

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MAY 19, 2015 AT
RIVERDALE SENIOR SERVICES**

PRESENT

Karen Pesce
Anthony Creaney
Lisa Daub
Bill Stone
Sharon Asherman
Enrie Morales
Robert Ackerson
Chris Bean
Selina Ng, Social Worker
Alvin Shatkin

AFFILIATION

CB8 Committee Chair
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Vice Chair
CB8 Committee Member
Community Committee Member - Riverdale Y
Community Committee Member - Right at Home
Riverdale Senior Services
Part of the Solution (POTS)
Riverdale Senior Services
Riverdale Senior Services

The meeting commenced at 3:30 PM.

1. Introduction - Participants introduced themselves

2. Announcement – Karen Pesce, Committee Chair, shared applications for free home safety inspections that were distributed at an open house conducted by the Fire Dept. and the Red Cross.

3. Minutes of the April 21, 2015 meeting were accepted as submitted.

4. Speaker – Christopher Beam, Executive Director, Part of the Solution (POTS)

Mr. Beam provided the Committee with information about POTS, a non-profit organization located at 2759 Webster Avenue. POTS was founded in 1982 as a soup kitchen by a priest, nun, and lay person. They added a small men's shelter with Covenant House which has since closed) and grew services based on the needs of the people who came to POTS. They strive to help people in crisis to get back on their feet. In addition to the soup kitchen which is open 7 days/week, POTS runs a food pantry and provides services such as showers, receives mail, benefits enrollment, case management, legal (e.g., eviction and immigration matters), clothing, housing, employment, medical/dental clinic – some through peer organizations both on and off-site, or referrals.

POTS served 25,000 people last year, one third are children (primarily food pantry). The kitchen serves approximately 500 people daily (seats 50, plus to-go meals). They will help anyone from anywhere needing help, but the pantry is open to people living within 7

zip codes. They will refer people outside of their area to other pantries. Services are provided by 30 staff members plus volunteers. English and Spanish are primary languages. Many volunteers are from schools (including, Manhattan College, Fieldston School, Riverdale Country), civic, and religious organizations. They try to operate sustainably within their current 3.5 million budget. Funding is 70% private, 15% city/state, and 15% from in-kind food and clothing, e.g., from City Harvest, Food Bank, RSA's. The organization is sponsored by The Sisters of Charity of New York.

They occupy 15,000 square feet in a primarily commercial area. POTS keeps the streets and location clean, providing a safe place with few issues. They strive to be a loving community, a one-stop shop, treating everyone as deserving of dignity

5. Old Business

Chair Pesce made announcements and led discussions:

- Irving Ladimer was honored at a celebration hosted by Borough President Diaz, along with Bronx residents 100 years old and over.
- Condolence to Manny Segal on the recent passing of his wife.
- The Committee discussed expense items for FY 2016 budget recommendations, including prioritization and specifying certain programs within the current line items (computer training, social day, local transportation). Will discuss telehealth with HHSS. Referred some items to Transportation Committee for consideration.
- The Chair drafted letter for building staff but may submit letter to local papers to help identify/refer individuals with special needs.

6. New Business

- RSS noted telecommunication difficulties with Allen Hospital – for closed circuit lecture transmissions and webinars.
- Ms. Pesce announced that she is stepping down as Chairperson. The Committee thanked the Chair for her wonderful service and leadership, and gave her an enthusiastic applause.

The Committee will not hold a June meeting and will meet again in September.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

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