveterre, S. Chittilappilly, C. Dastis-Galvin, M. Donato, P. Ellis, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Gellman, J. Gomez, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, R. Pochter-Lowe, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, S. Vasquez, S. Villaverde, M. Della

Oppose: (0)

Abstain: (7) D. Padernacht, L. Daub, R. Ginty, J. Reyes, O. Jimenez, M. Wolpoff, K. Buford

d. Public Safety, Ed Green

E. Green presented the following resolutions:

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, a Representative of Welcome To The Family Coffee Shop, located at 219 West 230th Street, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 15th, 2022 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: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, A Representative of William E. Irwin Jr. American Legion Post 774, located at 3035-37 Corlear Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 15th, 2022 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: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, a Representative of Riverdale Diner, located at 3657 Kingsbridge Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 15th, 2022 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: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, A Representative of Caridad Restaurant, located at 135-45 West Kingsbridge Road, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 15th, 2022 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.

METHOD OF OPERATION CHANGE: Extend hours of operation to 4AM & add live music.

WHEREAS, a Representative of Mugools, Inc., located at 6697 Broadway, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 15th, 2022 to apply for a method of operation change.

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: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, A Representative of Van Cortlandt Park Golf Course, located at 115 Van Cortlandt Park South, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 15th, 2022 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: Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, a Representative of Mon Amor Coffee & Wine Inc., located at 234 West 238th St., appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 15th, 2022 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.

NEW APPLICATION / TEMPORARY RETAIL PERMIT: Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, A Representative of Savor Coffee and More Inc., located at 3725 Riverdale Ave., appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 15th, 2022 to apply for a temporary retail permit.

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

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

Vote:

In Favor: (36) S. Alexander, C. Barnes-Watson, R. Bender, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, J. Campbell-Priveterre, S. Chittilappilly, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, S. Vasquez, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff , O. Jimenez, M. Della

Opposed: (0)

Abstain: (0)

NEW APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, a Representative of Yokomo, located at 216 West 242nd Street, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 15th, 2022 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: (35) S. Alexander, C. Barnes-Watson, R. Bender, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, J. Campbell-Priveterre, S. Chittilappilly, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, , M. Della, P. Ellis, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, S. Vasquez, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff , O. Jimenez

Opposed: (0)

Abstain: (1) M. Donato

e. Traffic & Transportation- Deb Travis

D. Travis reported that the next meeting will be held on March 31st and DOT will be presenting a proposed bike lane on Riverdale Ave. D. Travis presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a request for co-naming a street in memory of the late I. William “Bill” Stone has been made and meets the mandatory requirements for a Community Board 8 Street Naming by being deceased for greater than two years and has been nominated by three or more organizations which are on the list required to be kept by the Community Board under the NYC Charter;

WHEREAS, the location bearing the name change has a specific connection to his life as he resided nearby at 3801 Hudson Manor Terrace for nearly 60 years;

WHEREAS, this street co-naming has been endorsed by River Spring Living/Hebrew Home at Riverdale, Riverdale Jewish Center, Bronx Developmental Disabilities Council and the Interagency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies along with additional endorsements from former Community Board 8 Chairs Martin Wolpoff, Charles G. Moerdler, Robert Fanuzzi, Dan Padernacht, Rosemary Ginty, current Chair Laura Spalter and City Council Member Eric Dinowitz;

WHEREAS, Bill Stone served our community as an active member of Community Board 8 for nearly 40 years and during his tenure chaired the Health & Hospitals and Libraries Committees and was Treasurer, Vice Chair and served three terms as Chair of Community Board 8. Additionally, he served on the Board of Directors of AHRC NYC providing much needed services for people with disabilities for nearly 50 years, eventually leading the organization as President for three of those years.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Bronx Community Board 8 supports the co-naming of the corner of Hudson Manor Terrace and West 237th Street in honor of Bill Stone.

Vote:

In Favor: (35) S. Alexander, C. Barnes-Watson, R. Bender, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, J. Campbell-Priveterre, S. Chittilappilly, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, P. Ellis, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, S. Vasquez, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff , O. Jimenez, M. Donato

Opposed: (0)

Abstain: (1) M. Della

f. Youth, Julia Gomez

Referred the Board to the minutes for updates. The committee will host a resource fair on March 21st.

g. Aging, Dan Padernacht

LiveOn NY presented at the last committee meeting. The committee will discuss racial equity and budget at the next meeting.

h. Budget, David Gellman

The budget hearing took place and the office will be sending the Mayor's office a response letter. Regarding FY 24 budget requests, every committee should be discussing capital and expense requests. Each committee should prioritize requests by the end of this month and finalize them in April. They are due to the office and D. Gellman by the end of April. Please call D. Gellman or C. Gannon if there are any questions.

i. Economic Development- Moses Esema

Please refer to the minutes for a full report. Restaurants and other venues are no longer requiring vaccine proof. The next meeting is March 24th.

j. Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs- Sylvia Alexander

Please refer to the minutes for a full report. The office has asked school principals for their budget requests.

k. Environment & Sanitation – R. Fanuzzi

Please refer to the minutes to follow budget requests. The committee is working on flood mitigation in Riverdale, Marble Hill & Kingsbridge. Thank you to DM Gannon for following up on abandoned vehicles at Jerome Park Reservoir. There is no meeting in March.

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

The committee will meet sometime in the spring.

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

M. Della reported that the committee discussed the Russian attacks on Ukraine and connected anti-semitic and racist rhetoric locally. Rabbi Bob Kaplan spoke about actions against hate crimes.

n. Special Committee on Veteran Services – Sergio Villaverde

Please refer to the minutes for a full report. Next meeting TBA. Manhattan College has been recognized as a top ten military-friendly college.

11. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2022- None
12. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2022

Vote:

In Favor: (36) S. Alexander, C. Barnes-Watson, R. Bender, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, J. Campbell-Priveterre, S. Chittilappilly, C. Dastis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, E. Green, R. Jacklosky, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, L. Spalter, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, S. Vasquez, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff , O. Jimenez, M. Della

Opposed: (0)

Abstain: (0)

13. Miscellaneous Business - None.

Motion to Adjourn at 9:05 PM, seconded and passed by unanimous consent.

Prepared By: Ciara Gannon, District Manager

Reviewed By: Rob Jacklosky, Secretary