

**(PENDING BOARD APPROVAL)**

## **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8**

### **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**Held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023**

#### **PRESENT (37):**

S. Alexander	M. Della	R. Hilliard	R. Singh
C. Barnes-	I. De Leon	R. Jacklosky	L. Spalter
Watson	M. Esema	S. Krompinger	L. Teten
R. Bender	S. Froot	R. Pochter-Lowe	C. Tepelus
K. Buford	N. Fazio	C. G. Moerdler	D. Travis
C. Calhoun	R. Fanuzzi	O. Murray	M. Wolpoff
S. Chittilappilly	R. Ginty	D. Padernacht	
L. Chong	J. Gomez	J. Reyes	
L. Daub	E. Green	G. Santiago	
N. Fazio	T. Morris		
S. Froot			
S. Villaverde			

#### **ABSENT (5):**

D. Gellman	
S. Vazquez	M. Donato
M. Joyce	R. Kaplan

**STAFF:** C. Gannon, District Manager  
P. Romano Community Associate

**GUESTS:** Senator Gustavo Rivera, Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, Randi Martos (AM Dinowitz office), Council Member Eric Dinowitz, Tanbir Chowdhury (CM Dinowitz office), Jesse Lerer (Assembly Member Dinowitz Office), Alina Dowe (Mayor's Office)

Chair L. Spalter convened the meeting at 7:00 PM and welcomed all.

#### **1. GALLERY SESSION:**

- Marie Pierre Guiraud, of Catholic Guardian Services, stated that her organization is a nonprofit that provides health, creates hope and protects dignity through counseling, developmental disability services and family resources. They offer prenatal classes and parenting education classes for low-income parents in The Bronx. Classes are in person and once classes are completed a crib will be

provided. Classes are provided in English and Spanish. For more information, please visit the [Catholic Guardian Services website](#).

- Henry Morgan, NYC Mayor's Office- NYC Service announced several funding opportunities for local organizations. The first is NYC Civic Impact Funding which is given annually. There is \$200,000 for up to 20 different organizations. Requirements include: 501c3 or fiscal sponsor. Funds can be used for volunteer efforts. The second is Love Your Block Grant which is a mini grant for local community groups for neighborhood beautification projects. For more information visit NYC Service [here](#).
- Gabriella Derasmo- NYC Parks Stewardship announced that there will be a forest restoration event at Riverdale Park on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Flyers will be shared with more details on this program.
- Joy Knight, Second Vice President & Chair of Scholarship Bronx Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. provided information on a scholarship program for Bronx Students. Requirements include: HS students in five boroughs, 80 + average and going to a 4-year college or university in the fall. Must provide 2 letters of recommendations and a personal essay. Applications are to be mailed and postmarked by February 25, 2023. For more information please email [Scholarship@dstbx.org](mailto:Scholarship@dstbx.org)
- Michael Zablauskas raised concerns about traffic issues at night on Broadway near the Yonkers Border. Cars are racing along Broadway because there is no lights or barriers for a good distance. The loud noise is disruptive to neighbors. The potential for accidents or hitting pedestrians is a major concern.

Bob Bender noted that this is a major issue in North Riverdale between the city line and the entrance and exit of the Henry Hudson Parkway. The 50th Pct needs to increase presence in this area. Ed Green noted that this issue has come before the Public Safety Committee Meeting and will continue to be addressed at committee meetings.

*Roll Call – Quorum Present*

## **2. REPORT FROM THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT OFFICE – Alexis Ruiz**

- Happy New Year. There will be a new online electronic Community Board application. Once it is available it will be sent out.

### **3. REPORT FROM THE 50<sup>th</sup> PRECINCT- Officer Cesar Sala**

- For the 28 Day Period (this 28 day period compared to same period last year): 0 murder, Rape up from one to three. Robberies 11 % increase. Felony assaults increased from 9 to 15. Grand Larceny decreased from 45 to 44. Grand Larceny Auto decreased from 26 to 25. Overall there has been a 3.1 % increase in crime this period.
- Chair Spalter provided details on speeding on Broadway in North Riverdale and asked if the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct will be getting more officers. There has been a lot of turn over at the precinct.
- Chair Spalter reported that she and District Manager Gannon were involved in interview process for new Commanding Officer for 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct. A new commanding officer has yet to be named.
- No Hate Crimes to report.

### **4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Laura Spalter**

- Refer to Executive Committee Minutes for full report.

### **5. TREASURER'S REPORT – Scott Krompinger**

- Borough President's Office is inputting bills until we hire a Community Coordinator. Cleaning bills and Zoom bills have been paid. *The Riverdale Press* has been paid for a job advertisement.
- A budget modification is expected next month
- We plan on purchasing a new door security system that will be reflected in the budget modification.
- There are carry over encumbrances that the District Manager is working on clearing up with FISA.
- Responded to questions asked at the last meeting. Zero dollars were spent in Telecommunications Equipment line because the city defines this line as telephones, fax machine, etc. Equipment is purchased under office equipment line. In June 2022 it was reported that there would be \$6K remaining but the number was higher because outreach material and promotional items wouldn't be fulfilled in time for June 30<sup>th</sup>. Order was not placed. Other WB Mason items were on back order and computer software was installed for free.

### **6. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – C. GANNON**

- Provided information on proposed office door security system. Proposing purchase and installation of a video doorbell so that staff and members in conference room know who is at door. Current doorbell buzzers were damaged in the flood.
- Staff completed FMS training.
- Staff met with Office of Cannabis Management. A dispensary has been chosen in CB8. OCM will attend an upcoming Public Safety Committee Meeting and possibly an Economic Development Committee Meeting.

**7. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING – No Report**

- Chair Spalter reported that Camila Thomas will attend the Land Use Committee meeting on Thursday.

**8. REPORT FROM COUNCIL MEMBER ERIC DINOWITZ**

- Working with CB8 & elected officials with DHS regarding proposed shelter at 6661 Broadway. A joint letter went to DHS regarding the process and proposal.
- Reported on proposed charter school on W 232<sup>nd</sup> Street. There was a meeting with the elected officials, building coop boards and the developer. Waiting on answers from the school.
- Advocating for NYC retiree healthcare.
- It is budget season. Discretionary funding applications is open. There will be a training next week on applying for discretionary funding.

**9. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY MEMBER JEFF DINOWITZ**

- Responded to complaints about speeding on Broadway and is advocating for increase of speed cameras throughout the city.
- Charter Schools do not require the same amount of city oversight. His office is working on getting updates on the charter school in Kingsbridge.
- Longtime advocate for public access to the Jerome Park Reservoir.
- Provided update on State of the State & legislative update.

**10. REPORT FROM SENATOR GUSTAVO RIVERA**

- Reported on new senate district. Will represent all of Riverdale.
- Provided brief update on State of the State. A lot of work needs to be done.
- In solidarity with Nurses on strike.
- Focusing on housing in Albany. 421 A expired and looking forward to working on a fair incentive for developers.
- Cannot support proposed shelter on Broadway. Does not support current model or process the city took with the community.

**11. REPORT FROM SENATOR ROBERT JACKSON**

- Senator Jackson now represents Marble Hill, parts of Kingsbridge Heights, Van Cortlandt Village and parts of Riverdale.
- Chair & DM met with Senator Jackson and will continue to work with him on the areas he represents and on budget requests.

## 11. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### **a. Land Use- C. Moerdler**

- Increase in Special Natural Area District (SNAD) complaints.
- Next meeting will be January 12<sup>th</sup>. DCP will attend to discuss SNAD & tree removal complaints. A memo and resolution will be sent to the committee.
- Invited SCA & Tishman Speyer to attend the February meeting to update the committee and community. SCA has been advised not to attend due to pending litigation.
- Provided update on meetings about Affordable Housing.

### **b. Aging- Lisa Daub**

- January meeting focused on Housing/ Affordable housing. Minutes will be distributed shortly.

### **c. Budget- C. Gannon**

- We currently are in FY2023, which runs through June 30th, and are awaiting the Mayor's proposed FY24 Budget, which starts July 1st;
- We are starting the new cycle for: CB8 FY25 Capital & Expense Budget Requests:
- This is the schedule for your committees:

Advise your committee members: Start thinking about FY25 capital & expense budget requests,  
Jan '23: Bring those budget request ideas to committee January meetings for discussion,  
Feb '23: Put them on paper- establish the two budget request lists during the meeting  
Mar '23: Put capital & expense request lists in preliminary priority order,  
Apr '23: Finalize the committee's FY25 priority; Chairs submit the two request lists to Budget Chair, CB8 office by Apr21

### **d. Economic Development- Nick Fazio**

- Meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> at Home BX Steakhouse. BOEDC, Chamber of Commerce will be guest speakers.
- Thanks to DM on working with property owners and DOB regarding 3436 Bailey Ave (Tilila).
- Several business owners will present.

