

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 17, 2017 AT
CHRIST CHURCH - RIVERDALE**

PRESENT

Lisa Daub
Irving Ladimer
Karen Pesce
Amy Joy Robateau
Georgia Santiago
I.W. Stone
Sharon Asherman
Enrie Morales
Francine Scherer
Andrea Cassidy
PO Cintron
Marvin Goodman
PO Lavigat
Eric Leopold
Miryam Rabner
Sharon Wolfe

AFFILIATION

CB8 Committee Chair
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member, CB8 Secretary
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member
Community Committee Member-Riverdale Y Senior Ctr.
Community Committee Member, Right at Home
Community Committee Member, Resident
Riverdale Senior Services
50th Precinct
CB8 Member
50th Precinct
Atria - Riverdale
MJHS Hospice & Palliative Care
JASA Senior Center

Not Present:

Anthony Creaney

CB8 Committee Vice Chair

The meeting started at 2:40 pm.

Introductions

- Welcome – Chair thanked Reverend Andrew Butler and staff at Christ Church for hosting the meeting. Reverend Butler welcomed the participants
- Participants introduced themselves. Miryam Rabner introduced MJHS, which expanded from “the four Brooklyn ladies” who founded the nursing home. Ms. Rabner, a Riverdale resident, offers outreach and service coordination for hospice which is provided in individuals’ homes, in nursing homes, and hospice facilities such as the 8-bed Zicklin residence in the Atria building. They also provide counseling for palliative care

Minutes

- Minutes of December 20th meeting approved (8/0/0): Approved by members present at time of vote: Daub, Ladimer, Pesce, Santiago, Stone, Asherman, Morales, Scherer

Scams and Domestic Violence

P.O Citron and P.O. Lavigat from the 50th precinct arrived with information for attendees to share about keeping older adults safe from scams. Phone scams from people demanding money claiming to be from police, IRS, Immigration, utilities, hospitals, etc., are nearly impossible to trace. Prevention is key. Home safety tips: Do not rely on door chains, use wide angle peepholes to see who is at the side of the door, do not open door for persons asking to use your phone. Uncaring family members sometimes control older adults’ money for personal use, which often is not reported out of fear or denial that family would cause harm. The officers handed out information regarding scams and a bilingual card with 24 hour hotline to get help due to physical, mental and financial abuse: 1-800-664-5880

Senior Center Roundtable

Chair noted the importance of our centers to promote healthy aging in the community. Due to staffing, our two NYCHA centers could not join RSS, Riverdale Y, and JASA centers at our meeting.

- Ms. Asherman brought up a NY Times article and report concerning the very large funding disparity between senior centers, controlling for headcount and certain overhead. DFTA reported that this may be due to using legacy data and will review. Sharon will send article and Chair will distribute.
- Centers are waiting for committed 2017 funding for Su Casa cultural enrichment program
- Centers are starting to see more “younger seniors”, who generally attend for interesting programming including health and technology and not for a congregate-style lunch
- Centers are considering additional dining styles. Long-time members are attached to their centers and enjoy congregate meals. Each center is contracted for a certain meal count. Attendance varies but there is still capacity
- Centers are open to everyone aged 60+, including people with various disabilities. People with mobility, vision, hearing, and mild memory impairments integrate with other seniors. There is a special program for people with advancing Parkinson’s, mental health concerns, and two social adult day programs in CB8 centers
- Social workers are on-site to offer assistance and referrals, including, in response to a query, for visually impaired people. There are several programs to help people who are blind in NYC
- If an individual is not happy with their home attendant/aide, they should not hesitate to contact the homecare agency, voice their concerns and unmet needs, and request a new worker. Don’t settle.
- Our Centers work together collaboratively
- Live On (formerly Council of Senior Centers) is a good advocacy group. Chair suggested inviting the organization to our next Roundtable meeting
- Discussed outreach opportunities to increase participation rates at the centers (Goodman)

New Business

- Chair asked Centers to bring their FY2019 expense budget requests to the Committee in March/April
- Query regarding status of replacement mail boxes (Stone). Many mail boxes were removed in our district, causing hardship for people who are less mobile. Chair will investigate
- Mr. Ladimer raised possibility of restarting interfaith program with CSAIR and Christ Church. He noted that Councilmember Cohen has continued interest in Aging. Chair is in touch with CM’s office re possible housing forum for seniors. Will also contact Housing Chair re an upcoming forum
- Comptroller Springer’s office published a plan for addressing retirement security/nest egg (Daub)
- Due to Passover, **our April meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20th**
- Renewals for senior citizen/disability homeowner exemption due on March 15th (Daub)
- Chair suggested that we put on “aging eyes” at our other committee meetings to advocate for the needs of older adults - as Karyn Resnick/DFTA does with various NYC agencies

Old Business - Chair is in contact with Assemblyman Dinowitz’s office to schedule his speaking at a committee meeting. Due to Albany schedule, he is available in February or April

The Committee will **tentatively hold its next meeting on February 21st** at 2:30, venue to be determined. We may cancel this meeting if Assemblyman Dinowitz is not available. ¹

Meeting ended at 4:05pm

Prepared (including notes from Ms Scherer) and submitted by Lisa Daub, Chair, Aging Committee

¹ Following the meeting, it is confirmed that we will indeed hold the February 21st meeting