

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 9, 2018 AT WILLIAM E. IRWIN, JR, AMERICAN LEGION POST 774 3035-3037 CORLEAR AVENUE

- PRESENT:** S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, M. Joyce, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, G. Santiago, J. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young
- ABSENT:** D. Escano, D. Gellman, D. B. Jackson, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, D. Santiago, L. Parker, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, R. Zavras
- GUESTS:** Assemblyman Dinowitz, A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Doris Ojeda Tiru – rep. Congressman Engel, F. Klein – office of Assemblyman Dinowitz, P. Lewicke – office of Assemblyman Dinowitz, R. Allman – rep. Assemblywoman Carmem DeLaRosa, J. Cortes – rep. Mayor’s office, F. Rubin - rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein, J. Stephenson – office of Councilman Cohen, T. Outlaw – rep. Public Advocate L. James, P. Pamphile – Van Cortlandt Library, R. Press – Bronx Chronicle, D.I. T. O’Toole – NYPD 50th Police Precinct, P.O. Ventura – NYPD 50th Police Precinct, P. Moerdler, M. Salazar, C. Genaonejia, C. Tepelus, E. Vasco, D. Madison, K. Thomas, T. Britt, A. Glassberg,
- STAFF:** D. Bay – Community Associate

Chair Ginty convened the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

1. Gallery Session – The two speakers signed up for speaking did not attend. There were no other speakers.

Chair Ginty asked audience members who wished to become members of the community board to come forward so she could sign off on their attendance to the meeting. Applicants are now required to attend at least one board meeting when applying for membership on the community board.

2. Report from the 50th Police Precinct – D.I. O’Toole
 - Comp stat report – 2017 vs. 2016, murders 3 vs. 4, rape 8 vs. 9, robbery 103 vs.136, felony assaults – 140 vs. 153, burglary – 118 vs.115, grand larceny 524 vs. 471and grand larceny auto 78 vs. 89. Total of crimes - 974 vs. 977.
 - In April of 2018 the 50th precinct will become a Neighborhood Police Unit, broken up into three sectors with steady sector officers assigned. The Sector Officers know the neighborhoods that they patrol, which is the idea of Neighborhood Policing: the same cops in the same neighborhood, every day.
 - By June of 2018 all officers in the 50th precinct will be armed with body cameras.
 - There are a lot of car break-ins. It was recommended to make sure your car is locked.
3. Report from the Office of the Bronx Borough President – A. Toledo
 - Community board applications are available on the Borough Presidents website.
 - Reminded board members to fill out and return reappointment applications.
 - The Borough President is holding Bronx Housing Enrollment Events on Wednesdays, January 24, February 21st, March 21st, April 18th May 23rd and June 20th, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 851 Grand Concourse, Room 915, Bronx, NY. RSVP by calling 718-590-6248. Homeowners making 500,000 or less can apply for an exemption and lower their property tax bill. Tenants who are seniors and people with disabilities can apply for SCRIE and DRIE and keep their rent from increasing.
 - The Borough President is encouraging 16 and 17 year olds to apply for community board membership. Chair Ginty announced that the Youth Chair contacted the Community Centers in search of any interested. Chair Ginty also asked the board members to do the same.

4. Chair Report – Rosemary Ginty

- See Executive minutes.
- A District Service Cabinet meeting will be held 2/6/18 and chaired by Chair Ginty. Committee Chairs were asked to submit agenda items before the agenda is distributed on 1/23/18. Vice Chair P. Ellis will chair the March meeting.
- The boards' budget request responses from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will be sent to the board office in January. The February board meeting will hold a budget hearing on those responses at 7:00 p.m., prior to the board meeting.
- D. Padernacht - The Search Committee for the new district manager has been operating since September of 2017. They received thirty seven applications by October 31, 2017. Seven applicants were interviewed and one of those applicants (candidate #136) returned for a second interview. At this meeting the officers were asked to attend, observe the candidate and give feedback to the search committee. A member of the Press did not think the officers could sit in such a meeting but the search committee disagreed. The next meeting is on January 18 at 5:45 p.m. in the board office.

5. Department of City Planning – No City Planning representative was present

6. Committee Reports

A. Libraries & Cultural Affairs – M. Goodman

- There is no meeting in January.

B. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

- The next meeting is January 24th.
- There is an independent appraisal forthcoming of the CSX property from Van Cortlandt Park to West 230th Street.

C. Public Safety – M. Yamagata, Chair

- The next meeting is on January 16, 2018.

D. Special Committee of the Hudson River Greenway – B. Bender

- Metro North may have their final report this month. When it is received a meeting will be held.

E. Special Committee on Veterans Services – J. Santiago

- The Chair had a discussion on the upkeep of the Memorial Grove. His hopes are to have Veterans and Youth involved in this endeavor. He has reached out to the Bronx Parks Commissioner with hopes of getting additional space for veterans of the Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Endure Freedom(Iraq/Afghanistan War).

F. Traffic & Transportation – D. Padernacht – Chair

- Con Ed will begin work on their electric feeder project on Sedgwick Avenue between W. 238th Street and Giles Place from January 8, 2018 through mid-June 2018.

