

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2014
AT MANHATTAN COLLEGE, 3825 CORLEAR AVENUE**

PRESENT: S. Alexander, S. Balicer, A. Cohen, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, R. Pochter Lowe, A. Moore, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, D. Toledo, M. Wolpoff

ABSENT: L. Baez, R. Bender, M. Donato, A. G. Feldmeier, M. Felix, A. Fella, S. Froot, M. Galvin, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, S. Marquez, D. McCord, C. G. Moerdler, L. Parker, J. M. Pilsner, G. Singleton, S. Villaverde, H. Young

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

GUESTS: J. Dinowitz, Assemblyman
M. Blaustein – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein
J. Demko – Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
D. Greenblatt – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel
G. Rodriguez – rep. State Senator Gustavo Rivera
A. Sandler – Office of Councilman Andrew Cohen
A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
D.I. Rasa, NYPD, 50th Police Precinct
P.O. Cordero, NYPD, 50th Police Precinct
J. Ball – NYC News Service
F. Coldeesua – FIDO
I. Christner
L. Domenech – OPWDD
T. Durham
R. Ehle – Ewen Park Advocacy
S. Gonzalez
J. Green
P. Mascerehas – Special Citizens Futures Unlimited
K. Rose – Montefiore Hospital
R. Strugger
R. Tanco
T. Tureski – NYPL Spuyten Duyvil Library

Chairman Padernacht convened the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

1. Chairman announced and welcomed the following six new appointed Board members: Leonel Baez, Manuel Felix, Daniella Fuchs, Demetrious McCord, Joseph O'Brien, and David Toledo. Introductions were made by the new members present: Daniella Fuchs, resides in Riverdale, and is an organizational psychologist; Joseph O'Brien, formerly employed at the office of Congressman Eliot Engel; and David Toledo, a Kingsbridge resident for 25 years, is an investigator, and offered his assistance to the Board in any way needed.

2. Chairman advised of the resignation of Board Budget Chair Brendan Contant. Due to his new work schedule he would not be able to continue in the same capacity as before. Chairman announced that the election for a new Budget Chair will be held at the October 14, 2014 Board meeting, where there will be an open nominations from the floor.
3. Gallery Session -
 - A. Renee Ehle, Ewen Park Advocacy, spoke on behalf of three neighbors concerning the 15 trees in Ewen Park marked for destruction as soon as Friday, September 12, 2014. Some of the trees marked are the oldest in the Park, over 100 years old. The group is asking the Department of Parks to halt the destruction long enough to allow review of the certified Arborist report to justify removal. Related to this is the construction of a playground. She stated that there are already eight existing playgrounds within walking distance of Ewen Park, and that Ewen Park is a "rural" natural playground. Ewen Park Advocacy would like to see the Park preserved in its natural state; and a petition has been signed by 200 neighbors opposing destruction of the trees. She urged the Board to get involved.

Assemblyman Dinowitz advised that complaints about the trees were received in his office and the Department of Parks claimed that the trees are not structurally sound and have carpenter ants. However, Parks has committed to replace the trees by more than one for one. Again, Ms. Ehle asked that a certified Arborist report be provided in accordance with tree removal protocol. Chairman Padernacht asked L. Spalter to follow-up with Parks Department.
 - B. Ian Christner, Bon Secours, discussed their Healthy Community Initiative which was launched three years ago. They will continue to work with the community partners and Community Board to address the needs of the community.
 - C. Roberta Strugger, FIDO, congratulated Chairman Padernacht in his new role as Board Chair, and extended congratulations to the new board members. Ms. Strugger read the following letter into the minutes that had been sent to the Riverdale Press which reflected discontent with lack of transparency, meeting notifications and the overall handling of the construction project in Fort Independence Park with respect to the jogging path and park renovation:

"The Park project was planned over five years ago. I have lived here more than thirty years, and only once has Community Board 8 openly notified and asked for 'community input,' and that was regarding the Cannon Place retaining wall. Neither I nor most of the people I know knew anything about this project, so we were and are subsequently the disenfranchised masses;

