BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON MARCH 11, 2014 AT RIVERDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4763 HENRY HUDSON PARKWAY

PRESENT: S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato,

P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, B. Fettman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reves, X. Sanchez,

G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

ABSENT: S. Catechis, A. Fella, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, M. Heller, I. Ladimer,

D. Kirksey-Floyd, T. Lim, S. Marquez, J. M. Pilsner, P. Reyes, L. Spalter, A. A. Spett,

I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde

STAFF: N. Stent- District Manager

D. Bay – Community Associate

P. Manning - Community Associate

GUESTS: M. Blaustein – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein

J. Demko – rep. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz

T. Edwards - rep. Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez

J. Laidley – rep. NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

A. Sandler – rep. Councilman Andrew Cohen

J. Sporn - rep. Councilman Andrew Cohen

A. Toledo - rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

D. I. P. Rasa - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct

P.O. S. Cordero – NYPD, 50th Police Precinct

P.O. M. Ramos – NYPD. 50th Police Precinct

R. Brown-Barbier - NYPD, Riverdale Branch

T. Durham

D. Gellman

T. Giallorenzi

J. Gomez - LSSNY

L. Hardison – Hostos Community College

R. Mathews

P. Moerdler

C. Pena – Woodlawn Conservancy/Woodlawn Cemetery

K. Rose – MMC

B. Pevton - MMC

C. Taylor - FVCP

Chairman Fanuzzi opened the Public Hearing on the report and comments on responses from City Agencies on the Capital/Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2015 at 7:30 PM.

Chairman called upon Budget Chairman Contant to conduct the hearing.

Chairman Contant reported that the hearing was required by the Charter to comment on the City agencies and Mayoral budget responses to the Board's budget priorities. In summary:

FY 2015 Expense Budget Requests - Responses to 14 of the 25 Expense requests stated that the city agency will try within existing resources; supports program; will advocate for increased funding, recommends funding and evaluate needs feasibility of request or funds are uncertain. Additionally, 7 of the Expense responses were case specific as follows:

- Department of Education there were 2 requests 1) Depending on available funds and it is decided at local level and 2) Class size is determined by UFT contractual agreements with principles having further discretion;
- Out of School Time funding exceeded requested amount.
- 1 went to the correct agency but was referred erroneously and will be reviewed again. No. 3 Riverdale Mental Health Association funding is correctly monitored by Department of Health &
 Mental Hygiene (funding is from city council).
- NYPD- new equipment is subject to commanding officer review and vehicles have a specific replacement schedule; and
- FDNY carbon monoxide and smoke detectors with batteries are not funded by FDNY but by its Foundation. CPR kits are no longer used.
- OEM does not fund CERT.

FY 2015 Capital Budget Requests - Responses were summarized as follows:

- 10 of the 19 Capital Budget requests are all Parks and state funds insufficient, refer to elected.
- 2 for NYPL are supported but require funding.
- NYPL (2 requests) says it supports but needs funding.
- DOE has 3 requests: #1 school repairs not recommended for funding; #4 funding is at local level consult the local child network; #8: a need for new site is identified but needs site & funding.
- FDNY for EMS station has an ODD answer that is being clarified by the FDNY.
- DSNY dual bin trucks will be evaluated for need & feasibility.

Budget Chairman Contant discussed the good news about the expense budget requests:

- The Mayor and OMB will review funding requirements for increasing community board budgets during this process. This is the first time in over 20 years a positive response has occurred. Budget cuts have been the Mayoral recommendation for the last 6 years.
- NYPL funding for 6 day service was restored and NYPL said the community boards support were essential in this restoration.
- Engine 52 is on the priority list for an emergency generator.
- DYCD has increased funding for the Marble Hill Community Center

Budget Chairman Contant advised the board committees to advocate to the elected officials by writing letters covering the specific committee budget requests and ask for funding, especially in the Parks area. The letter should be submitted to the Board office by March 20, 2014 to ensure a timely mailing to the elected officials. Finally, a response on the preliminary budget will be sent to the Mayor and will also cover the public comments from the public hearing.

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. Following discussion, the Public Hearing was closed.

Chairman Fanuzzi convened the Regular Board Meeting at 7:40 PM.

