



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

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Julie Reyes, **Chairperson**

Vanessa L. Gibson, **Bronx Borough President**

Farrah Kule Rubin, **District Manager**

MEETING MINUTES OF THE **EDUCATION, LIBRARIES, & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (ELCA)**

DATE	November 28, 2023	START TIME	7:35 PM	END TIME	9:00 PM
MEETING HELD AT	BXC8 OFFICE – Conference Room				
ADDRESS	5676 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471				

ATTENDANCE

Present	Sylvia Alexander, Jillian Baez, Constance Barnes-Watson, Sebastian Chittilappilly, Emily Hausman, Rita Pochter-Lowe	Total	6
Absent	Georgia Santiago	Total	1
Extraordinary Circumstances	Judith Green (CCM)	Total	1
Guest	Julie Reyes (BXC8 Chair), Laura Spalter (BXC8 IPC), Rosemary Ginty (BXC8 Housing Chair), Ramdat Singh (BXC8), Pablo Romano (BXC8 Staff), Dr. Christina Carlson (180 VCP), Rebecca Brown Barbier (NYPL Riverdale Manager), Christopher Smith (NYPL Van Cortlandt Manager), Aga Chan (NYPL Spuyten Duyvil Manager), Melissa Koszer (NYPL Jerome Park Manager), Arisbel Villa (Link), Anisah Sabur (NWBCCC), Dan Padernacht, Deirdre Burke, Belinda Hancock, Fatoumata, Catherine O'Brien	Total	17

The meeting was called to order at 7:35PM.

The minutes of October 24,2023 were approved as written.

The Chairperson introduced Dr. Christina Carlson to speak about the proposed school site at the former Visitation Church. Dr. Carlson and other residents in her building had brought an article 78 legal action against the School Construction Authority (SCA) and New York City Council for accepting the “Environmental Negative Declaration” instead of doing an “Environmental Impact Statement” (EIS). The New York State Supreme Court Judge just ruled that the action of SCA and the New York City Council was “arbitrary and capricious” and an EIS must be done.

Dr. Carlson and the residents won their case. The decision might be appealed by SCA/NYC. The committee thanked Dr. Carlson for taking the time to address the issue with us. This information will be helpful when environmental issues arise with the next proposed primary school site at Van Cortlandt Motel and as the SCA advances an EIS for the Visitation site, as ordered by the court decision.

The Chair called on libraries for their reports. There were four branches represented. Please check your branch library, on their websites, for many interesting programs available for all ages. Library calendars are also available on our website, to inform the community when the programs will occur.

The committee has requested site visits to schools in Community Board No. 8 and the Chair will contact the schools, as to their availability.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sylvia Alexander, Chair, ELCA