When those of us who utilize the park on a daily basis for many years, FIDO members, decided to push back, we were either: a). summarily dismissed as an annoyance b). lectured to c). lied to d). and had vain attempts made to pacify us;

The attitude that half a loaf is better than none is poor justification to explain the building of a 'jogging horseshoe' that is barely wide enough for one runner;

The exercise area across the street from Dewitt Clinton High School, which was just recently opened is beautiful. However, the barriers along the jogging path, protecting the grass, trees, and new plantings, make it non-community user friendly. Whoever planned this, here again a lack of community input, obviously

did not know that it would be a great place for teenagers to hang out before, during and after school. The area is desolate at night, and one can only imagine the activities which will take place there.

We were recently told the Parks Department would be responsible for the entire jogging horseshoe. We have seen, in the past, how well the Parks Department took care of the jogging path inside Fort Independence Park. If past actions are any indicator of the future, the path will once again erode and transform itself into a sand box for children to play upon;

Presently, the park-keeper is on leave due to illness, so minimal work is being done to keep the park clean. Many FIDO members each morning bring multiple bags, not only to pick up after their dogs, but to clean up the human refuse left behind. The area open to the community is quite small and would only take a temporary worker less than an hour to maintain the park's cleanliness. Yet, the Parks Department comes in each morning, opens the bathrooms, and makes a quick run to empty the refuse cans and leaves. More cans are needed as is a park-keeper.

The construction crew had, at one point, ten men and was working quite diligently to finish Phase One of the plan and open up the park for the community to use, as shown in the construction specs. Has anyone looked into the cost overrun of the constant postponed opening of the park?

Neither the exercise area nor the Park itself has working water fountains. Why?

Various pieces of heavy construction equipment are parked on the earthen dam which supports the reservoir. Does this not erode / challenge the structural integrity of the earthen dam;

When a group of FIDO members last attended a CB 8 meeting, we were reassured the community would be updated as to what was being done and when the Park would be fully opened. This has not happened."

Additionally, Ms. Strugger reported that the small area of the Park that is open has poor maintenance and rodent problems. She asked that Community Board 8 follow-up.

Chairman Padernacht advised of the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting being held on September 23rd, at Vladek Hall, at 7:00 PM, and issues described will be addressed at that meeting.

4. At this juncture, with great pleasure, Chairman recognized and extended a special welcome to former Board member and Housing Chair Tom Durham. The Board warmly applauded him. Tom expressed sincere gratitude to all for the cards, letters and well wishes he received during his illness.
5. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2014
 - R. Press referred to page 8; he advised that A. Feldmeier had nominated him for the Chair of Environment and Sanitation Committee, not X. Sanchez.
 - R. Press asked that the "opposed" ballot votes for Board Chair, and Environment and Sanitation Committee Chair not be listed as there was no such vote and the votes were taken as "in favor" only. And further this would be in accordance with the former

practice. Following discussion on the matter, R. Fanuzzi made a motion to amend without “opposition” votes where applicable.

- R. Fanuzzi asked that mention of congratulations by Chairman to D. Padernacht be added.
- M. Khury asked that minutes reflect the discussion made by M. Wolpoff under item 10, Nominating Committee’s Report regarding the Open Meetings Law (OML) correspondence. M. Wolpoff recollected the response from OML that had been provided to the Board.
- J. Reyes corrected her vote for Vice Chair to reflect that it was “opposed”, not an abstention.

The Board Minutes were approved as amended by a vote of 26 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstentions.

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, R. Pochter Lowe, J. O’Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, D. Toledo, M. Wolpoff

