

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING

Held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 via Zoom Conference

PRESENT:	S. Alexander	B. Bender	K. Buford	C. Calhoun
	J. Campbell Priveterre	L. Daub	M. Donato	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	M. Wolpoff		

ABSENT:	C. Barnes-Watson	S. Chittilappilly	M. Della
	N. Fazio	T. Morris	K. Pesce
	S. Villaverde		

STAFF:

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

GUESTS: Council Member Eric Dinowitz, Assembly Member Jeff Dinowitz, Eric Sawyers (Bronx DA Office)

A Public Hearing pursuant to amendments of Part WW of chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 began at 6:30 pm.

Chair Spalter convened a Public Hearing pursuant to amendments to Part WW of chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 and following the public hearing, presented a resolution that authorizes a hybrid meeting model. Board meetings will be in person after June 9, 2022. Chair Spalter presented a resolution that aims to satisfy public participation via hybrid meetings and while considering the feasibility of hosting hybrid meetings. This is an unfunded mandate for Community Boards.

The Community Board heard comments and concerns from the public and board members regarding the resolution and hybrid meetings. The Board Office will explore consultants for assistance with hybrid meetings.

The Public hearing was closed at 7:25 pm.

Roll Call: R. Jacklosky conducts roll call to determine a quorum is present.

Before presenting the resolution, Chair Spalter called for a vote to add the Hybrid Meeting Model resolution to the agenda.

VOTE ► IN FAVOR: 29 OPPOSED: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

S. Alexander	B. Bender	K. Buford	C. Calhoun
J. Campbell Priveterre	L. Daub	M. Donato	M. Esema
R. Fanuzzi	S. Froot	D. Gellman	R. Ginty
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M. Wolpoff			

Whereas, the New York State Legislature has passed, and Governor Hochul has signed, new legislation concerning implementation of the Open Meetings Law, which will remain in effect through June 1, 2024; and

Whereas, Part WW of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 mandates that as of June 9, 2022 all community board members must return to attending meetings in person unless the Board chooses the Hybrid Model option, which allows an exemption with timely notice for Board members with extenuating circumstances, such as illness, disability, caretaking responsibilities, or any other significant or unexpected factor which precludes the member's physical presence at such meeting, to participate via videoconferencing; and

Whereas, under the Hybrid Model board members who are exempt from attending meetings in person, may vote offsite via videoconferencing; but will not be counted toward the quorum; and

Whereas, a board member appearing virtually must at all times be able to be heard, seen and identified; and

Whereas, In the event that a board member attends virtually the name and specific reason for virtual attendance will be noted in the monthly minutes; and

Whereas, public engagement has increased significantly over the past two years, and the Hybrid Option allows for full participation at meetings on the part of the public via video conferencing; and

Whereas, Bronx Community Board 8 held a duly advertised public hearing on May 10, 2022 as required; and

Whereas, the Hybrid Model, which allows for remote public participation presents many technical challenges absent professional Information Technology (IT) support as well as evening staff support; and

Whereas, Community Board 8 committees may or may not choose to implement the

Hybrid Model at their discretion so long as the public notice specifically advises the community when the hybrid model will be utilized;

Therefore, be it resolved, that Bronx Community Board 8 and its committees, at their discretion adopt the Hybrid Model to provide the public, including those with disabilities, the ability to attend and participate remotely with the condition that the Board will review its efficacy after six months when at such time a vote on its renewal will take place.

Therefore, be it further resolved, that Bronx Community Board 8 will endeavor to implement the Hybrid Model after research, investment in appropriate technology, and training of board members in its use have been completed.

Therefore, be it further resolved, that public meetings of the board or its committees that utilize video conferencing will be appropriately publicly noticed and include physical locations and remote links with directions on how to participate pursuant to the new Open Meetings Law.

VOTE ► IN FAVOR: 29

OPPOSED: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

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- 1. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY MEMBER JEFFREY DINOWITZ:** Assemblyman Dinowitz announced upcoming shredding events. Assemblyman Dinowitz secured \$250,000 for the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center's anti-gun programs. Thanked the FDNY for an amazing job at a fire on Oxford Ave. Provided update on redistricting.

2. GALLERY SESSION:

1. Taylor Lewis, iMentor Mentoring, discussed the program. They work closely with Marble Hill School of International Studies to recruit mentors. For more information, please see immentor.org.
2. Beth Morris discussed the 20th anniversary of the end of recovery at Ground Zero. An informal gathering will take place on Sunday May 22nd at Noon at Endor Community Garden at Fieldston Road and 253rd Street.

3. REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC DINOWITZ- Council Member Dinowitz announced upcoming events his office is hosting. Residents who would like to follow upcoming events please sign up for newsletter. A light study of Bailey Ave was approved by DOT. Provided an update on NYC Executive Budget.
4. REPORT FROM THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE- Alexis R. stated that letters will go out about board member reappointment. Bronx Week is taking place.
5. CHAIRS REPORT: Chair Spalter announced that the Borough President is honoring longest serving board members at a dinner and congratulated Chuck Moerdler, Karen Pesce and Martin Wolpoff. CSA applications are coming into the office. The CSA Committee consists of Rob Jacklosky, Stephen Vasquez and Chris Calhoun. She thanked the ad-hoc committee for their service. Chair Spalter has been in touch with MTA Metro North Railroad regarding the DOT Riverdale Ave Plan. MTA wants a meeting with DOT because they were unaware of the plan. Regarding the proposed shelter at 6661 Broadway, the contract is still in the Mayor's Office of Contract Services. The building sale is moving forward.
6. REPORT FROM THE 50TH POLICE PRECINCT- Officer Cesar Sala – Unfortunately there was a murder in the precinct and the investigation is pending. Charges are pending at this time. Current year numbers compared to last are: murder 0 to 1, rape 0 to 1, robbery 2 to 12, felony assault went down, 12 to 11, burglaries went up 7 to 19, grand larcenies 25 to 58, grand larceny auto 6 to 25. Combined total number of crimes rose from 52 to 127. These are the totals from the last 28-day period compared to the same period last year. The NYPD believes this increase is due to everything opening back up after pandemic. P.O. Sala took questions from board members. Board members expressed concern about double parking at Johnson Avenue area. Officer Sala said he would bring it to the attention of the traffic Sargent.
7. TREASURERS REPORT- J. Campbell Priveterre – The office is working on closing out bills so the next budget report will reflect recent changes. She answered questions last month. There are no budget modifications this month. There is \$17,600 remaining. Presented a preliminary FY 23 budget so that OMB can put funds in correct accounts. Treasurer presented resolution:

WHEREAS, the Treasurer and District Manager of Bronx Community Board 8 prepared a projected operating budget(below) for the Board's expenses for FY 2023.

BE IT RESOLVED, Community Board 8 approves the projected operating budget for FY 23.

Short code	Description	FY 2023
100	Supplies and Materials – General	\$ 1,000
101	Printing Supplies	\$ 1,000
117	Postage	\$ 500
302	Telecommunications Equipment	\$ 250
314	Office Furniture	\$ 2,000
315	Office Equipment	\$ 1,000
40B	DOIT Phone Expenses	\$ 2570
400	Contractual Expenditures – General	\$ 500
417	Advertising	\$ 250
451	Local Travel Expenditures – General	\$ 100
499	Other Expenditures – General	\$ 20,000
600	Contractual Services – General	\$ 500
608	Maintenance and Repairs - General – Contractual	\$ 250
624	Cleaning Services – Contractual	\$ 5,000
706	Prompt Payments Interest	\$ 100
Total		\$ 35,020

The Treasurer & District Manager took questions from board members.

VOTE ► IN FAVOR: 29

OPPOSED: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

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8. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT- C. Gannon- Reminded board members about the required sexual harassment training.

9. REPORT FROM NYC DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING – No Report

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) Land Use- C. Moerdler reported that the committee is monitoring the Stagg site located at 3745 Riverdale Ave. There is currently a Stop Work Order at the location. The zoning committee is focused on housing. C. Moerdler expects that NYC will propose changes to zoning and affordable housing.
- b) Law, Rules & Ethics- M. Wolpoff provided an update to the Executive Committee Minutes. M. Wolpoff presented on the question of wordsmithing on resolutions. His report concerned the situation when a committee chair person contacted the members of the committee for input on updating a resolution to be presented to the full board. Although there were some expressions to the contrary, M. Wolpoff, after seeking further clarification from New York State Committee on Open Government, offered COG advisory opinion 5577 which explains that seeking input from committee members to enhance a resolution that does *not* involve bringing together a quorum, changing the intent of the original resolution or getting a vote is permissible under the open meetings law. He also informed the board that he's asked that the board office send out the LRE recommendations for guidelines on how to conduct meetings. He asked for comments and suggestions and promised to include them.
- c) Parks & Recreation- R. Singh- Provided update on graffiti in parks and asks for residents to call 311 and send it to the board office. There will be a joint Parks and E&S Meeting on daylighting Tibbetts Brook and Putnam South Greenway this month. The joint DEP and DPR plan will be shared before the meeting.
- d) Public Safety- E. Green- presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Joan Henchy, a Representative of Gaelic Athletic Association of Greater New York, located at 201 West 240th Street, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on April 19th, 2022 to renew the establishment's liquor license.

WHEREAS, the address on the application was incorrect and the Representative stated she would submit the proper address with SLA the following day.

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

VOTE ► IN FAVOR: 29

OPPOSED: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

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Bronx District Attorney Clark was the guest speaker at the April Meeting, and it was an interesting and productive discussion. There is a concerning increase in crime in our area. The committee will focus on this increase.

