

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 AT
PARK GARDENS REHABILITATION & NURSING CENTER**

PRESENT

Lisa Daub
Anthony Creaney
Beverly Fettman
Marvin Goodman
Irving Ladimer
Georgia Santiago
Bill Stone
Sharon Asherman
Enrie Morales
Selina Ng
Amy Joy Robateau

AFFILIATION

CB8 Committee Chair
CB8 Committee Vice Chair
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member
Community Committee Member, Riverdale Y
Community Committee Member, Right at Home
Riverdale Senior Services
CB8

The meeting commenced at 3:35 PM.

Introductions

- Thanks to Park Gardens for hosting meeting. Participants introduced themselves
- Tony Creaney is Vice Chair of Aging Committee
- Brief discussion regarding attendance - quorum and voting

Minutes of the May 19, 2015 meeting were accepted as submitted (9-0)

Old Business – The Chair provided updates:

Budget – The Aging Committee’s six budget requests for FY 2017 were addressed in the DFTA consultations held on September 9th:

- This summer, Ft. Independence senior center started meal service, operated by the Mosholu/Montefiore center. It is one of two newly designated “Senior Social Clubs” in the Bronx, for locations with too few participants to be considered a “Senior Center”
- There is increased funding for geriatric mental health services at senior centers (1.4m up from 800k). DFTA is now determining requirements
- There are no DFTA caregiver programs in CB8 area. There are two Bronx programs serving CB1, 2 &3, plus a few citywide programs targeted for LGBTQ, Asian and low vision populations. DFTA also runs an Alzheimer’s Center & Caregiver Resource Center. *[Participant comments: RSS conducts caregiver support programs for adult children on 1st & 3rd Mondays, and for spouses on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays]*
- Bronx senior transportation is funded at almost 1.6m plus additional City Council funding. RSS & Riverdale Y receive funds for senior center transportation, plus RSS, through Tri-Center receives funds for essential medical appointment transportation

needs in CB7&8 [*Participant comments: use of van or taxi voucher for medical is limited and requires assessment; Add to Senior Resource Guide*]

- 2016 baseline budget for Bronx Senior Centers is 19.2m. Uncertain if 2017 will increase or remain unchanged
- No funding for Bronx DFTA liaison but DFTA staff will be available to Bronx community boards. [*Participant comments: DFTA program staff wage funding remains low*]

Senior Resource Guide for CB8 – The Chair drafted first version of Guide and distributed to committee member with request to return comments/edits at or prior to October Board meeting to allow for discussion and next steps at Oct. Aging meeting. The Guide, by content order, emphasizes active community engagement. Mr. Ladimer emphasized need to keep updating and for a distribution strategy based on past experience with similar Guide.

New Business

Legislation – The Chair reviewed recent aging related legislative activity, with thanks to CB8 Vice Chair Rosemary Ginty for preparing city council legislative update reports

- Local Law 9 of 2015 – Social Adult Day programs must register with DFTA (July) and meet requirements
- Local Law 51 of 2015 – signed June 2nd- Dept of Aging, Buildings & Housing Preservation required to develop & distribute a guide for building owners on how to modify dwelling units to allow tenants to age in place and funding sources
- Bill introduced in city council this June to issue senior emergency info cards
- Senate introduced a bill July 8th to create a National Family Caregiving Strategy, aka “RAISE Family Caregivers Act”
- June court decision – same sex marriages recognized in all States, impacting eligibility for marriage benefits such as social security

Planning Discussion – All participants contributed their ideas on what the committee may want to get involved in, learn and share this year, including:

- Outreach to seniors in our community through forums and publications – to get people involved in public affairs and for the Committee to get the word out on what the committee and CB8 is about. Discussed possible topics, such as civics, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, 311 information service, officials & agencies contacts, committee meeting highlights, veteran issues, and more.
- Speakers from different agencies involved with aging issues, as well as local provider speakers

Other – AARP getting involved in NYC public policy. Local chapter is currently on hold.

The Committee will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, October 20th, 2015 at 3:30PM – location to be announced.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Daub, Chair, Aging Committee