Abstained –

R. Fanuzzi, M. Khury

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

- Congratulations were extended to the new Board Members on their appointment.
- Borough President Diaz provided over \$9 million in capital funding to worthy Bronx organizations as part of his FY 2015 budget allocations. The following allocations were expended: \$2.75 million to housing to create over 600 new units of housing; \$2 million to parks projects which will include construction of a new comfort station at Fort Four Playground; \$440,000 to NYCHA; and funding for new lighting and new shuttle van for Wave Hill. Refer to the Borough President’s website for a full list of funding allocations.
- Borough President Diaz announced the reintroduction of legislation creating a publicly available gun crime offender database he has been urging New York City Council to take up. The Gun Registry database legislation was introduced several weeks ago by Councilmember Costa Constantinides and will be voted on by the City Council this fall.
- Governor Cuomo announced the launch of the New York Works Office in the Bronx, which is part of the Unemployment Strikeforce and will bring no-cost business services directly to Bronx companies looking to hire. This is in partnership with the State Department of Labor, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr, and the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation. The full announcement and schedule of locations for employment specialists were provided.
- Borough President Diaz will conduct an educational forum on programs to help seniors and bronxites with disabilities freeze their rent or reduce homeownership costs. The event will be held on September 24th, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the New York Public Library, 310 East Kingsbridge Road. Representatives from the Department of Finance will discuss programs regarding Senior Rent Exemption (SCRIE), Disability Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), Senior Citizen Homeowners Exemption (SCHE), and Enhances STAR Exemption (STAR). Call 718-590-6248 to confirm attendance. Flyers were provided.
- There will be a Gun Buy Back program on September 20th at the following three Bronx locations: Fordham Lutheran Church, 2431 Walton Avenue, New Gospel Temple

Church, 1554 Minford Place, and Our Lady of Grace Church, 3985 Bronxwood Avenue. Sites will be open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Flyers were provided.

7. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2014

- R. Press noted that he was in attendance as an observer.
- Chairman Padernacht discussed the resolution derived from the Executive Committee regarding the creation of a Special Committee on the Hudson River Greenway issue. He explained that the topic was given an inordinate amount of time last year at meetings held jointly with the Parks & Recreation and the Traffic & Transportation Committees on February 26, March 26, and at the full Board meeting of April 8th, a resolution was presented and tabled for 60 days to allow a Board subcommittee to meet with Metro-North Railroad representatives. Finally the Board passed a revised resolution at the June 10th meeting. He referred to the "Resolved" clauses in which it was stated "*That further consideration of the Henry Hudson Greenway continue under the auspices of Bronx Community Board 8, in cooperation with local residents, community groups, elected officials, government agencies, the affected rail companies and any other stakeholders.*" To that end, during the course of summer sessions in discussion with Officers and at the Executive Committee meeting, it was decided to establish a special committee consisting of three members, B. Bender, P. Friedman, and L. Spalter. All meetings will be open and notice will be given. Chairman presented the resolution from the Executive Committee.

The floor was opened for discussion. B. Fanuzzi made a motion to amend:

Vote: 28 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention

In Favor –

A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, R. Pochter Lowe, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, M. Zegarrra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, D. Toledo, M. Wolpoff

Opposed –

S. Balicer

Abstention –

A. Moore

The following amended resolution was presented for a vote:

WHEREAS, residents of Bronx Community Board 8 support a Hudson River Greenway extending from Spuyten Duyvil to Yonkers, providing runners, walkers, people with disabilities, cyclists and others an enjoyable riverfront experience with a superb view of the Palisades, as well as access to the Greenway to the north and the Greenway to the south, so that a continuous Greenway runs from Manhattan to Westchester;

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 has resolved that consideration of an all-river Greenway route should continue under the auspices of Bronx Community Board 8 in cooperation with local residents, community groups, elected officials, government agencies, the affected rail companies and any other stakeholders;

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 desires to continue the consideration of an all-river Greenway route in an efficient, transparent and inclusive manner;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Special Committee be created to hold public meetings and report to the Community Board for approval its findings and recommendations, if any, on the creation of an all river Greenway route;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Committee be comprised of three members who shall be Robert Bender, Philip Friedman and Laura Spalter;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Committee shall select a Chairperson by majority vote of its three members;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Special Committee be discontinued immediately following the next Annual Board elections unless it is specifically continued either by resolution of the Board or by public declaration of the newly elected chairperson, which declaration shall be recorded in the minutes.

Vote: 25 in favor, 4 opposed, and 1 abstention

In Favor-

A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, R. Pochter Lowe, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, M. Zegarrasoja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, D. Toledo, M. Wolpoff

Opposed –

S. Balicer, M. Khury, A. Moore, J. Rather

Abstention –

X. Sanchez

- M. Khury asked Chairman for clarification of procedure for community committee member appointments, as to whether or not he was limiting the number of appointments. Chairman responded that he was handling appointments in accordance with the Board's Bylaws.
8. Chairman welcomed and invited Deputy Inspector Paul Rasa to address the Board.
- Deputy Inspector Rasa announced that he had just reached his one year anniversary assignment at the 50th Precinct. The Board extended congratulations. He reviewed the year to date statistics report for the Precinct which had been circulated to the Board. Murder 1 vs 2, rape 12 vs 1, robbery, felony assault 93 vs 98, burglary 97 vs 93, grand larceny 259 vs 260, grand larceny auto 61 vs 53; Transit 16 vs 7, NYCHA housing 30 vs 30, petty larceny 522 vs 511, shootings 6 vs 7. The last two recent shootings occurred on University Avenue where a man died and arrest was made for murder, and another at 2741 Sedgwick Avenue involving a man who was stabbing his wife and was shot by police. The Deputy Inspector complimented officers for great work with arrests. Vision Zero is activated. Broadway corridor is currently receiving attention for traffic violators. 15,000 traffic summonses have been issued this year in the Board district.
9. Chairman welcomed and invited Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz to address the Board.

Assemblyman Dinowitz congratulated the new Board Chair and Vice Chair and welcomed the new Board members. He also congratulated the three State Senators that represent Community Board 8 on their Primary Election victories. He announced the the Johnson Avenue Street Fair being held on Sunday, September 21st, and urged all to attend. Complaints are being heard about the long lines and bus bunching with the 7 and 10 buses on West 231st Street. Assemblyman Dinowitz and Senator Klein are looking to the MTA to increase service on those lines. SCRIE has expanded income eligibility from a yearly income of \$29,000 to \$50,000 for seniors rent freeze. Stores in the new shopping mall on West 230th and Broadway are starting to open. Aldi had its ribbon cutting recently. The Assemblyman advised that he is pleased with about the Board's new Special Committee on the Hudson River Greenway, as there are numerous issues in the Community Board. He extended wishes for a Happy Rosh Hashanah to those celebrating.

10. Chairman welcomed and invited Councilman Andrew Cohen to address the Board.

Councilman Cohen congratulated the new chairs and welcomed the new members. He informed of the budget allocations he had earmarked for the district as follows:

- 1) Partnered with Senator Klein to allocate \$1.3 million to build playground in Van Cortlandt Park in North Riverdale;
- 2) \$450,000 to Riverdale Library to repair exterior and side facades;
- 3) \$600,000 for renovations to Henry Hudson Park Basketball Court;
- 4) \$75,000 to Riverdale Neighborhood House for programing in Teen Center and Telephone Reassurance program for seniors;
- 5) \$65,000 to Riverdale Senior Services for programing, senior transportation and increased hours of operation;
- 6) \$35,000 to Riverdale YM/YWHA for senior center, and after-school programs;
- 7) \$20,000 to Van Cortlandt Senior Center for programing;
- 8) \$40,000 to Riverdale Mental Health Association for therapy services;
- 9) \$20,000 for installation of bus countdown clock at West 231st Street and Broadway for Northbound BX7 and BX10 buses;
- 10) \$50,000 each to PS 24 and MS 368 for classroom technology upgrades;
- 11) Partnered with Borough President Diaz on funding allocations for two vehicles for Wave Hill.

11. Chairman's Report

- Chairman Padernacht thanked former Chairman Robert Fanuzzi and Vice Chairman Marie Khury for their years of service and the good work done in previous years.
- Chairman noted the following actions he has taken since transitioning July 1st:
 1. Appointed Philip Friedman, Treasurer as 2nd Payment Approval officer, and the District Manager and Chairman Padernacht complete the requirement for three Payment Approval signatures;
 2. Appointed Philip Friedman and Vice Chair Rosemary Ginty to sign time sheets for the District Manager. Further, internal time sheets are on file in Board Office and will be available to any board member or member of the public who wish to view them;
 3. Met with the District Manager and Treasurer on July 25th and discussed financial accounting issues and responsibilities of the Board.
 4. Chairman and Treasurer attended a training session at FISA.

5. The Officers in coordination with the District Manager are seeking college interns to work on outreach to the Board's expansive population. Presently, the mail list contains only 800 patrons. The position is being advertised at Manhattan College, Fordham University, Lehman College, and College of Mount Saint Vincent.

- Patricia Manning attended a session on Local Law 29 which deals with the responsibility of community boards maintaining voter registration forms in the office and conducting registration outreach. Her report will be distributed to the Board. In addition the District Manager has materials and recommendations which will be discussed further.

12. Treasurer's Report

P. Friedman advised that while processing payments in late July it was discovered that the Board rent payments are not paid by the City as had been previously reported, it is paid by the Board; and OTPS (Other than Personal Services) funds that remain at the end of the fiscal year can be moved to the next fiscal year. It was also discovered that the Board lease can be broken with a 60 day notice, if an appropriate location is found. He suggested this being a good time to revisit the search to relocate. Also part of the lease includes the responsibility to pay a certain percentage of real estate taxes. It is assumed that there is a shortfall in rent this year. Discussions will be held with the Office of the Borough President and the Office of Management & Budget to find ways to repair the shortfall. Recent purchases of the postage machine, excessive postage, and the copier machine are being revisited with the aim of reducing cost, as the overall operating budget, other than staff, is less than \$10,000. P. Friedman suggested visiting checkbooknyc.com to view actual authorizations sent out from the Board office.

13. District Manager's Report

N. Stent welcomed the board back from summer recess. She welcomed the new officers and related that she looks forward to working with them.

The Community Board partnered with NYC Volunteers of America with the Operation Backpack project over the summer. Six backpacks were dropped off in the Board office and were delivered to Duane Reade. The Statement of District Needs for Fiscal Year 2016 was completed by her and former Budget Chair Brendan Contant. It is posted to the Board's website. Borough Budget Consultations for Fiscal Year 2016 will commence starting September 11th with Department of Buildings, Housing Preservation Department, Economic Development Corporation/Small Business Services, and Parks; September 19th with Department for the Aging, Agency for Children Services, Department of Homeless Services, Department of Environmental Services, and Department of Transportation; and September 30th with Department of Sanitation, Human Resources Administration, Fire, and Police. Committee chairs are welcome to attend. As already reported by the Chairman, colleges have been contacted for interns interested in working with the Board on outreach.

14. Committee Reports

A. Education – S. Alexander

1. Refer to Committee minutes of June 24th.
2. The Committee will meet on September 30th, at the Board Office, at

7:30 PM.

3. There are lots of new things going on in education with the new Mayor. Now there is free Universal Pre-K and free lunches for middle school children. The Board will be kept abreast of other new changes.

B. Environment & Sanitation – R. Fanuzzi

1. The first meeting of September 17th will focus on trying to pull together a network of community gardens. It was noted that New York City Compost is a Department of Sanitation program.
2. There is a need to take a hard look at the Department of Environmental Protection's proposal to demolish historic gatehouses at the Jerome Park Reservoir. The Director of Water Management for the project will be present at the Committee meeting in October.
3. The Committee will review the plan to demolish the gatehouses at the September meeting.

C. Health, Hospitals & Social Services

L. Daub reported on behalf of the Chair.

1. The Committee met twice in June, on the 16th, and 30th for committee meeting and public hearing on a proposal by Special Citizens Futures Unlimited (SCFU) for a group home at 251 West 261st Street.
2. The manager for Montefiore's Community Relations was on the June 16th agenda but did not attend.
3. The Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 was done.
4. The Committee reviewed the proposal for the group home and no one showed up at the hearing to speak against the proposal. There will be four male residents and they will have 24/7 supervision. The site is a 4-bedroom on the second floor of a two-family house. There is a tenant on the main floor and a letter was sent by SCFU informing of the group home.
5. L. Daub presented the following resolution passed by the Committee on June 30th:

WHEREAS, Special Citizens Futures Unlimited (SCFU) has been supporting individuals with disabilities on the autism spectrum for 35 years and is one of several organizations that work under the guidelines of the Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to open new Individual Residential Alternative (IRA) group housing; and

WHEREAS, the degree of the participants' abilities and level of support required determines placement in a 24/7 staff-supervised group home; residents are pre-screened by nurses and psychologists to exclude people with troubling behaviors; SCFU's residents visit family over weekends, may work and participate in the community, volunteer, and/or attend "day hab"; and the organization provides a supportive environment; and

WHEREAS, the site is a 4-bedroom rental occupying the second floor of a legal two-family house; the residents selected to live there are four men in their thirties; and all four residents will attend a day program, three at SCFU's location on the Grand Concourse and one at a location in Westchester, and

WHEREAS, SCFU currently operates 5 other residences (3 owned, 2 leased) within Community Board 8 for people with autism, as well as other sites in the Bronx and in Westchester; and

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board No. 8 issued a public hearing notice pursuant to the Padavan Law to the community and to residents in the immediate vicinity of the subject property and held a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on June 30, 2014 at the offices of the Riverdale Mental Health Association; and no residents of the neighborhood attended the hearing; and

WHEREAS, the chair of the Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee (HHSS) presented a map indicating all supported housing in the neighborhood, including IRAs, special schools, nursing homes, and other supervised residential settings, to help the Committee gauge saturation; and the only other Padavan covered location in the immediately surrounding area is an IRA operated by the Young Adult Institute at 281 West 261st Street (approximately one block west), which is a group home/intermediate care facility for 10 mentally retarded/developmentally disabled adults; and

WHEREAS, the HHSS Committee of Bronx Community Board No. 8 unanimously approved the proposal by SCFU to establish a group home IRA for four (4) adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders located at 251 West 261st Street, Bronx, NY 10471.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the proposal by Special Citizens Futures Unlimited (SCFU) to establish an Individual Residential Alternative (IRA) group home for four (4) adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders located at 251 West 261st Street, Bronx, NY 10471.

Vote: 27 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, D. Toledo, M. Wolpoff

D. Housing – P. Ellis

1. The Committee met in June with NYCHA, Police, and Sanitation regarding issues at Marble Hill Houses. P. Ellis is following up on the issues presented.
2. Committee met once over the summer for a planning session.
3. The next Committee meeting will be held on September 22nd to plan year ahead.
4. Further follow-up on Marble Hill will probably be done in November.
5. Will address Mitchell Llamas.

E. Land Use

Chairman advised that the Land Use Committee will meet on September 15, at the Conservative Synagogue, at 7:30 PM.

F. Law, Rules and Ethics – M. Wolpoff

1. The Committee will meet on September 29th, at Riverdale Mental Health, at 7:00 PM.

G. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – M. Goodman

1. The Library budget has been cut 11 separate times in 6 years, even though there has been an increase in attendance. Trying to bring budget back to 2008 level of funding.
2. The next meeting will be September 11th at Kingsbridge Branch Library. Gisselle Dixon, Branch Network Manager will be guest speaker.
3. The Committee is trying to expand interest in the “Cultural Affairs” activities in the community. Urged attendance at different events.

H. Public Safety

R. Press reported in the absence of the chairperson.

1. R. Press presented the following resolutions passed by the Committee at its meeting on June 21, 2014 (No. I) and August 21, 2014 (No. II):

- I. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the following New York State Liquor License Renewal application:

Gaelic Athletic Association of Greater New York, 201 West 240th Street

- II. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the following New York State Liquor License New applications:

1. Q Kachapa Restaurant, 5625-6 Broadway
2. Tilila Bar and Grill, 3648 Bailey Avenue
3. Estellita Proplanita, 240-242 West 231st Street.

Vote: 26 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, D. Toledo, M. Wolpoff

I. Traffic & Transportation – M. Heller

1. Safe Routes to Transit project is underway.
2. Next meeting of the Committee will be held on September 16th, at Manhattan College, at 7:30 PM. Discussion will include toll charges, impacting conditions - road conditions, curb cuts, Stop signs, etc.
3. There will be a brainstorming session for a proactive agenda.
4. Thanked his predecessor D. Padernacht for all his good works with the committee and for having great patience to take on any problem.
5. Deferred to S. Alexander to present the street naming resolution for Debbie Bowden.