### **e. Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs- Sylvia Alexander.**

- Next meeting January 24<sup>th</sup>.

**f. Environment & Sanitation- Camelia Tepelus**

- The below resolution was presented:

**WHEREAS**, the CB8 Environment and Sanitation Committee (E&S) reviewed the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New York New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Study Tier 1 Feasibility Study (NYNJHATS) available at <https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-in-New-York/New-York-New-Jersey-Harbor-Tributaries-Focus-Area-Feasibility-Study/>, and its impacts on the Bronx Community Board 8 district;

**WHEREAS**, the CB8 E&S Committee “Water Working Group” submitted a report on the feasibility study to the E&S committee on January 3, 2023 for consideration by the committee;

**WHEREAS**, the main concerns of the CB8 E&S Committee relate to the possibility of the proposed changes in the Manhattan harbor area to direct more water north, impacting Bronx CB8 district, potentially increasing pressure against the outbound water from combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls and simultaneously exacerbating existing storm surge flooding patterns and conditions;

**WHEREAS**, the main recommendation from the Bronx CB8 E&S Committee is for USACE to study the impact of the additional water volume on the northern bank of the Harlem River, and to mitigate against stormwater backups in the Northwest Bronx;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Bronx CB8 approves the “Bronx Community Board 8 Comments on the NYNJHATS Tier 1 Feasibility Study”, as its comment on the study.

Vote:

Approve: S. Alexander, C. Barnes-Watson, R. Bender, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly L. Chong, L. Daub, M. Della, I. De Leon, M. Esema, S. Froot, N. Fazio, R. Fanuzzi, J. Gomez, R. Hilliard, R. Jacklosky, S. Krompinger, R. Pochter-Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, , T. Morris, O. Murray, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, L. Teten, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, M. Wolpoff, N. Fazio, S. Froot, S. Villaverde

Abstain: R. Ginty, E. Green, D. Padernacht

Oppose: 0

**g. Health, Hospitals & Social Services- Omar Murray**

- Next meeting January 18<sup>th</sup>. Guest speakers will discuss Coronavirus, RSV, & HIV/AIDS. Complaints have come in about The W on Broadway.

Working to get the director to attend meeting to discuss complaints from the community.

**h. Housing- Lee Chong**

- Meeting to be held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Committee will vote on outstanding minutes, discuss budget requests and the updating of the Housing Resource Guide.

**i. Law, Rules & Ethics – Martin Wolpoff**

- Meeting focused on civility on the board. Asked that the following comment be included in the minutes: “By its very nature Community Boards consist of diverse populations, its membership, supportive staff and meeting participants. An essential element of an effective community board is for varying opinions to be discussed, questions asked and very often compromises reached. Comments and written communications that do not consider others’ feelings, differing experiences and leadership styles show a lack of mutual respect and damages the collective intent of the board itself.”
- Committee has completed procedures required for hybrid meetings. It will go to the Executive Committee before coming to the Full Board.

**j. Parks & Recreation – Deb Travis**

- Toys were thrown out at Paul’s Park and the community is collecting new toys. Thank you to the Bronx Parks Commissioner, Yessenia Aponte for attending the last meeting. Refer to minutes for full report.
- Next meeting is January 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The following resolution was presented and requested for a PDC hearing.

**WHEREAS**, the Amateur Astronomers Association presented their proposal for the first public observatory in New York City to be located in Jerome Park along Goulden Avenue south of Jerome Park Reservoir Gatehouse #5 to the Community Board 8 Parks and Recreation Committee on December 22, 2022;

**WHEREAS**, the Parks Department has granted initial approval for the observatory structure, which previously resided on the campus of Nassau Community College in Garden City, New York and was transferred to the Amateur Astronomers Association to be used as a public observatory as part of their citywide programming;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) who operates the Jerome Park Reservoir, has been consulted on the planned programming and approved the siting of the observatory;

**WHEREAS**, the observatory will have a zerocarbon footprint and the Amateur Astronomers Association has agreed to modify their planned observatory walkway to construct it of permeable materials which they will maintain;

**WHEREAS**, the Amateur Astronomers Association is a 95-year-old not-for-profit organization with 60 years of experience planning events in New York City parks;

**WHEREAS**, the Amateur Astronomers Association has already formed programming partnerships with Bronx High School of Science and Lehman College and will be reaching out to all schools around the Jerome Park Reservoir to encourage their participation in programming at the observatory;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, Community Board 8 supports the Amateur Astronomers Association's proposal for the observatory at Jerome Park Reservoir with a permeable walkway.

Vote:

Approve: S. Alexander, C. Barnes-Watson, R. Bender, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly L. Chong, L. Daub, R. Ginty, E. Green, D. Padernacht, M. Della, I. De Leon, M. Esema, S. Froot, N. Fazio, R. Fanuzzi, J. Gomez, R. Hilliard, R. Jacklosky, S. Krompinger, R. Pochter-Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, , T. Morris, O. Murray, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, L. Teten, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, M. Wolpoff, N. Fazio, S. Froot, S. Villaverde

Abstain: 0

Oppose: 0

**k. Public Safety- Ed Green**

- Three resolutions were called:

**RENEWAL APPLICATION:** Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.



**WHEREAS**, Miguel Acosta, Representative of Yukka Latin Bistro, located at 5684 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on December 20th, 2022 to renew this establishment's liquor license.

**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.

---

**RENEWAL APPLICATION:** Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

**WHEREAS**, Sandra Klipstein, a Representative of TCR Tennis Club of Riverdale, Inc., located at 2600 Netherland Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on December 20th, 2022 to renew this establishment's liquor license.

**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.

---

**NEW APPLICATION:** Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

**WHEREAS**, Miguel Acosta, Representative of Ezili Luxury Hall Corp, located at 5540 Broadway, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on December 20th, 2022 for a new liquor license.

**WHEREAS**, a 2AM agreement was signed by the establishment's owner and received by the Board.

**WHEREAS**, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

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

Vote:

Approve: S. Alexander, C. Barnes-Watson, R. Bender, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly L. Chong, L. Daub, R. Ginty, E. Green, D. Padernacht, M. Della, I. De Leon, M. Esema, S. Froot, N. Fazio, R. Fanuzzi, J. Gomez, R. Hilliard, R. Jacklosky, S. Krompinger, R. Pochter-Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, , T. Morris .O. Murray, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, L. Teten, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, M. Wolpoff, N. Fazio, S. Froot, S. Villaverde.

Abstain: 0

Oppose: 0

**I. Traffic & Transportation- Kelli Buford**

- No December Meeting. NYC & NYS DOT will attend the January meeting. Urges community to follow board's social media pages because updates are posted there daily. Left turning lanes have been installed on Riverdale Ave.

**m. Youth Committee- Julia Gomez**

- Please refer to meeting minutes. No Meeting in January due to holiday. Meeting will be in February.
- J. Gomez announced she successfully defended dissertation. Degree will be conferred on February 1.

**n. Special Committee on Hudson River Greenway – Bob Bender**

- No Report. Meeting this spring.

**o. Special Committee on Racial Equity – Margaret Della**

- Meeting held earlier this week. There are upcoming events on the Kingsbridge Armory. For more information on upcoming public meetings: <https://kingsbridgetogether.com/>
- Looks forward to working with standing committees about Cannabis.
- [Mapping Equity](#) is a great website all should visit. Standing committees should take a look and see how it applies to committee.
- Working on interim report for 2023.

**p. Special Committee on Veteran Services – Sergio Villaverde**

- Meeting this spring.

**12. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2023 – NONE**

**13. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2022**

Vote: Unanimously Approved

S. Alexander, C. Barnes-Watson, R. Bender, K. Buford, C. Calhoun, S. Chittilappilly L. Chong, L. Daub, R. Ginty, E. Green, D. Padernacht, M. Della, I. De Leon, M. Esema, S. Froot, N. Fazio, R. Fanuzzi, J. Gomez, R. Hilliard, R. Jacklosky, S. Krompinger, R. Pochter-Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Morris, O. Murray, J. Reyes, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, L. Teten, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, M. Wolpoff, N. Fazio, S. Froot, S. Villaverde

Motion to Adjourn meeting at 9:15 PM.

Prepared By: Ciara Gannon, District Manager  
Reviewed by: Rob Jacklosky, Board Secretary