

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 10, 2017
AT RIVERDALE COUNTRY SCHOOL, 5250 FIELDSTON ROAD**

- PRESENT:** S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Croft, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, T. Moran, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young
- ABSENT:** A. P. Creaney, D. Escano, N. Friedman, S. Gozland, A. Guzman, S. Marquez, D. McCord, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, L. Parker, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, G. Santiago, J. Santiago, S. Sarao, M. Yamagata
- STAFF:** D. Bay – Community Associate
- GUESTS:** Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Eric Dinowitz – District Leader, Frederic Klein – office of Assemblyman Dinowitz, Councilman Andrew Cohen, J. Stephenson – rep. Councilman Andrew Cohen, A. Castano – office of Assemblyman Dinowitz, C. Lang – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein, A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., D. Ojeda-Tiru, rep. Congressman E. Engel, D.I. O'Toole - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, P.O. Ventura - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, R. Press – Bronx Voice, P. Pamphile – Van Cortlandt Library, M. Salazar – Montefiore, D. Wolff, D. Jackson, R. Zarras, T. Durham

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

1. Gallery Session – Robert Press

- R. Press asked the board to be vigilant in insuring that new construction in the district is done with the appropriate permits.
- M. Salazar spoke about Montefiore Urgent Care which provides care for non-life threatening illness or injuries. She spoke of Governor Cuomo's \$50 million dollar allocation for general health care.

2. Introduction of Special Guests

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Eric Dinowitz – District Leader, Frederic Klein – office of Assemblyman Dinowitz, Councilman Andrew Cohen, J. Stephenson – rep. Councilman Andrew Cohen, A. Castano – office of Assemblyman Dinowitz, C. Lang – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein, A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., D. Ojeda-Tiru, rep. Congressman E. Engel, D.I. O'Toole - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, P.O. Ventura - NYPD, 50th

Chairman Padernacht invited Assemblyman Dinowitz to address the board

- The Assemblyman met with the School Chancellor at a Town Hall meeting and urged the Chancellor to find a new location for PS 307.
- An effort is being made to open a Celia Cruz music education middle school on Reservoir Avenue.
- Tech International Charter School on Corlear Avenue is closing at the end of the school year. Assemblyman Dinowitz suggested that the city take over their lease to alleviate overcrowding.
- The Assemblyman is the newly appointed Chair of the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commission. The Committee has jurisdiction over the laws concerning private, not-for-profit and public corporations.
- There was a tragic accident in front of P.S. 307 in 2014 and the street was then made into a one way street. The Assemblyman would like DOT to revisit the street and reconsider it being a two-way street again. He doesn't think the two-2 way street was the cause of the tragic accident. DOT should make

that determination.

Chairman Padernacht invited Councilman Cohen to address the board

- Councilman Cohen was invited to a Press Conference with the Mayor celebrating record low fire related deaths. He held meetings educating residents on fire safety and distributed smoke detectors.
- A newsletter has been mailed to residents.
- The Councilman met with NYC Parks Commissioner Rosa Rodriguez. The construction of the skateboard park will begin shortly.
- DOT has agreed to install a four way stop sign at the intersection of 232nd Street and Corlear Avenue, by P.S. 7 on January 11, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.
- The Archdioceses does not plan to sell the Visitation Church property.

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

- Crime stats - up 20 crimes in 2016, 2016 vs. 2015 - murder - 4 vs. 2, rape - 9 vs. 17, robbery - 136 vs. 154, felony assaults – 155 vs. 107, burglaries – 115 vs. 108, grand larceny 469 vs. 474, grand larceny auto 89 vs. 95.
- Police are not assigned to homeless shelters. Executives in the NYPD will oversee the security force responsible for safety in the shelter system. Peace officers assigned to the Department of Homeless Services have been trained by the NYPD to do a better job keeping weapons out of shelters, defusing tense encounters, dealing with the mentally ill and preventing domestic violence. Peace officers do not have firearms.
- The relationship between New York State Police and NYPD were discussed. TBTA officers will provide security and traffic management at bridges and tunnels and will collaborate with State Police on toll enforcement; security and anti-terror activities. NY State Troopers are assigned to duties to prevent crime and enforce the law, ensure highway safety and promote peace and order.

4. Report from the Office of the Bronx Borough President – A. Toledo

- There will be a Parliamentary Procedure course for the board members on January 23, 2017 at Kingsbridge Library from 6:30 to 8:30PM. Please RSVP to Andy Toledo. Another course will be scheduled late March/early April.
- The Borough President is encouraging residents to join the community board.
- Governor Cuomo has offered his support to major Bronx proposals and institutions, specifically the reconstruction of Orchard Beach and the future of the Kingsbridge Armory.

5. Chairman's Report – Daniel Padernacht

- Greenway Consultant: Chair has approved \$9000 to fund the initial consulting fee for Ms. Lannon who has been successful in developing grant applications for similar projects. After this initial payment, Ms. Lannon will seek grants covering her fees to seek funding for the greenway and greenway studies/plans.
- District Manager, Patricia Manning retired on December 30, 2016. There are only two Community Associates working in the office. Based upon the budget a new hire would be May 1. The Chair asked board members to pitch in and help alleviate some of the work for the staff.
- Reappointment applications should be notarized and submitted by 2/3/17.
- The office staff is waiting to hear back about the presentation to the Yankee Youth Leadership Awardees. There has been no confirmation about whether they’ll be given at the next Board meeting.

- In 1992 there was a resolution creating an Ad Hoc Committee that nominated residents for the Community Service Award: The resolution was revised but will read similar to the 1992 resolution. The resolution will read as follows:

WHEREAS, Community Board 8 seeks to recognize individuals or groups who have worked as volunteers to improve our community and have made a significant and sustained contribution to the quality of life in Community Board 8,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 establishes an annual community service award to be presented to no more than five individuals or groups at its May meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by the October Board meeting of each year the chairperson of Community Board 8 is authorized to appoint an ad hoc committee of no fewer than three and no more than five members to screen nominations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee will formulate the criteria for selection and will present the names of the recipients to the full Board for its approval at the April Board meeting.

Vote: In Favor – 24 0 – Opposed 0 - Absentions

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6. Treasurer's Report – Chair Padernacht

- A report was distributed. The Chair reported that accruals are approved. Funds designated for 2017 were transferred from 2016 budget.

7. City Planning – No City Planning representative present

8. Committee Reports

A. Youth – No report – Chair not present

B. Aging – L. Daub

- Refer to December minutes. The next meeting is January 17 and will be held at Christ Church Riverdale. They will hold a Senior Center Roundtable. There will be discussions with center representatives serving residents in CB8 district.

C. Budget – No report – Chair not present

D. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

- No January meeting. There will be a February meeting and they will discuss the study of the Broadway plan.

E. Education – S. Alexander

- There was no December meeting. The next Education meeting is on January 31, 2017.

F. Environment & Sanitation – L. Spalter

Chair Spalter presented a resolution on the Jerome Park Reservoir and Aqueduct Rehabilitation Project.

After discussion amendments were made and the following resolution was moved:

Whereas, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) appeared before the Environment and Sanitation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 in May 2014, and October 2014, to present Phase I of its plan to reconstruct Gatehouses 5 and 7, deconstruct Gatehouses 2, 3, and 6, and construct a shorter replacement inner fencing around the Jerome Park Reservoir; and,

Whereas, the DEP appeared before the Environment and Sanitation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 on November 16, 2016 to present Phase II of the project, which includes sealing the leaking Old Croton Aqueduct located in the eastern wall of the reservoir, as well as additional work described in the presentation; and,

Whereas, on November 12, 2014 Bronx Community Board 8 passed a resolution to not support Phase I of the project because the lowering of the inner fence from ten-foot to four-foot would preclude future public access; and,

Whereas, in a letter dated November 21, 2016 the DEP reversed its earlier position, and affirmed that the replacement four-foot inner fence will not prevent future public access to Jerome Park Reservoir; and,

Whereas, In a letter dated December 7, 2016 the DEP responded to community opposition and removed construction of the proposed overhead bird deterrent overhead wire system from this project; and,

Whereas, in letters dated October 11, 2016, October 9, 2015, and April 21, 2014 the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (SHPO) approved Phase I and Phase II on the basis that the project will not adversely affect the historical/cultural resources of Jerome Park Reservoir (JPR) as long as DEP adheres to specific standards which the agency has agreed to; and

Whereas, the DEP will seek preliminary and final approval from the Public Design Commission (PDC) in January 2017 for their design; and,

Whereas, this 4-year construction project will have major impacts on the many educational, cultural, and residential complexes located around the Jerome Park Reservoir; and,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that Bronx Community Board 8 approves DEP's application for preliminary PDC approval pursuant to stipulations set forth by SHPO (see letters attached), and with the condition that DEP, its contractors and agents work with Bronx Community Board 8 to mitigate issues including but not limited to traffic, construction, delivery of materials, construction staging, parking, noise, street closures, and concentration of concrete pouring trucks, and that DEP return to update the Board on a regular basis, and as requested by the Board during the 4-year construction period and beyond, and that post construction, the DEP will perform timely restoration of JPR; and,

Be It Further Resolved, that DEP conduct any environmental reviews required by law.

Vote: In Favor – 27 0 – Opposed 0 - Absentions

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- The next Environment & Sanitation Committee meeting will be on January 18, 2017. There will be a representative from the Department of Sanitation to discuss a host of Sanitation issues.

G. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – L. Croft

- There will be no meetings in January and February due to the holidays.

H. Land Use – No report – Chair not present

I. Law, Rules and Ethics – M. Wolpoff

- There is no January meeting

J. Libraries & Cultural Affairs – M. Goodman

- December minutes were distributed. The January meeting will be held in the Spuyten Duyvil Library.

K. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

- There was no December meeting. There will be a meeting on January 25th in the Scala Room at Manhattan College, 7:00PM. There will be a design presentation on the Parks Without Border Project.

L. Public Safety – J. O'Brien

The following resolutions were presented:

New SLA Applications

Whereas Leche y Miel, 5761 Broadway, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on December 15, 2016 and applied for a new beer and wine license; and whereas the restaurant plans table service only and closes at 9 p.m.; and whereas no objections were raised; and whereas the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the application (J. O'Brien, M. Donato, D. Escano, M. Joyce, D. Santiago, and H. Young voting for); be it resolved that Community Board 8 approve the application.

Renewals

Whereas the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bronx Post No. 95, 3960 Orloff Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on December 15, 2016, 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, M. Donato, D. Escano, M. Joyce, D. Santiago, and H. Young voting for); be it resolved that Community Board 8 approve the application.

Vote for above liquor license applications were:

In Favor – 27 0 – Opposed 0 - Absentions

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M. Traffic & Transportation – M. Heller

There was a vote on the South Riverdale Block Festival but later revoked since it was held over until the January meeting. The following is a vote to revoke the resolution:

- Vote: In Favor – 28 0 – Opposed 0 - Absentions

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Croft, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, T. Moran, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

- There will be four street activity permit applications voted on at the January meeting; the North Riverdale Block Festival, the South Riverdale Block Festival, Israeli Independence Day Block Party and Bronx Week Food and Arts Festival.
- The DOT and MTA gave a presentation on the 225th Street rehabilitation project.
- At the January meeting the NYC Transit Authority will speak about the service issues with the Bx10/Bx20 bus routes.

N. Housing – J. Reyes

- On January 30 the Housing Committee will hold the third part of their Housing Forums. The topic will be rehabilitation of existing housing. It will be held at the American Legion on Corlear Avenue at 7:00PM.

9. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2016 was unanimously approved after the following amendment.

Aging report change - L. Daub:

- First bullet should read The NYC Deputy Commissioner and the NYS Deputy Director for the Department of Aging attended the October meeting. The Board minutes was amended and voted on as follows:

Vote: 28 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions

In Favor - S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, S. Gozland, M. Heller, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

10. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2016.

11. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2017.

- The Community Service Award should reflect the resolution presented at this meeting.

12. Miscellaneous – The Chair reminded board members that when speaking to the media they speak in their individual capacity and not as a member or representative of the community board. Also noted was that if a board member has a question about their committee's agenda, items or issues they were instructed to go to the Chair of that Committee so the Chair can follow up with the agencies instead of board members calling agency heads or staff members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

Submitted by,

Diane Bay
Community Associate