

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

HELD ON APRIL 8, 2014

AT THE RIVERDALE TEMPLE, 4545 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE

PRESENT: S. Alexander, S. Balicer, R. Bender, F. Cabrera, S. Catechis, A. Cohen, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

ABSENT: B. Contant, M. Donato, I. Ladimer, P. Friedman

STAFF: N. Stent- District Manager
D. Bay – Community Associate
P. Manning – Community Associate

GUESTS: S. Stringer – NYC Comptroller
J. Dinowitz - Assemblyman
M. Blaustein – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein
J. Demko – Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
J. DeSio – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
T. Edwards – rep. Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez
J. Laidley – Office of NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
J. Smith – Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence
J. Sporn – Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
J. Zaccaro, Jr. – Office of Councilman Fernando Cabrera
D.I. P. Rasa – NYPD, 50th Police Precinct
P.O. Cordero – NYPD, 50th Police Precinct
J. Allston – Pan African Cultural Communications
L. Amerman
F. Anelante
K. & B. Brooks
N. Bromberg
D. Burke – Save Riverdale Park
M. Delgado - KHCC
P. Luria Caplan
J. Colon
S. Cox, Office of Child Support Enforcement
H. & N. Dorfman
P. Elston
R. & B. Freed
D. Gellman – CB8 Parks & Recreation, Community Committee Member
T. Giallorenzi
J. Grossman
M. Handelsman
J. House

J. Lehnert – Riverdale Riverfest
Y. Levy
B. Klein
J. Klein
G. Klingsberg
J. Levkov
N. Mantilla – Lehman College
D. Meenagh
S. Paulsen – Riverdale Nature Preservancy
B. Perez – KHCC
J. Perez
V. Shanahan
R. Spalter
E. Strell
T. Tureski – Spuyten Duyvil Library
R. Zahblush

Chairman Fanuzzi called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

1. Gallery Session

- A. Paul Elston, representing Friends of the Hudson River Greenway, advised of their support for the resolution that will be presented at this meeting from the BXC8's joint resolution of the Parks & Recreation and Traffic & Transportation Committees. They believe the resolution properly reflects strong community support for waterfront access and concerns expressed regarding the routes to the greenway. He stated that the Hudson River Greenway plan presented is only conceptual. The next step should be to engineer a waterfront route and to determine cost and benefits of alternative waterfront design, including possibility of burying overhead power lines; and also consider removing Metro-North track No. 6 to allow space for the greenway. He advised that a meeting held in 2011 with the MTA President with Friends of the Hudson River Greenway, elected officials, and NYMTC to discuss locating the greenway on the waterfront, the MTA President agreed to evaluate for feasibility and cost. A written report was issued determining the feasibility to build the greenway west of the tracks on Metro North right-of-way between sections of Riverdale Metro-North Station and Yonkers at a cost of \$15 million. He urged the Community Board, elected officials and Charles Moerdler, MTA board member to support the waterfront greenway design.
- B. Sylvia Cox, Office of Child Support Enforcement, discussed services provided which includes DNA testing for unmarried parents, program for low income dads to reduce/modify payments, and more. Flyers were left on table.
- C. Yael Levy announced Riverdale Riverfest 2014 5th Annual event being held on June 15th from noon to 6:00pm at grounds of the College of Mount Saint Vincent, Riverdale Avenue at West 263rd Street. There will be food, boat rides, live music, and exhibits. Admission is free. She encouraged sign-up of volunteers. Contributions are welcomed and are tax deductible. Flyers were left on table. The website is www.RiverdaleRiverFest.org.

- D. Joyce Smith, Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, advised about the recently opened City-wide Family Justice Centers (FJC) which provides services to victims of domestic violence. The Bronx FJC is located at 198 East 161st Street. FJC's are safe, caring environments that provide one-stop services and support. She noted that the Bronx has a disproportionate amount of domestic violence. FJC partners with over 40 agencies, services are free and all are welcome regardless of language, income, or immigration status. Literature was left on the table.
- E. Frank Anelante, Riverdale/Spuyten Duyvil Coalition, referred to the resolution that will be presented later in the meeting concerning the Henry Hudson Greenway link. He advised that the Coalition agrees with the water route proposed in the resolution and discussed certain points of rejection with the plan that was agreed upon with the committees but is not in the resolution. He stated that to avoid ambiguity, those concerns should be included in the "Be It Resolved" clause, and it should also be stated that the NYMTC plan with certain objections is rejected. Mr. Anelante also stated the issue related to widening the cyclists/pedestrian pathway over the Henry Hudson Bridge was not in the NYMTC plan, and should be explored with the Traffic & Transportation Committee working along with MTA to determine feasibility.

2. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2014

R. Press referred to page 2, Public Hearing on the report and comments on responses from the City Agencies on the Capital/Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2015. He requested that the following statement made by him be added when the floor was opened for discussion: *R. Press expressed disappointment with the rejection of the safety problems at PS 7 with the inner and outer doors, especially after recent incidents. He also expressed that a low number budget item may be approved.*

The amended minutes were approved by a vote of 39 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention (S. Froot)

3. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2014

The minutes will be reviewed by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

4. Chairman welcomed Deputy Inspector Paul Rasa and invited him to address the Board.

Deputy Inspector Rasa reviewed the year to date stats and discussed crime in the 50th Precinct: rapes 5, robberies 32 vs 22, burglaries 32 vs 32, grand larceny 78 vs 100, grand larceny auto 29 vs 16, transit 6 vs 3, housing 13 vs 9 (increase due to domestic assault). Noise complaints last year were 600; 26 summonses issued this year; 22 DWI arrests.

Chairman inquired about the incident involving the racist message written on the vehicle of a neighborhood resident while parked in the area of the White Hall building. The Deputy Inspector informed that this is being treated as a hate crime and has not been resolved yet.

5. Chairman welcomed Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, congratulated him on his 20th year legislative milestone and invited him to address the Board. Assemblyman Dinowitz reported on the status of mail complaints with 10463 zip code. His office and the offices

of his colleagues had been deluged with complaints of non-delivery of mail. The Assemblyman along with Congressman Engel, Senator Klein, and Councilman Cohen met with the Bronx Acting Post Master. The station manager was removed and there has not been a replacement yet. However, service has improved; He announced that a hurried push to make the State's Budget deadline by Senator Klein in the Senate and by himself in the Assembly was successful getting through a budget line bill that has impact on certain construction projects where the building's square footage is above 30,000 and above three stories to undergo a rigorous review process. Such applications will now be subjected to review by State Health Commissioner, State Education Commissioner and local community board. This new law will cover the Montefiore project proposed for Riverdale Avenue. New SCRIE income guidelines have been elevated from \$29,000 to \$50,000 allowing the rent of seniors 62+ to be frozen at 1/3 of their income.

6. Chairman Fanuzzi welcomed NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer and invited him to speak.

Comptroller Stringer expressed his pleasure for having the opportunity to visit the Board as he marks 100 days in office. He reported on the various responsibilities of the Comptroller and ways he is looking to save the City money and cut down on fraud and waste. City contracts are being reviewed. He noted the absence of any issuance of Comptroller directives since 2005. He has activated that power and has issued a directive calling for all IT contracts to submit time sheets for workers; and in the case of hiring consultants, a resume must be attached. He is actively looking at City agencies and money saving measures. The Comptroller's office has issued a first time report documenting the number of certified arts teachers in the City's public school system. 28% of public schools have no certified arts teachers, in the Bronx the number is 33%, in the South Bronx it is 42%, in Central Brooklyn 42%. Comptroller Stringer will look to the Board to contact his office for audits. He thanked the Board for its service and promised to return for future visits.

7. Chairman Fanuzzi invited Councilman Fernando Cabrera to address the Board.

Councilman Cabrera reported: police security cameras are up in NYCHA's Marble Hill and Fort Independence Houses and crime has decreased. He is working with Congress to allocate funding for technology labs that teach programming to middle-school and high school students; sponsoring All Family Legal Clinics regarding issues with child support, domestic violence, and immigration twice weekly; and the Department of Environmental Protection will be required to notify parents of any environmental problems at schools. He thanked the Board for its service.

8. Chairman Fanuzzi invited Councilman Andrew Cohen to address the Board.

Councilman Cohen reported that he has been in attendance at several Board meetings, including Land Use and various other committee meetings. He reiterated that his office is open at 3636 Waldo Avenue and he is available.

9. Presentation of the Comeback Kid Certificate of Recognition

Chairman Fanuzzi called upon the members of the Youth Committee, chair L. Parker, and committee members R. Pochter-Lowe and A. Fella to make the presentation of the Comeback Kid Certificate of Recognition.

It was announced that Bronx Community Board No. 8's Youth Committee established the Comeback Kid Certificate of Recognition to acknowledge students in community centers that have overcome challenges and demonstrated improvement over a period of time. It is the Committee's belief that by recognizing student participants in community centers, it can reward those youth who are working hard to improve their future and are deserving of recognition and support. Recipients must be nominated by a community center in the Bronx Community Board No. 8 area.

Bianca Perez received the 2014 Comeback Kid Certificate of Recognition and came forward for the acknowledgement.

Ms. Perez was nominated by the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center (KHCC). She is a high school sophomore at Mott Haven Village Preparatory School. Through hard work and effort, Ms. Perez completed her homework assignments, sought assistance when needed from teachers at school and the staff at the KHCC Teen Center. To be a Comeback Kid is to be resilient and strong in the face of adversity and Bianca Perez encompasses all these traits.

Bianca Perez was presented with Community Board No. 8's Comeback Kid Certificate of Recognition with the following inscription:

"Bronx Community Board No. 8 honors you for overcoming challenges and for working hard to improve your future."

She received all around congratulations on a job well done.

10. Report from the Office of the Bronx Borough President – J. DeSio

- Community Board members who have submitted a reappointment application should continue to serve until they receive a letter from the Borough President regarding their reappointment. The terms of community board members who have chosen not to reapply for a new term ended on March 31st.
- Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. praised the decision of the NYS Supreme Court Appellate Court in the matter of the South Bronx Unite, et al v. NYC Industrial Development Agency, et al, concerning the future of relocation of FreshDirect to the Harlem River Yards in Mott Haven. The project is allowed to move forward. The court found that the decision of the lower court to dismiss the lawsuit in May 2013 was correct, and that the City did not violate the law in its environmental review process.
- Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. had an Op Ed in Sunday, April 6, 2014 Daily News, "Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. calls the 'Move NY' plan to place tolls on East River bridges 'an unfair regressive tax'. He wrote "that while the 'Move NY' promise of lower tolls on outer borough bridges is alluring, there are no guarantees that those tolls will stay forever."
- Bronx Week 2014, Thursday, May 8th through Sunday, May 18th

11. Chairman's Report

- Chairman Fanuzzi referred the Board to the Executive Committee minutes for a full report.
- Chairman reported that the following Board members have either resigned from the Board or have not re-applied for membership: Patricia Mullen, Thailary Lim, Pedro

Reyes, Diane Kirksey-Floyd, and Ari Spett. Chairman expressed his gratitude for their service.

- A response letter was received from Van Cortlandt Park Ice Rink regarding the abrupt season closing and impacting the Youth Committees planned annual Ice Skate Day hosting of 100 youths from local community centers event. The letter cited that the closing was due to softening ice condition. To make up the loss, an offer has been extended to the youth groups to attend a skate event at the World Ice Arena in Flushing within the next six months for spring or summer ice skating.

12. Election of the Nominating Committee

- Chairman stated that the election of the Nominating Committee would go forth in accordance with the Bylaws, Article V, Section 2 of the Board's Bylaws. Chairman summarized and read aloud the rules and guidelines governing the Nominating Committee. From the Bylaws: at the Board meeting held in April, a nominating committee consisting of not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) Appointed Members shall be elected by the Board. This committee shall designate its chairperson and present candidates for the offices to be filled at the election meeting. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at the election meeting. From the
- From the Ethical Guidance manual: In addition to the Bylaws, which specify the structure and duties of the committee, the following procedures are to be followed pursuant to resolutions adopted by the community board on February 14, 2012 and November 13, 2012. Officers: A member of the nominating committee may not be nominated by the committee for a position of officer; Committee Chairs: A member of the Nominating Committee under consideration for a committee chair shall recuse him/herself from discussion and vote for that position; In the event of a tie vote in the Nominating Committee, both candidates shall be presented to the Board; The Nominating Committee must complete its activities and present its slates at least two calendar weeks before the June meeting at which the election will take place; When the nominating committee is elected, there will be a statement that all officer and chair positions are to be considered open and available for nominations; Within five (5) business days of the formation of the nominating committee, each current chair or officer shall notify such committee of his or her intention not to be considered for renomination. The nominating committee will then notify all board members of such position(s) within 24 hours of such notification.
- In addition, the Chair read a statement of policy and principle to be read to the Board before each nominating committee election. Board Members who are putting together a proposed slate, should make their choice, bearing in mind that it is both good policy as well as conducive to the smooth functioning of the Board to strive for a Nominating Committee and a slate of proposed Officers and Committee Chairs who represent diverse geographic areas within the Board, diverse communities, diverse ethnic and racial groups, and diverse professional and work backgrounds. The choices made should also consider the experience of any nominee as a Board Member and the extent of the interest shown by any such nominee in participating in Board matters. These factors, while not meant to impel any particular individual choice, should always serve as general guidance.

Chairman opened the floor for nominations.

The following nominations were made and accepted:

Bob Bender, Lamont Parker, Martin Wolpoff, Dana Lennon, Xaxia Sanchez, Marvin Goodman, Anthony Piscitelli and I. W. Stone

Chairman called for a vote on the nominees. Paper ballots were cast for the following nominees:

B. Bender

Vote: 24 in favor

S. Balicer, B. Bender, L. Daub, R. Fanuzzi, B. Fettman, S. Froot, M. Goodman, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, A. Moore, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, J. Rather, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, H. Young

M. Goodman

Vote: 35 in favor

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, S. Catechis, A. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, J. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

D. Lennon

Vote: 30 in favor

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, S. Catechis, A. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, X. Sanchez, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

L. Parker

Vote: 20 in favor

S. Balicer, B. Bender, L. Daub, R. Fanuzzi, A. Fella, S. Froot, M. Goodman, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, S. Marquez, A. Moore, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, M. Zegarra-Soja, S. Villaverde

A. Piscitelli

Vote: 25 in favor

S. Alexander, S. Catechis, A. Creaney, P. Ellis, A. G. Feldmeier, A. Fella, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

X. Sanchez

Vote: 12 in favor

S. Balicer, R. Fanuzzi, M. Khury, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, A. Moore, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, M. Zegarra-Soja, S. Villaverde

I. W. Stone

Vote: 20 in favor

S. Alexander, B. Bender, S. Catechis, A. Creaney, P. Ellis, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Reyes, G. Singleton, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff

M. Wolpoff

Vote: 27 in favor

S. Alexander, S. Catechis, A. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, A. G. Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Reyes, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

The following members were elected to the Nominating Committee: B. Bender, M. Goodman, D. Lennon, A. Piscitelli, M. Wolpoff.

13. Committee Reports

A. Aging – K. Pesce

1. The Committee will meet on April 29th, at Riverdale Housing for the Elderly, at 3:30 PM. The Senior Services Director from the Borough President's Office will be the speaker.
2. Budget Priorities for FY 2016 will be discussed.

B. Budget

No report.

C. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

The Committee is planning for a Job Fair. May 9th is the tentative date, at Kingsbridge Library. They will link with the Library's English as 2nd Language program. S. Villaverde thanked M. Khury and P. Ellis for their work in facilitating the Job Fair.

D. Education – S. Alexander

1. A letter was sent to each school principal requesting their participation with budget items submissions for Fiscal Year 2016. Two responses were received so far. S. Alexander is hoping for a groundswell of schools participating this year.
2. Discussed Fiscal Year 2015 budget response regarding non-funding for replacement and repair of doors at PS 7.
3. S. Alexander advised about a Rally for School Door Alarms being held on April 10th, at City Council, led by Councilmember Robert Cornegy, Jr. for support of his bill to equip the doors of public elementary and special education schools with audible alarms. To that end, she would look forward to the outer doors at PS 7 being alarmed. She discussed the urgency for getting the funding in place for PS 7 doors during this year's budget process and made an appeal to the Chairman, District Manager, Elected Officials, and all others to advocate for this funding for children safety.
4. Refer to minutes.
5. No meeting in April due to the holiday.
6. The next meeting will be held on May 27th.
7. Councilman Cohen informed that he is a co-sponsor of the School Door Alarm bill. He will look into the budget request for the doors at PS 7.

E. Environment and Sanitation - S. Marquez

1. The Committee will not meet in April due to the holiday.
2. The next meeting will be held on May 21st.
3. Thanked Councilman Rodriguez and his aide Tony Edwards for the playstreet initiative.

F. Health, Hospitals & Social Services – S. Froot

1. Presented a resolution for Kingsbridge Heights Community Center's Play Street.

M. Khury offered a friendly amendment as agreed by the Executive Committee, a statement to reflect that the event was previously held. The amendment was accepted.