Gallery Session

- A. Christina Taylor, discussed the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park and Bronx Community Board 8's partnering in the rally "Creating a Bridge to Re-Unite Neighbors" being held on March 29th in Van Cortlandt Park. It is an event to highlight a broken link and a broken promise for a Pedestrian Bridge over the Major Deegan to connect its eastern and western halves and connect the broken Old Croton Aqueduct Trail. She advised that in 1999 the NYC Council determined that the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) should build a Pedestrian Bridge if feasible. A Feasibility study determined that it was, but DEP has refused to pay for it. The Pedestrian Bridge is part of Van Cortlandt Park's Master Plan and the time for action is now. Meeting time is 10:00 AM inside the Park at Broadway and West 242nd Street. Flyers were distributed with further information. C. Taylor encouraged support at the Rally. Chair Fanuzzi thanked her for her efforts, noted past Board resolutions, and asked Board members to give full support
- B. Christina Pena, Woodlawn Conservatory/Woodlawn Cemetery announced spring events. A concert to celebrate Woodlawn Cemetery's 150th year will feature "Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis: Live from the Woodlawn Cemetery" on May 11th, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. This will be free to the public. Spring calendar brochures were provided.
- C. Larry Hardison, Allied Health Career Pipeline Program, Hostos Community College provided information on the program which focuses on preparing students for careers in healthcare. Training programs are offered for Certified Nursing Assistant, Clinical Medical Assistant, Dental Assistant, Patient Care Technician, Pharmacy Technician, and Health Information Technology. Eligible participants, who are low-income or receive public assistance, will receive comprehensive support services to help complete occupational training programs, connect to internship opportunities and employment. Job placement is 80% successful. The program is free to those who meet eligibility criteria. For information on eligibility or enrollment call 718-664-2537 or 718-664-2540.
- 2. Approval of Board Minutes of February 11, 2014
 - B. Bender corrected the vote on the LG resolution, under Parks & Recreation Committee report. The minutes were approved unanimously as amended.
- Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of January 10th, 2014 and March 5th, 2014
 Chairman Fanuzzi informed that any revisions will be done at Executive Committee meeting.
- 4. Chairman welcomed Deputy Inspector Rasa and invited him to address the Board.

Deputy Inspector Rasa reviewed the year to date crime statistics: rapes 3 and complaints closed with arrests. The latest was an arrest of an employee at Manhattanville Health Care Center for rape of a patient. Robberies are 24 vs 15, one robbery arrest was a 15 year old caught with a loaded 22 pistol and is responsible for at 6 of the robberies; felony assaults 21 vs 20; burglaries up slightly 25 vs 20, and residential burglaries decreased, and commercial burglaries increased; grand larceny down 47 vs 69; and car thefts 22. Discussed traffic issues: in 2013 vehicular collisions totaled 2,000 with 520 injuries, 91 pedestrian injuries and 17 bicycle collisions; 400 accidents along the Broadway corridor from West 225th to West 242nd Streets. Year to date – 361 accidents, 90 speeding tickets, 7 handicap

violations, 1,400 moving violations; 2,700 parking; 17 drunk driving arrests. NYPD email alert registration forms were distributed.

Deputy Inspector Rasa paused to recognize P.O. Ramos for her outstanding performance of duties, while at the same time an entourage of the Public Safety Committee marched into the room and presented Officer Ramos with a celebratory cake and gifts on behalf of board members and staff of Community Board 8 in honor of her upcoming June wedding. Officer Ramos was visibly moved by this joyous surprise, which was organized by Public Safety Committee Chair Feldmeier. She thanked everyone for their thoughtfulness and well wishes. The cake was enjoyed by all!

5. Chairman's Report

- Refer to comments in Executive Committee minutes.
- Discussed the Open Data Law passed by NYC Council in 2012, and advised that NYC DOITT has been running an Open Data portal since 2013. The web link will be sent out to community board members.
- Chairman recently attended two City Council public hearings covering Intro 28, a Local Law to amend the New York City charter, in relation to requiring that all community board full board meetings be webcast was held by the City Council's Technology Committee. The main concern was the cost of providing this service. The other hearing was held by the Committee on Government Operations regarding Oversight - Best Practices for Recruitment and Appointments to Community Boards.
- The Mayor's Community Assistance Unit (CAU) Commissioner Marco Carrion met with Bronx Community Board chairs and district managers. Chairman Fanuzzi and District Manager Stent attended. The CAU agenda topics were graffiti, Vision Zero to improve the safety of the public streets and universal prekindergarten. The Bronx Borough President's office was represented and the Bronx District Managers Task Force report was delivered to the Commissioner. Chairman was encouraged by the change in "tone" of the new administration with respect to community boards. He noted this type of meeting with the Commissioner is a first since the Mayor David Dinkins administration. Chairman took the occasion to make a proposal that the many years of Mayoral budget cuts to community boards did not occur this year.
- Chairman thanked B. Bender for being a friend to the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park (FVCP) and congratulated him on his recognition on FVCP blog as "Friend of the Month."
- Beloved Board Member Irving Ladimer is recovering nicely at home from pacemaker surgery.
- Marble Hill is celebrating the 75th Anniversary Year of the Bronx Flag being planted there by the Bronx Borough President. He touched on the importance of Marble Hill's inclusion with Community Board 8.

