

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**HELD ON MAY 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**AT WAVE HILL, 649 WEST 249 STREET**

**PRESENT:** S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, G. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

**ABSENT:** L. Croft, M. Donato, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, S. Gozland, D. Kornbluh, D. McCord, J. O'Brien, J. Santiago, S. Villaverde,

**STAFF:** D. Bay – Community Associate

**GUESTS:** Councilman Andrew Cohen, A. Castano – office of Assemblyman Dinowitz, E. Dinowitz – District Leader, C. Lang – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein, A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., DI O'Toole - NYPD, 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct, J. Stephenson – office of Councilman Andrew Cohen, L. Beqiraj – Riverdale Neighborhood House, P. Moerdler, G. Pacheco, E. Garcia, M. Ortiz, D. Enfield-Smith, T. Pufflau, E. Marrero, D. Vargas, D. Nevins, E. Pizaro, D. Pizaro, G. Wilig, A. Olivares, V. Albwin, L. Caraballo, A. Cabrera, V. Rosario, C. Wilcox, M. Salazar, C. Lopez, G. Lucas, E. Thompson-KHNIA, M. Heller

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

The Chair expressed his gratitude to Wave Hill for hosting the meeting.

1. Gallery Session

- Eli Garcia spoke on behalf of Spanglish Bar and Restaurant located at 6697 Broadway. They attended the Public Safety meeting of April 20, 2017 to discuss their new liquor license application. They wanted exception to a 2AM closing which was refused, but will now agree to this, and would like the board to re-consider their liquor license application. M. Yamagata, Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee said the attorney clearly stated at the meeting that they would be withdrawing their liquor license application and therefore the Public Safety Committee will have to revisit their request.

2. Introduction of Special Guests

Councilman Andrew Cohen, A. Castano – office of Assemblyman Dinowitz, E. Dinowitz – District Leader, C. Lang – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein, A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., DI O'Toole - NYPD, 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct, J. Stephenson – office of Councilman Andrew Cohen, L. Beqiraj – Riverdale Neighborhood House

3. Report from the 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct – DI O'Toole

- Crime stats - murder – 0 vs. 2, rape – 1 vs. 2, robbery – 11 vs. 12, felony assaults – 9 vs. 17, burglaries – 9 vs. 6, grand larceny 37 vs. 34, auto grand larceny 0 vs. 11. Property crime is up 88 vs 77. Car accidents are up 170 vs 150. Summonses 604 vs 675. Speeding summonses 51 vs 70. Broadway is a high speeding area. C. Moerdler requested a report at the next board meeting on the

total number of accidents on Broadway from 242 to the City Line.

- The shooter in the jewelry store robbery on Johnson Avenue has been arrested.

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

- Bronx week is May 11-21. Visit [Ilovethebronx.com](http://Ilovethebronx.com) to see the schedule of activities.
- Notification to board members who reapplied to the board will be mailed on Friday, May 12.
- Community board appreciation night is Thursday, May 11, 6PM to 8PM at Veterans Memorial Hall – Bronx County Building, 851 Grand Concourse.
- Mayor Bill de Blasio will be at Bronx Borough Hall the last week of May for a week-long series of satellite office hours to focus on the people and the priorities of The Bronx. The Mayors website has a full itinerary.
- I. Ladimer will receive a centenarian award on Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Villa Barrone.

#### 5. Presentation of the New York Yankee Youth Leadership Award – Daniel Padernacht

Chair Padernacht announced the following winners of this year's NY Yankees Youth Leadership Award which was created to acknowledge young people who are providing a positive service to their community by volunteering 50 hours or more of leadership and volunteer work.

Chair Padernacht acknowledged Dr. Roscoe Brown who presented these awards for years, but sadly passed away last year.

Bronx Community Board 8's Youth Committee Chair Lamont Parker led the committee's selection of the five youth from the board area.

- ❖ **Taiz V. Luciano** was nominated by The Riverdale Community Center and is a senior at the Riverdale/Kingsbridge Academy.
- ❖ **Edgardo Marrero** was nominated by Fort Independence Community Center and attends In-Tech academy.
- ❖ **Eriselis Pizarro** was nominated by the Riverdale Neighborhood House and is a student at In-Tech Academy.
- ❖ **Vallery Rosario** was nominated by the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center and an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Tech International Charter School.
- ❖ **Samantha Vargas** was nominated by the Riverdale Neighborhood House and is a sophomore at MS/HS 141.

The Chair congratulated the recipients and announced that there will be an on-field ceremony for the honorees at Yankee Stadium on May 28th.

#### 6. Chairman's Report – Daniel Padernacht

- The anticipated start date for the New District Manager, Michael Heller is May 15, 2017.
- On May 28<sup>th</sup>, there will be an on-field ceremony at Yankee Stadium for the honorees of the NY Yankee Youth Leadership Award. The office will receive 300 tickets and they will be dispersed throughout the community.
- Community board appreciation night is Thursday, May 11, 6PM to 8PM at Veterans Memorial Hall – Bronx County Building, 851 Grand Concourse.
- The representative from the Department of Buildings who worked with Bronx CB8 was recently

selected as the new District Manager of Bronx Community Board 10. The new DOB representative has not yet been announced.

7. Treasurer's report – Amy Joy Robateau

- The Treasurer stated the bottom portion of the report will be updated in the next report.

8. City Planning – No City Planning representative was present

9. Committee Reports

A. Community Service Award – Diego Santiago

On behalf of D. Gellman, Chair of the Community Service Award (CSA) Committee D. Santiago thanked the board office for their assistance and thanked the CSA committee for working so prompt and diligently in selecting the winners. This award is to acknowledge the many volunteer efforts of groups and individuals within our community.

D. Santiago then presented the following resolution:

Whereas Community Board 8 has for two decades recognized the volunteer efforts of members of our community with the Community Service Award; and

Whereas Dan Reynolds and Mark Mason, as the “Stewards of Henry Hudson Park,” have led a dramatic beautification of said park, which has been recognized by two, independent nominations; and

Whereas Roselande Cherubin, as a multi-year volunteer from the neighboring College of Mt. St. Vincent has been recognized by the Hebrew Home at Riverdale; and

Whereas Tyler Cambrelen, a local Kingsbridge student, initiated a multi-year effort of collecting book bags of school supplies for under-privileged children, has been recognized by BronxWorks;

Therefore, be it resolved, that Community Board 8 awards our Community Service Award to the aforementioned dedicated volunteers.

The Chair noted that these awards will be presented at the June meeting.

Vote: In favor - 27    Opposed – 0    Abstentions - 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, G. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

B. Education – S. Alexander

- S. Alexander apologized for not distributing the April minutes. She is having computer problems.
- February and March minutes were approved. The March minutes were updated to reflect that the Amber Charter School representatives came to the Education Committee without being put on the agenda; they gave a presentation. They will be invited back to the Education Committee meeting in May.

- A budget priority letter was sent to the schools asking them to identify their capital or expense needs.
- The Mayor plans to have air conditioning in all schools by 2022.
- The next committee meeting is on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the board office.

C. Environment & Sanitation – L. Spalter

- There was a joint committee meeting in April with the Parks & Recreation committee. They discussed issues with DEP and Parks and who's responsible for clean up around the Jerome Park Reservoir. DEP, Parks and the Department of Sanitation plan to do a tour before they agree to consider a formal memorandum of agreement.
- Laura Spalter reported that she has been in communication with CSX officials about cleaning the CSX property from Van Cortlandt Park South to West 230<sup>th</sup> Street. This clean-up could begin soon, once the point of access to the property is resolved. Senator Schumer and Councilman Cohen are also working on accomplishing this clean-up.
- The Rain barrel giveaway on Saturday, May 6 was very successful.
- Jerome Park Reservoir will be open to visitors on May 20 and 21 from 10AM to 2PM. Pre-registration is required.
- The next meeting is on May 17<sup>th</sup> in the board office.
- Chair Padernacht commended L. Spalter and B. Bender on their joint meeting. He communicated how well run the meeting was. The different agencies at this meeting held a discussion that was very collaborative and cooperative.

D. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – Chair not present

E. Housing – P. Ellis

- At the April 24 meeting HPD was there to discuss their budget. There was also a presentation on Green Sustainability in the Bronx.
- The next meeting is on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. DOB will be invited to talk about their budget priorities and operations by DOB in the district.

F. Land Use – C.G. Moerdler

- At the Land Use meeting on April 27, 2017 an application for a proposed community residence site at 3580 Netherland Avenue, #2R, for a person with developmental disabilities was unanimously approved.

Vote: In favor - 27    Opposed – 0    Abstentions - 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, G. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

- B. Bender was bothered to hear that the owners who bought a property for 2 million dollars on West 231 Street, in a Special Natural Area District, cut down a tree that was at least 100 years old. The owners only received a \$4,000.00 fine. C. Moerdler said the elected officials may introduce legislation on this very issue.

## G. Law, Rules and Ethics – M. Wolpoff

- Three civic sessions were held. Next Thursday is the last session.
- M. Wolpoff gave a Nominating Committee report. Appointment interviews for board members seeking a new position have been set up for May 15, 2017.

## H. Libraries &amp; Cultural Affairs – M. Goodman

- This month is National Library Month. Councilman Cabrera recognized one of our local librarians who works at the Jerome Park Library as the Children's Librarian.
- The Committee met at the Derfner Museum and had a tour of the exhibits. There is a Yankee memorabilia section.
- The June meeting has yet to be determined.