- e) Traffic & Transportation: D. Travis- Announced that the MTA has named Richard Davey as their new President. On March 23, NYS Supreme Court ordered a complete environmental review for the DOT Open Restaurant Program. Mayor Adams announced a \$904 Million investment (over 5 years) in the NYC Streets Plan. The Committee is working on this year's paving requests. Please submit requests to the board office or committee. Please refer to minutes for more information.
- f) Youth- J. Gomez – Refer to minutes for full report. There is a meeting on Monday to discuss next year plans and June meeting.
- g) Aging- D. Padernacht – reported that HRA attended the meeting to discuss health insurance options and Medicaid. The presentation will be attached to minutes. Next meeting will be second Monday in June.
- h) Budget- D. Gellman- reported that all but two committees submitted requests in time. Priorities have been drafted into one document in order received. Will meet with Chair & District Manager to prioritize list. Offers time and services to help office on hybrid meetings.
- i) Economic Development- M. Esema- Refer to minutes for full report. Thank you to CM Dinowitz's Office for connecting committee to the Bodega & Small Business Association and their presentation at the meeting. The Betty Campbell Adams Most Valuable Merchant Award application period is open until May 15th. N. Fazio has discussed the economic development possibilities brought by daylighting and the greenway with the Borough President's Office and BOEDC. BOEDC suggests N. Fazio meet with banking institutions that are opening branches in the Bronx.
- j) Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs- S. Alexander- Refer to minutes for full report. Presented two SAPO Resolutions:

WHEREAS Ms. Armstrong submitted a SAPO APLICATION for a street closing on 6-5-22 to celebrate Amalgamated Nursery School Spring Bazaar Block Party, and

WHEREAS the street at Gale Place between Orloff Avenue and Van Cortlandt Park, and

WHEREAS the street closure will take place from 11:00am to 3:00pm, and

WHEREAS this event has been held in the past

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Bronx Community Board 8 supports this event

VOTE ► IN FAVOR: 29

OPPOSED: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

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Whereas, Rabbi Shemtov of the Chabad of Riverdale has submitted a SAPO Application for the celebration of Lag Baomer to be held on May 19, 2022 on West 235 Street between Independence Avenue and Douglas Avenue, and

Whereas, the street closing will take place from 2:30pm to 8:00pm

This event has been held successfully for the past thirty years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Bronx Community Board 8 supports this event

VOTE ► IN FAVOR: 29

OPPOSED: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

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- k) Environment & Sanitation- R. Fanuzzi- The Tibbett's Advisory Group has circulated a recording of the April 19 meeting. DEP will be cleaning sewers on the Major Deegan. Alternate Side Parking will be restored on July 5th for streets on which the alternate side rules apply two days a week.
- l) Health, Hospitals & Social Services- O. Murray provided update on the Coronavirus Pandemic. There is an urgent need for more federal funding for the booster shots and testing. The next meeting will be tomorrow night and there will be a representative from the Department of Health.
- m) Housing: J. Reyes- Presented a SAPO resolution:

WHEREAS on Monday, April 25, 2022, the Housing committee heard a presentation from Mr. T. Edwards, President of the Marble Hill Resident Council, Inc., request for a one-time full street closure on West 228th Street and Marble Hill Avenue to West 230th Street and Marble Hill Avenue for an event to take place on Saturday, June 18, 2022, from the hours of 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM, and

WHEREAS the Marble Hill Resident Association will sponsor this one-day block party event. The event will acknowledge 60 years of community service by Roosevelt Spivey, of Marble Hill's International Unisex Salon, known to the community as Rosey's Barber Shop; and

WHEREAS Mr. Spivey is a staple within the community deserving of acknowledgement as well as the community he wishes to give thanks to for their support through the decades,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Community Board No. 8 Bronx supports the permit for the full street closure on June 18, 2022, between the hours of 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Marble Hill Avenue between West 228th Street and West 230th Street.

There being no quorum, the majority Committee member present recommends approval of said SAPO application.

VOTE ► IN FAVOR: 29

OPPOSED: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

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- n) Special Committee on Hudson River Greenway- B. Bender- The committee met last week. Please refer to minutes for full report.
 - o) Special Committee on Racial Equity- No Report
 - p) Special Committee on Veteran Services- No Report
 - q) Nominating Committee- D. Padernacht- The Nominating Committee has begun its work. Chairs have given notice if they are seeking nomination or not. Interviews are being scheduled. The report is due June 15th.
11. Discussion of Executive Committee Minutes of May 6, 2022- M. Wolpoff will be submitting an update for minutes.
12. Approval of Full Board Minutes of April 12, 2022- No discussion

VOTE ► IN FAVOR: 29

OPPOSED: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

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13. Miscellaneous Business- C. Tepelus asked about total number of board members. There are currently 36 board members.

Chair Spalter reminded the board that the last full board meeting is on June 29th. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Ciara Gannon, District Manager
Reviewed & Approved by: Rob Jacklosky, Secretary