

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON JANUARY 22, 2014, AT  
RIVERDALE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE  
5521 MOSHOLU AVENUE**

**Attendees**

Lamont Parker  
Anthony Fella  
Rita Pochter Lowe  
Nicole Stent  
Don Bluestone  
Connie Kaufman  
Phoebe Downes  
Maribel Felipe  
Karen Green  
Erik Maldonado  
Nancy Nunez  
Demarr Smith  
Wendy Steinberg

**Affiliation**

Youth Chair  
Community Board 8  
Community Board 8  
Community Board 8, District Manager  
Mosholu Montefiore Community Center  
Hebrew Home, Director of Volunteers  
Riverdale Neighborhood House  
Community resident  
Community resident  
Community Committee member - Advocate of Wordz  
Riverdale Neighborhood House  
Kingsbridge Heights Community Center  
Hebrew Home, Director of Communications

The meeting was called to order at 1:15pm.

Chair Lamont Parker announced that the committee will be asked to vote on three agenda items at this meeting. The Bronx youth poetry slam is set for May 15, 2014 at the Kingsbridge Library.

Each Community Center in attendance gave a brief overview on how their centers were doing:

**Riverdale Neighborhood House** - The Fall Internship with Hebrew Home/Montefiore is going well. The center is getting ready for the Spring (March to May) internship. All together there are a total of 50 interns ranging from 14-18 years of age. The Teen/Community center is still under construction. The center is looking for any suggestions on types of programs to run once it opens up. Nancy also shared a great program which will be offered FREE to local communities at the RNH. This is a College Directive Access program which will help kids in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, start thinking about college. This program is FREE and will teach kids about financial aid/applying process/programs. Nancy will send the youth chair a copy of the flyer so that it can be shared with the members.

**Kingsbridge Heights** – The center is having a Bowl-a-thon Fundraiser which will be held on Thursday February 20, 2014. The location is still TBD. The teams consist of 5 bowlers and each is responsible to raise \$200 each (\$1,000 per team). If anyone would like to help out, feel free to contact the community center. Committee members suggested that KHCC reach out to local businesses and/or Merchant Association, to get sponsors. Due to budget cuts, the community center lost their recreation coach. They are trying to raise funds to get the person back.

**The Marble Hill Community Center**- Is under the direction of Donald Bluestone. They are re-vamping some of the after school programs currently being offered. Currently there are 120 kids ranging from 5yrs old to 12yrs old. The teen programs which is broken up by ages 13 to 15 (total of 88 kids) & ages 16 to 21 (70 kids). Finding programs that strike an interest in the 16 to 21yr old is going to be challenging but Karen is going to have a meeting with Donald so that she can share some of the programs she has run in the past with other centers. These will be helpful and interesting for the kids of that age bracket. A game room is in the works as well since this community center has no gym. There is a ball field that Donald plans on using in the Spring/Summer to conduct Softball, Baseball & Soccer games. Donald will have flyers as well as all of the updates, sent out to the

committee members. Donald also asked if some pressure can be put on the Parks/Recreation group, to open more parks and fields to be used for these After School Programs!

The **Comeback Kid Award** was discussed. Application guidelines, nomination form as well as the resolution for the Comeback Kid award was presented to the committee for review. Many suggestions were made by the committee that will simplify the process for both the community centers as nominators and the nominees. Changes will be made accordingly and distributed to all the community centers before the end of the week. Deadline for nomination forms is set for February 14, 2014. The winners and their families will be invited to attend the March 11<sup>th</sup> community board meeting and will receive their certificates. Youth Chair took a vote on the approval of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Youth Committee seeks to acknowledge students that have overcome challenges and demonstrated improvement over a period of time; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the Youth Committees belief that by recognizing student participants in community centers, the committee can acknowledge those youth who are working hard to improve their future; and

**WHEREAS**, the Youth Committee has established the criterion and guidelines for the Comeback Kid Award for the community centers to nominate youth to be presented for a certificate of recognition; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Youth Committee of Bronx Community Board No. 8 establishes an annual Comeback Kid Certificate of Recognition to be presented at the March Bronx Community Board No. 8 meeting.

Vote: 4 in favor – 0 against – 0 abstentions. In favor: CB8 Members: A. Fella, L. Parker, R. Pochter Lowe. Community Committee Member: E. Maldonado

**Youth Committee members voted unanimously in favor of the Comeback Kid Certificate of Recognition.**

The **Marble Hill Youth Market** will be returning in summer 2014. This market, in its 6<sup>th</sup> year, runs from July through November. It introduces fresh fruits and vegetables to the community. The market is run by the youth/teens and the support of Grow NYC who provides the shipment of the produce. This market requires a Street Activity permit application and must be reviewed by the Youth committee.

Youth Chair took a vote on the approval of the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Youth Committee of Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the Farmers Market Youth Run Farmers Stand Street Activity Permit Application for Marble Hill Youthmarket, to operate at West 225<sup>th</sup> Street between Broadway and Exterior Street, on Thursdays from July 10, 2014 through November 20, 2014. This event has previously been held.

Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions. In Favor: CB 8 Members: A. Fella, L. Parker, R. Pochter-Lowe. Community Committee Member E. Maldonado

**Youth Committee members voted unanimously in favor of the youthmarket.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Skating Day at the Van Cortland Ice Rink is scheduled for February 13, 2014 from 5pm to 8pm. Free admission will be provided to the first 100 community center children.

A. Fela introduced two representatives from the Hebrew Home for The Aged. They presented a great program that the community centers may like to become involved with: The Adopt a Grandparent program which will give youth the opportunity to connect with a buddy from the Hebrew Home. Some

of the residents at the home have no constant communication with their families and some children might not have their grand-parents alive. This program will help them communicate with each other and also find out how they lived as a child and how things have changed between the years. It's a great learning experience on both ends. The community centers would have to first work this program into their centers current activities. Children wishing to participate will be paired up with a resident from the Hebrew home. In the age of technology, it would be great to get the kids using the pen and paper to write letters to their adopted parents. A suggestion was made by A. Fela to have a list of starter questions to get this going between the pen pals. The community centers along with the Hebrew Home can discuss how long the program will run. Letters would be collected and delivered to the designated centers. A list of the community centers will be sent to Ms. Feinberg by the Community Board 8 District Manager. Start of program will be determined between community centers and Hebrew home.

The Youth Chair presented to the committee the issue of meetings being taped and posted on the community board website. **The committee was not in favor of having the Youth Committee meetings taped.**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 3:27pm. Next board meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2014, location to be determined.

Submitted by,

Lamont Parker, Chair  
Youth Committee