S. Alexander spoke of Debbie Bowden's legacy, of her tireless dedication to the education of children. She read a letter from Debbie Bowden's family expressing sincere gratitude and deepest appreciation for the proposal to honor Debbie with a street naming at Independence Avenue between West 235th Street and West 236th Street. The letter expressed Debbie's life and dedication to many causes of great benefit to the district of Community Board 8 where she resided over 50 years. She was involved with matters concerning aging, education, environment, public safety, transportation, zoning and more. Additionally, three other support letters came from Riverdale Neighborhood House; Rabbi Weiss, Hebrew Institute; and the Riverdale Community Center.

S. Alexander presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Debbie Bowden died on January 30, 2012, and this resolution is brought more than two years after her death;

WHEREAS, Debbie Bowden has been nominated for the honor of this proposed street change by the Riverdale Neighborhood House, The Riverdale Community Center and The Bayit Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, which are three community organizations that are active in Bronx Community Board 8 and as such, are on the list required to be kept by Bronx Community Board No. 8 under the new City Charter;

WHEREAS, the evidence and testimony presented to Bronx Community Board No. 8 has demonstrated that Debbie Bowden has benefited a cross-section of Bronx Community Board No. 8 and the Borough of the Bronx and the City of New York;

Specifically, Debbie Bowden served on Bronx Community Board No. 8 for 25 years and 17 years of that time she served as chair of the Education Committee. Debbie was involved in the fight to keep housing off the empty land directly in front of JFK High School. She was involved in organizing an all night vigil at City Hall to participate in the fight against Mayor Koch's desire for the housing instead of the Educational Park it was intended to become. Later, MS/HS 368 and PS37 were built there to complete the Educational Park.

Debbie lobbied against the reduction of NY Public Libraries cuts of hours which many Mayors put in their proposed budgets and the City Council usually restored. She was determined that it was very important for students to have adequate access to libraries to be able to do research and school projects. This was before computers were available.

Debbie led the fight to retrieve the annex for PS24 after DOE allowed "out of district" schools to use it, creating overcrowding in the main building.

Debbie was a member of a community committee to fight for the creation of the high school at JHS 141 which was later named Riverdale/Kingsbridge Academy. In the interim, she served as co-chair of the Parents Association at PS 24. She brought about many new programs for the students at the school. She brought about hiring a reading teacher from PA funds to be a resource and offer remediation for students. She also brought about a dance program from PA funding which enabled students to pursue future careers in the arts.

WHEREAS, this street has a specific connection to the life of Debbie Bowden as it is the street in front of P.S. 24;

WHEREAS, the name change will not engender confusion as there are no other streets with similar name in the vicinity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Independence Avenue between West 235th Street and West 236th Street shall be renamed to add the name Debbie Bowden Way.

Vote: 26 in favor in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Rather, J. M. Reyes, M. Zegarra-Soja, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, D. Toledo, M. Wolpoff

J. Parks & Recreation – L. Spalter, Vice Chair

1. The Committee will meet on September 23rd, at Amalgamated Houses, at 7:00 PM. The agenda will include discussion of Van Cortlandt Park stables concession; discussion and update of Ft. Independence Park renovation; update on Ewen Park tot lot and basketball court reconstruction, and update on the Putnam Trail. All were urged to attend.

K. Aging – K. Pesce

1. The agenda for the meeting on September 16th are on the Board's website as are the minutes of the June meeting. The meeting will be held at Hudson Pointe at Riverdale, at 3:30 PM.

L. Economic Development

R. Press reported on behalf of the Chair.

1. Assemblyman Dinowitz gave most of the Committee's report, with respect to the opening of the stores at the Broadway mall.
2. The Committee met and had a discussion on goals for the year.
3. The Committee Chair is aware that the minutes are behind and is doing his best to update them.
4. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on the first Tuesday in October, the 7th.

M. Youth

No report.

N. Budget

No report.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate