

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

AT FT. INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY CENTER, 3350 BAILEY AVENUE

- PRESENT:** S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, D. Escano, P. Ellis, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, S. Gozland, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young
- ABSENT:** A. P. Creaney, L. Croft, R. Fanuzzi, N. Friedman, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, M. Goodman, A. Guzman, S. Marquez, D. McCord, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, J. Santiago,
- STAFF:** D. Bay – Community Associate
- GUESTS:** A. Castano – office of Assemblyman Dinowitz, O. Ovalles – rep. Councilwoman Carmen De La Rosa, Councilman Andrew Cohen, J. Stephenson – rep. Councilman Andrew Cohen, J. Delacruz – rep. Councilman Cabrera, C. Lang – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein, D.I. O'Toole - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, P.O. Ventura - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, N. Lopez – DOT, R. Press – Bronx Voice, A. Chen - Spuyten Duyvil Library, F. Schirur, R. Zarras, J. Torres, D. Wolff,

Chairman called upon Budget Chair, M. Yamagata to conduct the Public Hearing on Responses from City Agencies on the Capital/Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2018 at 7:20 PM.

M. Yamagata asked board members for their comments. S. Alexander noted that the committee's spend a lot of time preparing their budget priorities and OMB often responds as follows; that although they are in support of the requests city funded financial support is necessary to implement the request; further study by the agency is needed, they recommend the request be brought to elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council. The Housing requests had a response that the agency will accommodate this issue within existing resources. P. Ellis would want feedback with details of how and when they were accommodated. B. Bender reported that capital projects in the Parks Department come only from elected officials. \$200,000,000.00 received from the Croton Filtration Plant has been spent on capital projects for our Parks.

B. Press pointed out that wording of our budget requests should be changed from year to year.

A formal statement with the above concerns will be prepared and sent to the Mayor and the Office of Management & Budget.

Chairman Padernacht convened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

1. Gallery Session

- Aga Chen of Spuyten Duyvil Library announced that since September, 47 incidents of teen disturbances have occurred in the library. The teens are from the local schools. Patrons get upset and leave the library. They do have a security guard present. Deputy Inspector O'Toole suggested they meet with local Principal's and alert them of these commotions.

2. Introduction of Special Guests

Aga Chen – Spuyten Duyvil Library, D.I. O'Toole - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, P.O. Ventura - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, Andrea Castano – office of Assemblyman Dinowitz, Councilman Andrew Cohen, J. Stephenson – rep. Councilman Andrew Cohen, J. Delacruz – rep. Councilman Cabrera, C. Lang – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein, N. Lopez – DOT

Chairman Padernacht invited Councilman Cohen to address the board

- The New York City Council anticipates passing legislation that increases penalties for illegal operation of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's).
- The income threshold for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) programs will be increased to help more seniors and disabled individuals keep their rents affordable.
- There is a Town Hall meeting scheduled with Mayor De Blasio on February 21st, 7:00PM at In Tech Academy, 2975 Tibbett Avenue.
- A bill was passed that will bar the city from instituting a five cent fee on the distribution of plastic bags.

3. Report from the 50th Police Precinct – Deputy Inspector O’Toole

- Councilmembers Cabrera and Cohen funded several cameras for the district.
- Crime stats - 2017 vs 2016 - murder - 0 vs. 1, rape - 1 vs. 2, robbery - 12 vs. 14, felony assaults – 19 vs. 13, burglaries – 16 vs. 12, grand larceny 17 vs. 42 (up 73%), grand larceny auto 6 vs. 9.
- A woman was killed while walking on the Major Deegan.
- There have been 9 arrests for mailbox fishing. This is when criminals fish out checks from the mailboxes; dip the checks in a solution that removes the ink, and then re-writes in a new dollar amount and recipient. Deputy Inspector O’Toole suggested using gel ink since it is absorbed in the paper and does not wash off.

4. Report from the Office of the Bronx Borough President – No representative present

5. Chairman's Report – Daniel Padernacht

- Borough President’s office hosted a Parliamentary Procedure presentation for community board members. They intend to host another one in the spring.
- The Mayor laid out his accomplishments and visions at the State of the City. A good amount of the address focused on affordable housing.
- 3061 Scenic Place issue - letter was sent to Department of Investigation (DOI); inquiry to Commissioner’s office about status received following response: it is DOI’s policy not to comment on open inquiries.
- The retirement party for District Manager, Patricia Manning, was a great event and the Chair thanked all of the Board members who attended and a special thanks to R. Ginty, K, Pesce and A.J. Robateau who helped organize the event.
- The Chair met with elected officials and DOT to discuss a plan to make changes to the roadways of the Broadway corridor in order to make the passage safer for pedestrians and motorists.
- The Chair announced the 101st birthday of Board Member Irving Ladimer. The Board wished Irving Ladimer a happy birthday and the meeting was paused for 10 minutes in order for Board members to celebrate the occasion.

6. Treasurer’s Report – A.J. Robateau

- The Treasurer’s report was distributed. The total amount in the budget is 243,912.00. OTPS balance is \$69,272 with discretionary contributions of approximately \$10,000 from elected officials. \$49,000 is uncommitted. \$9,000 for a Hudson River Greenway consultant includes some money transfer from 2016 which is encumbered to 2017. Item #499=\$1 to keep the line item open.

7. City Planning – No City Planning representative present

8. Committee Reports

A. Aging – L. Daub

- Refer to January minutes. The next meeting is February 21, 2017 at the Riverdale Senior Services. Assemblyman Dinowitz will be speaking at that meeting.

B. Budget – M. Yamagata

- A letter including the board members concerns on the budget responses will be prepared and sent.

C. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

- A joint meeting is being planned in March to discuss a study of the Broadway corridor.
- The Economic Development Committee is in discussions with a consultant and other parties about establishing coding courses within Bronx Community Board No. 8 and the possibility of a Hack-a-thon.

D. Education – S. Alexander

- The next meeting is on February 28 in the board office.

E. Environment & Sanitation – L. Spalter

- A representative from the Department of Sanitation discussed issues with step streets. DSNY is responsible for the steps. DOT is responsible for outside of the railings. Agencies will be brought together at a future meeting to move forward on this.
- Organic recycling pickup will be extended to Bronx Community Board 8 by the fall of 2017. It is now voluntary but will become mandatory in 2019.
- DSNY has a new snow plan. CB 8 has been divided into sectors. The new plan will plow all three routes within a sector at the same time.
- There is garbage dumping and graffiti along the CSX, located between Van Cortlandt Park South and West 230th Street running alongside the Major Deegan Expressway (behind Broadway stores, Stop and Shop, BJ's, etc. L. Spalter had some conversations with a representative of CSX to clean up the area.

F. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – Chair not present – no report

G. Housing – P. Ellis

- On January 30 the Housing Committee held the third part of their Housing Forum. It is on videotape and will be posted on the website.
- The next meeting is on February 27 at the Jericho Project. It will be on problem buildings and problem landlords. There will be representatives from HPD, Northwest Bronx Housing and local elected officials.

H. Land Use – M. Wolpoff

- 5731 Broadway will be an 83 unit building with 17 affordable apartment units.
- The Fieldston School made a presentation on their master plan.
- 600 West 246 – they are reopening the resolution of the New York Board of Standards and Appeals to extend the term of a variance previously granted.
- Waiting for confirmation from the Land Use Chair on whether there will be a meeting in February.

I. Law, Rules and Ethics – M. Wolpoff

- Two local New York Public Libraries are willing to host a civics presentation.
- M. Wolpoff gave examples of how easy it is to violate ethics rules.

J. Libraries & Cultural Affairs – Chair not present – No report

K. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

- The January minutes were circulated.
- The February 22nd meeting is at the Riverdale Jewish Center, 237th and Independence. It will include a discussion on the proposal that the Parks Department has on the renovation of the Seton Park basketball courts.

L. Public Safety – J. O'Brien

The following resolutions were presented:

NEW

Whereas Vega Darcy, (D/B/A Tortoise and Hare) 6115 Broadway (formerly Gleeson's), appeared before the Public Safety Committee on January 19, 2017, and applied for a new full liquor license; and whereas the bar/restaurant agreed to close at 2 a.m. for its first year of operation and then apply to open later; and whereas no objections were raised; and whereas the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the application (J. O'Brien, H. Young, M. Donato, M. Yamagata, D. Escano, and M. Joyce, voting for) therefore be it resolved that Community Board 8 approve the application.

Vote: In favor – 27 Opposed – 0 Abstentions - 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, D. Escano, P. Ellis, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, S. Gozland, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

RENEWALS

- ❖ Whereas Jake's Steakhouse, 6031 Broadway, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on January 19, 2017, to apply for a renewal of a full liquor license; and whereas no objections were raised; and whereas the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the renewal application (J. O'Brien, H. Young, M. Donato, M. Yamagata, D. Escano, and M. Joyce, voting for); therefore be it resolved that Community Board 8 approve the application.

Vote: In favor – 27 Opposed – 0 Abstentions - 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, D. Escano, P. Ellis, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, S. Gozland, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

- ❖ Whereas Mulgriff Tavern (D/B/A The Punchbowl) 5820 Broadway, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on January 19, 2017, to apply for a renewal of a full liquor license; and whereas no objections were raised; and whereas the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the renewal application (J. O'Brien, H. Young, M. Donato, M. Yamagata, D. Escano, and M. Joyce, voting for); therefore be it resolved that Community Board 8 approve the application.

Vote: In favor – 27 Opposed – 0 Abstentions - 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, D. Escano, P. Ellis, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, S. , M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

- ❖ Whereas Burke's Beal Bocht (D/B/A An Beal Bocht) 445 W. 238th Street, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on January 19, 2017, to apply for a renewal of a full liquor license; and whereas no objections were raised; and whereas the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the renewal application (J. O'Brien, H. Young, M. Donato, M. Yamagata, D. Escano, and M. Joyce, voting for); therefore be it resolved that Community Board 8 approve the application.

The follow vote was for the above liquor license application:

Vote: In favor – 26 Opposed – 0 Abstention for cause - 1

In favor - S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, D. Escano, P. Ellis, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, S. Gozland, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, J. O'Brien, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

Abstention for cause – Eric Bell

- ❖ Whereas P&K's Grill, 170 West 231st Street appeared before the Public Safety Committee on January 19, 2017, to apply for a renewal of a full liquor license; and whereas no objections were raised; and whereas the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the renewal application (J. O'Brien, H. Young, M. Donato, M. Yamagata, D. Escano, and M. Joyce, voting for); therefore be it resolved that Community Board 8 approve the application

The follow vote was for the above liquor license applications:

Vote: In favor – 26 Opposed – 0 Abstention for cause - 1

In favor - S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, D. Escano, P. Ellis, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, S. Gozland, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, J. O'Brien, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

Abstention for cause - D. Padernacht

M. Traffic & Transportation – M. Heller

There was a vote on the following resolutions:

- ❖ The Traffic and Transportation Committees votes to approve the North Riverdale Single Block Festival with full street closure on May 7, 2017, to be held on Riverdale Avenue between West 258th and 259th Streets. Passed unanimously 7-0-0. Heller, O'Brien, Alexander, Friedman; Fuchs, Bell, Donato
- ❖ The Traffic and Transportation Committees votes to approve the South Riverdale Block Festival with full street closure on September 17, 2017 to be held on Riverdale Avenue between West 236 Street and West 238 Streets. This event has been held previously. Passed unanimously 7-0-0. Heller, O'Brien, Alexander, Friedman; Fuchs, Bell, Donato

- ❖ Though located in Community Board 7, The Traffic and Transportation Committee votes to support the Bronx Week Food and Arts Festival – Street Festival, full street closure on May 21, 2017, to be held on Mosholu Parkway between Bainbridge Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue East. Passed unanimously 7-0-0. Heller, O'Brien, Alexander, Friedman; Fuchs, Bell, Donato

Vote: In favor – 27 Opposed – 0 Abstentions - 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, D. Escano, P. Ellis, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, S. , M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

- The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 23rd at 6PM. There will be a discussion on issues at the intersection of Ft. Independence Street and Heath Avenue. The committee is meeting on Thursday because there is a Mayoral Town Hall meeting on February 21.

N. Youth – L. Parker

- He is holding a game day on February 23, at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center from 6-9PM.
- The next committee meeting is on February 22 at the board office, 1PM.

9. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2017 was unanimously approved.

Vote: In favor: 27 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, D. Escano, P. Ellis, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, S. , M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

10. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2017.

- No comments.

11. Miscellaneous – None

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.