

(Pending Committee Approval)

**Bronx Community Board 8
Minutes of the Board Committee Meeting
November 14, 2023 via Zoom**

Meeting Recording Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAvL9zqPWeU>

Committee Members Present (34 present for quorum)

Sylvia Alexander, Jillian Baez, Bob Bender, Carol Blake, Kelli Buford, Chris Calhoun, Sebastian Chittilappilly, Lee Chong, Ingrid De Leon, Margaret Della, Robert Fanuzzi, Nicholas Fazio, Steve Froot, David Gellman, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Rosemary Ginty, Edward Green, Emily Hausman, Rhashida Hilliard, Rob Jacklosky, Barbara Kail, Scott Krompinger, Josh Land, Rita Lowe, Oscar Martinez, Omar Murray, Julie Reyes, Daniel Rowen, Georgia Santiago, Laura Spalter, Jessica Sosa, Sergio Villaverde

Committee Members Approved for Extraordinary Circumstances (3)

Charles Moerdler, Debra Travis, Martin Wolpoff

Committee Members Absent (3)

Aboubacar Barry, Margaret Donato, Theodore Morris, Rabbi Kaplan, Dr. Julia Gomez, Ramdat Singh, Constance Barnes-Watson, Joy Campbell Privaterre, Eliana Lobos

Staff

Farrah Kule Rubin

Guests

NYPD 50th Precinct Community Affairs Officers Sala and Captain Florentino, Assemblyman Dinowitz Rep. Jesse Lerer, Councilmember (CM) Dinowitz Rep. Frederice Latchman, and Representatives from Mayor Adams - Alina Dowe, Bronx Borough President-Alexis Ruiz and Ciara Gannon, Bronx District Attorney (DA) Clark-Juanita Escalera and Carlos Torres, CM de la Rosa Rep. Jamilah Sandoval, and Senators Jackson Rep. Dario Quinsac and Senator Rivera Rep. Brent Schneider. Gallery Speakers Sue Ellen Dowd, Deirdre Burke, Rob Spalter, Lewis Kaminsky, Christina Karlsen

Chair Reyes convened the meeting at 7:01pm with a roll call. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order.

Gallery

Sue Ellen Dowd - Support of Aging Resolution re: City Council

Deirdre Burke- Support of Aging Resolution re: City Council

Rob Spalter - Broadway Community Alliance re: SCA school on 6355 Broadway

Lewis Kaminsky - Support of Aging Resolution re: City Council
Christina Karlsen - Court case ruled on school design at 160 VCP South 5648/2022

Report from the Borough President's Office

Reminder to sign Code of Conduct. Recognition of Veterans Month and Community Board 8 event. DOT application open for Open Streets. Christmas and Menorah lighting in December.

Report from the 50th Precinct

Robberies up 22%, grand larceny problem up 18% in the 50th Precinct and throughout the City (people leaving valuable items in cars, rims/tires Hondas and KIAs), officer assaulted on 1 train (perpetrators caught and under Bronx DA), Zoom 'bombs' being investigated as hate crimes, NYPD enforcing no scooters on sidewalks. Office will follow up and make sure monthly hate crime reports are included in the monthly report. NYPD closed illegal smoke shop on 225th. The process is lengthy but trying to stay on top of illegal shops.

Report from the Mayor's Office

Mayor has released plan on Artificial Intelligence, working with corporate council to crack down on shops selling vapes, working with TLC Commissioner on zero emissions and wheelchair accessible by 2030, with Governor Hochul announced \$300m for bioresearch, with DOT Commissioner working to advance dining out NYC to help restaurants maintain outdoor dining, wants people to report if businesses are not following trash guidelines, announced new channel on Whatsapp, and reminding public that 'text to Eric' is available.

Elected Official Reports

Sen Jackson seeking for introduced bills to be passed. Working with Gov. Hochul. Contact jackson@nysenate.gov to be added to his email list.

Senator Rivera held walk and talk with DM/Chair, reviewing issues of importance, working with OCM on complaints @ocm.ny.gov on illegal smoke shops 11/29 RNH 2-4pm shredding event

Assemblyman Dinowitz presented that they are monitoring school construction at 232nd street and will be at the environment and Sanitation Committee meeting tomorrow to discuss.

CM Dinowitz presented on Citi bikes taking parking spots, SNAP benefits skimming/stolen, 10/29 shredding event, litter clean up 11/3 - advise us if you see, drive for migrants - toiletries, babies, coats, suits, jackets, Heat season - heat should be on, turkey giveaway Saturday 11/18 PS94 11:30, PS7 1pm, PS16 per school, Location: 277 w 231 st, 7185497300.

A representative from DA Clark's office announced a canned food drive for transgender awareness week from office 198 E 191st street, coat drive with NY Cares, Youth Advisory Council 1/13 11a-1pm (13-24yo) re gun violence and other issues.

BXDA Carlos Torres - Crime prevention coordinator, Bronx community initiative public access to CAMS - database on NYC cameras

Report from the 50th Police Precinct

Community Affairs Officers of NYPD 50th Precinct reported on its 28 day report up until 9/10/23 which compares this period of time to the same dates last year. Bodily crimes down. Most crimes remain larcenies.

Chairperson's Report

Refer to Executive Committee minutes. Margaret Donato resigned from the Board due to illness.

Thank you to those who attended New Member Orientation and Marty Wolpoff who presented.

Board discussed restarting the search for a new office location.

Jillian Baez connected an internship opportunity. Her student Crystal started working with the Office. Crystal is a student at Hunter College.

Treasurer's Report

\$19,517 spent thus far in FY24. Outstanding issue: \$3525 invoice from FY23 was charged against FY24. Received and encumbered in FY23. This will be corrected, and we will be reimbursed. \$10k held in event of City budget cuts to community boards. Due to accruals, OMB allowed us to move \$4k into OTPS and the office will submit a budget mod.

District Manager's Report

Zoom bombing has been an issue. Reached out to the 50th precinct and submitted report. Special detective working on Community Board 8 case.

Office continues to pursue office space. FY25 budget priorities for CB8 submitted to the City. New board member orientation. Thank you to City Planning, Martin Wolpoff, and Downeys.

Board members must sign code of conduct. Please submit asap.

Office hosting turkey giveaway event. Please reach out to anyone in need. Stagg group donating.

Community coordinator position vacant since Aug 18, 2023. Excellent candidate.

12/5 next District Cabinet meeting. Send in priorities

Thank you to the College of Mount St Vincent.

Roll Call

Completed

Committee Reports:

a) Housing - none

b) Land Use- Presentation on City of Yes with Economic Development Committee. Next meeting 12/4.

Resolution 5: create a new Special Natural Area District at 4800 Independence Ave

Resolution 3: Facilitate a new 3 story Community Facility at 680 West 232 St

Resolution 1: 4671 Grosvenor Ave (SNAD) Non-ULURP

Motion to vote on resolutions as a bundle: Resolutions unanimously passed

Resolution 2: SNAD Application Authorizations 695 West 246th Street

Resolution 4: LPC-24-00954 331 West 250th Street

Motion to vote on resolutions as a bundle: Resolutions unanimously passed

c) Law, Rules & Ethics- No quorum on 11/13. Discussed embargoing of Zoom bombing, waiting on letter to go out from the office, polling members for those who abstain, potential need for changing online meeting on extraordinary circumstances - survey to go out to chairs, amend Open Meetings Law due to ADA, evaluating CB8 code of conduct, inviting Conflict of Interest Board to address committee/board.

d) Parks & Recreation- Encampments in Van Cortlandt Park - please send photos to board office and drop a pin to help Parks' staff in the field. See minutes from Oct meeting. 11/29 at 7pm discussing Van Cortlandt house. RFP dropped and chair will send to Parks Committee

e) Public Safety- Renewal Applications: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider Resolutions passed unanimously:

- Cocina Chente 3535 Riverdale Ave
- KaiFan 3717 Riverdale Ave
- Mamajuana Prime 3541 Riverdale Ave

Corporate Change: Tijuana Nites 216 W 242nd St

The resolution passes:

Sylvia Alexander - F, Jillian Baez- F, Bob Bender- F, Carol Blake- F, Kelli Buford- F, Chris Calhoun- F, Sebastian Chittilappilly- F, Lee Chong- F, Ingrid De Leon - F, Margaret Della- O, Robert Fanuzzi- F, Nicholas Fazio- F, Steve Froot- F, David Gellman - F, Mary Ellen Gibbs - F, Rosemary Ginty - F, Edward Green- F, Emily Hausman- F, Rhashida Hilliard- F, Rob Jacklosky- F, Barbara Kail- F, Scott Krompinger- F, Josh Land- F, Rita Lowe- F, Oscar Martinez- F, Omar Murray- F, Julie Reyes- F, Daniel Rowen- F, Georgia Santiago- F, Laura Spalter- F, Jessica Sosa- F, Sergio Villaverde- F, Charles Moerdler- F, Debra Travis- F, Martin Wolpoff- F

Resolution from the floor: Cote Wine Bar 5639 Mosholu never submitted to SLA as construction was never completed. Ready to open, now ready to resubmit. Owner holds property across the street that remains in good standing. Motion to amend the agenda. Unanimously. Application passes unanimously.

Next meeting is 11/21 7pm NYPD 50th precinct.

Margaret Donato was former chair. Great person and big influence. Thank you to Margaret.

f) Traffic & Transportation- Refer to Sept minutes. 11/16 next meeting 7pm. Amended Resolution for Street Co Naming to be revisited so it can be presented at two consecutive board meetings, which raising tonight, will put past posthumous date.

The resolution passes:

Sylvia Alexander - F, Jillian Baez- F, Bob Bender- F, Carol Blake- F, Kelli Buford- F, Chris Calhoun- F, Sebastian Chittilappilly- F, Lee Chong- F, Ingrid De Leon - F, Margaret Della- A, Robert Fanuzzi- O, Nicholas Fazio- F, Steve Froot- F, David Gellman - F, Mary Ellen Gibbs - F, Rosemary Ginty - F, Edward Green- F, Emily Hausman- F, Rhashida Hilliard- F, Rob Jacklosky- F, Barbara Kail- F, Scott Krompinger- F, Josh Land- F, Rita Lowe- F, Oscar Martinez- F, Omar Murray- F, Julie Reyes- F, Daniel Rowen- F, Georgia Santiago- F, Laura Spalter- F, Jessica Sosa- F, Sergio Villaverde- F, Charles Moerdler- F, Debra Travis- F, Martin Wolpoff- F

g) Youth- 11/19 next meeting. Refer to minutes

h) Aging- Next meeting is 12/14 at 4pm board office. Mary Ellen Gibbs is Vice Chair. Presented amended resolution urging NYC council to take up legislation re: City retirees' medical choice. Members raised questions on CBA and union obligations, court cases, authorization that will hinder retirees' access to care and national implications

Motion to table the resolution fails:

Sylvia Alexander - O, Jillian Baez- O, Bob Bender- F, Carol Blake- F, Kelli Buford- O, Chris Calhoun- O, Sebastian Chittilappilly- F, Lee Chong- O, Ingrid De Leon - F, Margaret Della- A, Robert Fanuzzi- O, Nicholas Fazio- F, Steve Froot- F, David Gellman - O, Mary Ellen Gibbs -

O, Rosemary Ginty - O, Edward Green- O, Emily Hausman- F, Rhashida Hilliard- A, Rob Jacklosky- O, Barbara Kail- O, Scott Krompinger- F, Josh Land- A, Rita Lowe- F, Oscar Martinez- O, Omar Murray- O, Julie Reyes- O, Daniel Rowen- O, Georgia Santiago- F, Laura Spalter- O, Jessica Sosa- O, Sergio Villaverde- F, Charles Moerdler- F, Debra Travis- F, Martin Wolpoff- O

The resolution passes:

Sylvia Alexander - F, Jillian Baez- F, Bob Bender- A, Carol Blake- A, Kelli Buford- F, Chris Calhoun- F, Sebastian Chittilappilly- A, Lee Chong- F, Ingrid De Leon - F, Margaret Della- F, Robert Fanuzzi- F, Nicholas Fazio- A, Steve Froot- F, David Gellman - F, Mary Ellen Gibbs - F, Rosemary Ginty - F, Edward Green- F, Emily Hausman- A, Rhashida Hilliard- A, Rob Jacklosky- F, Barbara Kail- F, Scott Krompinger- A, Josh Land- A, Rita Lowe- F, Oscar Martinez- F, Omar Murray- F, Julie Reyes- F, Daniel Rowen- F, Georgia Santiago- F, Laura Spalter- F, Jessica Sosa- F, Sergio Villaverde- A, Charles Moerdler- A, Debra Travis- F, Martin Wolpoff- F

i) Economic Development- Joint meeting with Landuse with presentation on City of Yes, Commercial corridor walk through, permanent outdoor dining regulations came out today, awardee Tree Army hosted veterans event at Bell Tower

j) Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs- 10/24 meeting with SCA re: site plan for 6393 Broadway. Deadline for resolution is 11/24. Resolution on the site plan.

The resolution passes:

Sylvia Alexander - F, Jillian Baez- F, Bob Bender- F, Carol Blake- F, Kelli Buford- F, Chris Calhoun- F, Sebastian Chittilappilly- F, Lee Chong- F, Ingrid De Leon - F, Margaret Della- F, Robert Fanuzzi- F, Nicholas Fazio- A, Steve Froot- F, David Gellman - A, Mary Ellen Gibbs - F, Rosemary Ginty - F, Edward Green- F, Emily Hausman- F, Rhashida Hilliard- F, Rob Jacklosky- F, Barbara Kail- F, Scott Krompinger- F, Josh Land- F, Rita Lowe- F, Oscar Martinez- F, Omar Murray- F, Julie Reyes- F, Daniel Rowen- F, Georgia Santiago- F, Laura Spalter- F, Jessica Sosa- F, Sergio Villaverde- F, Charles Moerdler- F, Debra Travis- F, Martin Wolpoff- F

k) Environment & Sanitation- Impact of water runoff during construction at 305 232nd street construction and high-water level as well stop work order. Discuss City of Yes. Next meeting 11/15.

l) Health, Hospitals & Social Services- none

m) Housing - met 10/23 items. Refer to minutes. Discussed aspirational items to achieve in the year ahead, including updating housing guide. Next meeting 11/27 to briefly discuss the City of Yes and housing development.

n) Budget- none

o) Special Committee on Hudson River Greenway- none

p) Special Committee on Racial Equity- Statement on our values has to be reposted to website, underscore values in climate of anti-semitism, anti-Muslim, anti-Islamic sentiment. Community members should bring discrimination to office attention and report to NYPD, if appropriate. Tone in community starts with us.

Statement of Values: Bronx Community Board 8 proudly represents the diverse communities of Fieldston, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Marble Hill, Riverdale, Spuyten Duyvil, and Van Cortlandt Village, who reside or work here, inclusive of all races and ethnicities, gender expressions, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, national origin, and citizenship.

q) Special Committee on Veteran Services- 10/30 meeting with Assistant Commissioner who provided wealth of information including Sharktank initiative. 11/5 event was well-attended and a special thanks to the following:

Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of October and November 2023

None

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of October

Not prepared yet

Executive Session

Misc. Old Business & New Business

Next meeting is December 12th

Resolution on Community Coordinator passed unanimously.

Special thank you to Farrah for working above and beyond in staffing transition.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:56 pm.

Submitted by,
Margaret Della, Secretary