

MINUTES OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE

TO: BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8.
FROM: Daris B. Jackson, Esq. Chair, CB8 Housing Committee.
DATE: May 26, 2020.
RE: Minutes, Housing Committee May 2020 Meeting.

HOUSING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Jackson, J. Townes, G. Santiago, P. Ellis, J. Reyes.

HOUSING COMMITTEE MEMBER NOT PRESENT:

T. Pardo, L. Lopez.

D. Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

D. Jackson introduced the committee members and welcomed guests to the meeting.

Upon having a quorum, the February 2020 Housing Committee minutes were approved with a unanimous vote of all present Committee members.

Agenda Items:

1. Translation of the Housing Resource Guide (“HRG”) – P. Ellis raised the issue of whether updates were made to the HRG prior to translation. A discussion followed, wherein Board Chair R. Ginty informed that the decision was made to translate the HRG in its current state, as funds were allocated for the project. D. Jackson noted for the record that the Housing Committee raised the issue of translation without current updates and noted that the decision to print the HRG as it currently reads was a decision that was made despite this objection. Further discussion involved a call for committee members to brainstorm ideas for creating a supplement to address immediate changes. J. Townes suggested alternative translation services. J. Townes and P. Ellis raised benefits and challenges of using social media as the only method to deliver immediate updates to HRG. Guest P. Sanchez participated in the discussion.
2. Discussion to continue at a future Committee meeting.
3. A discussion was held regarding the Committee’s decision to cancel the April meeting, as the only substantive agenda item was the FY22 Budget Priorities Submission. Noting that a vote was taken on this issue previously, the April meeting was canceled, and the Committee’s budget priorities were submitted to the Board, and all members were sent a copy via email.
4. A Discussion was held on revisioning the Housing Committee event that was slated for Spring, 2020, but was canceled in light of the COVID-19 gathering restrictions. J. Reyes raised that the point that we should have a hybrid event, consisting of an “in person” event, with virtual supplements. P. Ellis noted that the sensitive nature of the event may be well received in a digital format. P. Ellis suggested an interim project, consisting of a panel on an online platform,

to provide immediate information. J. Townes raised a virtual event, offered by Assemblyman Dinowitz, on May 28, 2020.

5. A discussion was held regarding an update to Gas Line maintenance at Ft. Independence Houses. -D. Jackson advised the Committee that the work is still on-going, and that additional electric burner units have been provided to residents. D. Jackson will follow-up and will report to the Committee. G. Santiago informed that Marble Hill Houses Building 11 does not have gas on the K line. The Committee will follow-up and will make a progress report at a future meeting.
6. A discussion was held regarding tenant issues raised by the 2800 University Avenue Tenant Association. Jonathan, a guest at the meeting and a resident of 2800 University Avenue informs that the Tenants Association have sought advice from an attorney regarding the removal of Tenant Association meetings. The CB8 Housing Committee will continue to monitor the status outstanding repair work and will revisit any outstanding issues at a future meeting.
7. A discussion was held regarding Department of Finance (“DOF”) Housing Credits for Senior Citizens. D. Jackson will follow-up with the DOF. D. Padernacht, Chair, Traffic & Transportation, provided deeper guidance on how the DOF credits work, and suggested posting information to the CB8 website.
8. A discussion on filling the vacant Vice-Chair position continued. D. Jackson urged Committee Members to take the opportunity to serve and grow in leadership by accepting this position. The discussion will continue in a future meeting to be scheduled on a later date.
9. Notice – D. Jackson informs there will be a DOB Implementation of Amendments to the Energy Conservation Code; public hearing on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 1 PM. The proposed rule will be published on June 1, 2020.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daris B. Jackson, Esq.
Chair, Housing Committee
Bronx Community Board 8