Chairman called for a vote on the following amended resolution:

WHEREAS, the ongoing obesity epidemic has caused a high percentage of children to experience diminished capacities and medical conditions not widely known to teens and children; and

WHEREAS, Children residing in the Bronx are particularly at risk due to poor diet and a lack of exercise opportunities, and have the highest rate of obesity in the city; and

WHEREAS, The NYC Department of Health and Mental Health, along with the NYC Departments of Parks and Transportation, have created a program called Play Streets to help combat childhood obesity in our city; and

WHEREAS, The Play Streets initiative is designed to allow communities to open up their streets to pedestrians for play on a recurrent basis. They occur on local streets officially closed to traffic, and are open to people at regularly scheduled times; and

WHEREAS, Kingsbridge Heights Community Center (KHCC), with the support of Bronx Health REACH and Bon Secour New York Health System, have applied for a specific area designation. These groups will supply funding and administrative support for games, equipment, workshops and promotion of healthy eating; and

WHEREAS, A Play Street is to be created in front of KHCC on Kingsbridge Terrace, between Perot Street and Summit Place on Fridays, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in July and August 2014, coinciding with KHCC's on-site farmers' youthmarket; and

WHEREAS, this event was previously held;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board No. 8 fully supports and endorses the application of the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center to create a Play Street as designated above, during the summer months of 2014.

Vote: 40 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor -

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, S. Catechis, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

2. The Committee will hold its next meeting on April 29th. The meeting will include a Public Hearing on the notice received from Luther Social Services of New York (LSSNY) regarding their plans for a transitional group home for Unaccompanied Minors, at 2865 Kingsbridge Terrace. LSSNY is under contract with the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement to provide foster care and shelter for Unaccompanied Minors who have entered the US without authorized immigration status. The Board had received this same notice from LSSNY a year ago for the same location. However funding fell through. The Committee plans to meet at a location closer to the area of the proposed group home for the convenience of the neighborhood residents wishing to attend.
3. There will be a speaker at the meeting from NYC's Nurse-Family Partnership to present on their program for prenatal and postnatal care.

G. Housing – S. Balicer

1. Refer to minutes.
2. Thanked J. Reyes for drafting the minutes.

3. The next meeting will be held on April 28th, at the Board Office, at 7:30 PM.

H. Land Use – C. Moerdler

1. C. Moerdler presented the following resolutions passed by the Land Use Committee:

- I. **RESOLVED**, Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves Department of City Planning Application No. N 140331 ZAX submitted by Archdiocese of New York pursuant to Sections 105-422 and 105-425 of the Zoning Resolution, for the grant of authorizations involving a development, enlargement, or site alteration on a Tier II site or portion of a zoning lot having a steep slope or steep slope buffer and modification of botanic environment and tree preservation requirements to facilitate the Edward Cardinal Egan Pavilion, a 49,512 square foot enlargement of the existing John Cardinal O'Connor Residence for Retired Priests, on property located at 5655 Arlington Avenue (Block 5947, Lot 120 and Block 5952, Lot 120) within the Special Natural Area District (NA-2); and Board of Standards and Appeals GCL 35 Application No. 49-14-A re: 5655 Arlington Avenue, (Block 5947, Lot 120 and Block 5952, Lot 120) seeking approval to build in the bed of a mapped City Street, but unbuilt portion of Independence Avenue, pursuant to Section 35 of the General City Law.

Vote: 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention and 1 abstention for cause

In Favor -

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, S. Catechis, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Abstention -

K. Pesce

Abstention for Cause:

R. Ginty

- II. **WHEREAS**, the Community Facilities bonus has been invoked repeatedly to undermine community-oriented planning;

WHEREAS, neither the Department of City Planning nor any agency has discretionary review or oversight as to the nature, authenticity, or qualification of individual community facilities or the term of their occupancy in the premises (where, for example, the projected leasehold is relatively brief when compared to the permanency of the structure

constructed based on such initial occupancy) thereby facilitating overreaching or artifice by developers;

NOW THEREFORE, the Land Use Committee of Community Board 8 supports amendment of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York to reflect the sense of the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that Community Board 8, through its Land Use Committee and otherwise, explore amendment of the Zoning Resolution of the City of New York to direct that the grant of a Community Facilities or like bonus shall be subject to permitting review and approval by the City Planning Commission in accordance with such Regulations and Rules as it may provide.

Vote: 40 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, R. Bender, S. Catechis, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

- III. **WHEREAS**, Community Board 8, Bronx County ("Board 8"), after extensive consultation with the Department of City Planning and the Office of the Bronx Borough President, prepared and submitted, a 197A Plan for rezoning of relevant portions of Board 8 and, as here relevant, the proposed rezoning of the Central Riverdale area, was, under the 197A Plan, enacted in 2004 and is currently in effect;

WHEREAS, the Land Use Committee of Board 8 has, following preliminary discussion with staff of the Department of City Planning, determined to review the continued viability of the 197A Plan and the rezonings adopted thereunder;

WHEREAS, the Land Use Committee of Board 8 has determined that the first segment of said review should be the area that includes the Central Riverdale area;

WHEREAS, upon said review the Land Use Committee of Board 8 has concluded that the proposed further, amended or corrected rezoning is appropriate under all of the circumstances,

NOW THEREFORE, Board 8 proposes that the area and properties within the boundaries generally identified below be zoned as having an "A" overlay over the zoning currently obtaining, as illustrated by the Map attached hereto, and that Community Board 8, Bronx County, acting through its Land Use Committee, be authorized upon adoption of this proposal and ratification of this resolution to take such steps as may appear appropriate to secure said rezoning in substantially the form herein proposed and in accordance with law and regulation:

Area 01

Present Zoning Designation: R5
Proposed Zoning Designation: R5A

Approximate Boundary Streets (General Directions)

North: West 235th Street

South: West 232nd Street

East: Riverdale Avenue

West: Johnson Avenue

Area 02

Present and Proposed Zoning Designation: R6A (portions with C1-2 Overlay)

Approximate Boundary Streets (General Directions)

North: West 236th Street

South: West 235th Street

East: Oxford Avenue

West: Henry Hudson Parkway East

Area 03

Present Zoning Designation: R6 (portions with C1-2 Overlay)

Proposed Zoned Designation: R6A

Approximate Boundary Streets (General Directions)

North: Manhattan Collage Parkway

South: Riverdale Avenue/West 232nd Street

East: Waldo Avenue/Irwin Avenue

West: Oxford Avenue/Riverdale Avenue

Vote: 37 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention

In Favor -

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, S. Catechis, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, X.

Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Opposed -

M. Heller, A. Moore

Abstention -

S. Villaverde

H. Law, Rules and Ethics – R. Ginty

1. Refer to March minutes.
2. R. Ginty presented a resolution passed by committee to clarify procedures for renewing community committee members.
3. Before presenting the resolution, R. Ginty explained that the resolution was taken up by the Committee to address a “silence” in the guidelines dealing with Community Committee Members appointments. Community members are appointed by Committee Chairs and approved by the Board Chair (this is defined in the Bylaws). Community members applying for membership to a committee must attend three (3) consecutive meetings. The appointment is restricted to one (1) year and can be reappointed. There is a “silence” on whether the three consecutive committee meetings must be repeated. The Law, Rules and Ethics Committee felt that it should not be necessary for reappointment to redo the three consecutive meetings and there should not be silence on it. The resolution was presented:

RESOLVED, that upon the approval of the chair of a committee and the chair of the board, any community committee member whose term expires in June and has reapplied, may be reappointed effective July 1 or later, without having to fulfill the three consecutive meeting requirement.

Vote: 40 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor -

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, S. Catechis, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

4. R. Ginty referred to the Reference Handbook for Community Members of Board Committees formulated by the Committee and was being passed around to the Board for review. She noted that while newly appointed Board members attend a membership training session, Community Committee members do not, and therefore the handbook would be a helpful resource to those members. The handbook will be distributed to Committee Community members.

I. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – M. Goodman

1. M. Goodman presented the following resolution:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the two Street Activity Permit Applications be approved:

- New York Public Library Summer Reading Kick-off Block Party with full street closure on Eames Place between Claflin Avenue and University Avenue on June 27, 2014. This event has been held previously.
- New York Public Library Summer Reading End Block Party with full street closure on Eames Place between Claflin Avenue and University Avenue on August 29, 2014. This event has been held previously.

Vote: 40 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor -

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, S. Catechis, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

2. English classes are held at Kingsbridge Branch Library.
3. The next Committee meeting will be held on April 30, 2014, at Van Cortlandt Branch, at 7:00 PM.

J. Parks and Recreation – B. Bender

1. Refer to minutes.
2. B. Bender presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, residents of Community Board 8 support a riverfront Hudson River Greenway extending from Spuyten Duyvil to Yonkers, providing runners, walkers, cyclists, people with disabilities, and others a superb view of the Palisades and access to the Greenway to the north and to the south that establishes continuous Greenway access between Manhattan and Westchester; and have advocated locating the Greenway route along the Hudson River in the 1998 report of the Bronx Advisory Committee to the Hudson River Valley Greenway;

WHEREAS, the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC), with funding provided in part by Senator Charles Schumer, has on several occasions presented to the Parks & Recreation Committee of Community

Board 8 and most recently to a joint meeting of that committee and the Traffic & Transportation Committee a conceptual study of a proposed Hudson River Greenway route connecting Manhattan and Westchester portions of the Greenway, which includes a shorter-term inland route from the Henry Hudson Bridge to the city line at Riverdale Avenue and a longer-term waterfront route from the Henry Hudson Bridge to Yonkers along the Hudson;

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 has made pedestrian and bicycle access on the Henry Hudson Bridge a community priority as stated in the 197-a plan and elsewhere;

WHEREAS, residents of Bronx Community Board 8 reject the NYMTC plan for many reasons, including but not limited to proposed widening of streets, removal of trees, loss of traffic and/or parking lanes on local streets, and locating bicycle routes in Riverdale Park, among other objections;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That Bronx Community Board 8 makes the following recommendations:

That appropriate engineering and other studies be financed and conducted by the relevant agencies to evaluate the possibility of connecting the Hudson River Greenway across the Harlem River at Spuyten Duyvil, whether as part of the Amtrak swing bridge or on a purpose-built swing bridge, and that our elected officials assist in obtaining funding for such studies and addressing objections from Amtrak to the use of the swing bridge for the Hudson River Greenway;

That until a Spuyten Duyvil Greenway connection can be implemented, a riverfront Greenway should be established by using the existing bridge to cross the Metro-North tracks at West 254th Street, and then continuing north on the west side of the tracks to Yonkers, as envisioned in Stage Two of the NYMTC plan;

That instead of NYMTC's Stage Three plan for the Greenway route south of West 254th Street, which locates the Greenway on piers built over the Hudson River and riverbank riprap, the Greenway should be built on the west side of the Metro-North tracks on land made available by burying overhead power lines (which Metro-North has buried underground north of West 254th Street), removing Track 6, and sharing the utility road (as is done on the Greenway in lower Manhattan), to provide a less costly route than envisioned in NYMTC's Stage Three;

That until a Spuyten Duyvil Greenway connection can be implemented, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority should study the reconfiguring of traffic lanes on the lower level of the Henry Hudson Bridge to make possible a more usable pedestrian and bicycle pathway across the bridge;

That until a Spuyten Duyvil Greenway connection can be implemented, local streets only (and not the Riverdale Park right of way) should be used for Greenway bicycle connections between the Henry Hudson Bridge and W. 254th Street, under the regulation of the New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT);

That this resolution supersedes a resolution passed in May 2012 in which the community board called for improved pedestrian and bicycle access on the Henry Hudson bridge by reconfiguring traffic lanes on the lower level and also for consideration of a Greenway route from Palisade Avenue and West 232 Street via a bridge over the Metro-North tracks to the riverfront at the southern edge of Riverdale Park or at the DEP station located slightly farther north in the park;

That further consideration of an all-river Greenway route should continue under the auspices of Bronx Community Board 8 in cooperation with local residents, community groups, and appropriate government agencies.

Discussion ensued.

Motion was made by R. Press to table resolution for 60 days.

Vote: 23 in favor, 16 opposed, and 1 abstention for cause.

In Favor -

S. Alexander, S. Catechis, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Opposed -

S. Balicer, B. Bender, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, K. Pesce., S. Marquez, A. Moore, J. Rather, X. Sanchez, M. Zegarra-Soja, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde,

Abstention for Cause -

M. Heller

3. C. Moerdler offered to hold a meeting with MTA and members of committee concerning the Hudson River Greenway plan. B. Bender accepted the offer.
4. Van Cortlandt's Master Plan will be discussed again at the next Committee meeting.
5. It's My Park Day is being held on May 17th at the Marble Hill Playground. Volunteers are needed.
6. Budget Priorities will be discussed at the Committee meeting on April 23rd, at the Riverdale YM-YWHA, at 7:00 PM.

7. Discussed the closing of Fort Independence Park without notice and whether or not a letter or resolution should be sent to the Parks Department admonishing this action. A motion was made to send both a letter and a resolution from the Board. A motion to amend the agenda to add a resolution was presented.

Vote: 32 in favor, 4 opposed, 0 abstentions

In Favor -

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, A. Garbett-Feldmeier, A. Fella, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M.Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Opposed -

B. Bender, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, S. Villaverde

The motion carried to amend the agenda. The following resolution was presented:

WHEREAS notice that Ft. Independence Park would be closed for construction beginning Monday, March 31 was not given to Bronx Community Board No. 8 and the community by the Department of Parks & Recreation until Friday, March 28;

WHEREAS the community has requested and continues to request that the work in the park be done in phases so that parts of the park in addition to the playground and restroom can remain open during construction;

WHEREAS the Department of Parks & Recreation has not provided a timetable for the construction work underway in the park except for an expected end date of sometime in August;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Bronx Community Board 8 asks that the Department of Parks & Recreation keep sections of Ft. Independence Park open during the construction and renovation of the park, and that it provide the community with a timetable showing how the work can be phased to make possible continuing use of the park by the community.

A motion was made to table the resolution. The motion to table the resolution was defeated.

Vote: 17 in favor, 20 opposed, 0 abstentions

In Favor -

S. Balicer, B. Bender, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Fella, S. Froot, M. Goodman, M. Khury, D. Lennon, S. Marquez, C. Moerdler, L. Parker, J. Pilsner, J. M. Reyes, X. Sanchez, S. Villaverde

Opposed -

S. Alexander, A. P. Creaney, A. Garbett Feldmeier, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, R. Pochter Lowe, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, M. Zegarra-Soja, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

The motion to table the resolution was defeated. The resolution was voted on and passed unanimously in favor.

Vote: 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

In Favor -

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

K. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

1. The following resolution was presented:

Resolved, Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the following applications for NYS liquor licenses:

- a. Jay's Place – 5782 Mosholu Avenue, Bronx, NY (*Renewal*)
- b. Caridad Restaurant – 135-45 Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY (*New*)
- c. Patty Harrington – 171 West 231st Street, Bronx, NY (*New*)

Vote: 36 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor -

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

2. The Committee will not meet in April due to holiday.

L. Traffic and Transportation – D. Padernacht

1. The following resolution was presented:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the Street Activity Permit Application for the following:

Amalgamated Nursery School Spring Bazaar – Block Party with full street closure to be held on May 18, 2014 on Orloff Avenue between Gale Place and Van Cortlandt Park South. This event has previously been held.

Vote: 36 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor-

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

2. There will be no April meeting due to its very busy agendas over the last couple of months and also due to holiday.
3. Explained that due to a last minute request from Equity One for a letter of support to the Department of Buildings for a permit to conduct after hour construction work at West 230th Street and Broadway, this letter was sent from the Traffic and Transportation Committee only, and not from the Board. Equity One had called on March 18th to ask to be on the agenda the same evening. A copy of the letter was sent to the members of the Board. D. Padernacht offered to answer any questions. He thanked G. Santiago for the idea to have Equity One meet with the New Marble Hill Tenants Association at their meeting on March 20th. Equity One met with the association.
4. D. Padernacht, N. Stent and Councilman Cohen met with DDC this morning to discuss concerns with the Cannon Place Retaining Wall and Sewer Project at Cannon and West 238th Street. DDC has failed to keep its promise to maintain one street open for the entire project and were working on two streets with closures of those streets. This impacted the Fire Department plans. Additionally, it was discovered that there was a recent engineer change and the engineer had not been informed of the community board's agreement with DDC. DDC is now complying.

M. Youth – L. Parker

1. Community Board 8's Second Annual Youth Poetry SLAM event will be held on May 15th, at Kingsbridge Library, from 6pm to 8pm. All are invited.
2. The C-Ball tournament for Community Board 8 will be held on September 6th, tentatively scheduled at Marble Hill Playground.
3. The next Committee meeting will be held on April 23, 2014.

Meeting adjourned 10:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate

Reviewed by,

Joyce Pilsner
Secretary