

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

HELD ON March 23, 2017

AT ETHICAL CULTURE FIELDSTON SCHOOL, 3901 FIELDSTON ROAD

- PRESENT:** S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, D. Escano, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, H. Young
- ABSENT:** A. P. Creaney, L. Croft, M. Donato, N. Friedman, D. Gellman, M. Goodman, S. Gozland, A. Guzman, S. Marquez, D. McCord, T. Moran, J. O'Brien, G. Santiago, J. Santiago, S. Sarao, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata,
- STAFF:** D. Bay – Community Associate
- GUESTS:** A. Castano – office of Assemblyman Dinowitz, C. Lang – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein, A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., H. Reyes – rep. State Senator Gustavo Rivera, R. Brown-Barbier – Riverdale Public Library, Captain Orellana - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, Detective M. Ramos - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, P.O. Ventura - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, P.O. Rios - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, J. Stephenson – rep. Councilman Andrew Cohen, R. Press – Bronx Voice, J. Laks – Transportation Alternatives, J. Klein – Riverdale Coalition, Sherida Paulsen – Riverdale Nature Preservancy, R. Drake – FIPNA, M. Hallworth – American Cancer Society, M. Hoban – American Cancer Society, T. Caines – Hebrew Home at Riverdale – J. Catalano – Hebrew Home at Riverdale, E. Dunnion – Hebrew Home at Riverdale, K. Imas – rep. Hebrew Home at Riverdale, Full list of attendees on file in Community Board 8 Office

Vice Chair R. Ginty convened the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Chair Padernacht was delayed and would be arriving shortly.

1. Gallery Session

- Sherida Paulsen of the Riverdale Nature Preservancy spoke of the Hebrew Home's plans presented in September at the Land Use meeting and their preference for the "cottage scheme", which conforms more appropriately to the R1-1 zoning. As there are still details to be presented through the public review process for the special permit, they look forward to further commenting at a later date.
- Megan Hallworth and Megan Hoban - American Cancer Society announced The Relay For Life at Mount Saint Vincent which is a fundraising event to save lives from cancer. This event celebrates people who have battled cancer, remembers loved ones lost and takes action for lifesaving change. It takes place on April 22, 2017. Registration is from 6-6:30PM and the event will then be from 6:30 – 11PM at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, 6301 Riverdale Avenue. For information go to RelayForLife.org/mountsaintvincentny or call 1800.227.2345.
- Jennifer Klein spoke on behalf of several Riverdale Civic Groups. Two proposals for construction of a 385 unit, Continuing Care Retirement Community Development (CCRC) were presented by the Hebrew Home last fall. One was a "sail scheme" and the other was a "cottage scheme". They fully support the "cottage scheme" since it is more consistent with the single family zoning, the 197A plan and the special permit requirement. Both schemes include a new 12 story building and they do not support this structure or any variance for this out of scale building. They are calling on CB8 and elected officials to deny any special permit that would render their zoning meaningless.

2. Introduction of Special Guests

H. Reyes – rep. State Senator Gustavo Rivera, R. Brown-Barbier – Riverdale Public Library, Captain Orellana - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, Detective M. Ramos - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, P.O. Ventura

- NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, P.O. Rios - NYPD, 50th Police Precinct, A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., J. Stephenson – rep. Councilman Andrew Cohen,

3. Report from the 50th Police Precinct – Captain Orellana

- Crime stats - 2017 vs 2016 - murder - 0 vs. 1, rape - 1 vs. 2, robbery - 18 vs. 22, felony assaults – 27 vs. 24, burglaries – 26 vs. 28, grand larceny 108 vs. 84, grand larceny auto 12 vs. 8.

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

- Re-appointment applications for board membership are due by Friday, March 31, 2017.
- There are plans to have a refresher course on the city planning ULURP and zoning process. Dates and locations will be sent to the community boards.
- Bronx week will be May 11 thru May 21, 2017. Community board appreciation night has tentatively been scheduled for May 11th in the Supreme Court Rotunda Building. Information will be forthcoming.
- Governor Andrew Cuomo allocated \$1.8 billion for the reconstruction of the Sheridan Expressway. He would like to convert it to a boulevard making it more pedestrian and bike friendly.
- A. Toledo thanked Manhattan College for hosting Women’s History month.

