

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 7, 2008, AT SCHERVIER APARTMENTS 2995 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE

PRESENT: R. Abbott, B. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny,
T. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg,
A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, T. Giallorenzi, A. Goldman, J. Goris,
M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, G. O. Koppell, B. Maybury, D. McShane,
C. G. Moerdler, K. O'Brien, J. O'Reilly, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes,
T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach,
E. T. Tucker, M. Wolpoff

ABSENT: D. Bowden, P. Friedman, L. Grossman, I. Ladimer, V. Gray-Lewis,
R. Moll, J. M. Pilsner, J. Plaza, C. Prentice, L. Spalter, H. Young

STAFF: N. Stent, District Manager, CB 8
D. Bay, Community Associate, CB 8
P. Manning, Community Associate, CB 8

GUESTS: J. Dinowitz, Assemblyman
R. Fedderman – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel
R. Press – rep. State Senator Efrain Gonzalez
R. Martos – rep. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
A. McLaren – rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell
A. Toledo – rep. Borough President Adolfo Carrión
N. Danyluk – Bronx Department of City Planning
S. Alexander
J. Cohen
E. Connolly – Department of Parks and Recreation
C. Fulwood - Jericho Project
C. Giove – Riverdale Review
J. Gordon
H. Harris
N. Judd – Riverdale Press
G. Kovalevskaya
A. Kipp - Conflicts of Interest Board
S. Lalani – Columbia University
T. Lyon – Jericho Project
R. Montesano - FDNY
P. O. L. Rodriguez, NYPD, 50th Pct.
M. Rosen

J. Sonett
J. Snider – Jericho Project
P. Smyth

Chairman McShane called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

K. O'Brien, Budget Chairman convened the Public Hearing on the Board's Capital and Expense Budget priorities for fiscal year (FY) 2010.

K. O'Brien gave a review of several budget requests from FY 2009 with regard to status and funding. He advised of the recommended measures that needed to be applied to further promote funding responses; i.e., support letters to elected officials and city agencies. He also explained the reasons for the deletion of some requests. He then presented to the Board the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2010.

Chairman opened the floor for discussion. Amendments were made and accepted.

Not hearing from any public speakers, the Budget Hearing was closed.

Chairman McShane convened the Board meeting at 7:55 PM.

Gallery Session

- A. Cathy Fulwood, Jericho Project, discussed the Veterans Residence to be located on Kingsbridge Terrace and advised that construction is slated to begin in one year. Priority for residents will be given to military persons returning from Afghanistan.
 - B. Patsy Smyth discussed the difficult traffic conditions around the community that has been intensified by the various bridge projects and the Con Edison M29 high voltage line project. She spoke about traffic at West 254th Street and the need for additional traffic control agents.
 - C. Alexander Kipp, Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB), provided a comprehensive review of the voting rules and ethical conduct applicable to Community Board Members. A handbook outlining "What Every Community Board Member Should Know" was distributed. Mr. Kipp encouraged anyone needing guidance on COIB matters to contact the Office at 212-442-1400 or visit the website link at <http://nyc.gov/ethics>
1. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2008
The minutes were approved unanimously.
 2. Discussion of Executive Board Meeting Minutes of October 2, 2008

3. Chairman welcomed Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz; Andy Toledo, representing Borough President Adolfo Carrión; Richard Fedderman, representing Congressman Eliot Engel; Nestor Danyluk, Bronx Department of City Planning; Robert Press, representing State Senator Efrain Gonzalez; Randi Martos, Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz; Arlene McLaren, Office of Councilman G. Oliver Koppell; Detective Luis Rodriguez, NYPD, 50th Police Precinct; Roger Montesano, FDNY; Eileen Connolly, Department of Parks and Recreation; Candice Giove, Riverdale Review; Nick Judd, Riverdale Press.

4. Chairman's Report

A. Chairman McShane reported on a notice from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) which detailed community board budget cuts proposed by Mayor Bloomberg for fiscal years 2009 – 2012. Community boards are asked to submit plans for implementation of the cuts. Chairman met with the Officers of the Board and discussed potential ways to address the proposal; and discussion was had with the full Executive Board. Unlike some other community boards, Chairman will send a response and maintain ongoing dialogue with OMB.

B. Chairman thanked Schervier for hosting the Board meeting.

5. Vice Chairman Trebach presented information on the establishment and duties of the Street Conditions Observation Unit (SCOUT) whereby inspectors tour every City street once per month and report conditions that negatively impact quality of life. Accordingly, for the period of October '07 to October '08, SCOUT reported 408 such conditions in Board 8.

6. Treasurer's Report

J. Reyes presented the following resolution recommended by the Executive Board to oppose the proposed budget cuts:

Whereas, the proposed \$5000 cut in fiscal year 2009 would adversely affect Community Board No. 8 Bronx and its functions; and

Whereas, any additional cuts in fiscal year 2010 would further adversely affect Community Board No. 8 Bronx and its charter mandated responsibilities;

It Is Hereby Resolved that Community Board No. 8 Bronx opposes the budget reductions to the Community Board and requests that it not be included in these reductions.

Discussion ensued.

Vote: 20 in favor, 8 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In favor –

R. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, T. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, A. Goldman, J. Goris, M. Khury, B. Maybury, D. McShane, K. O'Brien, J. O'Reilly, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone

Opposed –

R. Abbott, W. S. Dolny, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, T. Giallorenzi, C. G. Moerdler, B. Trebach, M. Wolpoff

7. District Manager's Report

On September 10, 15 and October 2nd borough consultations were held with the 12 Bronx Community boards. These consultations provided an opportunity to meet with city agency commissioners to outline area problems and discuss possible solutions. Bob Bender also attended the individual meetings with officials from the Police Department, Departments of Parks and Transportation. Group consultations were held with the Department for the Aging, Human Resources Administration Department of Social Services and Children's Services. On October 2nd group consultations will be held with Fire Department, Departments of Buildings, Sanitation and Homeless Services.

At these meetings, emphasis was placed on the Board areas of concern regarding safety at Ft. Independence Park and West 239th and Hudson Manor Terrace, drug activities occurring at Marble Hill Houses and Cannon Place, senior center funding and building inspectors. The police department has been working closely with the Board office on addressing safety concerns and has increased patrols and made summonses and arrests in some of these areas. Department of Aging explained that a request for proposals for the senior centers is scheduled to be released in October 2008. This proposal will address increased service to seniors, health, wellness, nutrition and disease prevention programs to name a few.

The district managers were also assured by the city agencies that the budget cuts would not reduce services to the community boards in FY 2009.

Through the borough consultations and the district service cabinet meetings Departments of Environmental Protection, Parks and Transportation will address some of the committee's budget priorities such as the installation of catch basins; milling and resurfacing of streets; the construction of a higher and sturdier fence at Ft. Independence Park to prevent vandalism; and repair of Van Cortlandt Park

perimeter sidewalks. These items have been forwarded to the respective agencies for handling in their FY2009 contracts.

In addition, at the district service cabinet meeting both the DOT and DOS were able to work together to ensure that DOS snow removal trucks will be modified to clean under the bridges when winter arrives.

8. Report from the Borough President's Office – A. Toledo

- Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion Jr. released a report entitled, "*DO WE KNOW WHERE OUR CHILDREN ARE? An Analysis of Major Problems that Cause Children to get Lost in School System at the Start of the Year*". This report documents beginning of school year issues and concerns expressed by frustrated principals throughout the borough. For this report, the Borough President Office surveyed nearly 200 principals and found that problems are not just in individual schools, but are widespread throughout the Bronx. Many of the principals surveyed found yellow school buses unreliable and difficult to deal with, causing students to be late for school and stuck on buses for hours. A large percentage of principals believe that poorly planned registration and enrollment policies are causing widespread confusion causing children not being enrolled. In addition, too many students are not showing up during the first days of class or registering almost a month after school starts causing them to miss valuable time in school. Another main problem, according to the report, is that strict and complicated transfer processes are forcing too many students to stay in schools that do not have the services or program that they need. The Borough President is calling upon DOE to remedy these same problems that reoccur yearly.
- Borough President Carrión hosted the Bronx's Annual 9/11 Memorial Services. Family members read the names of 143 victims of the attack who lived in the Bronx.
- Borough President Carrion is participating in the job fair with Best Buy being held through October 18th at Bronx Business Solution Center, 358 East 149th Street. Applicants are encouraged to complete an initial application on-line at www.bestbuy.com/careers. For more information call Jeffrey Garcia, Fast Track, 718-993-3282.
- Upcoming Events: Tour De Bronx – Sunday, October 19th, to register go to <http://tourdebronx.org/register>; Italian Heritage Celebration – Thursday, October 23rd, 2344 Arthur Avenue, RSVP 718-590-3989; Borough President Carrión will host flu shots at the Court Building on October 28th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, to register call 718-590-3554 by October 20th.

9. Report from the Department of City Planning – N. Danyluk

N. Danyluk informed the Board that the Henry Ittleson Center is pursuing an application for building on-site; and to expect the formal ULURP application for the development at West 230th Street and Broadway.

10. Committee Reports

A. Health, Hospitals & Social Services – M. Katzenstein

The following resolution was presented:

WHEREAS, the Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee of Community Board No. 8, Bronx, reviewed the proposal to establish a five (5) bed Individual Residential Alternative (IRA) for developmentally disabled persons at 154 Shradly Place, Bronx, NY 10463; and

WHEREAS, the applicant worked closely with the Committee on the concerns as expressed by the neighbors on Shradly Place at the Committee meeting;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board No. 8, Bronx, supports this proposal and approves the site as recommended.

Discussion ensued. It was recommended that a letter be sent to the Office of Mental Retardation and Development expressing the concerns of public safety and suitability.

Vote on the resolution resulted in 22 in favor, 6 opposed, and 1 abstention.

In Favor –

R. Abbott, R. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, A. Fana, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, A. Goldman, J. Goris, M. Katzenstein, B. Maybury, D. McShane, K. O'Brien, J. O'Reilly, J. M. Reyes, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, E. T. Tucker, M. Wolpoff

Opposed –

T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, T. Giallorenzi, M. Khury, C. G. Moerdler, B. Trebach

Abstention –

K. Pesce

B. Land Use - C. G. Moerdler

1. The committees of Land Use and Housing will hold a joint meeting on November 3rd, location to be announced. The agenda will include vacant and abandoned building construction, sliver buildings on small lots and incomplete construction. C. Moerdler advised that he has been around the community searching for abandoned and incomplete construction sites and urged anyone with knowledge of such sites to inform the Board.
2. The developer of 3333 Giles Place is filing an appeal for zoning variance. If the Board wishes to appear amicus curiae, C. Moerdler offered his law firm for handling. This will be discussed in greater detail at the next Executive Board meeting.

C. Housing – T. Durham

1. T. Durham informed that the Housing Committee had been monitoring the abandoned sites regarding properties referred to by C. Moerdler, and to that end had already taken the initiative of photographing them.
2. The Stop Work Order has been lifted from 3882 Cannon Place on the building of “supportive housing.”

D. Libraries & Cultural Affairs – R. Abbott

Refer to Committee minutes.

1. Work has begun with clearing vegetation at the new site for the Kingsbridge Branch Library.
2. There was discussion on increasing Spanish language programs at the Kingsbridge Branch Library.
3. The next meeting will be held November 10th, location to be announced.

E. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

Refer to Committee minutes. The next meeting will be held on October 29th, Board Office, at 7:00 PM.

F. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

Refer to Committee minutes.

1. Complaints regarding the behavior of Manhattan College students have diminished.
2. The next meeting will be held on October 16th, at the 50th Precinct, at 7:30 PM.

G. Traffic & Transportation – A. P. Cassino

Refer to Committee minutes.

1. The Committee approved work to be done on the 246th and Riverdale Avenue bridges simultaneously.
2. Abandoned cars left on streets are being removed. Thanks to efforts and cooperation of Captain D'Adamo, 50th Precinct, a recent operation yielded 20 cars towed from the streets allowing for freeing many parking spaces.
3. Con Edison M-29 project is now concentrated in North Riverdale.
4. The next Committee meeting will be held on October 27th.

H. Aging – K. Pesce

Refer to Committee minutes. The next meeting will be held on October 28th, at Riverdale Houses for the Elderly, at 3:30 PM. RAIN will hold discussion on case management.

I. Budget – K. O'Brien

Chairman McShane called for a vote on the approval of the prioritized Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2010.

Vote: 30 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor

R. Abbott, B. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, T. Giallorenzi, A. Goldman, J. Goris, M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, B. Maybury, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, K. O'Brien, J. O'Reilly, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, E. T. Tucker, M. Wolpoff

J. Economic Development – R. Fanuzzi

1. Refer to Committee minutes. R. Fanuzzi thanked the guest speakers who attended the meeting, Diane Sargent, CERT volunteer, and Katherine Broihier, Kingsbridge BID.
2. Congratulated Riverdale Neighborhood House on the Youth Green Market, Riverdale's first. The market was jointly sponsored by NY Council on the Environment.
3. Notable Small Business owner's nominees are sought for recognition of "Small Business Person of the Year" by Small Business Association.
4. Received correspondence from a neighborhood person whose car was towed within 10 minutes from the Staples lot. This same complaint is associated with the Food Emporium lot. Because of the shortage of parking due to construction at Stop & Shop, a short term solution will be explored. Discussion will be taken up by the Committee.
5. Expressed regrets on the withdrawal of the budget request for elderly transportation by the Aging Committee.
6. Site search for a local green market is underway.
7. The next meeting will be held on October 30th. It is the hope to have a representative from Small Business Services at the meeting.

K. Education

I. W. Stone reported on behalf of D. Bowden.

1. The following resolution was presented:

WHEREAS, the Education Committee of Community Board No. 8, Bronx, believes in the concept of neighborhood schools, that children residing in the neighborhood are better served by registering and attending their local schools; and

WHEREAS, various children residing within Community School District 10 are being denied entrance to their neighborhood schools, PS 24 and PS 81, due to overcrowding conditions and insufficient number of school seats, a result of inadequate planning by the New York City Department of Education who has neglected to consider our neighborhood's recent population growth;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board No. 8, Bronx, calls upon the Department of Education to remedy this problem by immediately returning the building known as the Whitehall Annex, 3223 Independence Avenue, for additional local class space to meet the aforementioned students' needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we also request a new assessment of our neighborhood's educational needs more in line with the current population growth within our area, so that every child will be able to have a school seat in his/her neighborhood school.

Vote: 29 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 Abstention with cause

In Favor –

R. Abbott, B. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, T. Giallorenzi, A. Goldman, J. Goris, M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, B. Maybury, D. McShane, K. O'Brien, J. O'Reilly, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, E. T. Tucker, M. Wolpoff

Abstention With Cause –

C. G. Moerdler

2. Assemblyman Dinowitz will attend the next Committee meeting on October 28th, to speak on the topic of "Mayoral Control of Schools."

L. Environment & Sanitation – S. Scheinbach

1. Refer to minutes. The Croton Water Filtration Plant Monitoring Committee meeting will be held on October 16th. S. Scheinbach asked DEP to address measures to clean-up pollution at the Croton Water Shed.
2. The Environment & Sanitation Committee will meet on October 23rd, Board Office, at 7:30 P.M.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate