

## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2008, AT CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE, W. 250<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND HENRY HUDSON PARKWAY EAST, SOCIAL HALL

**PRESENT:** R. Abbott, R. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney,  
W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, T. Feerick,  
B. Feinberg, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi,  
M. Khury, C. G. Moerdler, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, J. Plaza, C. Prentice,  
J. Reyes, T. M. Rubinstein, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, E. Tossas-Tucker,  
L. Vazquez, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

**ABSENT:** J. Goris, M. Katzenstein, G. O. Koppell, I. Ladimer, V. Gray Lewis,  
D. McShane, R. Moll, K. O'Brien, J. O'Reilly, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter

**STAFF:** N. Stent – District Manager, CB 8  
D. Bay – Community Associate, CB 8  
A. Bartolomey – CB8 Student Intern

**GUESTS:** R. Press – rep. State Senator Efrain Gonzalez' Office  
C. Harvey – rep. State Senator Eric Schneiderman Office  
R. Martos – rep. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz' Office  
J. Sewell – rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell's Office  
A. Toledo – rep. Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr.  
S. Alexander  
H. Barret  
F. Barret  
A. Cohen  
E. Connolly – NYC Department of Parks and Recreation  
B. Crawford  
B. Diaz  
K. Dubin – Corner Café and Bakery  
C. Giove -Riverdale Review  
J. E. Gordon  
S. Haiman  
D. Humphrey  
N. Judd – Riverdale Press  
P. Moerdler  
R. Murray – NYPL Manager, Riverdale Branch  
P. O'Flynn  
M. Perron – Administrator, Van Cortlandt Park  
M. Ramos – Police Office, Community Affairs, 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
H. Ring

Det. L. Rodriguez – Community Affairs, 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
Donald Tannen  
Lillian Tannen  
Sgt. Wilson – NYPD Bronx C.A.B. Outreach

Chairman Cassino convened the meeting at 7:40 PM.

### **Gallery Session**

- A. Rosemary Murray, Manager, Riverdale Library reached out for support from the Community regarding upcoming budget cuts requesting the Board and community write to local officials to reinstate full funding. Budget cuts could affect the six day a week library openings.

A calendar was distributed with upcoming events for both children and adults.

- B. Sylvia Alexander expressed her discontent about the gift card greeting comment that was sent from the Community Board Office. She also thanked those Board members who contributed to the gift card.
- C. Sanda Haiman expressed her concern for the ever growing problem of graffiti in the neighborhood. The police will inform her of different programs that can assist her.

### **1. Approval of Regular Board Minutes of April 8, 2008**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **2. Discussion of the Executive Board Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2008**

- Minutes were adopted as written
- I.W. Stone expressed concern about the future Community Board budget. He asked about the Board's plans to deal with the budget cuts and how the Board office would function with \$3,024 for other than personal services (OTPS). The District Manager explained that it was a projected budget (as noted in the footnote in the budget report) that had to be approved by the City Council in early June. She added that she was looking for savings in the current office to relieve the Mayor's Executive Budget cuts. She further stated that the concern about the budget cuts was city wide and on Thursday, May 15, 2008 there would be a City Council hearing where all the Borough Presidents, Chairs and District Managers of the 59 Community Boards and community members and organizations would present testimony asking for the cuts to be rescinded. The hearing will open with a press conference on city hall steps expressing opposition to the Mayors Executive Budget cuts to the community boards and the hardship that it will cause.

- The Chairman explained to the Board that the Mayors' Executive Budget cuts for FY 2009 were projected and were subject to the City Councils approval. Once more information was available after the City Council hearing there will be a plan presented before the Board.
- D. Bowden asked that Board members be included in the discussion of the plan. The Chairman confirmed the Board would be informed.

### **3. Chairman's Report**

Chairman presented a plaque to Detective Luis Rodriguez and thanked him for his commitment and service to the CB8 community. Detective Rodriguez thanked everyone for the award and expressed his pleasure at working for the Community over the last 20 years. His last day will be July 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **4. Community Service Awards – L. Vazquez**

L. Vazquez, Chair of the Community Service Award Committee spoke about the quality applicants that had been submitted to the Committee. The Committee selected presented the Community Service Award to: Herbert Barret and Donald Tannen for their continued efforts in seeking the restoration and maintenance of the Veterans Memorial Grove site in Van Cortlandt Park; Bolivar Diaz for his over 10 year commitment and dedication to a litter free community and his creation of the community based "Dream Team for a Clean Neighborhood"; and Blanche Christian Crawford, a member of the Rotary Club for her commitment to community projects and her eight year involvement in the "Reading to Children" program at the Kingsbridge Library.

5. Chairman Cassino welcomed Robert Press, representing Senator Efrain Gonzalez; Christina Harvey, representing Senator Eric Schneiderman; Randi Martos, representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz; Jamin Sewell, representing Councilman G. Oliver Koppell, Andy Toledo, representing Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr.; Eileen Connolly, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, Det. Luis Rodriguez, 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct.; M. Ramos, Police Office, 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct; Margot Perron; Administrator, Van Cortlandt Park; Candace Giove, Riverdale Review; and Nick Judd, Riverdale Press.

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

- Mr. Toledo corrected his previous announcement to Community Board members. At the last meeting he said that all reappointment applications would automatically be accepted. This was an error, re-appointments are pending and notification will be forthcoming.

- The borough-wide clean-up campaign on May 3<sup>rd</sup> was a huge success. The campaign recognized the work of Mr. Bolivar Diaz and his “Dream Team” for **creating who get together every Sunday to clean up.**
- Borough President Carrion and the Borough President’s Advisory Council invited all Bronx veterans, residents, and families of our fallen soldiers to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Armed Forces Appreciation Day being held on May 17<sup>th</sup>, at Orchard Beach. Various agencies will be there to help troops with information needed to assimilate back into society.

## 7. Report from the Nominating Committee – B. Abbott

The committee met on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and will meet again on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Board office and there will be a report at the June Board meeting.

## 8. Committee Reports

### A. Economic Development – J. Reyes

1. The Corner Café and Bakery at 3552 Johnson Avenue submitted an application for an unenclosed sidewalk café license with the Department of Consumer Affairs. Since 2003, there are no records of complaints, therefore the board voted unanimously to renew their license. The following resolution was passed unanimously by the Board:

**WHEREAS**, under city law, it is the responsibility of Community Board No. 8 Bronx to review unenclosed sidewalk café applications in its district; and

**WHEREAS**, Corner Café and Bakery at 3552 Johnson Avenue has submitted an application for an unenclosed sidewalk café license to the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), and

**WHEREAS**, Corner Café has held a unenclosed sidewalk café license since 2003 without incident and DCA and the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct have no record of complaints filed against Corner Café;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Community Board No. 8 Bronx has no objection to the unenclosed sidewalk café application from Corner Café and Bakery.

Vote: 29 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions

In Favor –

R. Abbott, R. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, M. Khury, C. G. Moerdler, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, J. Plaza, C. Prentice, J. Reyes, T. M. Rubinstein, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, E. Tossas-Tucker, L. Vazquez, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

2. A modification to add the term of the license will be included in the final resolution.
3. There will be no meeting held in May. At the June Committee meeting budget priorities will be finalized and a report will follow.

B. Education – D. Bowden

1. There are quite a few issues that will be discussed at the next Education Committee meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. One is the overcrowding in the schools. The Committee will be contacting the local schools for information.
2. Kindergarten school registration has also risen significantly.
3. Daniel Radin-Contreras, a representative of Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum, will report on the issue of local elementary and middle school students not passing the mandate for Physical Education the State provides for the schools.
4. The next Community Education Council meeting is Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at MS/HS 141 in the auditorium at 6:15 PM.
5. Bowden suggested reaching out to Councilman Koppell and Assemblyman Dinowitz on the upcoming Department of Education budget cuts.

C. Environment & Sanitation

B. Trebach reported in the absence of S. Sheinbach

1. Con Ed M29 work starting May 12 — May 18, 2008. Excavation, installation and restoration will go on in the following areas:
  - West 230<sup>th</sup> Street between Broadway and Godwin Terrace
  - Intersection of West 230<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway
  - West 225<sup>th</sup> Street between Broadway and Kingsbridge Ramp
  - Intersection of West 225<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway
2. Work will go on in the following areas over the next 2 weeks:

- Riverdale Ave. between Irwin and W. 231<sup>st</sup> St.  
Excavation, pipe installation, restoration
  - Riverdale Ave. between W. 232<sup>nd</sup> and Greystone  
Roadway restoration
  - Riverdale between Greystone and West 238<sup>th</sup> Street  
Excavation, pipe installation, restoration
3. Work Schedule:  
Monday through Friday from 7 am – 3:30 PM, for more information visit: <http://www.coned.com/M29>. Questions and concerns call (800) 799-1083 or email [M29project@coned.co](mailto:M29project@coned.co)
  4. Croton Filtration Plant: At the April 17 meeting a report was given on the experimental program to reduce diesel emissions from construction vehicles and equipment. Emissions were reduced by >97%. Eight pieces of equipment were fitted with catalytic filters to reduce gases associated with pollution. These were reduced by 1.2 tons, 0.4 tons and 7.1 tons, respectively.
  5. Budget items: None have been submitted so far. Committee members should attend the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and present any items they may have.
  6. In celebration of the Million Trees NYC, the Riverdale “Y” has a free giveaway for local homeowners and residents on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM to 2 PM.

In response to the Environment and Sanitation report, board member M. Wolpoff noted it took the efforts of the Committee to get DEP to finally look at the emissions reports.

D. Bowden announced the upcoming street naming event in honor of Michael Pichardo. The District Manager will distribute a notice to all members of the Community Board when the date is confirmed.

M. Wolpoff also reported that in the New York Times Sunday Magazine of April 27th, Dr. Katzenstein was noted as one of the New York 100 super doctors.

Chairman Cassino informed the Board Jerald Kreppel did not reapply to Community Board 8.

D. Land Use – C. Moerdler

1. Representatives of 3217 Irwin Avenue came to the Land Use meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> to provide information on plans to construct additional garage space of approximately 150 spaces. Issues regarding traffic,

emission, etc. needed to be discussed with the community prior to returning to the Committee for comments.

2. The owner of the property at 4662 Grosvenor, in the Landmark District, has made a number of alterations which did not reflect the drawings displayed at the meeting. They will be returning to the Committee at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

E. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – L. Vazquez

The next meeting may be June 2<sup>nd</sup> and budget priorities will be discussed.

F. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

1. The Committee met with the representative of the Kingsbridge Little League and plan to keep an ongoing dialogue to address some of their concerns.
2. The planned renovation of the 242<sup>nd</sup> Street/Broadway comfort station will take place towards the end of the year and will take about a year.
3. The Department of Parks and Recreation will host a scope meeting on the Putnam Trail scope on for Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at the Golf House.
4. The budget priorities for the Parks Committee are listed in the minutes.
5. The next Committee meeting is on May 28<sup>th</sup> in the Board office. Christina Taylor of the Friends of Van Cortlandt will speak about her organization.
6. Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Riverdale Y, 250 free trees will be given out to homeowners in celebration of the Million Trees, NYC.

G. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

7. The Atria is installing emergency generators in all their New York facilities.
8. At the next meeting the committee will to discuss changes in the State liquor authority regulations, new vandalism incidents and budget priorities. The next meeting is Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

H. Traffic and Transportation – B. Trebach

1. A new street light on the west side of Riverdale Avenue and West 259<sup>th</sup> Street will be installed.
2. At the next Committee meeting, which is a Joint meeting with the Environment and Sanitation Committee, the agenda will include the possible installation of a public pay toilet at West 237<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway. The Budget priorities for FY 2010 will also be discussed.

M. Wolpoff brought up a safety issue on Arlington Avenue. There is an island painted on Arlington Avenue from the front of the Riverdale Y to 259<sup>th</sup> Street which narrowed the width of the traffic lane to just wide enough for a car. Rather than providing enough space for safe driving, an unanticipated opening car door could be a problem. The island, if needed, should have been narrower.

Further, there is a yellow line which continues after the intersection going further north. There are no breaks in the line to warn unsuspecting drivers to the existence of driveways.

B. Trebach will write a letter to the Borough Commissioner requesting information on both of the se issues.

3. B. Fanuzzi expressed his concern of pedestrian traffic on 259<sup>th</sup> Street near SAR school. B. Trebach will discuss this at the next Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting.
4. C. Moerdler raised concern over the denial of a traffic signal at West 254<sup>th</sup> Street and Riverdale Avenue. Every morning there is a Sergeant and two traffic cops directing traffic. Putting up a traffic signal would be more beneficial financially than paying for the above manpower to be at this site.

I. Youth – C. Prentice

1. The next Youth Committee meeting is on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM; the budget priorities will be discussed.
2. The Chair would like to discuss engaging youth in summer programs through Churches, Teen Centers, etc.
3. The Chair stated that Tom Lucania from the Borough Presidents Office had informed her that money allocated by the Yankees had been given to the Little Leagues.



4. The Community Council and others are advocating for 16, 17 and 18 year old youth to join the community boards, which was the case many years ago.

J. Aging – K. Pesce

1. The next Committee meeting is Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM in the Board office. The focus of the meeting is to develop the budget priorities.
2. K. Pesce also requested feedback from the public on the Meals on Wheels program. A neighboring Community Board developed a strong resolution against the program and she can not support that resolution unless we too have negative feedback.

The Chairman announced the next Board meeting would be on **Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at Horace Mann.**

D. Bowden announced the honoring of former Board chair Bill Abramson on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Riverdale YM/YWHA.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Bay  
Community Associate