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

- Upcoming Events:
 - 1) Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. will host an Irish Heritage celebration at the Rambling House on March 13th.
 - 2) Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. will host Women History Month Awards celebration on March 20th at the Botanical Gardens.

7. Treasurer's Report

 Chairman Fanuzzi reported in P. Friedman's absence and referred to the Executive Committee minutes.

8. District Manager's Report

- Refer to report in Executive Committee minutes.
- The March District Service Cabinet minutes will be sent with the board mailing in April.

9. Committee Reports

- A. Aging K. Pesce
 - 1. There will be a joint meeting of the Aging and Traffic & Transportation Committees on March 18th, at Manhattanville Health Care Center, at 7:00 PM. The joint topic will be Access a Ride.
- B. Economic Development Vice Chair P. Ellis
 - 1. P. Ellis presented the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 recommends approval of the following application for a Street Activity Permit:

Kingsbridge Road Summer Kick Off Party on Reservoir Avenue between West Kingsbridge Road and West 195th Street on June 21, 2014

Vote: 32 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor – S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, B. Fettman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, C. G. Moerdler, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

- 2. Refer to Executive Committee minutes for report.
- C. Education S. Alexander
 - 1. S. Alexander presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Milton Fein was principal of PS 7 Bronx from 1972 until he retired in 1999, and

WHEREAS, Milton Fein was a dedicated educator who was completely committed to his staff and students, and

WHEREAS, Milton Fein was an innovator who brought his love of the arts to PS 7 Bronx and secured coveted Annenberg Arts Grant, and

WHEREAS, Milton Fein's passion for education and devotion to his community and its students should be publicly acknowledged,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Education Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 supports the efforts of the PS 7 Bronx staff and the school community, and urges the Department of Education to rename PS 7 Bronx as "The Milton Fein School".

Vote: 31 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention

In Favor – S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, B. Fettman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, C. G. Moerdler, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

Abstention - J. Reyes

- 2. Refer to minutes for report.
- 3. There is widespread discussion regarding pre-kindergarten, after school, and Charter schools.
- 4. The next meeting will be held on March 25th at the Board office, at 7:30 PM.

D. Environment and Sanitation

- M. Khury reported in the absence of S. Marquez.
- 1. Refer to Executive Committee minutes for report.

E. Health, Hospitals, and Social Services

- L. Daub reported on behalf of S. Froot.
- 1. There was no meeting in February.
- 2. The next meeting will be held on March 17th, Board Office, at 7:30 PM. Topics of discussion will include a SAPO application for Kingsbridge Heights Community Center's Play Street.
- 3. The Committee has a new community member Julia Gomez.

F. Youth - L. Parker

- 1. The Youth Ice Skating Event that was scheduled for February 26th was cancelled due to the rink early season closing.
- 2. The Committee met at the Riverdale YM-YWHA for the first time on February 26th.
- 3. Committee is working with Hebrew Home of the Aged on a "*Grandparents Day*" event in support of the community centers partnering with the Home on a letter writing program.
- 4. Committee continues to work on seeking local participation for the Bronx Borough President's C-Ball tournament to be hosted by Community Board District 8 and being held on September 6th.
- 5. The Committee will meet on March 26th, at the Board Office, at 1:00 PM.

G. Housing - S. Balicer

- 1. There was no meeting in February.
- 2. The Committee will meet on March 24th at the Kingsbridge Library, at 7:30 PM. The agenda topic of discussion will be Affordable Housing.

H. Land Use – C. Moerdler

- 1. The Committee met on March 3, 2014. C. Moerdler presented the following two resolutions:
 - A. WHEREAS, Community Board No. 8 Bronx, is in receipt of letter from applicant of agreement to conditions set forth by the Land Use Committee on March 3, 2014 regarding Department of City Planning Application No. N 140229 ZAX, for grant of

authorizations involving modifications of topographic features on Tier I sites and authorization of a development, enlargement, or site alteration on a Tier II site or portion of a zoning lot having a steep slope buffer to allow the expansion of the single-family home and an above ground spa/hot tub with a wood deck on property located at 5625 Independence Avenue, Block 5947, Lot 70, within the Special Natural Area District (NA-2);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board No. 8 Bronx approves the aforementioned application.

Vote: 31 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention

In Favor – S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, A. Garbett Feldmeier, B. Fettman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, C. G. Moerdler, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

Abstention - R. Fanuzzi

B. WHEREAS, Community Board No. 8 Bronx is in receipt of letter from applicant of agreement to conditions set forth by the Land Use Committee on March 3, 2014 regarding Department of City Planning Application No. N 140260 ZAX, for the grant of authorizations involving modifications of topographic features on Tier I sites, and authorization of development, enlargement, or site alteration on a Tier II site or portion of a zoning lot having a steep slope or steep slope buffer to allow the construction of a swimming pool and terrace on property located at 3020 Palisade Avenue Block 5945, Lot 255, within the Special Natural Area District (NA-2);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board No. 8 Bronx approves the aforementioned application.