## I. Parks &amp; Recreation – B. Bender

The joint meeting with Environment & Sanitation and the Parks Committee dealt with a letter that the committee's are proposing to send to the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) with its concerns on a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPP). This has to be prepared by the Parks Department in conjunction with the renovation of the Putnam Trail. An SWPP Working Group was formed that included Bob Bender, Karen Argenti, Robert Fanuzzi, Laura Spalter, and Christina Taylor. The working group met with the Parks Department. The Parks Department delivered the complete SWPP to the board office and submitted it to the State DEC. They want the renovation of the Putnam Trail to go forward but they want to make sure that the wetlands in Van Cortlandt Park are in better condition than they are now. B. Bender commended the working group for their hard work on this project. After much communication and out of the working group's review the following letter is being proposed:

At its February 2016 meeting, Bronx Community Board 8 passed a resolution endorsing the rehabilitation of the Putnam Trail in Van Cortlandt Park by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Several conditions were attached to the resolution, one of which is this:

*DPR agrees to consult with knowledgeable members of the community as identified by the committee, such as the Bronx Council on Environmental Quality (BCEQ), in drawing up its Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which is required by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and further agrees to provide the committee with a draft copy of the SWPPP plan before submission to NYSDEC and to answer questions that the committee may have about the plan;*

In accordance with that provision, the community board established a five-person SWPPP Working Group. DPR has provided us with the SWPPP, as well as other pertinent documents relating to its application to the DEC dated March 21, 2017, and we have the following comments on them:

The SWPPP proposes to contain on site a one-year storm event, which on average is 2.9 inches of rain. We believe that this standard does not adequately protect the important freshwater wetlands located in proximity to the Putnam Trail in Van Cortlandt Park. The Tibbetts Wetland in Van Cortlandt Park contains 66.3 of the 97.6 acres of state designated freshwater wetlands remaining in the Bronx, nearly all of it in close proximity to the trail. Although the Wetlands Report that is enclosed with the SWPPP identifies 11 discrete wetland units, these wetlands should be considered part of one unified ecological region. Given the importance of these wetlands, we believe that the one-year storm event standard is inadequate. We urge DEC to require a more robust storm water management plan before granting the wetland permit.

The wetlands report is based on a single analysis of the conditions in the wetlands. Is this adequate? Shouldn't the wetlands have been visited on more than one occasion to compare conditions in, for example, spring, summer, and fall?

Although the design of the Putnam Trail rehabilitation plan has changed significantly in the last two years, we do not find substantial changes between the 2012 SWPPP and the 2017 SWPPP that reflect these revised plans for the Putnam Trail reconstruction near the freshwater wetlands.

Shouldn't the 2012 Final Design Report, as reevaluated by the New York State DOT in 2016, and even the 2009 Negative Declaration, have been updated to address the environmental regulations and requirements incumbent upon construction of the altered design within a freshwater wetland area under DEC jurisdiction? Both of these documents concern only the construction phase of the Putnam Trail rehabilitation, not the environmental effects of the rehabilitation plan. Indeed, we are struck by the absence of articulated wetlands protection standards in the documents for this wetlands permit to which both the construction and rehabilitation of the trail can be held accountable.

There is no assessment of water quality in the wetlands or Van Cortlandt Lake anywhere in these documents. This omission is significant, as the lake is a 303 d water body. How will DPR or DEC know whether water quality in the wetlands or the contiguous water body has been degraded during or following construction without a baseline assessment of water quality? We recommend that such a study be undertaken as soon as possible by the appropriate agency.

Finally, we have been promised a post-construction site-management plan by DPR. We believe that this plan is a critical document and should be included in the application for a wetland permit. We urge DEC to include not only the SWPPP but all relevant information affecting the long term ecological health of the wetlands and the water quality of contiguous water bodies in its consideration of this wetlands permit.

These comments are based on our own analysis of the documents transmitted to DEC on March 21 and our knowledge of the area. We cannot find in the documents any statement of the standards that DEC will apply to determine whether to grant the requested wetlands permit. We would like to know what these standards are or where they can be found.

If a more robust SWPPP will increase the cost of the Putnam Trail rehabilitation project, we are prepared to work with our elected officials to raise the required sum of money. We are committed to improving the condition of the Putnam Trail, including making it fully accessible for everyone, and we are equally committed to protecting the Van Cortlandt Park wetlands.

Vote: In favor - 27    Opposed – 0    Abstentions – 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, G. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

- It's My Parks Day is on May 20<sup>th</sup> at Tibbett's Tail, behind Bailey Avenue Playground and West 234 Street from 9:30am to 3:00pm.
- Next meeting is on May 24 in the board office.

J. Public Safety – M. Yamagata, Vice Chair

The following resolutions were presented:

- ❖ Whereas, Yo-Burger, 3720 Riverdale Ave., appeared before the Public Safety Committee on April 20, 2017 to apply for a new beer, wine, and cider license; and whereas no adverse information was presented; and whereas the establishment agreed to a 2 a.m. closing; and whereas the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved the application; be it resolved that Community Board 8 approves the application.

**Vote:** In favor - 26    Opposed – 1    Abstentions – 0

In favor: S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, G. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

**Opposed:** Tao Moran

- ❖ Whereas, Moss Cafe, 3260 Johnson Ave., appeared before the Public Safety Committee on April 20, 2017, for a renewal of a beer, wine and 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, Bronx Ale House, 216 W. 238 Street, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on April 20, 2017 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.
- ❖ Whereas, Madden's Uptown Bar & Grill, 5757 Broadway, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on April 20, 2017 to extend their opening hours to legal closing times; 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 following vote was for the three resolutions above:

Vote: In favor - 27    Opposed – 0    Abstentions – 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, G. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

- ❖ The Committee will revisit the application for Spanglish, 6697 Broadway, for a full liquor license with a 2 a.m. closing.

K. Traffic & Transportation – D. Padernacht

- D. Padernacht chaired the T&T meeting on April 25, 2017.

**The following resolutions from the Traffic & Transportation meeting of April 25, 2017 were presented:**

Amalgamated Nursery School Spring Bazaar to be held on May 21, 2017. This will be a full street closure on Gale Place between Van Cortlandt Park South and Orloff Avenue. This event has been held in the past.

Build a Better World: Summer Reading Party. To be held on June 8, 2017. This will be a full street closure on Eames Place between University Avenue and Claflin Avenue. This event has been held in the past.

Reaching Out To the Community Event. To be held on August 19, 2017. This will be a full street closure on Eames Place between University Avenue and Claflin Avenue. This event has been held in the past.

The following vote was for the three resolutions above:

Vote: In favor - 27    Opposed – 0    Abstentions – 0

S. Alexander, E. Bell, B. Bender, L. Daub, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, A. J. Robateau, D. Santiago, G. Santiago, S. Sarao, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, M. Yamagata, H. Young

- The Department of Transportation reported on the proposed traffic change to Broadway from West 242 Street to the City Line. They proposed to; put in a protected bike lane from the City Line to about West 246 Street, narrow the Mosholu and Broadway intersection; extend the bus stop on the south west corner of Broadway and West 242<sup>nd</sup> Street, near the stores-eliminating 2 lanes, and put in concrete bulbs near the overpass of the Henry Hudson Parkway by Broadway and Lakeview.
- There will be a follow up meeting on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at Park Gardens Rehab and Nursing Center, 6585 Broadway at 7:30PM. This will be a Public Hearing. Following the public hearing the committee will discuss the issues and vote on the proposed plan. The Parks Department and 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct will be invited to the meeting.

L. Youth – No report – the Chair stepped out

M. Aging – L. Daub

- The topic of the April meeting was continuing education for seniors. Refer to April minutes.
- The next meeting is Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:30pm in the board office.

N. Budget – M. Yamagata

- No report
- S. Alexander asked if the follow up letter is being sent to OMB on the budget responses. Budget Chair said it will be sent.
- Committee budget priorities should be in by the end of June.

O. Economic Development – S. Sarao, Vice Chair

- Refer to April minutes.
- The Bronx Tech Summit was held on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The event featured expert panelists discussed issues such as health tech, the Bronx start-up ecosystem, building greater digital infrastructure and developing talent to enter the growing fields of science and technology. This was a successful event.
- The next meeting will be the first week in June at a Kingsbridge location.

10. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2017

- **P. Ellis - Change** - Housing Committee report – Change page 5, first bullet, first sentence:

The March 27 meeting was at Ft. Independence Community Center and they discussed problems being faced by the tenants of Marble Hill, Ft. Independence Houses and Bailey Houses.

- **J. Reyes – Change** – Page 10 - Add J. Reyes to the vote for District Manager, Michael Heller and the vote for the district managers salary.



Vote for minutes as amended: In favor – 28 Opposed – 0 Abstentions - 0

In favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, P. Ellis, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, S. Gozland, M. Heller, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, G. Santiago, J. Santiago, L. Spalter, I.W. Stone, H. Young

11. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2017 – no comments

**Chairman welcomed Councilman Cohen to address the board**

- The Councilman apologized for not being able to make it earlier to the board meeting.
- Results for the participatory budget are in. PS 81, Am Park and PS 95 received money for computers. The Councilman was particularly proud of receiving monies for an ADA accessible bathroom at the Riverdale Library.
- The council passed the nuisance abatement package.
- The Councilman thanked Chairman Padernacht for holding the meeting on the Broadway corridor. He will attend the second meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

12. Miscellaneous

- The June board meeting will be held on Monday, June 12.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15PM.

Submitted by,

Diane Bay  
Community Associate