

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 21, 2014 AT HUDSON POINTE AT RIVERDALE 3220 HENRY HUDSON PARKWAY

PRESENT

Karen Pesce
Lisa Daub
Anthony Creaney
Irving Ladimer
Manfred Segal
Bill Stone
Sharon Asherman
Nancy D'Auria
Horace Earlington
Enrie Morales
Lourdes Santacruz

AFFILIATION

CB8 Committee Chair
CB8 Committee Vice Chair
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member
Community Committee Member/ Riverdale AARP
CB8 Member
Riverdale YM/YWHA
ElderServe - HHAR
Park Gardens Rehabilitation & Nursing Center
Right at Home
Five Star Premier Residences

The meeting commenced at 3:30 PM with participant introductions.

1. Minutes of the September 16, 2014 meeting were accepted as submitted

2. Nazi Victim Services, Selfhelp Community Services, Inc - Roni Miller, LMSW, is Program Director for the Nazi Victim Services office of Selfhelp, serving Washington Heights and Riverdale/Kingsbridge. Ms. Miller explained that Selfhelp was founded in 1936 to help people fleeing from the Nazis to resettle in the US. Selfhelp has since grown to provide full case management for Nazi victims, as well as licensed home care, private case management, senior housing in Queens, Brooklyn (and soon, Riverdale), senior centers, virtual senior centers via technology, and city guardianship program. They serve everyone in the neighborhoods in which they operate, except for the special eligibility criteria for Nazi victim services. The mission of this service is to help keep people in their homes for as long as possible since they lost so much before and during the war. Ms. Miller's office currently serves approx 250 clients; half in our community district, out of the 6500 survivors serviced by Selfhelp, and estimated 75,000 survivors still residing in the New York area. Their staff provides assessments, case management, assistance with US and European entitlement applications, German restitution, trauma counseling, home care and housekeeping services, social opportunities, and whatever is needed to help their clients. Ms. Miller explained that restitution funds are excluded when calculating US entitlement program eligibility and cannot be claimed by nursing homes. Selfhelp partners with Manhattan College, Yeshiva University and SAR for intergenerational programs. Mr. Ladimer pointed out that he worked with Selfhelp to help resettle people in NY many years ago. Ms. Miller asked that if anyone is aware of survivors that can use their help to please get in touch with her.

The Chair raised the issue of Selfhelp's Riverdale senior housing building including height and lift parking. Ms. Miller is not involved with the housing project but learned that as of this week, ten percent of the units will be designated for holocaust survivors.

3. Old Business

- Budget Requests: The Chair reviewed the DFTA Budget hearing and CB8 requests. There is more funding for older adult programs but not for a DFTA Bronx representative nor for Ft. Independence senior center's meal service, arts and technology needs since this falls under NYCHA. Ms. Asherman contacted DFTA to see if the Y could partner to provide lunch service for the Ft. Independence center. "Catering agreements" were cut in 2008 but there are some talks now about reinstatement. It was pointed out that DFTA no longer funds the safe streets and corridors program. Ms. Pesce asked meeting participants to let her know about their agency's needs so that they can be considered in annual budget requests.
- Ms. Daub mentioned that we have not yet received intern applicants to assist with the Senior Resource Guide.

4. New Business

- On Monday October 27th at 4pm at the Kingsbridge library, the CB8 Aging and Housing committees are holding a public forum on SCRIE and the increased income limit of \$50,000. A question was raised as to whether this was individual or household income.
- Little is known about the senior housing building that may be constructed at the former Riverdale Press site.
- The Chair asked for ideas regarding possible meeting locations that will be accessible to all community district residents, as well as for speakers at our meetings.
- Mr. Ladimer announced that CSAIR will hold a bazaar on November 16th.
- Ms. Asherman announced that Berta Rubenstein will be honored at a ceremony at the Y on November 6th, for her work as a rescuer during the holocaust.
- Mr. Segal asked if the Riverdale Press has additional copies of their Living in Riverdale insert. Ms. Pesce will inquire.

The Committee will hold its next meeting on Tuesday November 18th – location to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Prepared by Lisa Daub, Vice Chair
Approved by Karen Pesce, Chair
Aging Committee