They're also upgrading the gas service at West 259th Street between Riverdale and Arlington Avenues, Arlington Avenue between Independence Avenue and West 259th Street and the intersection of Independence and Arlington Avenues beginning mid-January thru March, 2018.

- DDC notified the board office of an upcoming water main and sewer replacement project at Waldo Avenue between Greystone and Irwin Avenue. Con Ed will report on these projects at the January 18th Committee meeting. It will be held at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School at 3901 Fieldston Road. An agenda item at this meeting will be why DOT repeatedly denies requests for a left turn signal at West 256th Street and Riverdale Avenue.
- A board member requested that the Con Ed projects be added to the DSC agenda.
- The West 229th Step street project is proceeding well.

Chair Ginty welcomed Assemblyman Dinowitz to address the board

- Lowest crime and murder rates were reported in the newspapers. He noted that since the Stop and Frisk Program ended crime did not rise.
- The Governor gave his State of the State address. The tax bill will have a significant impact on New York State and the services they provide.
- He is hoping DOT will rethink the request to install a left turn signal at West 256th Street and Riverdale Avenue and West 230th Street and Riverdale Avenue, going east. He wants to know the system they use to determine when a left turn signal is warranted.
- The Assemblyman noted that they do SCRIE and DRIE applications all year long.
- There was either no heat or lack of heat at Schervier Apartments during the recent cold spell. The Assemblyman continues to monitor this.
- There was an inquiry as to any progress in Ethics Reform. Assemblyman Dinowitz noted that there is a lot they need to do with Ethics Reform. He also said the types of things Ethics Reform would address wouldn't solve someone engaged in criminal activity. Ethics is separate from illegal activity.

Introduction of Special Guests - Assemblyman Dinowitz, A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Doris Ojeda Tiru – rep. Congressman Engel, J. Stephenson – rep. Councilman Cohen, J. Cortes – rep. Mayor's office, R. Allman rep. Assemblywoman C. De La Rosa, F. Klein – office of Assemblyman Dinowitz, P. Lewicke - office of Assemblyman Dinowitz, F. Rubin - rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein, T. Outlaw – rep. Public Advocate L. James

G. Youth – Vice Chair J. Santiago

- The five nominees for the NY Yankee Youth Leadership award were selected.
- The next meeting is January 24th in the board office.

H. Aging – L. Daub

- Refer to the December minutes. The next committee meeting is January 16 at the Atria Riverdale at 3:00 p.m. There will be a speaker from the Comptroller's Office who will talk about their 2017 report.

I. Budget – Chair Ginty reporting on behalf of D. Gellman

- OMB will be sending their budget responses to our budget requests in January. There will be a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. before the February board meeting to discuss their responses.

J. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

- There was no January meeting.

- The Economic Development Committee and the elected officials are planning to hold a Town Hall meeting in Marble Hill to discuss different issues.

K. Education – S. Alexander

- Refer to minutes. They will be resent to board members again in pdf file.
- The next meeting is on January 25th.

L. Environment & Sanitation – L. Spalter

- The City Council DEP Oversight Committee held a hearing in December on wastewater infrastructure. L. Spalter testified on behalf of the board and spoke about our concerns on the board.
- DEP is hosting a meeting on January 31st about having a control plan for Harlem and Hudson Rivers.
- The next meeting is January 17th at the board office.

M. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – O. Murray

- There is no January meeting.
- The next meeting is Thursday, February 1st.
- At the December meeting there was a presentation on diabetes by Montefiore Hospital; a discussion with the Department of Health on the rodent problem in the district and a discussion with the liaisons of a group home on Faraday Avenue. The Director of the group home agreed to establish a community advisory board for neighbors to voice their concerns. They will be invited back to the February 1st meeting.

N. Housing – S. Sarao

- The next meeting is on January 22nd. DHS will be invited to the meeting.
- SCRIE and DRIE events – January 11th from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Riverdale Y, January 24th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Spuyten Duyvil Library.

O. Land Use – C. Moerdler

- The January 4th meeting was snowed out. The next meeting will be February 4th.
- The Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) application for the Hebrew Home is forthcoming. Once received the Community Board has 60 days to review and comment on the application. It then goes to the Borough President for a 30-day review, then to the City Planning Commission for a 60-day review and finally to the City Council for their action. A special informational meeting will be held on January 25 on this topic only. The Hebrew Home will give a preliminary presentation. Questions but no comments will be permitted. There will be other meetings within that 60 day review period when the board votes on the application.
- Ft. Independence and Marble Hill Housing elevators and roofs have not been maintained even though NYCHA received 418 million dollars for this purpose.

P. Law, Rules and Ethics – M. Wolpoff

- The committee met last night.
- There will not be a February meeting.

7. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2017 - None

8. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2017

Vote: In favor: 30 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

In favor: S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, M. Joyce, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, G. Santiago, J. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Vote: In favor: 30 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

In favor: S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, M. Joyce, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, G. Santiago, J. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

Submitted by,

Diane Bay
Community Associate