5. Chairman's Report – Daniel Padernacht

- The Chair apologized for being late. He had a work commitment.
- Chair Padernacht and Land Use Chair C. Moerdler has a conference call scheduled with the Stagg group to discuss issues surrounding their projects.
- D. Padernacht Chaired the District Service Cabinet meeting in March. He’ll hold another DSC meeting for the next 2 months.
- The search committee is diligently at work searching for a District Manager.
- D. Padernacht participated in a walk thru with Con Ed, Parks and DOT regarding an 18 month project on Sedgwick Avenue and Arlington Avenue. There will follow up as the project proceeds.
- The NY Yankees will be giving the Youth Community Leadership Award on June 9, 2017. The Chair is waiting to hear from the NY Yankees on whether there will be a presentation this year.

6. Election of Community Service Award Committee – D. Padernacht

- Chair Padernacht announced the members of the Community Service Award Committee – D. Gellman – Chair of the Committee, M. Goodman, L. Daub, D. Fuchs, D. Santiago and I.W. Stone. The awards will be distributed at the June, 2017 meeting. The awards will be given out at the June meeting.

The Chair called for a vote to approve the committee members:

Vote: In favor: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, D. Escano, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, H. Young

7. 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. Any suggestions on how to utilize these funds are welcomed.

8. City Planning – No City Planning representative was present

9. Committee Reports

A. Budget – Chair not present

B. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

- April 4th is the next Economic Development Committee meeting at the Riverdale Corner Café. They plan to discuss a resolution in support of the CSX clean up.
- S. Sarao is working on his Hackathon project. He 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.

C. Education – S. Alexander

- Minutes were distributed. The next meeting is on March in the board office.

D. Environment & Sanitation – L. Spalter

- Refer to minutes.
- CSX will commence a clean up on their property which is located along the Major Deegan from West 230th Street to Van Cortlandt Park South by the end of April.
- The next meeting is Wednesday, March 29th in the board office. They will discuss a resolution in support of the Parks Department obtaining the CSX land in hopes to have a greenway. There will also be a representative from DEP to talk about local flooding issues.
- Vice Chair R. Ginty reported that the Mayor held a Town Hall meeting and that Parks Commissioner Silver was present. Chair Padernacht brought up the CSX issues that Commissioner Silver was aware of and now the Mayor is also.
- The board members acknowledged L. Spalter's work on the CSX clean-up project.

E. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – Vice Chair Diomarys Escano

- There was a presentation on opioid abuse at the March meeting. Montefiore has a substance abuse program.
- The next meeting will be in May. This meeting agenda will focus on bullying.

F. Housing – P. Ellis

- The Housing committee met on February 27 at the Jericho Project. They discussed two community gardens, one at Ft. Independence and one at Marble Hill. They also had a conversation on problem landlords and problem buildings. HPD and elected officials contributed to this meeting.
- The next meeting is on March 27 at the Ft. Independence Community Center and they will discuss problems at two NYCHA developments in Community Board 8, Ft. Independence Houses and Bailey Houses.

G. Land Use – C.G. Moerdler

- Fieldston School presented their master plan at the March 6th Land Use meeting.
- The Stagg group was at the Land Use meeting to give updates on 5731 Broadway (421A application) and 3649 Cannon Place-a/k/a 3842 Ft. Independence. C. Moerdler is having a conference call with Chair Padernacht and the Stagg group representatives tomorrow to discuss these projects further.
- There was discussion on filming in the district and the parking spaces that are used by the film crew. Chair Padernacht asked the Traffic & Transportation Committee to add this to their agenda and suggested securing a speaker from the film office at City Hall.

- HDC will now notify and work cooperatively with the community boards on the applications they receive.
- The community boards have no say in 421A applications.
- Update on 3061 Scenic Place – the Community Board has not received a response to the letter that was sent to the Department of Investigations regarding this property.

H. Law, Rules and Ethics – Chair not present – no report

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

J. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

- The February minutes were circulated.
- At the March 22nd meeting there was a presentation on the Parks Without Boarders project. Materials will be circulated as well as a resolution to be discussed at the April board meeting.
- There will be a joint meeting with the Environment & Sanitation committee on April 26th. The location will be announced. They will tackle issues involving either overlapping or unclear jurisdiction with DEP and the Parks Department. Another topic will be the CSX project.
- An Interim report will be given on the Hudson River Greenway (HRG) at a (HRG) committee meeting to be held on April 6th, Teen Lounge at the Riverdale Y.
- C. Moerdler suggested regulations/licensing for commercial bike riders since there are many incidents involving hazardous bike riders. B. Bender noted no bicycle deaths have been reported and pointed out there are far more auto accidents but would be willing to discuss this with his committee. He also commented that it is a T&T issue.
- Construction began on a skateboard park in Van Cortlandt Park. This is on Broadway before the Park entrance at West 246th Street

K. Public Safety – Board Chair D. Padernacht – Public Safety Chair J. O'Brien not present

The following resolutions from the Public Safety meeting of March 16, 2017 were presented:

- ❖ Whereas Smashburger Restaurant, 193 West 237 Street, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on March 16 to apply for a renewal of a wine, beer, cider license; and whereas no adverse information was presented; and whereas the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the application; be it resolved that Community Board 8 approves the application.
- ❖ Whereas Mon Amour Coffee and Wine, 234 West 238 Street, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on March to register a corporate change in the ownership; and whereas no statements in opposition were presented; and whereas the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the application; be it resolved that Community Board 8 approves the application.

The vote for the March 16, 2017 Public Safety resolutions listed above were as follows:

Vote: In favor: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, D. Escano, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, H. Young

The following resolutions from the Public Safety meeting of February 16, 2017 were presented:

- ❖ Whereas 3541 Riverdale Corp., 3541 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 16, 2017 to apply for a new full liquor license to operate a bar and restaurant; and whereas no adverse information was presented; and whereas the owners have experience in operating two other restaurants; and whereas the ownership agreed to close by 2 a.m. during its initial

year of operation; and whereas the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the application; be it resolved that Community Board 8 approves the application.

- ❖ Whereas FMFS of Riverdale LLC d/b/a Buffalo Wild Wings, 193 West 237 Street, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 16, 2017 to apply for a renewal of a full liquor license to operate a bar and restaurant; and whereas no adverse information was presented; and whereas the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the application; be it resolved that Community Board 8 approves the application.
- ❖ Whereas Great Performances/Artists as Waitresses and Wave Hill Inc., 675 West 252 Street, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on February 16, 2017 to apply for a renewal of a full liquor license; and whereas no adverse information was presented; and whereas the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the application; be it resolved that Community Board 8 approves the application.

The vote for the February 16, 2017 Public Safety resolutions listed above were as follows:

Vote: In favor: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, D. Escano, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, H. Young

L. Traffic & Transportation – M. Heller

The following resolutions from the Traffic & Transportation meeting of February 23, 2017 were presented:

1) Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Concerns on Fort Independence Street between Bailey Avenue and Sedgwick Avenue (below is the revised copy sent to the board office on March 24, 2017)

WHEREAS, testimony has been presented to the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 (the "Committee") regarding traffic and pedestrian safety concerns on Fort Independence Street between Bailey Avenue and Sedgwick Avenue;

WHEREAS, testimony has been presented to the Committee that that there are no crosswalks on Fort Independence Street between Bailey Avenue and Sedgwick Avenue and that many cars frequently traverse this section;

WHEREAS, testimony has been presented to the Committee that many pedestrians cross Fort Independence Street between Bailey Avenue and Sedgwick Avenue at their own peril;

BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 requests that the NYC Department of Transportation conduct a study to investigate the implementation of traffic calming measures and traffic signals on Fort Independence Street between Sedgwick Avenue and Bailey Avenue, with particular attention to the intersections of Fort Independence Street and Heath Avenue; Fort Independence Street and Bailey Place; and Fort Independence Street and Orloff Avenue.

Vote: In favor: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, D. Escano, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, H. Young

Be it Resolved:

- 2) The Traffic and Transportation Committees votes to approve Lag B'omer Picnic Block Party with full street closure on May 14, 2017, to be held on West 235 Street between Independence Avenue and Douglas Avenue. This event has been held previously. Passed unanimously 6-0-0. Heller, O'Brien, N. Friedman; Fuchs, G. Santiago, Joyce
- 3) The Traffic and Transportation Committees votes to approve Riverdale Run with full street closure on May 14, 2017, to be held on Riverdale Avenue between West 256 Street and West 254 Street. This event has been held previously. This event has been held previously. Passed unanimously 6-0-0. Heller, O'Brien, N. Friedman; Fuchs, G. Santiago, Joyce
- 4) Traffic and Transportation Committee votes to support the Kingsbridge Heights Community Festival, full street closure, May 6, 2017, to be held on Kingsbridge Terrace between Summit Place and Perot Street. This event has been held previously. Passed unanimously 6-0-0. Heller, O'Brien, N. Friedman; Fuchs, G. Santiago, Joyce

The following vote is for all of the above street activity permit applications:

Vote: In favor: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, D. Escano, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, H. Young

5) **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NYCDOT REHABILITATION OF THE BROADWAY BRIDGE**

Whereas, the maintenance of public infrastructure is of vital importance to our community and the nation at large, and;

Whereas, the Broadway Bridge is an essential link between the Bronx and Manhattan, providing a major roadway, bus service and rapid transit link on the NYCT IRT #1 line, and;

Whereas, the Broadway Bridge is a large, complicated road and rail lift bridge that must be able to reliably rise for tall marine traffic and return locked in place without any delays, and;

Whereas, the bridge as currently configured was placed in service in the early 1960's, and now requires overhaul of many components; and;

Whereas, the current schedule plans for work to begin in April 2018 and require 36 months to fully complete, and;

Whereas, the project will at specific times cause major roadway and transit diversions requiring close cooperation, with public agencies, community leaders, elected officials and community based organizations in order to minimize impacts, therefore,

Be it Resolved, that Bronx Community Board 8 approves this project, urges that federal, state and local funding be made available, and that NYCDOT and its contractors craft a robust publicity campaign at the appropriate time and take every possible measure to minimize impacts on the public.

Vote: In favor: 23 Opposed: 0 Abstentions for cause: 3

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, D. Escano, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, H. Young

Abstentions for cause: C.G. Moerdler, S. Villaverde, H. Young

- There are two Con Ed projects occurring on Sedgewick Avenue. One project is to upgrade the electric service in the area. There will be a lot of street trenching and metal plates will be installed. This project will continue until August of 2018. The other is a gas service upgrade. The Community Board asked for better notification to the community board, tidy up their work sites and conduct their work in a more efficient way. These projects will be monitored. Traffic & Transportation want the streets to be repaved curb to curb when the project is completed.
- R. Fanuzzi reported that there was no notification to the community board on a project being done on Arlington Avenue. The Chair and the Traffic & Transportation Committee is going to put forth a resolution asking DOT notify the community board before issuing street opening permits.
- It was reiterated that the discussion on filming in the district will be put on the Traffic & Transportation agenda.

M. Youth – L. Parker

- The Youth meeting was March 22nd. Refer to minutes.
- The next meeting is April 26.
- The Comeback Kid Award will be presented at the next board meeting.

N. Aging – L. Daub

- There was no March meeting. The next meeting is Thursday, April 20th. Location to be determined. The topic will be continuing education for seniors.

10. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2017

Change - Page 2, Treasurer's report, 5th sentence to:

\$9,000.00 for Hudson River Greenway consultant includes some money transfer from 2016 which is encumbered to 2017.

Vote: In favor: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, D. Escano, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, L. Spalter, S. Villaverde, H. Young

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

- Minutes were not distributed.

12. Miscellaneous – None

Meeting adjourned at 9:10PM.

Diane Bay
Community Associate