

Bronx Community Board 8

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

October 4, 2023 via Zoom

Committee Members Present

Sylvia Alexander, Margaret Della, David Gellman, Edward Green, Rabbi Bob Kaplan, Scott Krompinger, Oscar Martinez, Julie Reyes, Laura Spalter, Debra Travis, Sergio Villaverde, Martin Wolpoff

Committee Members Approved Hybrid for Extraordinary Circumstances

Kelli Buford, Dr. Julia Gomez

Committee Members Absent

Robert Fanuzzi, Ramdat Singh, Bob Bender, Nicholas Fazio, Charles Moerdler

Staff/Board Members

Farrah Kule Rubin, Mary Ellen Gibbs, Joy Campbell- Priveterre, Jessica Sosa

Guests

Debby Allan, Brett Costello

Chair Reyes convened the meeting at 7:04pm with a roll call. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order.

Approval of Executive Committee Minutes: September 6, 2023

The Committee unanimously approved the September 6, 2023, Executive Committee minutes as amended.

Chairperson's Report

- Attended Office Cannabis Management meeting 9/14 with the District Manager (DM) and the Public Safety (PS) Chair. The PS committee will have continued discussions on cannabis dispensaries in CB8.
- DM and Chair attended a Roundtable on 9/20 with DOT Commissioner Rodriguez on curb streets. Parks & Recreation and Traffic & Transportation will coordinate community feedback.
- DM and Chair attended a training on Open Meetings Law training 9/29
- Continues working on securing office space. Meeting with DCAS, 9/5.
- Letter of support went out to the Van Cortlandt Park Alliance (VCPA) on 9/21 from Chair and the Parks & Recreation and Public Safety Chairs, to support a liquor license for the VCPA upcoming Hike-toberfest event, 10/21.
- Rosemary Ginty has accepted to act as the Acting Interim Chairperson for the Housing Committee.

Treasurer Report—Scott Krompinger

- Report submitted report as of 10/24
- We have not received any communication from the Mayor's office regarding budget cuts. We have \$10,000 that is not allocated to existing expenses in the event a cut is mandated.

District Manager Report

- Working on new office space. Meeting with DCAS this week.
- Attended 3 Borough-wide budget consultation meetings.
- DM, Chair, and Budget Chair met with Council Member Dinowitz to discuss budget priorities FY25.
- Working with new Chairs, and new and existing board members to attend orientation at Downeys on 10/26.
- Community coordinator position has many qualified candidates and the City may have a hiring freeze. Trying to move the process along quickly.
- District cabinet meeting was held and will send a memo to the Executive Committee.

Resolutions for Discussion

- None

Committee Reports

- Aging - 2nd Thursday at 4pm monthly
- Budget - FY25 Capital and Expense budget priorities to be voted on at the upcoming Board meeting. Community may provide input to rank priorities. Resolution to come. Scott accepted the vice chair position.
- Economic Development - Walking tour 11/3
- Education - New York Public Library (NYPL) requested FY25 budget priority for migrant welcome packages in lieu of the Committee's proposed expense. School Construction Authority (SCA) is presenting at the next committee meeting re: Van Cortlandt Motel (6393 Broadway) into school. Proposing 537 seat school. Allegedly 32,675 sq ft, but unknown if the number is reliable. SCA will be attending 10/24 @ 7:30pm Education Committee meeting.
- Environment & Sanitation (E&S) - Chair still open. Bob Fanuzzi has accepted to act as the Interim Chair.
- Health, Hospitals, Social Services (HHS)- Next meeting 10/11 at 7pm. DOHMH will present 3 vaccines: RSV, COVID-19 and the flu. Review prioritization from the last meeting including input from BP's office.

- Housing - Interim chair Ginty reported that the next meeting is 10/23. Has many new members. City of Yes and budget priorities to be discussed. City wants to revisit J51. HPD will focus on preservation and modernization of housing. The City will also propose a 421 program that will be separate from that of the State.
- Land Use - Last meeting, SAR made a presentation, City of Yes presentation - R1 districts are in jeopardy: 1-2 family house neighborhoods under review, applications returned for further work due to ULURP requirements.
- Law, Rules, and Ethics (LRE) - Hybrid meeting resolution discussion on EC - should there be a standardization, can chairs grant their own EC - and whether meetings should be Hybrid without a request to have virtual option. Members must be visible and active. However, those qualified for American with Disabilities Act (ADA) are not beholden to this requirement and their virtual presence counts towards quorum. Refer to Conflict of Interest Board (COIB) for a briefing on NYC Charter. Note: five ways to vote: Yes, No, Abstain, Ineligible, or Pass. Quorum is more than half of the body's membership. 'Ineligible' reduces the majority requirement. Question pending whether abstentions or ineligible may be polled by the Chair.
- Parks - 10/25 7pm next meeting. Last meeting wrapped up the International Cricket Council (ICC) issue; Riverdale Stables presented their operations, outreach and concession agreement; and discussed Mosholu Golf Course driving range.
- Public Safety - 6 renewal resolutions: Committee voted to approve unanimously. Next meeting 10/17 at 7pm.
 - Chipotle Mexican Grille #2309, located at 193 W 237th St.
 - Malecon Restaurant, located at 5592-5594 Broadway
 - Riverdale Gourmet, Inc., located at 3543 Riverdale Avenue
 - Aoyu Sushi, Inc., located at 3532A Johnson Avenue
 - Leche y Miel Restaurant, located at 5761 Broadway
 - Khalle Bar & Grill Corp., located at 3638 Bailey Avenue
 - Legal cannabis applicant withdrew and no timeline for follow up.
 - Will bring up hacker attack during tonight's meeting with 50th precinct.
 - Joy Campbell-Privaterre accepted vice chair.
- Traffic & Transportation (T&T) - Street renaming resolution pending due to date of death two year requirement. 10/19 next meeting.
- Youth - 10/16 meeting discussing veterans event in Memorial Grove.
- Special Committee on Hudson River Greenway (HRG) - none
- Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) - Meeting 10/5 7pm for committee objectives and prioritization
- Special Committee on Veterans Services - 10/30 next meeting

Old Business

At the Full Board meeting, we will be voting on E&S and Housing Chairs.

The District Attorney's domestic violence march is on Saturday.

New Business

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:31 pm.

Submitted by,
Margaret Della, Secretary