Vote: 32 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor – S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, B. Fettman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, C. G. Moerdler, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

- 2. M. Wolpoff reported on the March 3rd agenda item involving Montefiore plans for construction at 3741 and 3735 Riverdale Avenue, and 3644 Oxford Avenue. He noted that opposition for the construction is growing at each meeting. Representatives from Montefiore and Simone Development were in attendance. He reported that there is a credibility gap with Montefiore on issues concerning status of building plans; alternate site consideration, demolition, and other matters.
- 3. C. Moerdler discussed the aim of the Land Use Rezoning Group. Looking at area in South Riverdale for rezoning and putting together a report to present to City Planning Commission. He asked for volunteers to assist with photographing every building in the particular area to use as part of the data for a downzoning case. P. Friedman will be point person.
- I. Law, Rules and Ethics R. Ginty

- 1. There was no February meeting.
- 2. The Committee will meet on March 27, 2014 at Riverdale Mental Health Association, at 7:00 PM.

J. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – M. Goodman

- 1. The Committee will meet on March 12, 2014 at the Board Office, at 6:00 PM. This month there will be a cultural affairs topic with a presentation by Beverly Barker, spokesperson for the Riverdale Art Association.
- 2. The Community Service Awards submission deadline is April 4th.

K. Parks and Recreation – B. Bender

- 1. There was a joint meeting with Traffic and Transportation Committee. The main item of discussion was the Hudson River Greenway. The meeting was well attended. NYMTC presented proposal and there was lively discussion. Refer to minutes for full report. This will be an agenda item at the March 26th meeting.
- 2. Van Cortlandt Park Master Plan presentation is returning to the Committee and the Committee will vote on a plan.
- 3. The meeting will be held on March 26th at Bon Secour Schervier Health Care Facility.

L. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

- 1. B. Press is the Committee's new Vice Chair.
- 2. Thanked A. Creaney for his past service as Vice Chair.
- 3. The Responsible Beverage Serving Training with Senator Klein was very successful. The committee looks forward to co-sponsoring additional trainings. The Training Certificate is valid for three years.
- 4. A. G. Feldmeier presented the following resolutions for a single vote:
 - I) RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the NYS Liquor License Renewal application for Tin Marin Bar & Lounge, 3708 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx, NY
 - II) RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the NYS Liquor License New application for The First Tee Metropolitan New York, 3545 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY
 - **III) RESOLVED,** Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the NYS Liquor License Change of Class application for Van Cortlandt Park Golf Course, 115 Van Cortlandt Park South, Bronx, NY.

Vote: 32 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor – S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, B. Fettman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, C. G. Moerdler, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

M. Traffic and Transportation – D. Padernacht

1. D. Padernacht presented a resolution for a SAPO application for Israeli Independence Day. The date of the event was amended to May 6th. The amended resolution was presented:

Be it Resolved that the two Street Activity Permit Applications be approved:

SAPO Application #1 – Israeli Independence Day. The event is scheduled for May 6th and to be held on Netherland Avenue between West 236th Street and the service road of the Henry Hudson Parkway which will be closed for the event. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. is a co-sponsor of the event and Marisol Halpern of his office was present to discuss the application. This event has been held in the past. Hearing no comment, T&T Chair Padernacht called for a vote on the SAPO application which was unanimous in favor.

Vote: 32 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor – S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, B. Fettman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, C. G. Moerdler, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

2. D. Padernacht presented the following resolution:

SAPO Application # 2 – Lag B'omer Picnic. This event is to take place on May 5th on West 235th Street between Independence and Douglas Avenues. The applicant Rabbi Shemtov was present to discuss the application. This event has been held in the past. Hearing no comment, T&T Chair Padernacht called for a vote on the SAPO application which was unanimous in favor.

Vote: 32 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor – S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, B. Fettman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, D. Lennon, C. G. Moerdler, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

- 3. The Committee will meet jointly with the Aging Committee on March 18th, at Manhattanville Health Care Facility, at 7:00 PM. The agenda includes a presentation by DDC on a project for Safe Routes to Transit at West 231st and West 238th Street and Broadway. It will involve sewer line rehabilitation. Also, discussion on West 254th Street and Sycamore Avenue parking concerns.
- 4. The Community Forum on the Cannon Retaining Wall project was well attended by all involved agencies. There will be partial street closings from 6AM to 4PM. Each section will take six weeks to complete. The project will start on March 12th, 2014 at 7AM.

Meeting adjourned 8:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning, Community Associate

Reviewed by,

Joyce Pilsner

Secretary