

**- Draft – Pending Committee Approval-
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2019 AT
RIVERDALE SENIOR SERVICES (RSS)**

Committee Members Present

Eric Dinowitz, Chair
Marvin Goodman, Vice Chair
Lisa Daub
Rita Pochter Lowe
Dan Padernacht
Jyll Townes

Committee Members Not Present

Daniella Fuchs
Karen Pesce

Other CB8 & Guests

David Gelman – CB8
Julie Dalton & Selina Ng – RSS
Sharon Asherman – Riverdale Y
June Eisland & many other community residents

The meeting commenced at 4:10pm.

Eric Dinowitz, Aging Committee Chair, welcomed everyone.

Scams & Crime Prevention

Chair apologized that Officer Cintron of the 50th precinct was not able to attend today. The chair led a discussion on the topic of scams, first talking about spam calls. Many calls say they are from the IRS, pressuring people to get a pre-paid card and to give them the card number. Common spam callers also say they are from Social Security. Residents attending the meeting shared their experiences, including: (a) a fake call from “Chase” about her credit card, (b) a call for money to settle a debt, (c) a text from Kansas, (d) a check placed in mailbox that was washed with different payee, (e) an arrest threat if she didn’t pay the caller. Board members offered some suggestions, e.g., to check monthly bank statements, sign up for text confirmation of transactions from bank and/or credit cards

Minutes

A motion to approve September 2019 minutes passed,

Approved (5): E. Dinowitz, L. Daub, D. Padernacht, R. Pochter-Lowe J. Townes

Abstained (1): M. Goodman

A motion to approve October 2019 minutes passed:

Approved (5): E. Dinowitz, L. Daub, M. Goodman, R. Pochter Lowe, D. Padernacht

Abstained (1): J. Townes

Express Bus Changes

Chair noted that the MTA says it would save money by changing bus routes, reducing service frequency and eliminating some afternoon and weekend services. He noted that local elected officials will hold a forum next Monday to discuss the proposed changes. D. Padernacht, chair of T&T committee, said that the MTA will come to his committee meeting on December 19th at 7:00pm at the Riverdale Y to hear the audience’s comments about these proposed changes.

E. Dinowitz asked the attendees to share their experiences and concerns. Remarks included: difficulty going to Mount Sinai hospital, the express buses are their only way to go downtown, most subway stops do not have elevators or don't work so alternatives are not feasible. Guests also noted that buses don't accept cash anymore, that district has a NORC and large older population, that it is difficult to walk in this community, the need for more benches at bus stops and the schedules should be available in print, not just online. One guest suggested people go online for updates and give comments to MTA. Chair called on June Eisland, former community board and city council member. She noted that she had secured express bus service for the community and spoke up about changes.

Chair noted that although the plan says "Final," MTA said the changes are not a "fait accompli" and that we still have an opportunity to press the MTA to make changes. He called this a bias against seniors in our community and we need to have our voices heard by officials to ensure our needs are met, and not left unmet. Chair introduced a resolution that was discussed by board members and approved as amended based on comments:

Whereas, the MTA has published their proposed changes to express bus service in the Bronx titled "The Bronx Bus Network Redesign Final Plan"; and

Whereas, the MTA plans to eliminate non-rush hour service during the week on express bus lines serving Bronx Community Board 8; and

Whereas, the MTA plans to reduce express bus service during rush hour and high usage times; and

Whereas, the MTA plans to reduce express bus service on weekends; and

Whereas, the MTA plans to make reroute changes to express bus service; and

Whereas, safe, reliable, and accessible transit to the West and East sides of Manhattan is limited for senior residents and residents with limited mobility of Bronx Community Board 8; and

Whereas, the residential population of Bronx Community Board 8 has a high percentage of older adults and includes a naturally occurring retirement community; and

Whereas, for senior residents of Bronx Community Board 8, the express bus is the only reliable and accessible means of transit to the West and East sides of Manhattan; and,

Whereas, the elimination of dozens of bus runs will have a disproportionate impact on our senior citizen population who use the express buses to travel to appointments including appointments with doctors and medical appointments at hospitals, as well as the theatre and other cultural events;

Therefore be it resolved that, the Aging Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 urges the MTA to consider the needs of seniors and people with mobility issues when determining the number and schedule of express buses serving the communities of Bronx Community Board 8.

Approved as amended (5): E. Dinowitz, M. Goodman, L. Daub, R. Pochter-Lowe, J. Townes
Opposed (0) Abstained (1) D. Padernacht

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Meeting Adjourned at 5:20 pm

Submitted by Marvin Goodman

Assembled by Lisa Daub