

**MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2007 AT THE
RIVERDALE YM/YWHA
5625 ARLINGTON AVENUE**

PRESENT

**Karen Pesce
Anthony Creaney
Tom Durham
Tracy Feerick
Beverly Fettman
Heather Francis
Ana Gil
Yhatrid Algarin
Manfred Segal
Constance Segal
Anne Patterson
Sue Tozzi
Vick Matalon
Andrea Marais**

AFFILIATION

**Committee Chairperson CB #8
CB #8
CB #8
CB #8
Public Advocate's Office
Riverdale Mental Health Assoc.
Riverdale Mental Health Assoc.
AARP
AARP
AARP
BJCC
Sr. Ctr. at Riverdale YM/YWHA
The Hebrew Home for the Aged
at Riverdale**

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as submitted.
2. Speaker, Heather Frances, Sr. Advocate for Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum's office. Office is funded by the Mayor's office but is an independent "watchdog" agency. It provides investigation, not referrals as 311 does. Approx. 4600 calls were referred to her office in 2006. Areas of concern were meals on wheels, housing, flu vaccine. Committee members raised other concerns: increasing credit card debt by the elderly, evictions, spousal refusal to pay medical bills, delays in Access-A-Ride responses. Beverly was asked to contact Heather re: obtaining a shuttle bus especially for seniors/disabled to travel between shopping areas. Other concerns should be referred to Heather's office, 212-669-7250 or 212-669-7670.
3. Members Reports
 - a. Tom: Board reorganization was discussed at the last full Board meeting. There were many questions, some of which will be referred to the legal committee. Tom asked about programs placing school age youngsters in volunteer programs to fulfill graduation requirements.
 - b. Vicki, YM/YWHA: A hearing screening will be held 3/29/07. Call for info: 718-548-8200, x 224. Seniors continue to have problems with Medicare Part D. Several members are seeking help with income tax prep. A "farmer's market" is available for lower income individuals: A \$20 coupon is issued to be issued for fresh produce at grocery stores.
 - c. Manny, AARP: The organization is lobbying for drug affordability and bulk purchasing. AARP has had an 80% success rate in lobbying efforts.
 - d. Anne questioned whether assisted living regulations had passed. As far as we know, they have been, but some housing for seniors isn't described as assisted living. Irving Ladimer was instrumental in writing the regulations.
 - e. Sue, BJCC: There is temporarily a shorter waiting list for homecare/ housekeeper services which are provided on a sliding fee scale through DFTA.

- f. **Andrea, Hebrew Home: A trial stay at Riverwalk is available for those considering a permanent move. The synergia program provides volunteer opportunities for adolescents to provide service as well as learning more about the Jewish culture. Mid-July-Mid-August.**

Next Meeting: Monday, March 19, 2007, 7:00 PM Joint Meeting with Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee at Atria, Riverdale.

April Meeting will revert to 3:30 PM on 4/24, location to be announced.

Submitted by

**Karen Pesce
Chairperson
Aging Committee**

KP:db